

**Colloquium February 20, 2026**  
**Paul Miller (Duquesne University)**

**Title:** "Polytempo in Stockhausen's HOCH-ZEITEN: a key to understanding the LICHT opera cycle"

**Abstract:**

As the final work Stockhausen composed in his epic operatic heptology LICHT, HOCH-ZEITEN ("High-Times/Weddings") occupies a privileged position. This celebratory, capstone piece is remarkable not only for its polyspatiality but also for its intricate polytemporal structure. I argue that a key to understanding LICHT's nature as an opera cycle lies in Stockhausen's choice of HOCH-ZEITEN's unusual tempos, overlaid five at a time throughout the piece's 35-minute duration. While my analytical methodology draws on work by David Lewin, Margaret Thomas, Daphne Leong and Andrew Mead, my main point of departure is Zuckerkandl's interpretation of meter as a wavelike phenomenon — a view consonant with Stockhausen's own eclectic understanding of temporality. By analyzing and correlating large data sets and performing regression analyses, I illustrate how HOCH-ZEITEN's polytemporality manifests the theme of "mystical unity" central to the Sunday opera, while simultaneously uniting the entire opera cycle with striking coherence.

**Bio:** A native of Poughkeepsie, NY, Paul Miller currently serves as Associate Professor of Musicianship at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Rooted in music theory, his research has spanned areas as diverse as historical performance, modern technology, music theory pedagogy and posthumanism. Miller's publications have appeared in journals such as *Early Music*, *Music Theory Online*, *Music and Letters*, *Opera Quarterly*, and *Perspectives of New Music*. Before landing in Pittsburgh, Miller held a prestigious two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Cornell University and spent four years on the faculty of the University of Colorado in Boulder. "The Strad" magazine lauded his album of newly-discovered virtuoso music for viola d'amore as "virtuosic". Miller is currently pursuing a Master's degree in computer science while enjoying post-tenure bliss.