

**DISTINGUISHED LECTURE IN MUSIC THEORY**  
**“Sing Me a Song with Social Significance”:  
Battling Industrialist Oppressors  
on the Broadway Stage**

**Dr. Michael Buchler**

**PROFESSOR OF MUSIC THEORY,  
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Tuesday, September 24th, 2019**

**12:45pm**

**103 Music Practice Building**

Free and open to the public.

**BIO**

Michael Buchler is Professor of Music Theory at the Florida State University College of Music. He has served as President of Music Theory Southeast and Vice-President of the Society for Music Theory. He is also Vice-President of his faculty labor union chapter (United Faculty of Florida) and a member of FSU's faculty collective bargaining team. His recent work addresses aspects of musical structure in American musical theater and problems of atonal music analysis.

**ABSTRACT:**

The 1930s were both a high-water mark for the expansion of labor unions in the United States and an important period in the coming-of-age of American musical theater. In this talk, I will discuss four shows that very differently portrayed the labor movement in the 1930s: two from 1937, *The Cradle Will Rock* (Blitzstein) and *Pins and Needles* (Rome, et. al.) and two from the 1960s that were set in the mid-1930s: *I Can Get It For You Wholesale* (Rome) and *Flora, The Red Menace* (Kander & Ebb). Music-analytical topics include non-standard phrase structure as text setting and the connotations of Jewish musical tropes in the secular arena.

