



Discographic Metadata as a Research Resource for Studying the Development of Popular Music Genres and Cultures

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SIMSSA WORKSHOP XVII: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MUSIC DISCOVERY

THEORY & METHODOLOGY

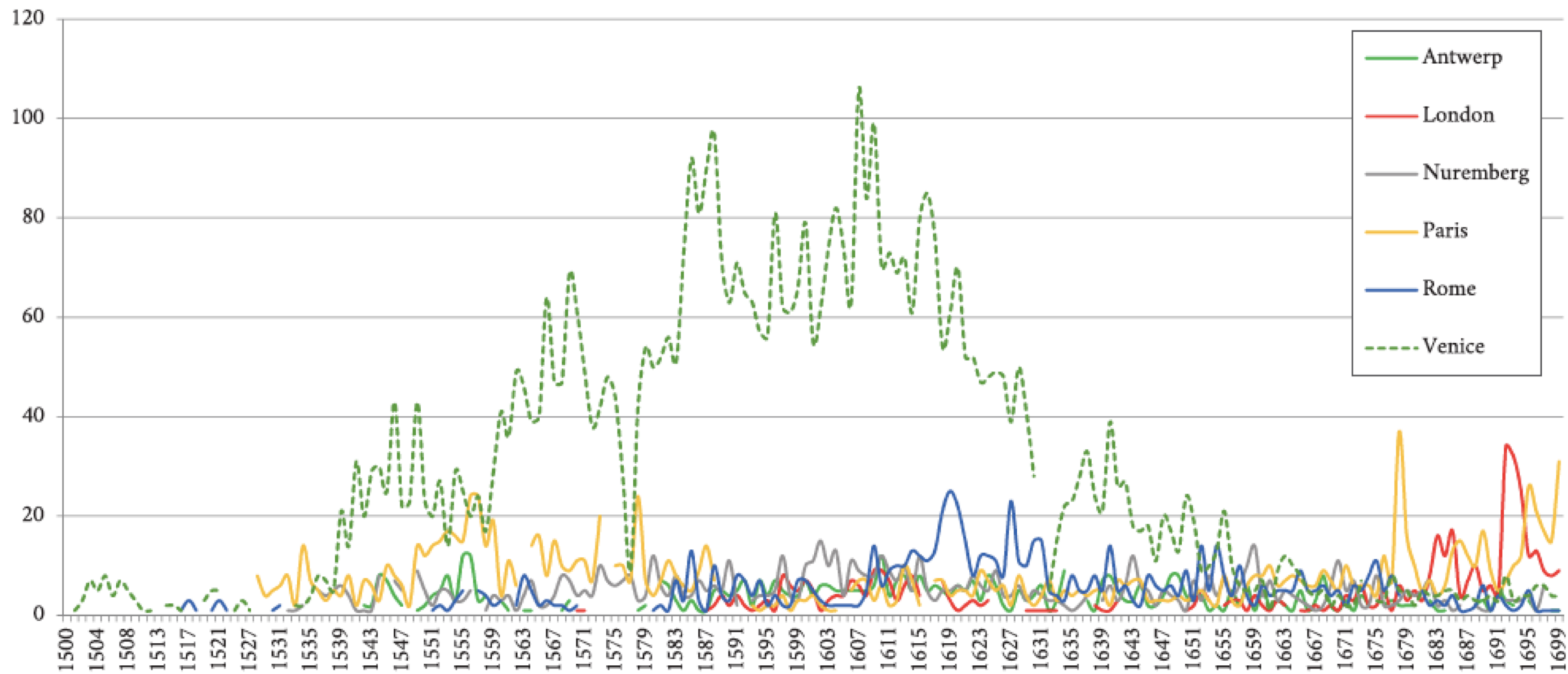
PROSOPOGRAPHY – DISTANT READING

Prosopography is “about what the analysis of the sum of data about many individuals can tell us about the different types of connection between them, and hence about how they operated within and upon the institutions – social, political, legal, economic, intellectual – of their time” (Keats-Rohan 2000).

As a methodology, **prosopography** “gathers and digest information about the individual persons who are attested in a particular historical period; as well as uncovering specific careers and relationships, it may also provide a tool for the broader detection of historical trends” (Cameron 2003).

