

Elea Proctor

The Ohio State University
The Department of African American and African Studies
486N University Hall, 230 North Oval Mall, Columbus OH 43210
proctor.159@osu.edu
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The Ohio State University, Autumn 2024–Present

Assistant Professor, The Department of African American and African Studies
Affiliate Faculty in the School of Music

EDUCATION

Stanford University

Ph.D. in Musicology, 2024

Dissertation: “‘Looking Blackface in the Eye’: Novelty, Style, and Black Women’s Vocality in the Jim Crow Era”

Committee: Jennifer DeVere Brody, Heather Hadlock, Denise Gill

Stanford University

M.A. in Music History, 2021

Florida State University

B.A. in Music, 2017

summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Black women and performance
- Blackface minstrelsy
- 19th/20th century U.S. history
- Slavery and its aftermaths
- Voice and vocality
- Black archival theories and methods

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Jump Jane Crow: Black Women and the Blackface Minstrelsy Tradition. Book manuscript in progress.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Proctor, Elea. “Dora Dean and the Performance of Black Womanhood in the ‘Coon Song’ Craze.” *Journal of the Society for American Music*, 18, no. 4 (2024): 383–404.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1752196324000403>.

Book Reviews

Proctor, Elea. "A Review of *T.O.B.A. Time: Black Vaudeville and the Theater Owners' Booking Association in Jazz-Age America* by Michelle R. Scott." *The Black Theatre Review* 3, no. 2 (2025), 64–66. <https://doi.org/10.2458/tbtr.9607>.

Forthcoming

Book Chapters

"The Case for a Black Betty Boop." In *The Oxford Handbook of the Screen to Stage Musical*, edited by Dominic Broomfield-McHugh and Megan Woller. Forthcoming 2027.

Book Reviews

"*The Resounding Revolution* by Stephen Stacks (book review)." *Notes* 83, no. 3. Forthcoming March 2027.

Works-in-Progress

"Eartha Kitt's Vocal Signature." Journal article in preparation.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- Eileen Southern Fellowship, The Society for American Music, \$1,000 (2024)
- Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship, 3-year stipend plus tuition support, (2021–24)
- Stanford Graduate Research Opportunity, \$5,000 (2022)
- Chair's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Stanford Music Department, \$500 (2021)
- Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education Doctoral Fellowship (2018–19)
- Stanford H&S Dean's Office Intensive Language Instruction in Paris, France, \$10,000 (2019)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Black Women in 'Oriental America.'" Individual paper. "Relating European Roma and African Americans Transatlantically," The Kenneth E Naylor Symposium on Southeast European Studies (Columbus, OH), April 17, 2026.

"Listening to Eartha Kitt in Late-Stage Empire." Individual paper. The Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association (San Juan, PR), November 22, 2025.

"With just a leavening of low comedy": John W. Isham's Black Chorines Circa 1900." Individual paper. The Annual Meeting of the American Musicological Society (Minneapolis, MN), November 8, 2025.

"Lessons from the Archive: Rethinking John W. Isham's Black Chorus Girls." Individual paper. Stagestruck! 6: Women and the American Musical Conference (The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.), May 15, 2025.

“The Case for a Black Betty Boop.” Individual paper. The Annual Meeting of the Society for American Music (Tacoma, WA), March 20, 2025.

“Dora Dean and the ‘Coon Song’ Craze.” Individual paper. The Annual Meeting of the Society for American Music (Minneapolis, MN), March 10, 2023.

“‘She’s The Real Thing, My Baby’: Blackface Minstrelsy and Gender Performance in Early Black Musical Theater.” Individual paper. The Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology (AMS/SEM/SMT joint meeting, New Orleans, LA), November 11, 2022.

“Josephine Baker’s Vocality in the *Ziegfeld Follies of 1936*.” Individual paper. The Annual Meeting of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (Detroit, MI), July 28, 2022.

“The Whitman Sisters, Blackface, and Performing Black Femininities.” Individual paper. The Annual Meeting of the Society for American Music (Online), March 11, 2022.

