# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | MUSIC THEORY AREA

# "Sing Me a Song with Social Significance": Battling Industrialist Oppressors on the Broadway Stage

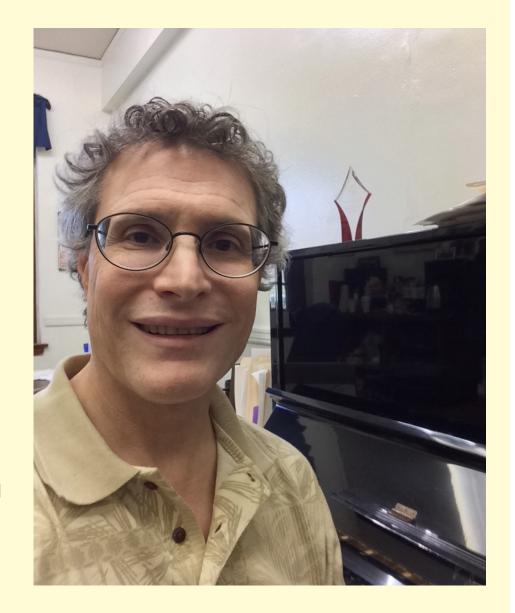
# **Dr. Michael Buchler**

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.