PROSOPOGRAPHY

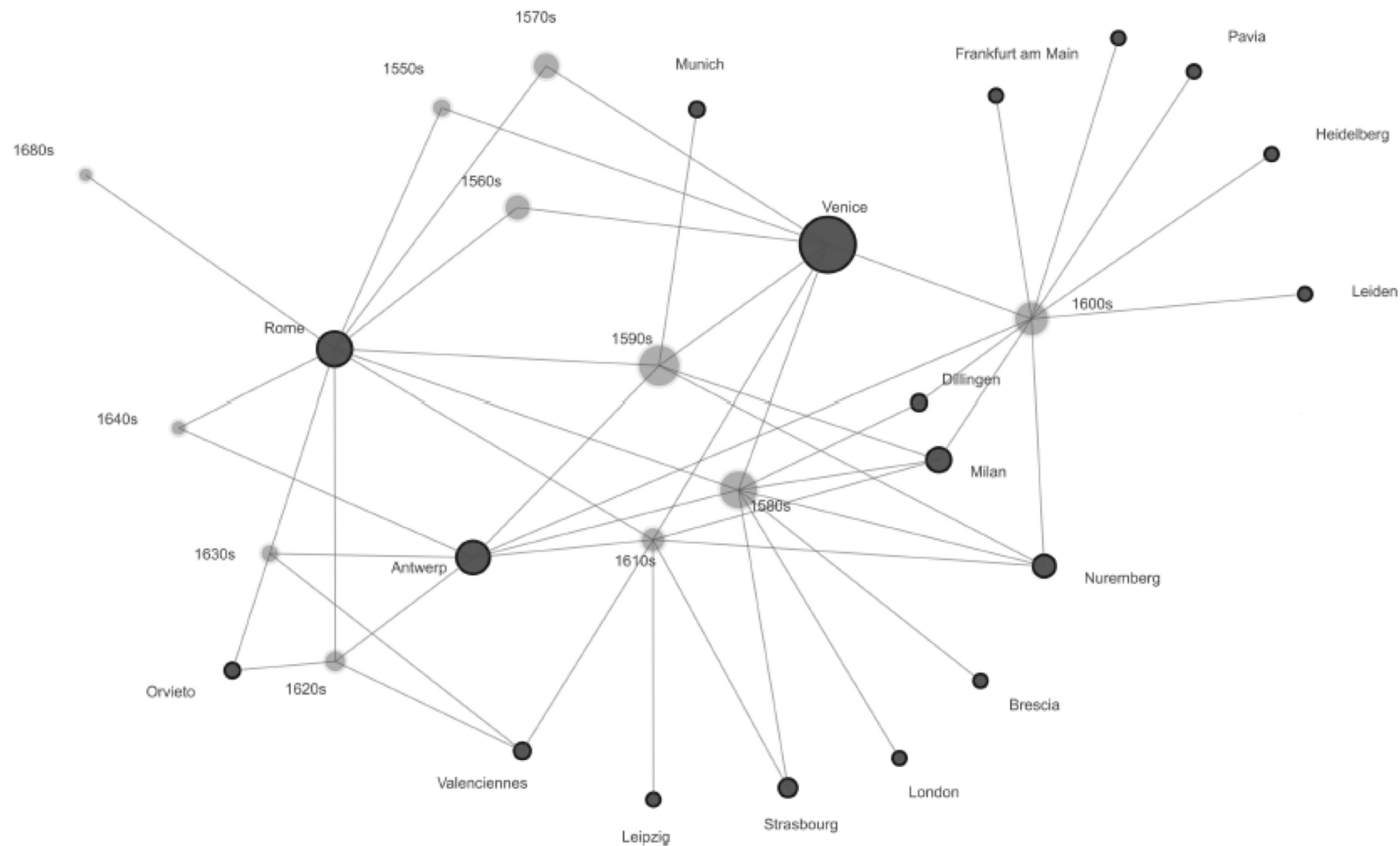
influenced by Katherine Keats-Rohan (2000) and Averil Cameron (2003)



3 Annual output of printed music for six major cities, 1500–1699. Data from RISM A/I and B/I

DISTANT READING OF MUSIC DATA

“Writing a Big Data History of Music” in *Early Music* XLIII, no. 4 (2015) by Stephen Rose, Sandra Tuppen, Loukia Drosopoulou.



6 Places and decades for the publication of Palestrina's music to 1700. Data from RISM A/I and B/I

DISTANT READING OF MUSIC DATA

“Writing a Big Data History of Music” in *Early Music* XLIII, no. 4 (2015) by Stephen Rose, Sandra Tuppen, Loukia Drosopoulou.

DATA CURATION & MODELING


BILLBOARD HOT COUNTRY SONGS, 1944-2016

- **Discography:**

- 19,844 singles (including covers, re-releases, etc.)

- **Biography:**

- 4,127 Performers (solo artists and members of ensembles)
- 8,193 songwriters
- ~1,500 producers



There is overlap here: some artists in this dataset perform more than one function – and often are all three (performers, songwriters and producers).

- **Industry:**

- ~1,187 labels and partnerships

DATASET: HOT COUNTRY SONGS, 1944-2016

1

■ **Discography → three main phases**

1. Augmented dataset to include names of songwriters and label catalogue numbers for each record → DONE
2. Added all records charting between 1944 and 1958 (not included in core Billboard dataset) → DONE
3. Adding all corresponding album details (title, release date, producer) → *in progress*

2

■ **Biography → three main phases**

1. Created a dataset with all of the biographic details for every charting performer (solo and ensemble) → DONE
2. Create a subset with the biographic details for all songwriters → *in progress*
3. Create a subset with the biographic details for all producers → *in progress*

