

WILLIAM KENLON

composer and teacher

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(617) 501-3602

EDUCATION

- 2013–2017 Doctor of Musical Arts, University of Maryland (Composition)
Composition studies with Mark Edwards Wilson
- 2010–2012 Master of Arts, Tufts University (Composition)
Composition studies with John McDonald
- 2005–2009 Bachelor of Music, James Madison University (Composition)
Magna cum laude, with distinction in music
Minors in jazz studies, music industry, vocal performance
Composition studies with John Hilliard, Jason Haney, Chuck Dotas
- 2003–2005 Associate of Arts & Sciences, Germanna Community College (Education)
Summa cum laude

COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Howard University, Washington, DC: 2022–

Form & Analysis (MUSB-124). Designer and instructor of upper-level undergraduate course studying large- and small-scale musical structures.

Ear Training and Sight Singing I–II (MUSB-003, 004). Instructor for first two semesters of aural skills for undergraduate music majors.

Elementary Harmony I (MUSB-021). Instructor for first semester of the standard undergraduate theory sequence.

University of Maryland, College Park, MD: 2014–

Musical Form (MUSC-450). Designer and instructor of upper-level undergraduate course studying large- and small-scale musical structures.

Music Theory I–IV (MUSC-150, 151, 250, 251). In-person and online instructor of the complete undergraduate theory sequence for music majors, teaching lectures, working with graduate assistants, and first-year aural skills labs.

Technology and a Career in Music (MUSC-463). Designer and instructor of upper-level elective course in music notation, recording techniques, editing skills, and software applications.

Fundamentals of Music (MUSC-140). Instructor of record for introductory musicianship course for non-music majors.

Aural Skills I–IV (MUSC-150, 151, 250, 251). Graduate teaching assistant for freshman- and sophomore-level ear training lab sections.

American University, Washington, DC: 2019–2022

Masterpieces of Music (PERF-205). Designer and instructor (in-person and online) of course on major works of Western classical and popular music from the Middle Ages to the present.

Understanding Music (PERF-110). Designer and instructor (in-person and online) of general-education course introducing students to the principles of timbre, texture, melody, harmony, rhythm, form, and referentiality through lecture, reading, and listening.

Music Fundamentals (PERF-120). Designer and instructor (online) of basic musicianship class, covering written concepts of rhythm, pitch, harmony, and aural skills.

The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC: 2018–2022

Harmony I–IV (MUS-123, 124, 223, and 224), **Ear Training & Sight Singing III** (MUS-221). In-person and online instructor of the full undergraduate theory sequence for music majors, teaching lectures and managing graduate teaching assistants, during regular semesters and a summer session.

Analytical Techniques I (MUS-711). Instructor of graduate seminar focusing on the analysis of Medieval, Renaissance, and early Baroque literature.

St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City, MD: 2017

Music Theory II (MUS-204), **Orchestration** (MUS-340), **Music as Communication** (MUS-112), and applied composition lessons. Visiting Professor for one-month term of entry- and upper-level courses for music majors and non-majors.

Tufts University, Somerville, MA: 2011–2012

Music Recording and Production (MUS-66), **Film Scoring** (MUS-197). Graduate teaching assistant for junior- and senior-level courses on recording and mixing music and sound, and on composing for visual media.

Introduction to Music Theory (MUS-10). Graduate teaching assistant for non-music majors and first-semester freshmen.

History of Jazz (MUS-42). Graduate teaching assistant for upper-level elective course on the historical development of jazz music from 1890 to the present.

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Foundation for the Advancement of Music & Education (FAME)

2021–: Instructor of annual summer course introducing children in middle and high school to music technology and basic composition and songwriting.

1101 Music

2015–present: Self-employed/freelance teacher of **private composition lessons** for composers ranging in age from 15–65. Meet with students on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to supervise self-directed creative work on classical and jazz works, arrangements, and electronic music projects.

Cardon Studios

2017–2019: Teacher of **private lessons** in theory, voice, and beginning piano to students ages 5–60.

Tufts Community Music School

2012–2013: Teacher of **private composition lessons** for composers aged 8–13. Met with students on a weekly basis and oversaw performances of projects for solo instruments and small ensembles.

