

# THE ELECTROACOUSTIC BARN DANCE

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*Sentential Structure in the Music of Elaine Lillios*

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## Abstract

William Caplin, in his treatise *Classical Form: A Theory of Functions for the Music of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven*, analyzes and defines the two most common formal units in the instrumental music of the aforementioned composers, the period and the sentence. Theorists have taken Caplin's theoretical models and applied them to the music of the Baroque and the Twentieth-Century alike. Absent from the discussion is analysis of electroacoustic music with regards to these formal units. Elaine Lillios, an American composer who currently teaches at Bowling Green State University, has composed a wealth of electroacoustic works, both for fixed media and live instrumentalist combined with electronics. An apparent question arises: does Lillios's music, when making use of electroacoustics, contain discernible examples of periodic and sentential phrase structure?

In this paper, I will examine Lillios's music to bring about an answer to this question. I begin by analyzing her works fixed media, and move towards her more recent compositions, which combine live instrumentalist and electronics. I posit that her music which includes a live instrumentalist will much more greatly exhibit sentential and periodic structures as defined by Caplin, due to the nature of writing instrumental music.

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**Carter John Rice**, a native of Minot, North Dakota, is a composer of new music in both the acoustic and electroacoustic realms. Rice earned his Master's Degree from Bowling Green State University where he studied electroacoustic composition with Elaine Lillios. Prior to attending Bowling Green, Carter completed his undergraduate degree in music theory and composition from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. Rice's music is largely concerned with the notion of creating cohesive and contrasting soundworlds that slowly generate and expel sonic energy over time. Carter is active as a composer in the United States and abroad. His music has been featured at the Soundscape Festival in Italy, Electronic Music Midwest, and the National Student Electronic Music Event. In addition to composition, Rice is active in musical theory research, focusing on classical influence in electroacoustic music and contemporary film music.