

MICHAEL STEPHENS

Chadron State College
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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Doctor of Philosophy in music theory and composition, August 2007 (GPA: 3.9)

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

Composition dissertation: *Baptism*, for chamber orchestra

Kent State University. Kent, Ohio

Master of Arts in music composition, May 2002 (GPA: 4.0)

Composition thesis: *Words of the Beloved*, for string orchestra, piano, and percussion.

Coursework in music theory: 16th Century Counterpoint, 18th Century Counterpoint, Music Theory Pedagogy, History of Music Theory, Music Theory in Performance Practice

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 (GPA: 3.5, Major GPA: 3.8)

CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor of Music: Chadron State College (2007-present)

courses taught:

Music Theory III-IV and Lab (Aural Skills)

Private Instruction in Woodwinds, Composition, and Jazz Improvisation

Woodwind Pedagogy

Woodwind Chamber Ensembles

Jazz Ensemble

Community Symphonic Band

Instrument Repair

service:

Recording technician for concerts and recitals

Jazz Festival Coordinator

Co-coordinator for the CSC High Plains Band and Choir Festival

Coordinator of Graduate Studies in Music

Search committee for Full-Time Instructor, Guitar and General Studies

Graduate Council Committee

Music Representative for Scholastic Day

clinician experience:

Conductor, Festival Band, *CSC High Plains Band and Choir Festival* (2010)

Conductor, Reading Session, *CSC High Plains Band and Choir Festival* (2008-9)

"Fostering Musical Awareness in the Young Band", presented at the *CSC High Plains Band and Choir Festival* (2008)

"Jazz Improvisation: One Note at a Time", presented at the CSC Jazz Workshop (2008)

Instructor and cofounder, *CSC Summer Music Camp* (2009)

Conductor, *Wyoming Northeast District Band* (2008)

Saxophone Clinician, *Nebraska Bandmasters All-State Collegiate Band* (2008)

Woodwind Clinician for area High Schools and Middle Schools (2007-)

MICHAEL STEPHENS – 2

Assistant Professor of Music: Chadron State College (continued)

adjudication experience:

- South Dakota District Band Contest, Rapid City (2009)
- Nebraska District VI Band, Solo and Ensemble Contest, Chadron/Scottsbluff (2008-9)
- Scottsbluff Middle School Band, Solo and Ensemble Contest (2008-9)
- Wyoming Northeast District Band, Solo and Ensemble Contest (2008)
- South Dakota District Solo and Ensemble Contest, Rapid City (2008)
- Sidney Oktoberfest Marching Band Contest (2007)

performances:

- Joint Faculty Recital, on saxophones, clarinet, and flute, with Adam Lambert (2008)
- CSC Professors of Jazz
 - local festivals and events in Gering, Gordon, Chadron (NE), Sturgis, and Martin (SD).
 - high school performances at Gering, Rapid City Central, and Rapid City Stevens
- Guest appearances with CSC Ensembles:
 - saxophone soloist with *Jazz Ensemble*, *Jazzbirds*, and *Vocal Jazz* (2007-9)
 - clarinetist and saxophonist with the *CSC Women's Ensemble* (2008-9)
- Guest saxophonist, *NCDCA All-State Vocal Jazz*, directed by Paris Rutherford (2008)
- Annual Department Music Faculty Recitals (2008-9)
- Woodwind Ensembles and Community Band, Prairie Pines Retirement Facility (2008)

PREVIOUS TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow: University of Pittsburgh (2002-7)

courses taught:

- Electronic and Computer Music I and II
- Music Since 1945
- Music Theory I, II, III, and IV
- Musicianship I and II
- Preparation for Music Theory
- History of Jazz

service:

- Peer advisor to music teaching assistants (2004-6)
- Search committee for a composition faculty member (2004-5)

Teaching Assistant: Kent State University (2000-2)

courses taught:

- Music Theory I and II (including aural skills)

service:

- Graduate Representative to the Music Library Committee (2001-2)
- Alternate Representative to the Graduate Student Senate (2000-1)