3

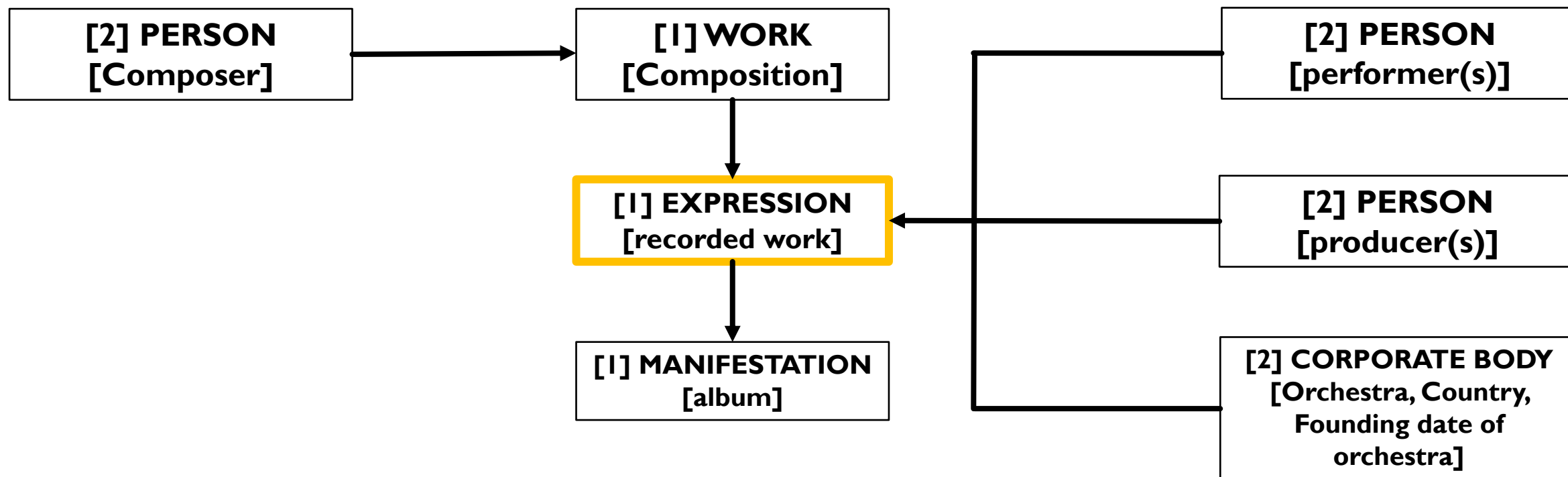
■ **Industry → one phase**

1. Dataset with the labels producing these singles → *in progress*

CURATION PHASES

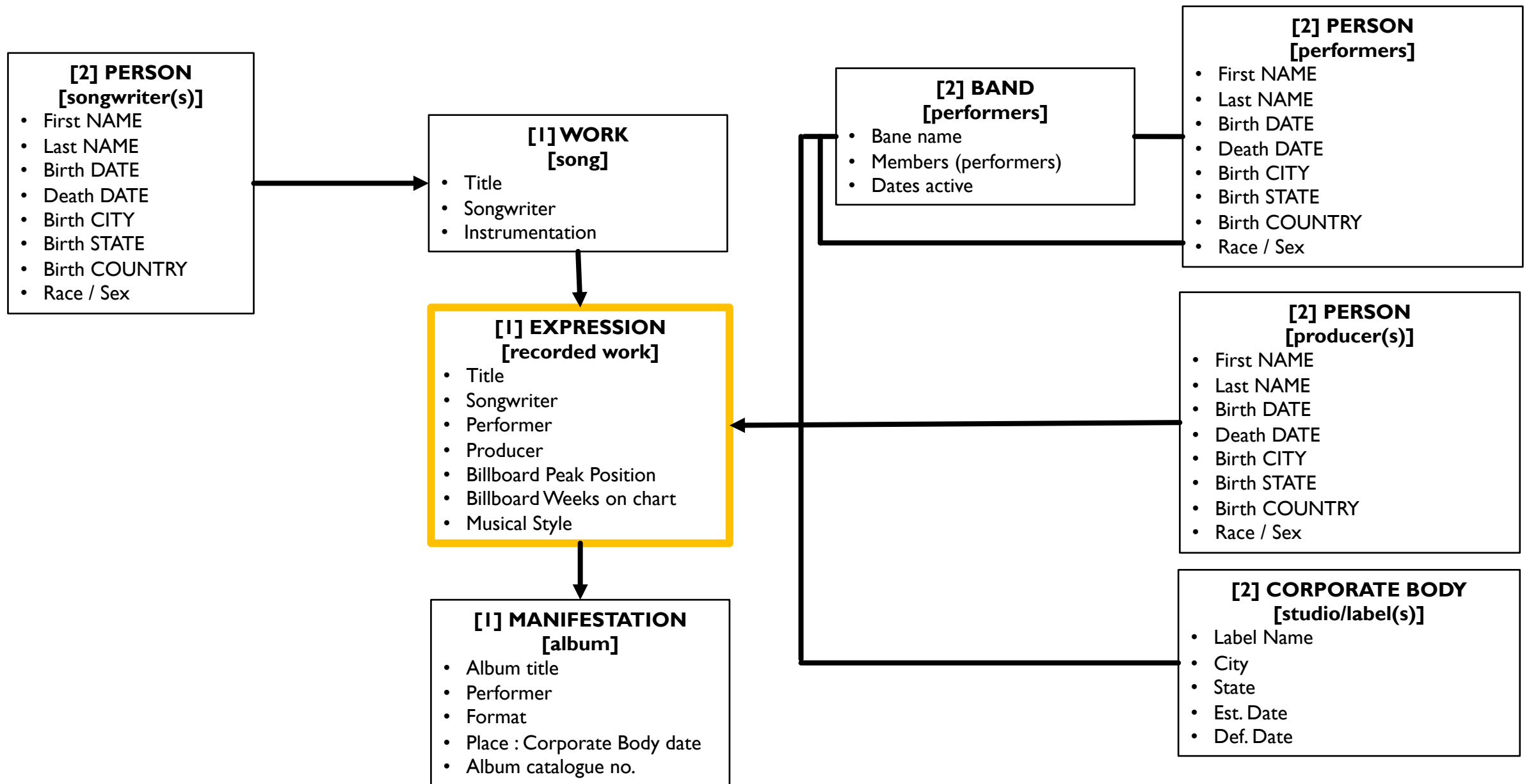
- 1
 - **Discography → BGSU MARC Records, WorldCat and Wikipedia**
 - **BGSU Bill Schurk Sound Archives** → ~15,000 country album MARC records from collection
 - **Cascading Search in WorldCat** → using ISBN and/or album titles
 - **Search API** → Wikipedia to pull discographic data from album pages
- 2
 - **Biography → Library of Congress, WorldCat and Wikipedia**
 - **MARC Edit** → to pull URI records for Name Authority files from the Library of Congress
 - **Virtual International Authority File (VIAF)** → to pull URI records for Name Authority files from WorldCat
 - **Search API** → Wikipedia to pull biographic details for songwriters / producers with Wikipedia pages