Cambridge Center for Adult Education

Fall 2012: **History of Jazz**. Instructor of record for historical, sociological, and musical survey of jazz music from 1890 to the present.

RECENT COMMISSIONS

- 2022 University of Georgia Choirs (Athens, GA): *Last Lines*
Trombonist Daniel Wood (Kansas City, MO): *Uncanny Valley*
- 2021 Guitarist Bill Chandler (Annapolis, MD): *Blue Not Blue*
Clarinetist Ryan Espinosa (Los Angeles, CA): *Curtailment*
Soprano Amy Broadbent (Washington, DC): *The Hag*
- 2020 Saxophonist Evan Smith (Seattle, WA): *Dead Reckoning*
Theorbist Cameron Welke (Baltimore, MD): *Où le lac deviant des montagnes...*
- 2019 Santa Clara University Chorale and Wind Ensemble (Santa Clara, CA): *No Hay Camino*
All Souls Choir (Washington, DC): *Whitman Mosaic*
Trombonist Riley Matties (Philadelphia, PA): *Semicolon*
Soprano Hayley Abramowitz (Bloomington, IN): *Longfellow Mosaic*
- 2018 Silver Finch Arts Collective (Washington, DC): *Dreamless* (chamber opera)
Hornist Anne Howarth (Boston, MA): *Memory Attic*
- 2017 Soprano Karly Ritland (Fargo, ND): *Words From Friends*
Mezzo-soprano Lori Sen (Washington, DC): *Two Sephardic Songs*
- 2016 Just Duet (Cynthia Goosby, clarinet, and Scott Charvet, marimba; Bowling Green, OH): *Short Strange Sad Songs*
Saxophonist Kate Duncan (Boulder, CO): *Bright Duo*
- 2015 Pianist Ruth Bright (Washington, DC): *Piano Trio*
- 2014 Mezzo-soprano D'Anna Fortunato (Boston, MA): *Danna's Dreams For D'Anna*
Pianist Frank Chu (Washington, DC): *Five Number Pieces*

- 2013 Mezzo-soprano Kate Nye (Austin, TX): *Three Songs of Passing Times And Places*
Flutist Elizabeth Erenberg (Boston, MA): *Bonsais*
- 2012 Soprano Katelyn Aungst (Washington, DC): *Four Uncollected Songs*
Tufts University's *Pierrot Lunaire* Centennial Commission (Medford, MA):
Départ de Pierrot
Tenor Thomas Gregg (Boston, MA): *Die Blinde*
- 2011 Boston Microtonal Society: *Kuntanère*
Six Degree Singers (Silver Spring, MD): *Little Dream Pieces, Vol. 1*

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- 2022 *Sviat Vechir* premiered by Francesca Hurst, piano. Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, Washington, DC, April 25, 2022.
Desire Paths: Chamber Symphony For Double Wind Quintet and Piano premiered by Ignis Quintet and Presse Sextet. Gildenhorn Hall, College Park, MD, April 18, 2022.
Uncanny Valley premiered by Daniel Wood, trombone. University of Missouri–Kansas City, April 15 and 23, 2022.
- 2021 *Whitman Mosaic* performed by the Choral Arts Society of Washington, conducted by Scott Tucker. Live at 10th and G, Washington, DC, November 13, 2021.
Curtailment performed by Ryan Espinosa, clarinet. Online, due to coronavirus. May 25, 2021.
The Hag premiered by Amy Broadbent, soprano. Gildenhorn Hall, College Park, MD, May 12, 2021.
Hereupon (collaboratively composed and recorded electro-acoustic work) performed with Hayley Abramowitz, soprano, and Al Rise, horn. Online, due to coronavirus. March 26, 2021.
- 2020 *Four Uncollected Songs* performed by Katelyn Aungst, soprano. Online, due to coronavirus. November 20, 2020.
“Kleines Tryptichon” from *Five Number Pieces* performed by Elizabeth Hill, piano. Online, due to coronavirus. June 1, 2020.
Dreamless Counterpoint performed by Francesca Hurst, piano. Online, due to coronavirus. April 25, 2020.
“Murmures de Mélodies” from *Trois mélodies hypnotisées* performed by Erin Snedecor and Mark Meadows. All Souls Unitarian Church, Washington, DC, February 29, 2020.
Cello Quartet performed by the Maryland Cello Ensemble. ArtHouse, College Park, MD, February 25, 2020.
- 2019 *Let Christmas boast her customary treat* premiered by Jennifer Hayman, piano. All Souls Unitarian Church, Washington, DC, December 24, 2019.
Die Blinde performed by Tim Keeler, tenor. Gildenhorn Hall, College Park, MD, December 4, 2019.
Semicolon premiered by Riley Matties, trombone. Gildenhorn Hall, College Park, MD, March 25 and November 20, 2019.

