

Talking Timbre: Vocal Timbre and Narrative in Florence + the Machine's *Ceremonials*
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Florence + the Machine's 2011 album *Ceremonials* offers an opportunity to consider one of the most distinctive features of the group: vocal timbre. Through the analysis of three songs from the album, "What the Water Gave Me," "All This and Heaven Too," and "Seven Devils," I aim to show that vocal timbre assists in creating a deeper understanding of each song's narrative. Through mimetic and embodied analysis, I will analyze Florence Welch's vocal timbre using the system designed by Kate Heidemann for describing vocal timbre (2016). Using 5-point numerical scales and timbral descriptors, I categorize eight total timbre types. I posit that Florence Welch employs specific timbre types to represent Renaissance ideas and to offer deeper insight to the narratives unfolding. This presentation will conclude with thoughts on future scholarship and applications.