To write a musical canon—be it “Three Blind Mice” or the climax of a Bach fugue—one constructs a melody that can act as its own harmony. Thinking about this task leads us to look at musical structure from points of view usually associated with science and mathematics, not the arts. The lecture will be illustrated with diagrams as well as musical examples from various eras and genres (including at least one improvised on the spot), and will require no technical background in either music or mathematics.

Part of the Norbert Wiener Lecture Series in Mathematics
Cosponsored by the Department of Music and the Program in Science, Technology, & Society