

## **COMPOSER & PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Bulow, Ellen**

Ellen Bulow holds a Diploma in Piano Performance from Trinity College of Music in London, England, a BA degree in Music from the University of Hawaii, and a MM degree in Piano Performance from Winthrop University, South Carolina. She will receive her DMA from Boston University later this year. She has taught at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Lamar University, Lamar State College, TX and is currently teaching at Purdue University. She is a frequent performer at major conferences and festivals.

### **Bulow, Harry**

Harry Bulow received his B.A. in Music Education from San Diego State University (1975) and his M.A. and Ph.D. in theory and composition from UCLA (1978, 1983). He also holds a Performer's Diploma from Trinity College of Music, London, England in saxophone performance (1974). His principal teachers of musical composition and orchestration include Aaron Copland, Peter Mennin, Henri Lazarof, Roy Travis, David Ward-Steinman and Henry Mancini. His works have been performed by the San Antonio Symphony, Omaha Symphony, Honolulu Symphony, the Eastman Wind Ensemble and the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble. He is Professor of Music and Head of the Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts at Purdue University.

### **Dempster, Thomas**

Thomas Dempster is a composer of chamber, electroacoustic, and multimedia works. His music has been performed widely throughout the world, including the Toronto International Electroacoustic Symposium, the San Francisco New Music Festival, the New York City Electronic Music Festival, International Computer Music Conference, the International Double Reed Society, PERUsax, the Navy Band Symposium, Saxofoneando-Bolivia, and numerous other venues. Dempster is a recipient of awards, honors, and grants from BMI, ASCAP, the South Carolina Arts Commission, to name a few, and he has held residencies at the Osage Arts Community and the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center, and is a Cortona Fellow. Several of his works are commercially available from Potenza Music Publishing, MusicSpoke, Quiet Design Records, and Navona Records. He is an affiliate composer of Broadcast Music, Inc. He holds degrees from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (BM) and the University of Texas at Austin (MM, DMA). He is Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Composition at Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC. [www.thomasdempster.com](http://www.thomasdempster.com)

### **Eichhorn, Jackie**

Dr. Jackie Eichhorn currently serves as the Interim Instructor of Clarinet at Tennessee Tech University (Cookeville, TN) where she teaches private clarinet lessons, conducts the TTU Clarinet Choir, and performs with the Cumberland Woodwind Quintet. She recently served as the Affiliate Instructor of Clarinet at Denison University (Granville, OH), Adjunct Instructor of Clarinet and Saxophone at Mount Vernon Nazarene University (Mount Vernon, OH), and a woodwinds and piano instructor at Music Royale (Powell, OH). Dr. Eichhorn received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Eastern Illinois University where she studied with Richard Barta and Dr. Magie Smith, and a Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degree in clarinet performance from The Ohio State University where she studied with James Pyne and Dr. Caroline Hartig. As an active performer and chamber musician, Dr. Eichhorn regularly performs in chamber ensembles and orchestras including the Bryan Symphony Orchestra, Central Ohio Symphony, Newark-Granville Symphony Orchestra and Heisey Wind Ensemble. She has also toured in China, where she taught clarinet master classes and performed chamber recitals at the Shenyang Conservatory of Music and the Conservatory of Music in Dalian.

### **Elara String Quartet**

Formed in 2017 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Elara String Quartet studies under Nelson Lee, Daniel McDonough and Liz Freivogel of the Jupiter String Quartet. Their members are Alyssa Tong, Daniel Ostrow, Terence Lo and Jacqueline Scavetta. Passionate about all types of music, they strive to not neglect any period of music. In fact, they will be premiering several new works by Illinois composers as the resident quartet of All Score Illinois. They also have a heart for the next generation of young musicians and enjoy doing outreaches in their community, showing them the logic and emotion involved in chamber music. As undergraduates, they have had many incredible opportunities as solo musicians to attend several prestigious summer programs such as the Castleman Quartet Program, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Masterworks Music Festival, Green Lake Festival of Music and Encore Chamber Music, among others. As a quartet, they have advanced to semifinals of the 2018 Coltman Chamber Music Competition in Austin, Texas and have performed in masterclasses for world-renowned Vienna Piano Trio and pianist Michael Brown. This summer, they will complete residencies both in Peoria, IL with Charles Lavesque and at the Banff Centre for Performing Arts under the JACK, Parker and Eybler Quartets.

