

MICHAEL STEPHENS

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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Doctor of Philosophy in music composition and theory, anticipated April 2007

Composition dissertation: *Baptism*, for chamber orchestra

Theoretical Dissertation: "Two Ways of Looking at Messiaen's *Vingt regards sur l'enfant-Jésus*"

The two ways of looking at this solo piano masterwork are: (1) testing the composer's synesthetic perceptions against the new theory of Joseph Harris, and (2) analyzing selected movements of the piece to explore the structural role of repetition in Messiaen's music.

Kent State University. Kent, Ohio

Master of Arts in music composition, May 2002

Thesis: *Words of the Beloved*, for string orchestra, piano, and percussion

Cleveland State University. Cleveland, Ohio

Graduate student in music composition

Kent State University. Kent, Ohio

Bachelor of Music in music education, *cum laude*, May 1990

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow: University of Pittsburgh – 2002-7

Preparation for Music Theory. Fall 2005

- Taught one section of the course, designed to prepare music majors to enter the theory sequence and to introduce non-majors to Western music fundamentals
- Students completed two composition projects and performed in class
- Students developed keyboard skills, learning scales and etudes in multiple keys
- Texts: Damschroder, *Foundations of Music and Musicianship*; Zahab, *Keyboard etcetera*

Musicianship I and II. Fall 2003-4 and Spring 2004-5

- Taught the first two courses in the ear training and sight-singing sequence
- Utilized moveable *do* solfege with a *la*-based minor
- Texts: Ottman, *Music for Sight Singing*; Hindemith, *Elementary Training for Musicians*

Music Theory I, II, III, and IV. Fall 2004 and Spring 2005-6

- Taught classes one day per week, lecturing and/or reviewing material. Group and individual in-class work. Common practice period through 20th century material
- Graded analysis, part-writing, and composition homework
- Texts: Aldwell and Schachter, *Harmony and Voice Leading*; Kostka and Payne, *Tonal Harmony*; Burkhart, *Anthology for Musical Analysis*

Electronic and Computer Music I and II. Fall 2005 and Spring 2006

- Taught and assisted students in the use of lab equipment and programs
- Assisted individual students with composition assignments
- Software: Digital Performer, Protools, Peak, and Soundhack

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE – University of Pittsburgh (continued)

History of Jazz. Fall 2002-3 and Spring 2003-4

- Taught multiple sections of the course one day per week
- Graded exams, papers, and PowerPoint projects
- Texts: Davis, *Writings in Jazz* and *African-American Music*

Music Since 1945. assigned for Spring 2007

- Will teach undergraduate majors and non-majors major trends in music composition
- Texts: selected periodicals and reserve texts, scores, and recordings

University Orchestra. Spring 2006

- Conducted ensemble in rehearsal

Teaching Assistant: Kent State University – 2000-2

Music Theory I and II.

- Taught one of three sections of an integrated course which included analysis, sight-singing, ear training, composition, and keyboard drill
- Used moveable *do* solfege with *do*-based minor
- Shared in coordinating and writing departmental quizzes and exams appropriate for sections taught by different instructors
- Texts: Gauldin, *Harmonic Practice in Tonal Music*; Kostka and Payne, *Tonal Harmony*; Albert, et al, *Learning to Listen*
- Software: Finale, MacGamut (ear training)

Instrumental Music Teacher: Woodsy's Music, Kent, Ohio – 1992-2002

- Taught saxophone, clarinet, and flute, from beginning to advanced levels
- Prepared students for contests and recitals, and for college entrance and scholarship auditions

Band Director: Immaculate Conception School, Ravenna, Ohio – 1995-2000

- Taught instrumental music classes and band for grades 4-8
- Generated and implemented sequential composition assignments, resulting in concert performances
- Conducted in performance, including original works and arrangements composed for specific and varying student abilities and instrumentation: *Premier March*, *Jazzin' Around*, *Early Morning Blues*, *Carol of the Bells* (traditional), Schubert's *March Militaire*, and others
- Led small groups in performances for residents at area nursing homes

Band Director: Musical Youth, Inc. – 1991-3

- Taught instrumental music classes and band for grades 4-8
- Conducted in performance

COMPOSITIONS

Selected large ensemble works:

Baptism (2006), for chamber orchestra – 8:00

- Commissioned by the Duquesne Contemporary Ensemble and David Stock
- Premiered at Duquesne University, February 24, 2006
- Revised version to be performed by the University of Pittsburgh Orchestra under the direction of Roger Zahab, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, February 7, 2007

Song for Lauren (2004), for jazz ensemble

- Recorded in a reading session by the University of Pittsburgh Jazz Ensemble, December 2004

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COMPOSITIONS – large ensemble (continued)

Oakland Overture (2004), for orchestra – 6:10

- Performed by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Larry Loh at a reading session (selected from student submissions by Jennifer Higdon, Composer of the Year for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra), Heinz Hall, March 4, 2006
- Premiered by the University of Pittsburgh Orchestra under the direction of Roger Zahab, Bellefield Hall, March 2004, and performed again November 3, 2004

Words of the Beloved (2002), for string orchestra, piano, and percussion – 14:46

- Performed by the Kent State University Orchestra, Frank Wiley, conductor, in a reading session, Carl F.W. Ludwig Recital Hall, May 2002

