

# Tori Amos's Stretched Compound Grooves

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This file includes the abstract, keyword list, bibliography, and related material for the video essay, “Tori Amos’s Stretched Compound Grooves” by Scott Hanenberg. This video-essay may be found at <https://vimeo.com/societymusictheory/smtv125hanenberg>

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**Abstract for  
Tori Amos's Stretched Compound Grooves**

**by Scott Hanenberg, *SMT-V12.5***

Tori Amos has her own way of manipulating musical time. In this video essay, I show how Amos often stretches the meter of her songs by strategically adding subdivisions. My focus is on grooves that I hear in 6/8 time (compound grooves), with stretched measures of 7/8, 8/8, or further expansions. The demanding metric coordination in Amos's stretched grooves is surprising in the radio-friendly genres that she is known for—one way among many that Amos plays with the line between pop and progressive.

**Short Keyword List**

Tori Amos, groove, compound meter, irregular meter, popular music

**Extensive Keyword List**

Barons of Suburbia, The Beekeeper, Icicle, Under the Pink, Carbon, Scarlet's Walk, Datura, To Venus and Back, Spark, From the Choirgirl Hotel, Matt Chamberlain, Jon Evans, Mac Aladdin, Steve Caton, John Philip Shenale, George Porter Jr., Paulinho do Costa, Carlo Nuccio, Justin Meldal-Johnsen, Andy Gray, Bösendorfer piano, Hammond B-3, voice, keyboards, drums, synthesizers, mixed meter, movement, dance, musical time, stretch, unpredictable, signature, style, modification, expand, pulse, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen, sixteen, fifty-five, time signature, flexible, subjective, mind, embody, entrain, feel, pattern, interrupt, Tool, Radiohead, The Tourist, Dionne Warwick, Anyone Who Had a Heart, Burt Bacharach, timing, emotional expression, hymn, female, pleasure, tropes, cyclical rhythm, inconsistent, base meter, hesitant, purpose, repetition, Jesus, pumpkin PJs, singsong, secret, ecstatic moan, metric dissonance, lyric, dynamic, trepidation, elation, loose verse, tight chorus, semi-regular, stability, unpredictable, bipolar disorder, cryptic metaphors, crystalline irises, loons, world bleeds white, imperative warnings, genre, singer-songwriter, chamber-pop, folk-pop, religion, gender, sexuality, alternative rock, experimentation, Joni Mitchell, Cat Stevens, reinterpreted meter, Fiona Apple, progressive rock, alternative metal, math rock, timbre, instrumentation, tresillo, patchwork, systematic, hallucinogenic plant, toxic, garden, snare drum, backbeat, electronic, miscarriage, isolated, disorientation, art rock, art pop, trip

hop, techno, industrial, electronica, tempo, slow, triple, Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing, muddled, floorboards, vulnerability, emotive effects, stories, radio-friendly, singles

### **About the Author**

Scott Hanenberg is a music theorist specializing in popular music analysis, rhythm and meter, and corpus-based study of groove. His work has been published in *Music Theory Spectrum*, *Music Theory Online*, and *The Cambridge Companion to the Drum Kit*. He is also a contributor to the open-access textbook *Open Music Theory*. Scott teaches courses in popular music theory at Wilfrid Laurier University.

## Supplementary Materials

N/A

## Discography

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