### **Fuhrman Benjamin**

Born in Lansing, Benjamin Fuhrman is a graduate of the doctoral program in music composition at Michigan State University, where his principle instructors were Dr. Ricardo Lorenz and Dr. Mark Sullivan. He also holds a master's degree in music composition from Michigan State University, and a bachelor's degree in violin performance from Hope College, where his principle instructor was Mihai Craioveanu.

He has had works commissioned from a number of performers and has been performed throughout the world. He maintains an active role as a performer and teacher of mandolin and computer music at the MSU Community Music School, Mott Community College, and Oakland University, and is the co-host of the podcast Patch In. His first solo album "Concrete Oasis" is now available on Amazon, BandCamp, CD Baby, Google Play, iTunes, and Spotify. For more information check out [www.benfuhrman.com](http://www.benfuhrman.com)

### **Gable, Christopher**

Christopher Gable is a composer, author, and music instructor based in Grand Forks, ND, where he teaches theory and Rock History at the University of North Dakota. His commissions include works premiered by the UND Trumpet Ensemble, the UND Concert Choir, the Minnesota Philharmonic, One Voice Mixed Chorus, Trio Carrefour, the dream songs project, Zeitgeist, and the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (Minneapolis). Dr. Gable's most recent opera is The Ladysmith Story, which celebrates the town of Ladysmith, Wisconsin and premiered in July 2010. Gable studied at the University of Minnesota and UC Santa Barbara; his principal teachers were Dominick Argento, Judith Lang Zaimont, and Emma Lou Diemer. His music is published by Dorn Publications and Warwick Music. He has written two books about popular musicians, The Words and Music of Sting and The Words and Music of Sheryl Crow, which were both published by Praeger Publishers. Dr. Gable was named a 2013 Artist Fellow from the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

### **Gross, Murray**

Compositions by Murray Gross have been heard in venues around the world played by numerous professional and collegiate ensembles including the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the New York New Music Ensemble, the Nobilis Trio, the Peninsula Festival Orchestra, and the Wisconsin Winds. His music has been broadcast over National Public Radio and received many honors including a Broadcast Music Incorporated (BMI) Award. "Urban Myth," recorded by the North Texas Wind

Symphony on the GIA Windworks series, is featured in volume 8 of "Teaching Music Through Performance in Band." Other recent cd releases include "Splash!," recorded by the Cavell Trio, "Las Calles de Buenos Aires" with the Scott/Garrison Duo, and "The Wild, Wild West" played by the h2 Sax Quartet. A new compilation of chamber music by Murray Gross titled "Talking in my Sleep" is available on the Blue Griffin label.

An award-winning composer and conductor, Murray Gross studied at the New England Conservatory, Oberlin College, Michigan State University, and the Hochschule für Musik in Munich. Chosen by Antal Dorati to serve as Assistant Conductor of the Detroit Symphony, he was also Music Director of Michigan's West Shore Symphony from 1982 through 2001, and a frequent guest conductor in Europe, South America, and throughout the United States. Dr. Gross is currently on the faculty at Alma College, where he teaches composition, theory, and world music, and conducts the Alma Symphony Orchestra.

### **Heather Shea Lanners**

Canadian pianist, **Heather Shea Lanners**, has performed extensively throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe as an active soloist and chamber musician. Recent highlights have included solo performances at the Dublin International Piano Festival, and a performance of Beethoven's Emperor Concerto with the Bulgarian State Orchestra of Vidin under the direction of Maestro Christopher Haygood. As a collaborative artist, Ms. Lanners has been engaged as an Opera Coach at the Cleveland Institute of Music, the University of Akron and the Cleveland Opera on Tour. She has also served as a resident pianist at the prestigious Meadowmount School of Music and the Holland Summer Music Sessions.

Ms. Lanners is currently Assistant Professor of Piano at the Greenwood School of Music at Oklahoma State University. In addition to a busy performing and teaching schedule, she remains active as a guest lecturer, master class clinician and adjudicator. She has also had articles published in the *American Music Teacher* journal and currently serves as President-Elect of the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association.

Lanners received a Bachelors degree in Piano Performance from the University of Western Ontario, the Diplôme Supérieur en Musique de Chambre from the École Normale de Musique, and a Masters degree in Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music.