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES



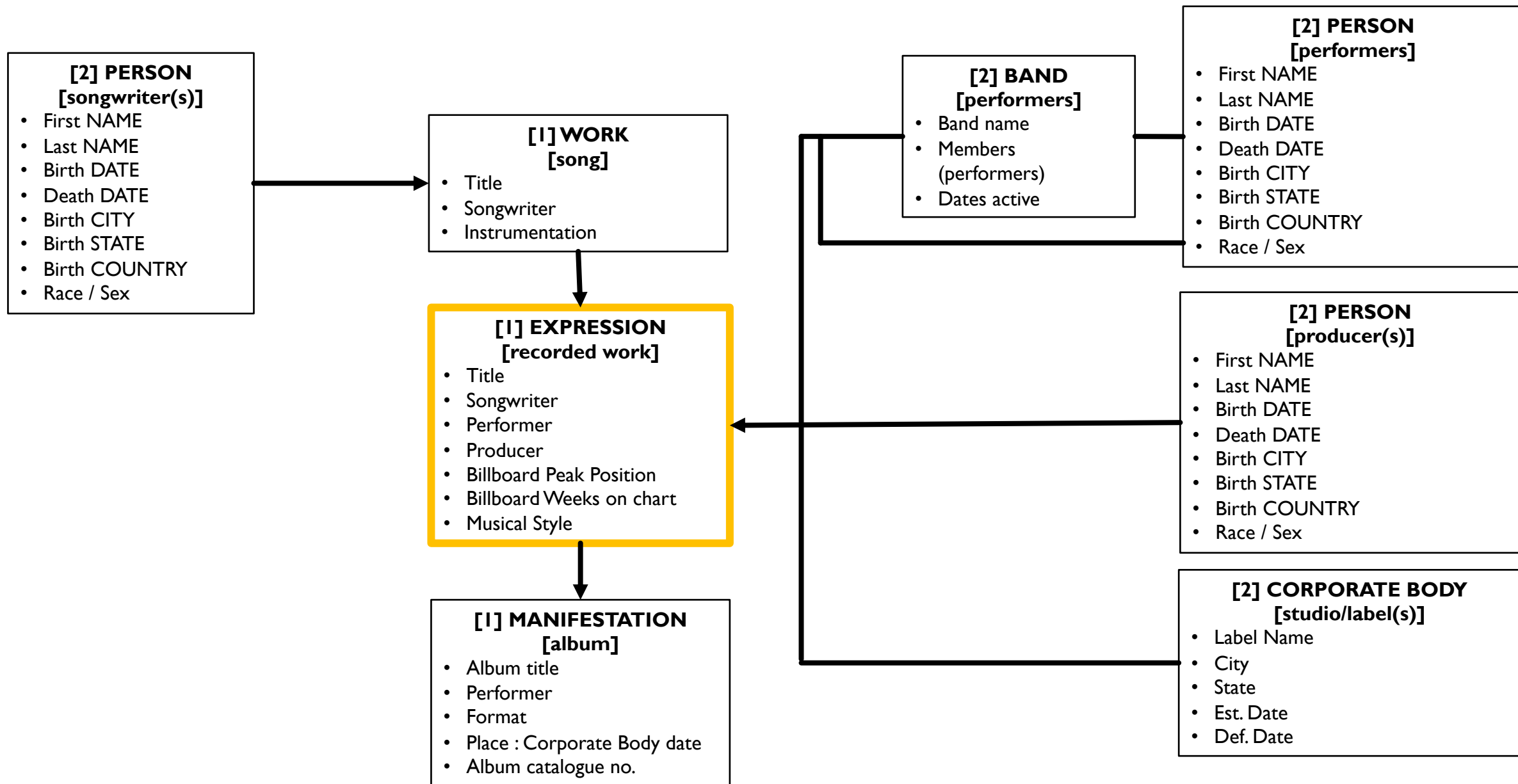
ENTITY-RELATION MODEL FOR VARIATIONS3

influenced by FRBR (Riley, Hunter, Colvard, Berry, Indiana University; 2007)

