When Here is Now and Now is Then: Bridging the Gap in Time

Kate Maxwell, University of Agder
skate.maxwell@gmail.com  @skatemaxwell
Anyone (old enough to) remember this?!
Sumer is icumen in, Lhude sing cuccu!
roweþ sed and bloweþ med
And springþ þe wde nu, Sing cuccu!
Awe bleteþ after lomb, Lhouþ after calue cu. +-
Bulluc stertþ, bucke uerteþ,
Murie sing cuccu! Cuccu, cuccu, wel
singes þu cuccu;
Ne swik þu nauer nu.
(Sing cuccu nu. Sing cuccu!)
Summer has come in, Loudly sing,
Cuckoo! The seed grows and the
meadow blooms And the wood springs
anew, Sing, Cuckoo! The ewe bleats
after the lamb The cow lows after the
calf. The bullock stirs, the stag
farts, Merrily sing, Cuckoo! Cuckoo,
cuckoo, well you sing, cuckoo; Don't
ever you stop now,
(Sing cuckoo now. Sing, Cuckoo!)
Interpretive modes
- Improvisation
- Declamation
- Tone
- Instrumentation

Articulation / Decoration
- Presentation / audience interaction

Gesture

Compositional modes
- Orchestration / choice of ensemble
- Notation / instructions
- Ground / figure
- Language choice / textual structure

Live / recording / etc
- Genre / style

Tonality

Semiotic Modes in a Medieval (music) Manuscript

Text-based modes
- rhyme/line length
- sung/spoken language
- written language
- manuscript contents & order
- paratexts

Image-based modes
- page layout
- marginalia
- miniatures
- decoration
- musical notation
- binding

Time-based modes
- rhythm and melody
- performative gestures
Moving beyond modes

- Cultural Practices
- Semiotic Resources
- Elements (Pars)
Semiotic Resources, Cultural Practices, and Elements in Sounding Music

- Genre / Style
- Orchestration / Choice of ensemble
- Live / recording / etc
- Resources
- Instrumentation
- Musical Notation
- Articulation / Decoration
- Elements (Units, ‘pars’)
- Tone
- Language choice / textual structure
- Declamation
- Cultural Practices (Collective or individual)
- Gesture
- Improvisation
- Technique
- Tonality
Semiotic Resources, Cultural Practices, and Elements in a Medieval Manuscript
'In information theoretic terms, no message is ever sent. What is sent is a signal. Only when the message is encoded in a signal for transmission through a medium – for example, when ink is printed on paper or when electrical pulses are sent racing along telegraph wires – does it assume material form.'

‘Letters, that is written symbols, in the first place represent sounds. And secondly they stand for things, which they conduct into the mind through the windows of the eyes. Frequently they communicate, without even emitting a sound, the utterances of those who are absent.’

A boy falls into the river from London Bridge

The edition

• [Link to PDF](#)
• [Link to PDF on web](#)
Summer has come in, Loudly sing, Cuckoo!
(Sing cuckoo now. Sing, Cuckoo!)
Thank you!

Kate Maxwell skate.maxwell@gmail.com
skatemaxwell.wordpress.com @skatemaxwell