### **Juan Carlos Ortega**

Juan Carlos Ortega is in his fifth year of service as concertmaster of the McConnell Arts Center Chamber Orchestra in Columbus, OH. Previously, he served as concertmaster of the Ohio State University Symphony Orchestra for over three years. He has also performed as soloist with several orchestras. Juan Carlos has premiered over 20 contemporary music works for solo or chamber ensemble at venues such as universities and conferences. He obtained Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Violin Performance from the University of Louisville, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Ohio State University. Juan Carlos served as the violin Graduate Teaching Associate of Prof. Kia-Hui Tan at the OSU Music School for three years. Other teachers include Patrick Rafferty, Peter McHugh, Gustavo Guiñez, and Tadashi Maeda. Currently, he serves as faculty of strings at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, maintains a violin/viola studio, and coaches various student string ensembles in the Columbus area.

### **Kramer, Timothy**

Timothy Kramer's works have been performed widely throughout the world by major ensembles and orchestras, including such groups as the Indianapolis, Detroit, Tacoma, and San Antonio Symphony

Orchestras, the Winters Chamber Orchestra, North/South Consonance, the SOLI Ensemble, the ONIX Ensemble (Mexico), the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings, Luna Nova, and Ensemble Mise-en. He has received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the NEA, the MacDowell Colony, Meet the Composer, BMI, ASCAP, and the American Guild of Organists, and commissions from the Midwest Clinic, the Utah Arts Festival, and the Detroit Chamber Winds, among others. His degrees are from Pacific Lutheran University (B.M.) and the University of Michigan (M.M., D.M.A.), and he was a Fulbright Scholar to Germany. Originally from Washington State, he taught at Trinity University in San Antonio for 19 years, where he also founded CASA (the Composers Alliance of San Antonio). In 2010 he became Professor and Chair of the Music Department at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois, where he was named the Edward Capps Professor of Humanities. Please visit [timothykramer.com](http://timothykramer.com) for more information.

### **Lewis, Ralph**

Ralph Lewis is a doctoral student in music composition attending University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign whose music has been presented at SEAMUS, Boston Microtonal Society, Soundscapes Symposium, Etchings Festival, Xenharmonic Praxis Summer Camp, New Music on the Point, Fresh Inc Festival, and the Festival for People and Thingamajigs and broadcast from Radiophrenia Glasgow, WGXC 90.7-FM, WEFT 90.1-FM, and WOBC 91.5-FM.

He has been selected to present papers at Pacific Northwest Graduate Music Conference and Midwest Graduate Music Conference. He recently received University of Illinois's Graduate Theodore Presser Music Award, which he is using to expand his Urbana-based inclusive music composition program into a statewide outreach program All Score Illinois. Previous to attending University of Illinois, Lewis received an M.F.A. in Electronic Music and Recording Media and an M.A. in Music Composition at Mills College, and a B.M. in Music Composition from Oberlin Conservatory and a B.A. in Classical Civilization from Oberlin College.

### **Mertl, Gregory**

"A talent the ear wants to follow wherever it goes" (Boston Globe), Gregory Mertl has garnered commissions from the Tanglewood Music Center, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, the Tarab Cello Ensemble, the Phoenix Symphony, the Big Ten Wind Ensembles, the Ostrava Oboe Festival, Czech Republic, Kenneth Meyer and the Hanson Institute, and the Barlow Endowment for a piano concerto for Solungga Liu and the University of Minnesota Wind Ensemble, which was released by Bridge Records in 2017.

Mertl has degrees from Yale University (BA 1991) and the Eastman School of Music (Ph.D. 2005) and was a 1998 Tanglewood Composition Fellow, where he worked with Henri Dutilleux and Mauricio Kagel.

His most recent works are a trio for clarinet, cello and piano for the new music ensemble counter) induction and Letter for a Dying Soldier for the University of Niš Choir (Serbia). He is presently composing a concerto for the French cellist Xavier Phillips.

### **Park, Joo Won**

Joo Won Park ([joowonpark.net](http://joowonpark.net)) wants to make everyday sound beautiful and strange so that everyday becomes beautiful and strange. He performs live with toys, consumer electronics, kitchenware, vegetables, and other non-musical objects by digitally processing their sounds. He also makes pieces with field recordings, sine waves, and any other sources that he can record or synthesize. Joo Won draws inspirations from Florida swamps, Philadelphia skyscrapers, his two sons, and other soundscapes surrounding him. He has studied at Berklee College of Music and the

University of Florida, and currently teaches Music Technology at the Wayne State University. Joo Won's music and writings are available on ICMC DVD, Spectrum Press, MIT Press, PARMA, Visceral Media, MCS D, SEAMUS, and No Remixes labels.

