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### Education

Ph. D. in Music Composition, Duke University (May 2001).

Dissertation: (a) A Resurrection Series: Nine Movements After Images by Randall Speck, for mixed chamber orchestra; and (b) article, "Towards a 'Field Guide' to Musical Metaphor." Principal Teachers: Stephen Jaffe, Scott Lindroth, David Crumb (visiting).

M. Mus. (with Honors) in Composition, University of Oregon (June 1995).

Thesis: If Rain Falls for flute and wind ensemble, in three movements.

Principal Teacher: Robert Kyr.

B. Mus. (Summa Cum Laude) in Composition, University of Oregon (June 1992).

Principal Teachers: Robert Kyr, Harold Owen, Monte Tubb.

A. A. in Biblical Literature, Multnomah Bible College (May 1984).

Minors in music and journalism.

# **Teaching Experience**

Professor of Music, Belhaven University (Fall 2005-present)

Composition, Composers Forum, Theory, Musicianship, Form & Analysis, Counterpoint, Music Appreciation, World Music, Jazz History & Theory, Seminar in Musical Aesthetics, Honors Colloquium.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Music, Northwestern College of Iowa (Fall 2003-Spring 2004)

Music Fundamentals, Music Theory I-IV, Counterpoint, Composition, Exploring Music,
Form and Analysis, Beginning Piano Class, Woodwind Quintet coaching;
College Writing, Basic Algebra, Introduction to Christian Liberal Arts (topic: Music, Identity and Beauty).

Visiting Instructor, Duke University Department of Music (Fall 2001-Spring 2003).

Theory I, II (3 semesters). Includes supervising teaching assistants.

"Listen to Music: European and American Traditions" (3 semesters). Exploration of historical contexts, aesthetic perspectives, and social practices surrounding Western art music, with emphasis on listening skills, written responses, and concertgoing experiences.

"Figures and Doubles: On Variation Form" (1 semester). Instructor and course coordinator for a team-taught graduate seminar.

Teaching Assistant, Duke University Department of Music (Fall 1996-Fall 2001).

Theory I-IV (4 semesters). Musicianship labs for first- and second-year theory sequence, including basic keyboard skills.

Masterworks of Music (1 semester). Three sections of weekly labs to complement lectures.

Instructor, University Writing Program, Duke University (Fall 1998-Spring 1999).

Workshop in Writing and Rhetoric (Freshman writing course).

Basic academic writing skills, rhetoric, and research methods. Topic: "Policy and Protest over the Vietnam War."

"Musical Meaning at the End of the Millennium" (Freshman writing seminar). For

nonmajors. Exploration of aesthetic, social and cultural practices surrounding Western art music composed since 1985 through case studies, guided listening and concert experiences, journal- and essay-writing, and presentations by guest composers.

Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of Oregon School of Music (Fall 1993-Spring 1995).

Music Theory I and Aural Skills I. Weekly lab sections to complement lectures.

## **Catalog of Compositions** (with representative performances)

#### Orchestra/Wind Ensemble

Out of Psalm 63 for string orchestra. 7/17.

BU Orchestra concert. 11/9/18.

Psalm 29 for orchestra with chorus. 1/10.

BU Orchestra concert. 4/24/10.

The Landing for strings (arr. from the original vocal work). 7/09.

BU String Orchestra concert. 11/09.

Senzoku Conservatory, Tokyo, Japan. 5/10.

Missippi Symphony Orchestra, Chamber III concert. 3/8/11.

A Resurrection Series, nine movements for chamber orchestra. Ph. D. dissertation. 2/01.

Duke University Composers Concert. 1/19/02.

BU Faculty Concert. 3/11/08.

If Rain Falls for flute and wind ensemble, in three movements. Master's thesis. 5/95.

Oregon Wind Ensemble. II, 5/22/95.

Oregon Wind Ensemble reading. 6/95.

Duke University Wind Ensemble. II+III, 2/20/97.

CFAMC national conference concert. II, 9/99.

Etude for orchestra. 5/92.

University of Oregon Symphony Orchestra reading. 6/92.

Iconifer for orchestra. 5/91.

University of Oregon Symphony Orchestra reading. 5/91.

Recessive Dance for orchestra. 2/91.

University of Oregon Symphony Orchestra reading. 3/91.

