Armed with two degrees in Music History and having lived in Russia for over a year immersed in the language, Simon Morrison knew he wanted to focus on Russian music in a PhD program. He chose Princeton because, at the time, there were no leading experts on Russia who might try to sway him, and he chose Harold Powers because Powers did not specialize in Russian music. He found a Music Department superior in promoting professional development and an advisor “who was so welcoming, so open-minded. He encouraged taking the unconventional path.”

At Princeton ever since and appointed a full professor in 2008, Morrison has always been eager to talk about music publicly. “I’m interested in talking about familiar classical music and explaining why it can be dangerous, illuminating, and enriching.” And for more than 10 years he has been talking with alumni audiences. In 1999 he participated in the "Desert Muse and the Arts" Alumni College in Santa Fe and the "Exploring Opera" On-campus College in 2000. He also delivered a lecture entitled “Music Versus Noise” for the Maclean House Lecture Series “Speaking of Art” in 2010. His first Alumni Studies experience was a four-week course in 2005 called “How Ballet Works” that culminated in a performance of his own recreation of the Prokofiev ballet *Le Pas d’Acier*. Morrison still marvels at the enthusiasm of the alumni audience and considers that course a high point of his faculty experience: “They asked important, penetrating, fabulous questions.”

Now in the second year of a term as an elected faculty representative to the Alumni Council’s Executive Committee, he calls this experience “personally enriching. I have met phenomenal people and have many new Facebook friends. Princeton is so international, and I feel that now ‘home’ exists everywhere through these connections.”

Morrison is currently leading another Alumni Studies course, in partnership with Professor Caryl Emerson, entitled "Pushkin’s *Eugene Onegin:* From Words to Performance." The five-week course is designed to introduce the story, the music, and the Stalinist context to alumni and friends both on campus and on-line.