

**AN ANALYSIS OF HEAVY METAL:  
DURATION, FORM, AND PROLONGATION  
IN THE MUSIC OF METALLICA 1984–1988**

Music theory has always been an integral part of art music in the past, but in recent decades this approach to heavy metal groups has had little mention. Academia has generally neglected the technical side of popular music and in particular the music of Metallica. Instead, extant research tends towards the sociological settings, not Metallica's writing style, the evolution of their music or possible connections to classical theory. I will examine these technical features in order to determine how Metallica increased the durations of songs as their compositional style developed. I suspect that an increase in duration of musical sections derives from an increase in complexity and content, as it normally does in classical works. For example, "Fade to Black" from *Ride the Lightning* (1984) lasts 6:56 with an ABCA form, while "One" from *...And Justice for All* (1988) lasts 7:24 with an AB form. Although "One" is only 28 seconds longer, it is significant that the length of each section (e.g., A) increases in length. This suggests that more complex internal processes are embedded in an overall simpler form, thereby extending the song durations. Although numerous tools for such analysis exist for classical art music, a method needs to be developed to analyze heavy metal music. This method may be helpful in the analysis of other popular music as well as better relating the music of today with that of the past. I plan to submit this paper to CMS or SMT regional conferences or to the journal *Indiana Theory Review*.

## BUDGET

	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>COST/UNIT</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>
	10 CD's	\$15	\$150
	12 Guitar/Bass tablature books	\$20	\$240
	1000 copies	\$0.10	\$100
	Conference fees, travel, and lodging to CMS/SMT in 2004	N/A	\$300
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$790*

\*I will seek to gain other grants to furnish the other necessary funds.