### Chamber/Instrumental

A Still Point for violin and piano. 6/17.

BU Senior Recital: Miranda Kunk, violin. 2/10/18.

Chaminade Club. 4/18/18.

BU Student Composers Concert XX. 4/23/18.

Advent: Flocks by Night, structured improvisation for unspecified ensemble. 10/16.

BU Student Composers Concert XVII. 11/16.

Sour Blue Samba for vibraphone, bass, and drumset. 6/15.

Sakharoviana for violin, piano, and mixed percussion. 9/12.

Isotone Concert Series, Oakridge TN. 10/27/12, 1/19/13.

BU Faculty Concert. 2/28/15.

World's Rim for guitar ensemble. 10/05.

BU Guitar Ensemble. Four performances, 11-12/05.

Mostly St. Columba, for soprano, flute, and cello. 9/03.

Thea G. Korver Art Building dedication, Northwestern College of IA. 10/10/03.

Meditation on a Mystery, for woodwind quintet. 12/01.

Worship services, Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church. 12/23/01.

Christmas Vespers, Northwestern College of IA. 12/6/03, 12/7/03.

Chamber music concert, Northwestern College of Iowa. 12/11/03, 12/10/04.

String Quartet #2, in three movements. 3/99.

MSO String Quartet, Belhaven Chamber Music Series concert. II, 11/1/05.

Ciompi Quartet, Duke University Graduate Composers Concerts. 1, 5/98; II-III, 5/99.

Beach Spring Sketch for flute, oboe, bassoon, and piano (arrangement). 2/99.

Worship service, Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church. 6/00.

O Waly Waly for flute, oboe, and piano (arrangement). 10/98.

Worship services, Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church. 10/98, Spring '00, 5/03.

Weddings (2), Spring 2003.

Fall Convocation, Northwestern College. 8/03.

Chapel, Belhaven University. Spring 2007.

Worship services, Redeemer Church. Spring 2007.

Belhaven Connections performances in Trujillo and Cajamarca, Peru. 5/07.

Sextet (Contemporary Obsolescence) for flute, trumpet, bassoon, cello, piano, and harpsichord. 11/96.

Duke University Graduate Composers Concert. 3/1/98.

Bananagram for flute, viola, and harp. 11/94.

Vanguard Workshop Series reading by the Debussy Trio. 11/24/94.

Mousetraps for nine percussionists. 5/94.

Oregon Percussion Ensemble reading, dir. Jeffrey Kaye. 5/94.

Master's Recital, University of Oregon. Oregon Percussion Ensemble. 2/4/95.

Faith and Reason for flute, clarinet, violin, viola, piano, and percussion. 3/94.

Vanguard Workshop Series reading by Fear No Music (Portland, OR), dir. Jeffrey Payne. 5/94. Master's Recital, University of Oregon. 2/4/95.

String Quartet in three movements. 4/93.

Alexander Quartet (San Francisco), University of Oregon Chamber Music Series concert. 2/95.

YATS (Yet Another Trio Study) for flute, viola, and harp. 11/92.

Vanguard Workshop Series reading by the Debussy Trio. 11/92.

A Musing for string quartet. 1/92.

Vanguard Workshop Series reading by the Lydian String Quartet. 2/92.

(The Unannounced Arrival of the Princess to) Dancing Paupers for violin, clarinet, and piano.

11/91.

Vanguard Workshop Series reading by Continuum (New York). 12/91.

Oregon Composers Forum concert. 3/7/92.

Sonata for tuba and piano. 2/91.

Oregon Composers Forum concert. 5/9/91.

Contemporary Music Ensemble concert. 5/13/91.

Bachelor's Recital, University of Oregon. 3/7/92.

BU Faculty Concert. 2/16.

Faculty Tuba Recital, Jackson State University. 3/16.

Jeremy's Buttons for violin and marimba. 1/91.

Vanguard Workshop Series reading. 3/91.

Oregon Composers Forum concert. 1/92.

Bachelor's Recital, University of Oregon. 3/7/92.

A Stubborn Calm for flute, viola, and harp. 11/90.

Vanguard Workshop Series reading. 12/90.

Solo Instrumental

Pursuit for piano. 1/19.

BU Faculty Concert. 2/22/19.

BU Faculty Showcase. 3/1/19.