TEACHING

At The Ohio State University

Graduate seminars

- 7753: Graduate Survey in African American and African Studies (Spring 2025)

Undergraduate courses

- 4921: Intersections: Approaches to Theorizing Difference (Spring 2026, Autumn 2026)
- 3086: Black Women in Slavery and Freedom (Autumn 2024, Autumn 2025)
- 2288: Bebop to Doo Wop to Hip Hop: The R&B Tradition (Autumn 2026)
- 2080: African American History to 1877 (Autumn 2025)

At Stanford University

As Instructor of Record

- Graduate Teaching Assistant Training Course, Music Dept. (Spring 2022, Spring 2023)

As Teaching Assistant

- Music History Sequence: Music History to 1600 (Fall 2019), Music History 1600–1830 (Winter 2021) Music History Since 1830 (Spring 2020)
- The Soul Tradition in African American Music (Fall 2020)
- Sounds of Islam (Winter 2020)
- Elements of Music (Spring 2021)

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

INDIVIDUAL TALKS

“Black Women and Blackface Minstrelsy at the Turn of the Twentieth Century.” Colloquium Lecture Series, Case Western Reserve University, Music Department. September 19, 2025.

“Black Women and Blackface Minstrelsy at the Turn of the Twentieth Century.” Lectures in Musicology Series, The Ohio State University, School of Music. February 3, 2025.

PANELS AND ROUNDTABLES

Panelist and speaker, “Blacksound: Making Race and Popular Music in the United States,” Matthew D. Morrison guest lecture at The Ohio State University, October 24, 2024.

Roundtable moderator, “Staging Justice Through Opera,” Stanford University, 2021.

CLASSROOM TALKS

“Performing America: The Broadway Musical,” Stanford University, April 2023.

“Black Feminism and the Sci-Fi of Octavia Butler,” Stanford University, January 2023.

“‘A Black Man’s Heaven is a White Man’s Hell’: Muhammad Ali and the Nation of Islam,” Stanford University, October 2020.

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- Member, Irving Lowens Article Award Committee, The Society for American Music (2025–28)
- Member, Program Committee, The American Musicological Society (2026–27)

CONFERENCE CHAIRING

- Panel Chair, “Ecological Art and Feminist/Indigenous Poetics of Land,” The American Studies Association Annual Meeting (Forthcoming, November 2026)
- Panel Chair, “Race, Nation, and Identity,” The American Musicological Society Annual Meeting (November 2025)
- Panel Chair, “Black Performance and Material Culture,” The Society for American Music Annual Conference (March 2025)

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWING

- The University of Mississippi Press (2025)
- *Women & Performance: a journal of feminist theory* (2026)
- *Journal of Black Opera and Music Theatre* (2026)

SERVICE TO THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations (TCT) Assessment Committee, University Level Advisory Committee for General Education (ULAC) (2026–27)
- Graduate Studies Committee, The Department of African American and African Studies (2025–26; 2026–27)
- Fellow-to-Faculty Search Committee, The Department of African American and African Studies (2024–25)

MENTORSHIP

- Faculty Mentor, Undergraduate Society of Black Leaders (2024–25)

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

- Co-Facilitator, “The Department of Deep Discussions” Learning Community at the London Correctional Institution (London, OH), Ohio Prison Education Exchange Project (OPEEP), Fall 2025–Present

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Scholars’ Workshop in Early African American Print, The American Antiquarian Society (Worcester, MA), January 12 to January 15, 2026
- Ohio Prison Education Exchange Project (OPEEP) Instructor Training, May 2025
- Faculty Foundation, Impact, Transformation (FIT) Program, The Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning, The Ohio State University (2024–25)

GRADUATE SCHOOL SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY (STANFORD UNIVERSITY)

- Co-Facilitator, The Black Studies Collective (2021–23)
- Co-Founder, “Graduate Foundations in Black Studies” Workshop Series (2022)
- Graduate Mentor, Music Peer Mentorship Program, Stanford University
- Graduate Music Studies Forum (President, VP, Journal Club Chair, Professional Development Chair), Stanford University (2019–24)

STUDENT ADVISING AND COMMITTEES

Undergraduate Thesis Advising

B.A. Thesis Advisor. Zoe Jouline (History), defended Spring 2026

B.A. Thesis Advisor. Kourt Carr (French and Italian & AAAS), honors distinction, defended Spring 2026

Graduate Thesis Advising

M.A. Thesis Committee Member. Alison Pabon Tadeo (AAAS), defended Spring 2026

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

English (native speaker)

French (reading knowledge)

Spanish (reading knowledge)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Society for American Music (SAM)

The American Musicological Society (AMS)

The American Studies Association (ASA)