### **Reyman, Chris**

Chris Reyman (DMA) joined UTEP's Music Department as an Assistant Professor of Commercial Piano in 2014. He received his BM in Commercial Music from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois and his MM and DMA in Jazz Performance from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Chris Reyman has performed throughout the United States and at festivals in Montreux, Switzerland; Den Haag, in the Netherlands; Toronto, Canada; Bali, Indonesia, Paris, France; Bogota, Colombia; Chihuahua, Mexico and throughout the Paso del Norte region. Recent performance credits include performances with world-renowned jazz musicians Herb Robertson, Lou Grassi, Vincent Herring, Bill Watrous, and Clay Jenkins.

Chris Reyman is also a prolific composer, having written works for jazz ensembles, improvising ensembles and orchestras. He has completed scores for two award winning short films, Pigeon Impossible and The OceanMaker. In 2016, he completed music for the documentary film Undocumented Freedom; Memory Box, a short film; Storm Riders, an immersive film experience by the Austrian-based production company Attraktion!; redmoonwhitemoonbluemoon, a dance installation piece; and the feature-length film Song of the Starslayer. Chris Reyman recently completed commissions for the Austin Cinematic Symphony and the Chicago Gargoyle Brass and Organ Ensemble, both of which will be premiered in 2017. His music has been heard at over 100 venues in 25 different countries.

### **Robbins, Scott**

Scott Robbins began his musical career as a drummer and guitarist in rock bands. Currently, he is Professor of Musicology and Composition at the Carroll McDaniel Petrie School of Music at Converse College. His professional training included studies at Wake Forest University (B.A.), Duke University (A.M.), and Florida State University (D.Mus.).

Robbins' compositions are widely performed and professionally recognized, having received over 50 awards, including the International Prokofiev Prize, Yale's Norfolk National Composition Prize, National Association of Composers' USA Young Composers Award, ASCAP Foundation Grant to Young Composers, American Music Center Composer Assistance Award, Florida Individual Artist Fellowship, multiple ASCAP awards, and commissions from SC Music Teachers Association. The Czech Radio Symphony, Warsaw Philharmonic, Spartanburg Philharmonic, Moyzes Quartet, Ensemble Radieuse, Gregg Smith Singers, the Dale Warland Singers, and pianist Wael Farouk have performed, commissioned, or recorded Scott's works. The Clearing, for which Scott composed the soundtrack, received the Committee for International Non-Theatrical Event's CINE-Eagle award and has been broadcast on Bravo and HBO.

Recordings include "Micro-Symphony" (Warsaw Philharmonic) and "The Heart's Trapeze" (Czech Radio Symphony). Trio Chromos featured 3 Blues on their CD 'Trumpet Colors,' and Scott produced the 2010 EP premiere recording of his composition Bees: 5 Poems of Emily Dickinson for soprano and Garage Band electronic accompaniment, featuring soprano Donna Gallagher (available for purchase on CD and online through iTunes, Amazon.com, et al.). Future releases include the Prague Radio Symphony performing Spooky-Does the Bunny-Hop (Extended Orchestral Remix).

### **Saunders, Matthew**

Dr. Matthew C. Saunders has taught music from kindergarten to college in styles from madrigal to mariachi, and strives to make beautiful music for and with captivating people. He has loved, lost, and loved again; helped friends find salvation, and found it for himself as well; taught genius students, and learned from genius teachers. His dreams are to walk on Mars, hear a grand piano fall into an orchestra pit, make more people laugh than cry, and love his wife Becky passionately and forever. In the course of a long, love-filled, productive life, he wants to compose the Great American Symphony, ride the rails, hike the trails, read all of the good books, finally watch The Godfather, and storm the castles in the air. He will never write unlistenable music, stop stargazing or lose money in Vegas.