Chorale Prelude: Jesus Lives, and So Shall I for organ. 6/17. For Joel, With Love for piano. 3/17. Memorial service, 3/13/17. After Wonder for piano. 5/16. Ciaccona Enigmata for marimba. 11/15. BU Faculty Concert. 2/16. CFAMC National Conference. 10/16. Faculty Recitals, Jackson State University. 3/17, 4/18. Faculty Recital, Millsaps College. 5/2/18. Kibō, for violin, in three movements. 5/15. BU Faculty Recitals. 2/16 [all]; 2/25/17 [I only]. LSU New Music Ensemble. 11/16/17, 3/4/18. New Music Jackson Festival. 2/10/18. Living Composers Concert, Campbell University. 3/14/19. Tower for piano. 5/14. BU Faculty Concert. 2/28/15. Chorale Prelude: Ah, Holy Jesus for organ. 8/13. Sakharov Song for piano. 4/13. CFAMC National Conference. 10/25/13. BU Faculty Concert. 2/28/15. Chorale Prelude: O Sacred Head for organ. 3/13. BU Organ Recital, 5/13. Coffee Stain for piano. 12/10. BU Faculty Concert. 2/28/15. Playrude for piano. 9/10. BU Faculty Concert. 2/28/15. Amazing Grace for solo viola. 2/10. Near Love and Sleep for piano. 4/02. BU Faculty Concert. 11/1/05. For Hannah for solo flute. 12/00. Worship services, Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church. 10/01. Chamber Music Series concert, Belhaven University. 1/16/07. Dreams of Swans for piano solo. 5/00. BU Faculty Concert. 2/28/15. A Darkened Glass: Five Odd Movements for Solo Cello. 2/96. Duke University Graduate Composers Concert. 4/96. Cascade Fantasias (3) for viola solo. 3/94. Oregon Composers Forum concert. 5/94. Master's Recital, University of Oregon. 2/4/95. Seven Relativistic Etudes for piano. 12/93. Oregon Composers Forum concert. 3/7/94. College Music Society Regional Meeting. 4/9/94. Master's Recital, University of Oregon. 2/4/95. Seventh Species Concert. 4/22/95. BU Faculty Concerts. 11/1/05, 1/16/07. The Chaminade Club, Jackson MS. 2/21/07. Insipid Digressions (I - IV) for piano. 9/92. Oregon Composers Forum. 1/19/92.

BU Faculty concert. 2/28/15.

### For Margo for piano. 10/91.

Oregon Composers Forum. 1/19/92.

BU Faculty concert. 2/28/15.

# Much Too Much to Mention for piano. 3/91.

Vanguard Workshop Series reading. 4/91.

Bachelor's Recital, University of Oregon. 3/7/92.

# Snow Music for piano. 3/89.

Oregon Composers Forum concert. 12/3/90.

Bachelor's Recital, University of Oregon. 3/7/92.

BU Faculty Concert. 2/28/15.

ACF "Composers Night Out." 5/14/15.

#### Vocal/Choral

# Charlie Hartsfield for soprano and piano. 12/17.

BU Senior Recital: Madeline Jolley, soprano. 4/14/18.

BU Student Composers Concert XX. 4/23/18.

Madeline Jolley Recital, Covenant Presbyterian Church. 5/2/18.

BU Baccalaureate Service. 5/11/18.

Worship Service, Covenant Presbyterian Church. 5/13/18.

# Sleep Songs (5), for soprano and piano. 1/17.

BU Faculty Concert. 2/17 [3 songs].

Roberta Duhs Masters Recital. 3/31/17.

Chaminade Club Concert. 4/17 [3 songs].

New Music Jackson Festival. 2/8/19.

BU Faculty Concert. 2/22/19.

## In the Interim, for soprano and jazz combo. 5/16.

CFAMC national conference. 10/16.

## Seven "O" Antiphons for worship leader, congregation, and instruments. 11/06.

BU Faculty Concert. 1/16/07.

### Psalm 29 for choir (SATB), piano, flute, clarinet, trumpet, and horn. 8/04.

Forging Links conference, Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church, dir. Dave Stuntz. 9/19/04.

#### Palm Sunday for choir (SATB), piano, and two trumpets. 2/04.

Trinity Reformed Church choir, dir. Greg Scheer. 4/04.

