

I will learn you something if you listen to  
this song: southern women writers'  
representations of music in fiction.

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# "I will learn you something if you listen to this song": southern women writers' representations of music in fiction

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[Courtney George, Louisiana State University and Agricultural  
Mechanical College](#)

## Degree

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

## Department

English

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Dissertation

## Abstract

This dissertation offers a rhetorical analysis of the formal memory, history, and communities in intersections of musical expression in the American South, a region graced with a v

tradition of female musicianship. Recent scholars have de-imagined narrative of southern culture as static, patriarchal alternative stories and cultures that exist outside of canon project significantly expands current understandings of the by investigating how women writers recall, reclaim, and re-in southern music to challenge, comply, and/or identify with place in the South. I examine novels by Zora Neale Hurston, Allison, and Lee Smith to explore the many ways these women gospel, and country music through tropes of female musical lyrics, or musical structures in order to re-imagine a South paternalist ideas about sexuality, race, class, and religion. of music history, literary analysis, and cultural theory, "I Will models a productive interdisciplinary approach to understanding writers' rhetorical strategies for "learning" readers about fiction neglected in American literary and musical history.

**Date**

2008

**Document Availability at the Time of Submission**

Release the entire work immediately for access worldwide

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**Committee Chair**

Katherine Henninger

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