

MICHAEL STEPHENS

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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Doctor of Philosophy in music composition and theory, 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.

Studied with Eric Moe, Mathew Rosenblum, Roger Zahab, Nathan Davis, et al.

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.

Studied with Richard Devore, Ralph Lorenz, Thomas Janson, Greg Banaszak, et al.

Cleveland State University. Cleveland, Ohio

Graduate student in music composition and saxophone performance

Studied with P.Q. Phan and Howie Smith

Kent State University. Kent, Ohio

Bachelor of Music in music education, *cum laude*, May 1990 (GPA: 3.5)

CURRENT POSITION

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

courses taught:

Music Theory III-IV and Lab (Aural Skills)

Music of the 20th Century

Elements of Music

Private Instruction in Woodwinds, Composition, and Jazz Improvisation

Woodwind Pedagogy

Instrument Repair

ensembles directed:

Jazz Band

Community Symphonic Band

Saxophone Quartet, Clarinet Ensemble, Flute Ensemble, Woodwind Quartet

service:

Curriculum Coordinator of Music Theory, Woodwinds, and Graduate Music (2007-)

NMEA/MENC (Music Education Organization) Advisor (2011-)

CSC Jazz Festival Coordinator (2009-)

Graduate Council Committee (2008-9, 2010-11)

Music Representative for Scholastic Day (2008-)

Search Committee for Full-Time Instructor: Guitar and General Studies (2008)

adjudication experience:

Nebraska District VI Band, Solo and Ensemble Contest, Chadron (2008-11)

Nebraska District VI Band, Solo and Ensemble Contest, Scottsbluff (2008-11)

Scottsbluff Middle School Band, Solo and Ensemble Contest (2008-11)

South Dakota District Band Contest, Rapid City (2009)

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)

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Assistant Professor of Music: Chadron State College (continued)

clinician experience:

- “Listen and Adjust: Developing Skills for Improving Intonation on Saxophone and Clarinet”, *CSC High Plains Band and Choir Festival* (2011)
- Instructor and Cofounder, *CSC Summer Music Camp* (2009-10)
- Conductor, Festival Band, *CSC High Plains Band and Choir Festival* (2010)
- Conductor, Wind Band Reading Session, *CSC High Festival* (2008-9, 2011)
- “Fostering Musical Awareness in the Young Band”, *CSC High Plains Festival* (2008)
- “Jazz Improvisation, One Note at a Time”, *CSC Jazz Day* (2008 and 2010)
- 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-)

selected performances:

- CSC Professors of Jazz
 - festivals and concerts in Nebraska, including Gering, Alliance, Gordon, and Chadron, and in South Dakota: Sturgis and Martin
 - high school performances and clinics at Torrington (WY), Gering (NE), Rapid City Central (SD), and Rapid City Stevens (SD)
 - Guest appearances with CSC Ensembles:
 - Sidney Oktoberfest, saxophone with *Jazz Ensemble* and *Jazzbirds* (2007-8)
 - NCDA Conference, saxophonist backing the *Vocal Jazz Ensemble* (2008)
 - Clarinetist and saxophonist with the *CSC Women’s Ensemble* (2008-9)
 - Guest saxophonist, *NCDA All-State Vocal Jazz*, directed by Paris Rutherford (2008)
 - Joint Faculty Recital, on saxophones, clarinet, and flute, with Adam Lambert (2008)
 - Music Department Faculty Recitals (2008-10)
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PREVIOUS TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow: University of Pittsburgh (2002-7)

courses taught:

- Music Theory I, II, III, and IV
- Musicianship I and II
- Preparation for Music Theory
- Music Since 1945
- Electronic and Computer Music I and II
- 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 and keyboard)

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

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

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

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

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

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COMPOSITIONS

selected large ensemble works:

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

Commissioned and performed by the Duquesne Contemporary Ensemble, directed by David Stock, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, February 24, 2006

Revised version performed by the University of Pittsburgh Orchestra, directed by Roger Zahab, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pittsburgh, February 7, 2007

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

Performed by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, directed by Larry Loh, at a reading session of works selected by Jennifer Higdon, Composer of the Year for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Heinz Hall, March 4, 2006

Premiered by the University of Pittsburgh Orchestra, directed by Roger Zahab, Bellefield Hall, March 2004, and performed again November 3, 2004

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, at a reading session, 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, directed by Christie Maddox, Roberts Middle School, May 17, 2000

vocal work:

Beyond Duality (2003-5), 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 Zelkowicz, cello, and Michael Laubach, percussion, directed by Roger Zahab, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pittsburgh, February 12, 2005

electro-acoustic work:

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

Premiered at Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pittsburgh, February 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, Chatham College, Pittsburgh, March 13, 2007

Performed by Bruce Thornton, College of Saint Benedict / Saint John's University, St. Joseph, Minnesota, January 25, 2010

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

Premiered by David Russell and Robert Frankenberry, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pittsburgh, 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

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, directed by Michael Stephens, Ludwig Recital Hall, Kent, May 5, 2001

"God, Grant Me the Serenity ..." (1994 and 1999), for flute and piano – 6:26

Premiered by Lauren Pedersen and Donna Oberlin, Ludwig Recital Hall, March 31, 2000

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

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

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

Premiered by Bobby Selvaggio and Brian Woods, Ludwig Recital Hall, December 1989

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COMPOSITIONS – continued

jazz and popular-style works:

Put Your Hands Like This (2011), for jazz big band

Sassy Sadie (2011), for jazz combo

Song for Lauren (2004), for jazz big band

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

Hopes and Dreams (2001), for flute, alto saxophone, and piano

Premiered at my wedding, Unity Chapel of Light, Tallmadge, May 26, 2001

Corean Holiday (2000), for jazz fusion combo

Performed frequently by the CSC Professors of Jazz (2009-)

Osmosis originals (1993-8): *Sunshower*, *A Little Peace*, *Devotion*, *Jacinta*, *Evening Rain*,

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

Osmosis originals co-written with Warren Henry (1994-8): *Kaleidoscope*, *F.Y.B.*, and *Untitled*

current commissions:

music for piccolo and piano for Amy Likar

music for trumpet and piano for Adam Lambert and Jim Margetts

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

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

Montclair Who's Who in Collegiate Faculty – 2010-2011 edition

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