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

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

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

- Taught instrumental music classes and band for grades 4-8
- Performed original works and arrangements, including *Premiere March*, *Early Morning Blues*, *Carol of the Bells* (traditional), *March Militaire* (Schubert), and others

Band Director: Musical Youth, Inc. (1991-3)

- Taught instrumental music classes and band for grades 4-8

MICHAEL STEPHENS – 3

COMPOSITIONS

selected large ensemble works:

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

Commissioned and premiered by the Duquesne Contemporary Ensemble, directed by David Stock, Pittsburgh (2006)

Revision performed by the University of Pittsburgh Orchestra and Roger Zahab (2007)

Oakland Overture (2002-4), for orchestra – 6:10

Performed by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, directed by Larry Loh – selected from student submissions by Jennifer Higdon, Composer of the Year for the PSO (2006)

Premiered by the University of Pittsburgh Orchestra and Roger Zahab (2004)

Song for Lauren (2004), for jazz ensemble

Recorded in a reading session by the University of Pittsburgh Jazz Ensemble

Words of the Beloved (2001-2), for string orchestra, piano, and percussion – 14:46

Performed by the Kent State University Orchestra, directed by Frank Wiley (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, directed by Christie Maddox (2000)

song cycle:

Beyond Duality (2003-5), 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 Zelkowitz, cello, and Michael Laubach, percussion, directed by Roger Zahab (2005)

electro-acoustic work:

Fantasy (2003-4), for alto saxophone and electronics – 4:00

Premiered at Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pittsburgh (2005)

selected small ensemble works:

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

Commissioned by Alia Musica (www.alia-music.org)

Premiered by Julieta Ugartemendia and Matthew Gillespie, Pittsburgh (2007)

“Blessed is the lion consumed by man ...” (2003-4), for cello and piano – 8:43

Premiered by David Russell and Robert Frankenberg, Pittsburgh (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, Iowa City (2006)

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, Kent (2001)

“God, Grant Me the Serenity ...” (1994-9), for flute and piano – 6:26

Premiered by Lauren Pedersen and Donna Oberlin, Kent (2000)

Two Pieces for Alto Saxophone and Piano (1989) – 6:08

Premiered by Bobby Selvaggio and Brian Woods, Kent (1989)

current commissions:

piece for piccolo and piano for Amy Likar

piece for trumpet and piano for Adam Lambert and Jim Margetts

MICHAEL STEPHENS – 4

PREVIOUS 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 *Spyro Gyra*, Chuck Mangione, Marion Meadows, and *Blood, Sweat and Tears*

semi-finalist for Musician magazine's unsigned band contest (1998)

CDs: *Music* (1995) and *Perspectives* (2000)

original compositions: *Sunshower*, *A Little Peace*, *Devotion*, *Jacinta*, *Evening Rain*,

Prometheus, *Views of the Point*, *Dance with Delilah*, *Off the Wall*, and *Cardiac Inertia*

co-composed with Warren Henry: *Kaleidoscope*, *F.Y.B.*, and *Untitled*

Band Member and Freelance Musician (1992-2007)

jazz: *Warren Henry Group*, *Dan Bailey Quartet*, *Rex Shepherd Group*, and *Swing Machine*

blues: *Delgados*, *Bluestones*, and *Fat City Blues*

rock, funk, and pop: *Class Reunion*, *Melvin Lewis Esquire*, *Ed Head Band*

all-occasion: *City Heat*, *Jerry Bruno Band*, and *Carnival*

University of Pittsburgh Orchestra, percussion (2006)

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

Kent State University ensembles, saxophones and clarinet (1985-90)

Jazz Ensemble I (10 semesters), Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Saxophone Quartet,

Marching Band, Flasherbrass (pep band) and pit orchestra for *Chicago*

ADDITIONAL HONORS

Who's Who Among America's Teachers and Educators, 11th edition (2007)

Walter Watson Jazz Award (2001 and 1990)

Musical Youth Principals' Commendation for Outstanding Educators (1992-3 and 1991-2)

National Association of Jazz Educators Citation (1989 and 1983)

James R. Pottenger Memorial Scholarship for Future Educators (1985)

Geneva Area Music Boosters Scholarship (1985)
