

## EDITORIAL NOTE: MARKING TIME

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The pieces collected in this special issue of *Riffs* emerged from a year-long experiment in writing about George Lucas's 1973 film *American Graffiti*. Set in Modesto, California in 1962, it's the story of a group of teenagers and their adventures over the course of a single night at the end of the summer. For us, the film became a medium for addressing some of the challenges of writing about popular music. But equally, we responded to its songs, dialogue, images, and stories as starting points for creative adventures of our own. Along with regular screenings and repeated listening to the soundtrack, we wrote about the past in the present, followed the boundaries between sounds and images, and documented our experiences of time in the movie. Key themes were the music as narration and filmic images of time. We hope you like the results.

**Nick Gebhardt** is Professor of Jazz and Popular Music Studies and Associate Dean for Research, Innovation and Enterprise in the Faculty of Arts, Design and Media at Birmingham City University. His work focuses on jazz and popular music in American culture and his publications include *Going For Jazz: Musical Practices and American Ideology* (Chicago), *Vaudeville Melodies: Popular Musicians and Mass Entertainment in American Culture, 1870-1929* (Chicago). He is also the co-editor of the *Routledge Companion to Jazz Studies* (2019) and the Routledge book series *Transnational Studies in Jazz*.

