

BIOGRAPHY

Andrew Mark Sauerwein has been studying, teaching, and composing music for three decades. He has written over seventy works in various 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, schools, conferences and public events, mission trips, homes, 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 consistently favors an integrated musical language over a blend of disparate elements — eccentric, perhaps, rather than eclectic — fusing the familiar and the mysterious in search of calm intensity, pensive wonder, thoughtful curiosity, and a subtle sense of playful humor. He has persistent interests in fathoming the nature of creative activity, cultivating a thoughtful, circumspect approach to music-making, and fostering community and collaboration in musical practice. Examples of his work can be found at www.AndrewMarkSauerwein.com.

Sauerwein holds a Ph.D. in composition from Duke University, MMus and BMus degrees in composition from the University of Oregon, and an AA in Biblical Studies from Multnomah University. After teaching part-time at Duke and working as a Visiting Professor at Northwestern College of Iowa, he joined the faculty at Belhaven University in 2005. He is the founding director of BU's composition program, oversees the theory and musicianship curriculum, and occasionally teaches in the Honors Program. He was chair of the BU Music Department between June 2020 and June 2022.

Sauerwein was inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda in 1992. He has been an active member of the Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers (www.cfamc.org) since 1998, including term appointments as President and Secretary of the Board. The Mississippi Arts Commission awarded him two Artist Fellowships (2013 and 2023). He helped establish Redeemer Community Arts (www.redeemercommunityarts.com) in 2016 and co-founded the New Music Jackson Festival (<https://www.facebook.com/NewMusicJackson/>) in 2017. In 2019 he received a Teacher Award from the Mississippi Humanities Council.