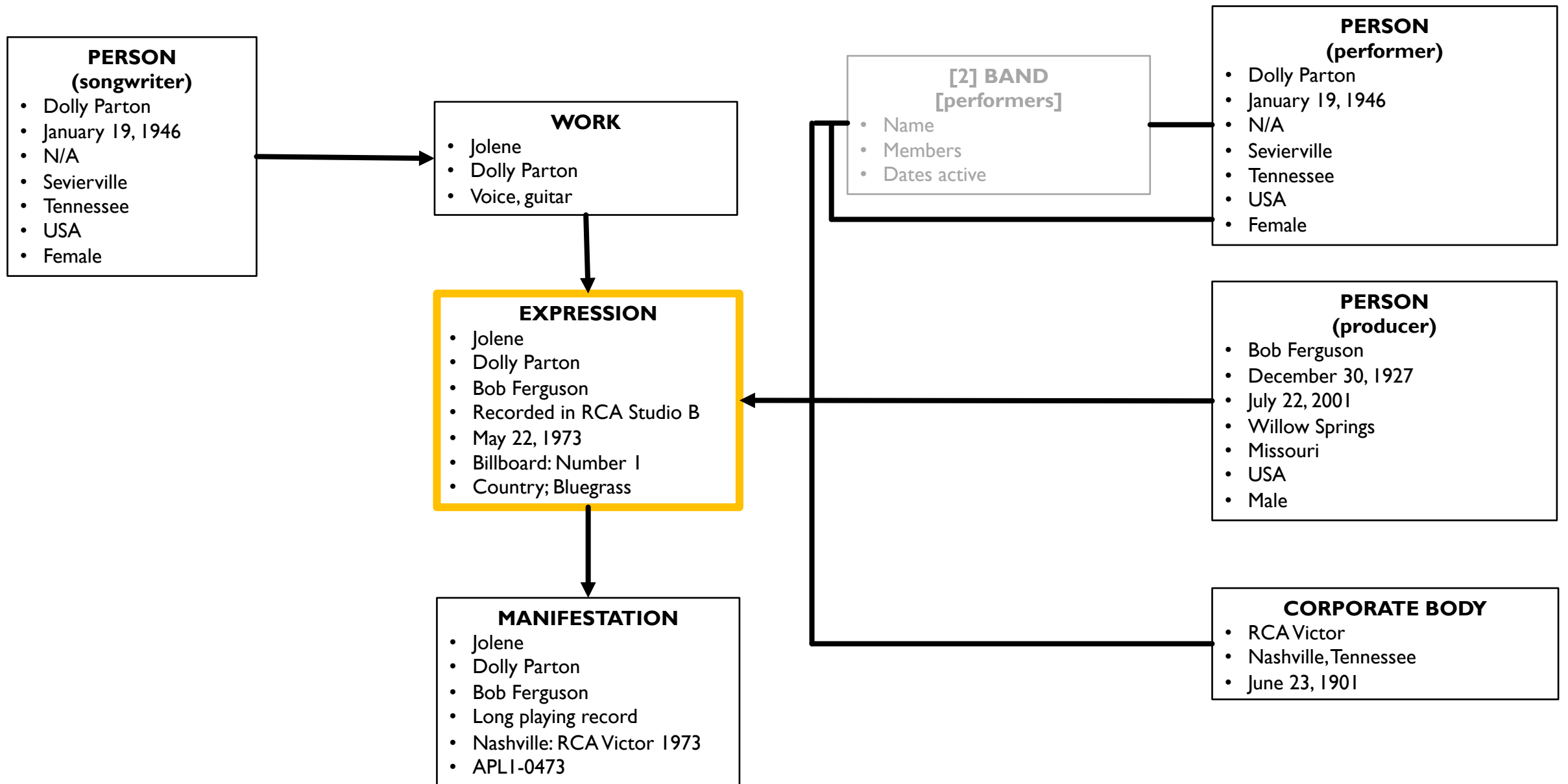


CONCEPTUAL MODEL – ADAPTED TO SONGDATA

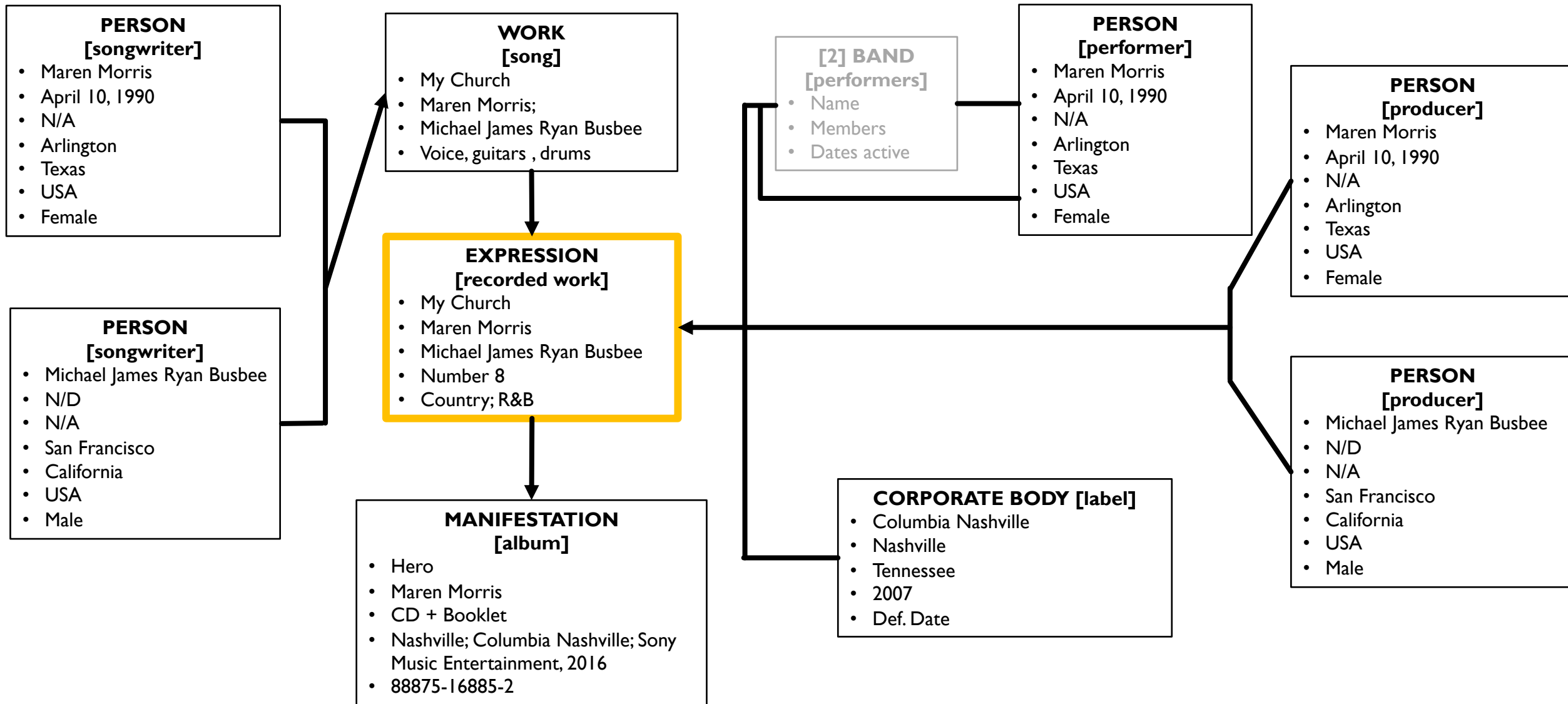
influenced by FRBR and Variations3 catalogue at Indiana University (Riley, Hunter, Colvard, Berry 2007)