### Donne on Good Friday for choir (SATB) and piano. 3/02.

Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church choir, dir D. Stuntz. 4/02.

### Psalm 46 for choir SATB a cappella. Text in Hebrew. 4/00, rev. 8/16.

North Carolina/Israel Chorale, dir. Dave Stuntz. Durham NC, 6/26/00. Six perf. In Israel, Summer 2000.

#### From Jeremiah for choir (SATB) and piano. 7/99.

Durham Choral Society reading. 4/00.

# The Lord in the Manger, a carol for SATB voices. 6/99.

Service of Lessons and Carols, Blacknall Memorial Presybeterian Church. 12/99, 12/10, etc.

BU Singing Christmas Tree, annually since 12/07.

Church services in various states (NC, CO, MI). Since 2008.

# Lord God the Holy Ghost for chamber choir (SATB) and piano. 5/97.

Service, Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church. 5/97, 5/99, 6/01.

Service, Church in Grand Rapids, MI. 5/13(?).

# An Easter Reflection for soprano, 2 oboes, clarinet, bassoon, choir (SATB) and piano. 3/97.

Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church choir. 4/97.

### Five Stevenson Songs for soprano and piano. 3/97.

Duke University Graduate Composers Concert. 4/5/97.

Recital: Angela Case, Soprano. 4/15/97.

CFAMC Southeast Regional Conference. 2/01.

BU Faculty Concert. 1/16/07.

The Landing for four voices (SATB) or chamber choir a cappella. 7/96. [withdrawn]

Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium. Andy Sauerwein, conductor. 7/5/96.

Duke University Graduate Composers concert. Andy Sauerwein, conductor. 11/23/96.

Sleepers Awake for SAB chamber choir. 4/94.

Collegium Musicum concert, University of Oregon. 5/17/94.

How for soprano and piano. 10/93.

Vanguard Workshop Series reading by Cheryl Marshall, soprano. 1/94.

Oregon Composers Forum concert. 2/1/94.

"music and {con}text" symposium concert, Duke University. 3/2/96.

What for soprano and piano. 3/92.

Vanguard Workshop Series reading by Susan Narucki, soprano. 4/92.

Oregon Composers Forum concert. 2/1/94.

"music and {con}text" symposium concert, Duke University. 3/2/96.

The Beachcomber Walks for soprano, piano, and vibraphone. 6/90.

Oregon Composers Forum concert. 3/3/91.

Bachelor's Recital, University of Oregon. 3/7/92.

### Opera/Theatre

Ecclesiastes, musical design and collaborative improvisation in Joseph Frost's adaptation of a new translation by Daniel Fredericks. 9/08.

Belhaven University Theatre Production: five performances, 9/08.

Now We Rest for soprano, piano, flute, and violin: incidental music for Chekhov's Uncle Vanya.

Belhaven University Theatre Production, dir. Joseph Frost. Nine performances, 4/06.

Weaving, Sirens, and Reunion: Incidental music for T. M. Camp's adaptation of The Odyssey,

for saxophone quartet (Sirens incl. women's chorus). 10/04.

Northwestern College Theatre Production. Six performances, 11-12/04.

BU Faculty Concert. 11/1/05.

Magic Lament, Magic Lullaby, and other incidental music for Shelley Houston's True Magic, for choir, soloists, flute, viola, and cello. 1/95.

Cascade Presbyterian Church theatre production (Eugene, OR). 4/8/95.

#### Ballet/Dance

Wings of Intervention: electronic recomposition of String Quartet #2/ii to accompany

choreography by Rachael Fritsch and Katie Torner. 11/11.

BU Dance Choreography class presentation, 12/5/11.

Unseen: Collaborative improvisation co-designed with Krista Bower, choreographer. 10/07.

BU Community Dance Concert. 10/07.

Transfigurations for six winds and dancers. Choreography by Margo Van Ummerson. 2/92. Performance for music/dance workshop, University of Oregon. 3/31/92.

### Electroacoustic

Dumbing Down: The Unquestioned Answer for prerecorded electronics. 3/95.

Oregon Composers Forum concert. 4/30/95.

Three-Phrase Phase for prerecorded electronics. 3/93.

Electronic Music Concert, University of Oregon. 4/27/93.

Master's Recital, University of Oregon. 2/4/95.

BU Faculty Concert. 2/06.