Dr. Saunders is Professor of Music and music department chair at Lakeland Community College, where he directs the Lakeland Civic Orchestra. He received degrees in music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and The Ohio State University. Dr. Saunders' original compositions have been performed across the United States, and he received the 2007 Ruth Friscoe Prize for composition, was the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association 2011 Commissioned Composer, and is the recipient of three ASCAP Plus Awards. He is on the web at [www.martian dances.com](http://www.martian dances.com), but the physical Dr. Saunders lives in Willowick, Ohio with his wife Becky and their children Noah and Melia.

### **Sovkoplas, Adam**

Adam Sovkoplas has had his compositions performed in nearly two-dozen countries on five continents. Sovkoplas completed his DMA in Composition at the University of Kentucky under the instruction of Joe Baber in May of 2013. His previous composition instructors include Richard Urbis, Trent Hanna, and Thomas Couvillon. Compositions by Sovkoplas have been performed nationally and internationally at various conferences and festivals including the 2nd Annual Festival of New Organ Music, London, England (2007), the OrvietoMusica Festival in Italy (2008), and the 2010 International Computer Music Conference in New York, the 2012 International Summer Arts Institute in Italy, the International Double Reed Society conference in Oxford, Ohio (2012), and the 2017 International Conference of the College Music Society in Sydney Australia. Sovkoplas won the Symphony of the Mountains "Magnum Opus: A New Composer's Competition" in 2012 for his composition titled Tom Bombadil. From 2007-2011, Sovkoplas organized the 1st through the 5th annual Kentucky New Music Festivals at the University of Kentucky. Sovkoplas currently teaches music theory at Eastern Kentucky University and music composition at Asbury University.

Please visit: <http://www.societyofcomposers.org/members/AdamSovkoplas/>

### **Sutherland, Adria Leigh**

Adria Sutherland is nearing the completion of her Doctorate of Musical Arts in Clarinet at the University of Kentucky, where she was also a teaching assistant for the Department of Music Theory. She obtained her Bachelor of Music from Morehead State University, and her Master of Music from East Carolina University, and her primary teachers include Scott Wright, Nathan Williams, Michael Acord, and Atossa Kramer.

Adria is Lecturer of Music at Berea College, and has previously served on the faculties of Morehead State University, Georgetown College, Transylvania University, and Asbury College, where she has taught clarinet, chamber music, music theory, music history, and music education courses. She has performed in varied chamber and large ensemble settings throughout the U.S. and western Europe, and she enjoys coaching middle and high school clarinet sections throughout central Kentucky.

**Walters, Andrew**

Andrew Walters was born in Topeka, Kansas but spent most of his beginning years in Farmington, Missouri. Walters has received degrees from Millikin University, Northern Illinois University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in composition from the University of Illinois. Walters' music has been performed at various conferences throughout the United States and Canada including SEAMUS, SCI, ICMC, Spark, Imagine II, Electronic Music Midwest, Electroacoustic Juke Joint. His piece "Before Clocks Cease Their Chiming" was premiered by Duo Montagnard at the 2009 World Saxophone Congress in Bangkok, Thailand. His music appears on volume nine and sixteen of the "Music from SEAMUS" compact discs. Currently he is Associate Professor of Music Theory and Music Technology at Mansfield University in Mansfield, Pennsylvania.

**Weimer, Steven**

Steven Weimer's music has been performed by the JACK Quartet, Molly Barth, Fear No Music Quartet, saxophonist Sean Xue, Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival Chamber Players, CCM Wind Ensemble, CCM Concert Orchestra, Murray State University Wind Ensemble, Café Momus, and many others. Performances of his work span from Alaska to Bulgaria, with premieres at festivals such as June in Buffalo, Forum-Festival computer Music Space, North American Saxophone Alliance, Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium, Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, and the Music Theory and Musicology Society Conference. His recent commissions include works for the Kentucky Music Teachers Association, Vandoren, Inc., the CCM Orchestra Program, and clarinetist Jennifer Fraley. He has received first-place awards from the Eta Omicron chapter's Phi Mu Alpha Composition Contest, the CCM Concerto/Composition Competition, and recently placed as a finalist for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's Marilyn Glick Young Composers Competition. Dr. Weimer has enjoyed recent collaborations with American poets in Cincinnati and California; his setting of Kathleen Winter's *Eve, Seducing the Apple* will be published in the tenth anniversary edition of the Cincinnati Review. He has degrees from the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati (D.M.A.), Bowling Green State University (M.M.), and Western Illinois University (B.M.), and is currently Assistant Professor of Music at Murray State University.