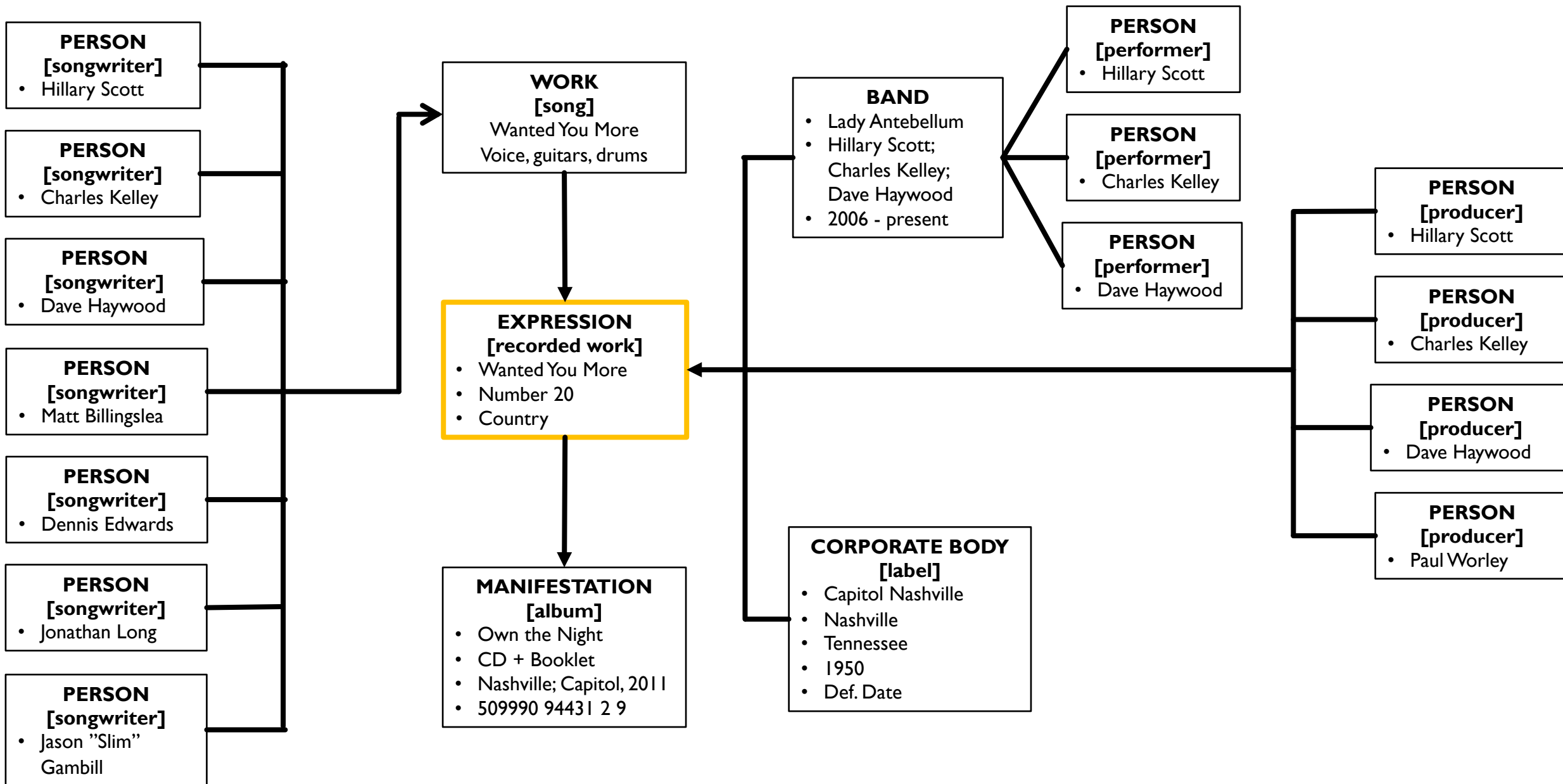
CONCEPTUAL MODEL – ADAPTED TO SONGDATA



CONCEPTUAL MODEL – DOLLY PARTON’S “JOLENE”



CONCEPTUAL MODEL – MAREN MORRIS’S “MY CHURCH”



CONCEPTUAL MODEL – LADY ANTEBELLUM’S “WANTED YOU MORE”