Angry Lullaby for string bass and MIDI marimba with live electronics. 2/92.

Vanguard Workshop Series reading. 2/92.

Repose for prerecorded electronics and sleeping bag. 6/91.

Oregon Composers Forum concert. 4/92.

UO Student Orientation concert. 5/92.

#### Other/Non-Western

Lament for a Hollow Shell for violin, brake drums and Balinese gamelan. 4/94.

Pacific Rim Gamelan. 6/94.

Society of Composers, Inc., national conference. 4/95.

Leviathan for harpsichord, brake drums and Balinese gamelan. 2/93.

Pacific Rim Gamelan. 2/16/93.

Layers and Modulations for Balinese gamelan, brake drums, and assorted bells. 9/91.

Pacific Rim Gamelan. Four performances: 12/91, 2/1/92, 3/7/92, 4/92.

## **Presentations and Workshops**

"In Pursuit of Radical Music-Making," Mississippi Humanities Council Presentation (2/19/19).

"Cultivating Culture," 14-week Sunday-school series on creative activity, co-taught with writer Paul Rankin (Redeemer Church PCA, Jackson MS, Spring 2018).

"In Pursuit of Faithful Presence," presented at the Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers national conference (Fresno Pacific University, Oct. 2017).

"Honoring the Creator with Our Creativity," 14-week Sunday-school series on creative activity, co-taught with writer Paul Rankin and visual artist Jacob Rowan (Redeemer Church PCA, Jackson MS, Fall 2015).

Excerpts from *Ecclesiastes* (music/theatre collaboration) presented at the Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers national conference (Indiana Wesleyan University, Oct. 2008).

"Thoughts after A Resurrection Series," a presentation delivered to the Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers national conference (Feb. 2002).

Panelist, Calvin Symposium on Worship and the Arts: "Composing Music for Worship" (Calvin College, Jan. 2002). Lord God, the Holy Ghost performed during the panel session.

"Composing at the Piano," a presentation to the Cary Area Piano Teacher's Association, Cary, NC (Jan. 2002).

Participant, Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium (June 1994). Arvo Pärt, composer-in-residence.

Internship, Ernst Bloch Music Festival, Newport, OR (July 1992). Participated in administration of concert series and composers symposium. Greg Steinke, symposium director; Chinary Ung, composer-in-residence.

Participant, composition/choreography workshop led by composer Ellen Spokane (Oct. 1991). Week-long workshop, University of Oregon.

#### **Honors and Awards**

Humanities Teacher Award, Mississippi Humanities Council (2019).

Artist Fellowship, Mississippi Arts Council (2013-14).

Mary Duke Biddle Composition Fellow, Duke University (Sept. 1995 - May 2001).

Winner, University of Oregon Chamber Music Series Composition Competition (Dec. 1994).

String Quartet (No. 1) performed by the Alexander Quartet on the UO Chamber Music Series.

Arts in Oregon Council scholarship for internship at the Ernst Bloch Music Festival, Newport, OR (June 1992).

Ruth Lorraine Close Awards (4) in composition, University of Oregon (1989-92).

#### **Professional Service**

Reader, AP Music Theory exams (annually since 2008).

Founding Member, New Music Jackson (Annual Festivals since 2018)

Faculty Advisor, BU New Music Society (est. Aug. 2017).

Founding Member, Redeemer Community Arts (4/17).

Judge, NFMC Regional Junior Composer Competition (3/17, 3/18).

Judge, NFMC State Junior Composer Competition (3/15).

Team Leader, Belhaven Connections in Tokyo (2-week Music Missions Trip, 5/10).

Adjudicator for the Mississippi Arts Commission's Performing Arts Roster and Fellowship Grants (annually, 4/07 – 4/11).

Co-Director and presenter, "Forging Links: Composers and Community, the Composition of Worship" (4/04). Jointly sponsored by CFAMC; Arts Ministry, Inc. (Chapel Hill, NC); and Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Adjudicator, Cary Area Piano Teachers Association annual piano composition contest, Cary, NC (3/01, 3/02).

Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers (www.cfamc.org): President, 2011-16; Secretary of the Board, 2007-10; Board member since 1/02.

#### References

Mr. Stephen Jaffe

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Dr. Robert Kyr

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# Dr. Melissa Thorson

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