

## **BIOGRAPHY**

**Andrew Mark Sauerwein** has been studying, teaching, and composing music for three decades. He has composed more than eighty works in a variety of genres, from solo and chamber works to choral and orchestral pieces, as well as songs, improvisatory works, electronic music, and pieces combining Western instruments with Balinese gamelan. His music has been performed on the concert stage, in churches, in schools, at conferences and public events, on mission trips, at homes, in pubs and coffee shops, and annually on Belhaven University's Singing Christmas Tree. His work has traveled across the United States and to Canada, Israel, Peru, and Japan.

Sauerwein's compositional voice varies with the topic and occasion, yet fairly consistently favors an integrated musical language over a blend of disparate elements — eccentric, perhaps, rather than eclectic — fusing together the familiar and the mysterious in search of calm intensity, pensive wonder, thoughtful curiosity, and a subtle sense of playful humor. The resulting pieces address a variety of themes and circumstances, as even a few examples will illustrate: *Sleep Songs*, a brief cycle for soprano, interprets the odd imagery of folklore lullabies from five different cultural traditions; the set of *Seven Relativistic Etudes*, for piano, employ a cerebral musical language for a series of vivid character pieces, in order to challenge certain attitudes toward interpretation; *Lord God, the Holy Ghost* is a fiery setting of a Lutheran Pentecost hymn-text; *Sakharoviana*, for violin, piano, and percussion, explores the world of nuclear physics and fusion reactors; and the jazz song *In the Interim* muses on the ordinary yet profound beauty of being happily married. He has persistent interests in fathoming the nature of creative activity, fostering community and collaboration in musical practice, and cultivating a thoughtful, circumspect approach to music-making.

Sauerwein joined the faculty at Belhaven University in 2005 to start the composition program and oversee the theory and musicianship curriculum. Teaching credits include Music Theory, Musicianship, Introduction to Compositional Process, Form & Analysis, Counterpoint, Survey of New Music, Songwriting, Jazz Theory and History, Composers Forum, Seminar in Musical Aesthetics, and private composition lessons. Additionally, for three years he taught music courses for Belhaven's Worldview Curriculum, and occasionally is involved in the Honors Colloquium. Before coming to Belhaven, Sauerwein was a visiting professor at Northwestern College of Iowa and taught courses in music theory and appreciation at Duke University.

Sauerwein holds degrees in composition from Duke University and the University of Oregon, as well as a degree in biblical studies from Multnomah University. He has been an active member of the Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers since 1998, including term appointments as Secretary of the Board and President. He is a lifetime member of Pi Kappa Lambda and has past memberships in the Society for Music Theory, the College Music Society, and the American Composers Forum. He is also involved in Redeemer Community Arts, an emerging ministry of Redeemer Church (Jackson, MS).