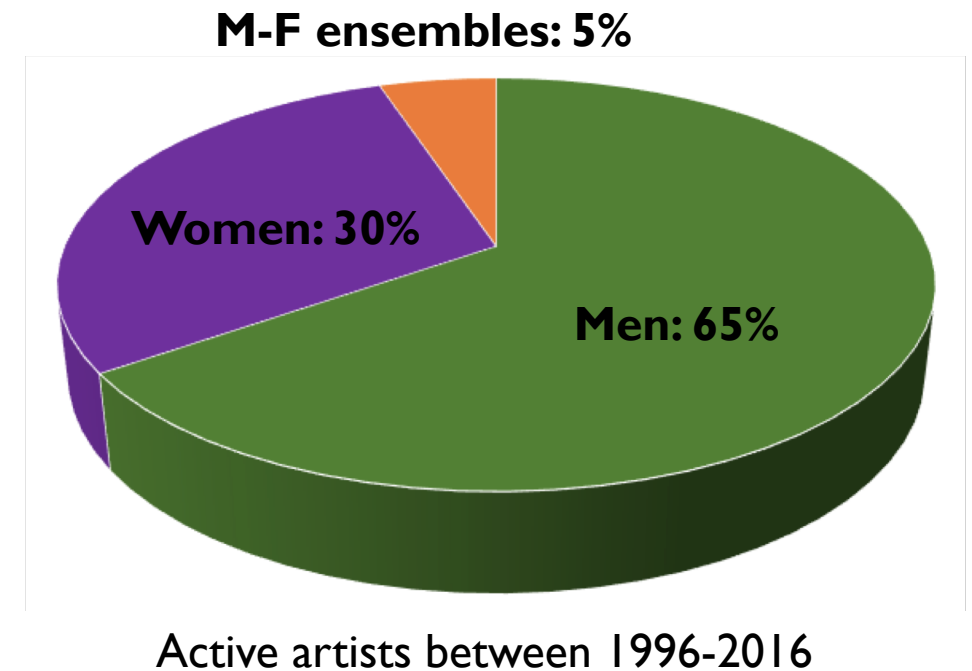
GENDER REPRESENTATION IN THE COUNTRY MUSIC INDUSTRY, 1996-2016

PILOT STUDY

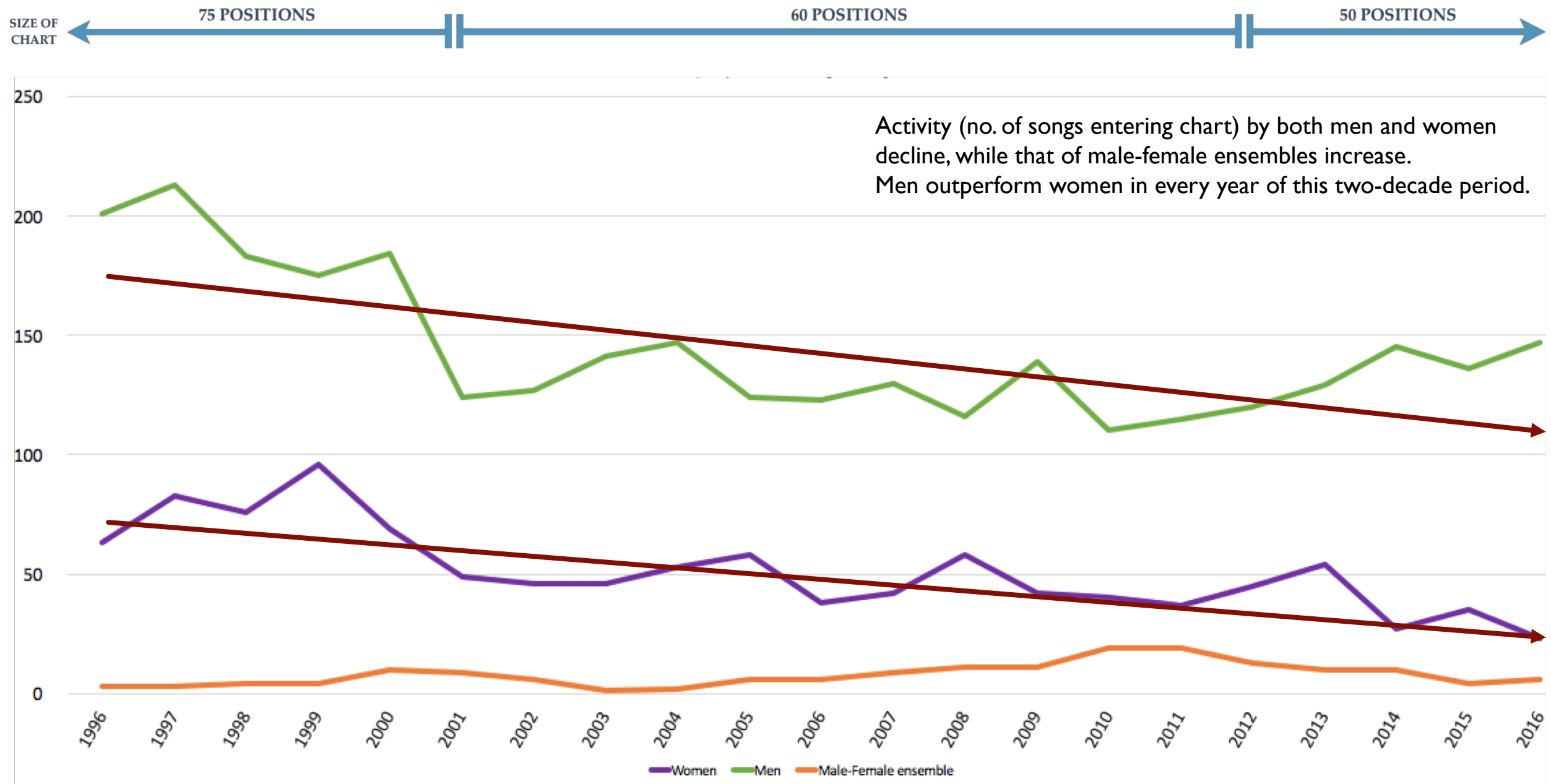
RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN JOURNAL OF POPULAR MUSIC AND SOCIETY (43, NO. 1).

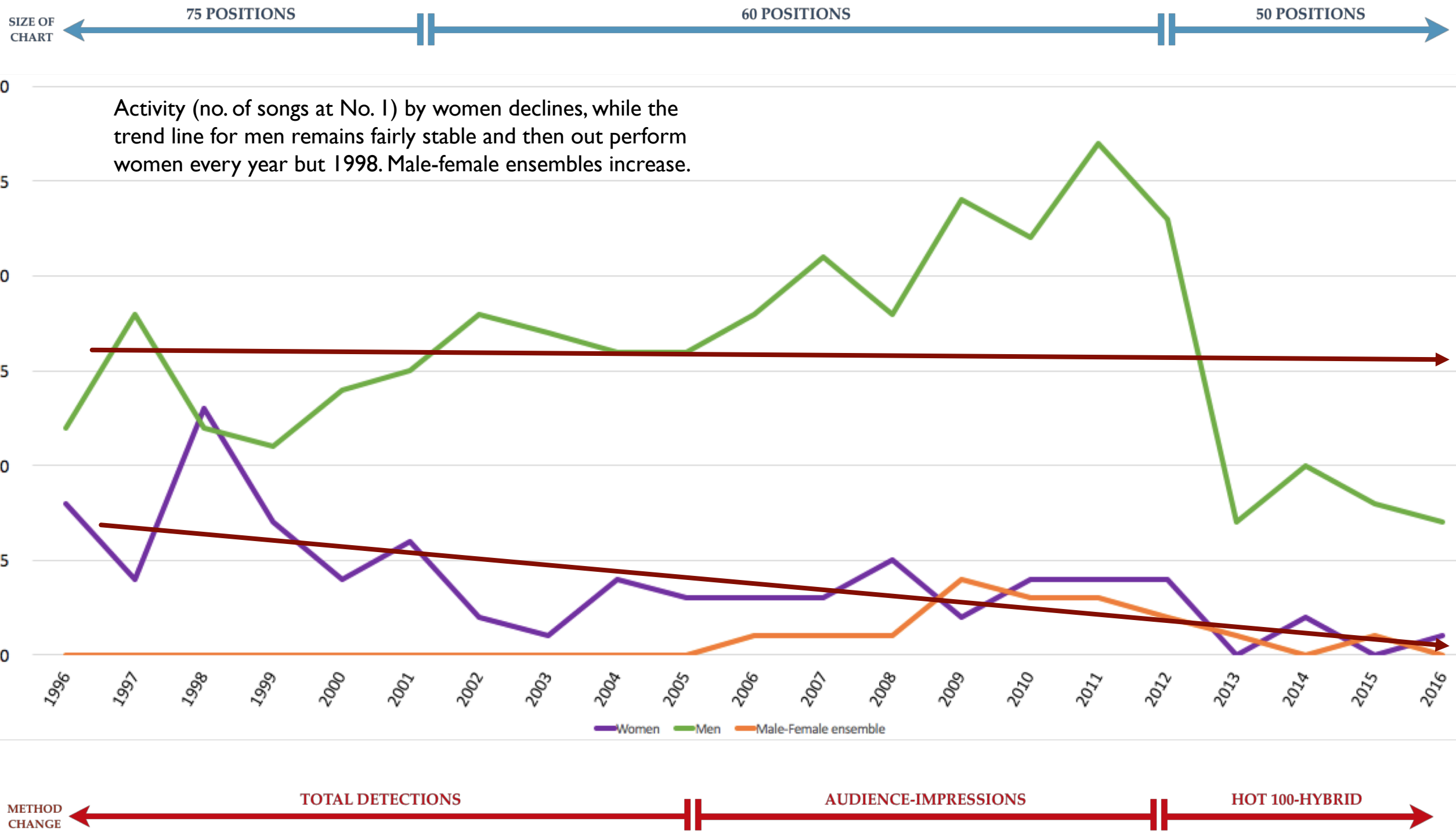
Total number of debuting songs: **4,276**
Total number of songs peaking at #1: **432**