Crooked River Overture (2000), for band – 3:30

- Commissioned by the Cuyahoga Falls Instrumental Music Patrons
- Premiered by the Roberts Middle School Gold Band under the direction of Christie Maddox, Roberts Middle School, May 17, 2000

Vocal work:

Beyond Duality (2005), song cycle on the texts of Rumi for soprano and ensemble – 17:20

- premiered by Diba Alvi, soprano, Peggy Yoo, flute, Kathleen Costello, clarinet, Leah Givelber, violin, Aaron Zerkowicz, cello, and Michael Laubach, percussion, under the direction of Roger Zahab, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pittsburgh, February 12, 2005

Electro-acoustic work:

Fantasy (2004), for alto saxophone and electronics – 4:00

- Premiered at Bellefield Hall Auditorium, February 2005

Selected small ensemble works:

Oppositions (2005), a dialogue for clarinet and piano – 6:40

- Commissioned by Alia Musica (www.alia-music.org)
- To be premiered by Julieta Ugartemendia and Matthew Gillespie, Spring 2007

“Blessed is the lion consumed by man ...” (2004), for cello and piano – 8:43

- Premiered by David Russell and Robert Frankenberg, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, February 15, 2004

Shards of Frozen Ecstasy (2002), for alto saxophone and piano – 7:20

- Premiered at the North American Saxophone Alliance Convention by Jeffrey Price and Jun Okada, University of Iowa, Iowa City, February 16, 2006
- Scheduled to be recorded by Angel Negrin on his CD of contemporary works for alto saxophone, Summer 2007

In the Land of Nod (2001), quintet for woodwinds – 16:30

- Premiered by Jacquie Zarach, flute, Rebekah Siegler, oboe, Wendy Hartzheim, clarinet, Nick Reardon, alto saxophone, and Natalia Nicolini, bassoon, under the direction of Michael Stephens, Carl F.W. Ludwig Recital Hall May 5, 2001

“God, Grant Me the Serenity ...” (1999), for flute and piano – 6:26

- Premiered Lauren Pedersen and Donna Oberlin, Carl F.W. Ludwig Recital Hall, March 31, 2000

Metamorphosis (1994), for string quartet – 20:00

- first two movements premiered by Xirlita Oliveira and Allison Douda, violin, Deborah Glasgow, viola, and Kevin Black, cello, Carl F.W. Ludwig Recital Hall, April 26, 1994

Parry’s Predicament (1993), for brass quartet – 2:00

- Premiered by John Kuegeler, trumpet, Richard Dowell, horn, Tim Davis, euphonium, and Michael Foster, tuba, Carl F.W. Ludwig Recital Hall, December 8, 1993

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PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Osmosis (www.osmosis.jazzfusion.us), original jazz-fusion group – 1994-2002

- Founding member and contributing composer
- Performed on alto, tenor, and soprano saxophones, as well as flute and keyboard
- Opened for headliners *Spyro Gyra*, Chuck Mangione, Marion Meadows, and *Blood, Sweat and Tears*
- Semi-finalist for *Musician* magazine's unsigned band contest (1998)
- Released two self-produced CDs: *Music* (1995) and *Perspectives* (2000), featuring original compositions: *Sunshower*, *A Little Peace*, *Devotion*, *Jacinta*, *Evening Rain*, and co-authored with Warren Henry: *Kaleidoscope* and *F.Y.B.*
- Additional original compositions performed: *Corean Holiday*, *Prometheus*, *Views of the Point*, *Dance with Delilah*, *Off the Wall*, and *Cardiac Inertia*

Performed and/or recorded with local bands as member or freelance musician – 1992-

- *Bluestones* (blues)
- *Class Reunion* (60s & 70s pop)
- *Warren Henry Quartet* (jazz)
- *Delgados* (blues)
- *Will Caynon Trio* (jazz)
- *Ed Head Band* (rock)
- *Fat City Blues* (blues)
- *Jerry Bruno Band* (all occasion big band)
- *Rex Shepherd Group* (jazz, jazz fusion)

University of Pittsburgh Orchestra, percussion – Spring 2006

Kent State University Jazz Ensemble I, lead alto – 2000-1

Kent State University ensembles, saxophones and clarinet – 1985-90

multiple semesters in Jazz Ensemble I, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Saxophone Quartet, Marching Band, and Pep Band

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Peer advisor to music teaching assistants, University of Pittsburgh – 2004-5 and 2005-6

Search committee for a composition faculty member, University of Pittsburgh – 2004-5

Graduate Representative to the Music Library Committee, Kent State University – 2001-2

Alternate Representative to the Graduate Student Senate, Kent State University – 2000-1

Woodsy's Education Coordinator – 1994

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Alia Musica, Pittsburgh composer's organization promoting new music – 2006-present

American Composers Forum – 2005-present

American Composers Society – 2005-present

North American Saxophone Alliance – 2005-present

HONORS

Walter Watson Jazz Award – 2001 and 1990

Musical Youth Principal's Commendation for Outstanding Educators – 1992-3 and 1991-2

National Association of Jazz Educators Citation – 1989 and 1983