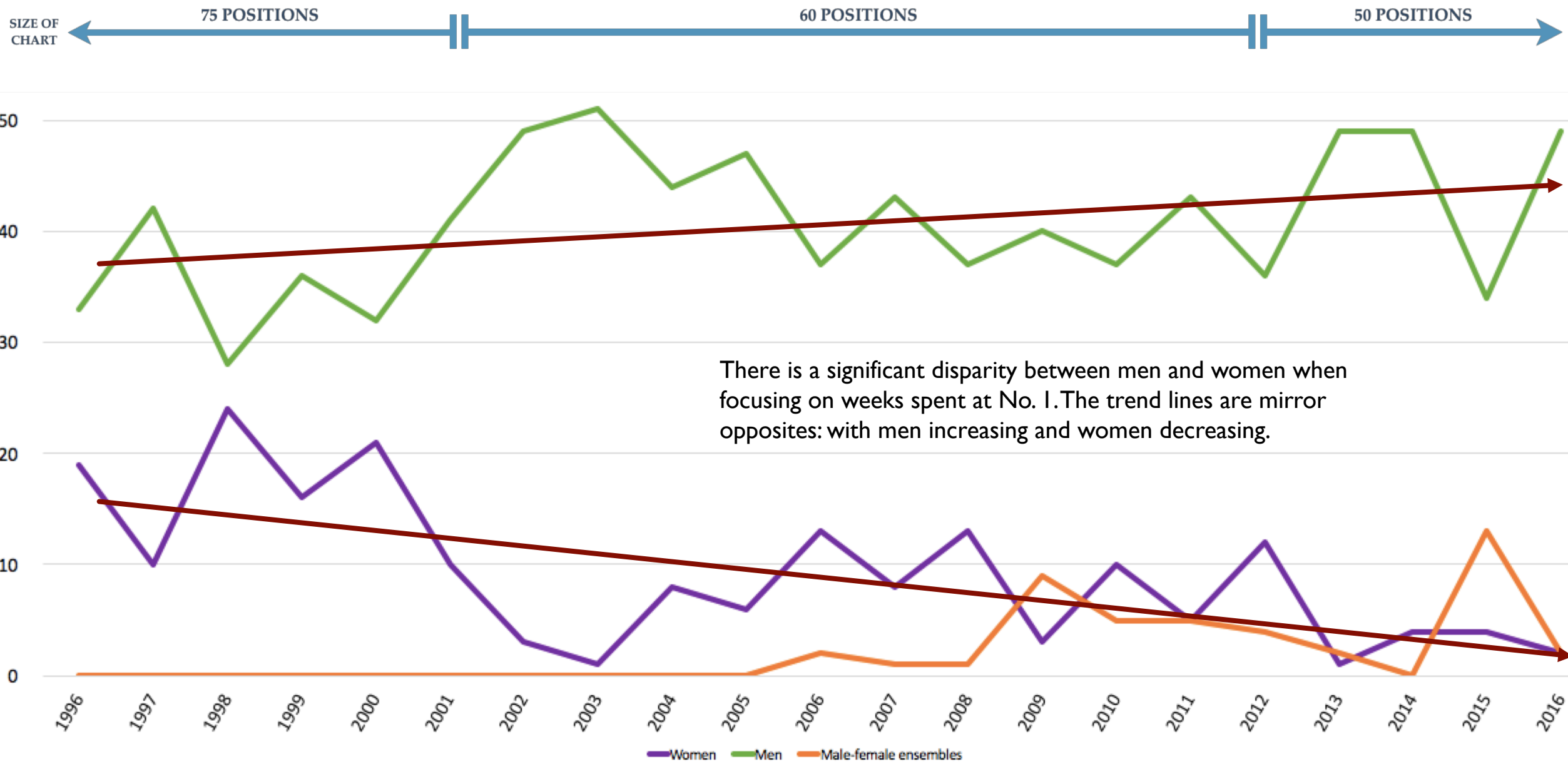
Total number of artists active: 718
Men: **469**
Women: **212**
Male-female ensembles: **37**



HOT COUNTRY SONGS, 1996-2016









billboard
b

class
networked cultures
categories
prosopography
spaces
commercialization
radio
metadata
sexuality
subcultures
race
historical processes
networks
communities
scenes
discography
identity
biography
geography
genres
records
industry
category
classification
gender
data
culture

SongData



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