Whitman Mosaic premiered by the All Souls Choir, conducted by Jennifer Hayman. John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC, May 14, 2019.

Longfellow Mosaic (piano/vocal version) premiered by Hayley Abramowitz, soprano. Merrill Hall, Bloomington, IN, April 22, 2019.

Memory Attic premiered by members of Vento Chiaro (wind quintet). Distler Hall, Medford, MA, February 19, 2019.

Four Duos and Two Solos performed by members of Fifth House Ensemble. Red Note New Music Festival, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, February 10, 2019.

- 2018 *Bonsais* performed by Yeji Oh, piccolo. Ward Hall, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, December 10, 2018.
- Words From Friends* performed by Joanna Jones, soprano. Gildenhorn Hall, College Park, MD, November 27, 2018.
- Dreamless Counterpoint* premiered by Thomas Stumpf, piano. Distler Hall, Medford, MA, October 15, 2018.
- Dreamless* premiered by Silver Finch Arts Collective. Capital Fringe Festival, Washington, DC, July 14–26, 2018.
- Words From Friends* premiered by Karly Ritland, soprano. Beckwith Hall, Fargo, ND, April 21, 2018.
- Longfellow Mosaic* (chamber version) performed by Hayley Abramowitz, soprano, with DC-area musicians. Gildenhorn Hall, College Park, MD, April 17, 2018.
- Wood/Water* performed by the Anacostia String Quartet. Denizens Brewing, Silver Spring, MD, March 4, 2018; St. George's Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA, April 6, 2018; University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC, April 29, 2018.
- Two Sephardic Songs* premiered by Lori Sen, mezzo-soprano. Tawes Auditorium, College Park, MD, February 24, 2018.
- "Yellow Room" from *Words From Friends* premiered by Karly Ritland, soprano. Icehouse, Minneapolis, MN, January 11, 2018.
- 2017 *Bright Solo* performed by Noah Bedrin, baritone saxophone. Bürgerhaus Kelter Entringen, Ammerbuch, Germany, October 15, 2017.
- Selections from *Little Dream Pieces, Vols. 2–5* performed by Regina Stroncek, soprano. Casa Thomas Jefferson, Brasília, Brazil, October 4, 2017.
- "Kleines Triptychon" from *Five Number Pieces* performed by Jennifer Hayman, piano. All Souls Unitarian Church, Washington, DC, September 17, 2017.
- Short Strange Sad Songs* performed by Just Duet (Cynthia Goosby, clarinet; Scott Charvet, marimba). Kelly Hall, Bowling Green, OH, May 11, 2017.
- Bonsais* performed by Kayla Hanvey, piccolo. Housewright Hall, Tallahassee, FL, April 28, 2017.
- Bright Duo* premiered by Robert Durie, clarinet, and Jon Clancy, marimba. Gildenhorn Hall, College Park, MD, April 25, 2017.
- 2016 *Little Dream Pieces, Vol. 5* premiered by Sarah Best, mezzo-soprano. Gildenhorn Hall, College Park, MD, November 29, 2016.
- Danna's Dreams For D'anna* performed by Kris Anne Weiss, mezzo-soprano. MacPhail Center for Music, Minneapolis, MN, August 12, 2016.

Five Fantasies on Bach Chorales performed by Triad Choral Collective. Harvard-Eppley United Methodist Church, Cambridge, MA, May 14 and 16, 2016.

Piano Trio performed by Anto Meliksetian, Brain Kim, and Pablo Salazar. University of Maryland, College Park, MD, May 4, 2016.

Lyric Suite for English Horn performed by Angela Kazmierczak, English horn, and Washington, D.C.-area musicians. Gildenhorn Hall, College Park, MD, April 11, 2016.

Little Dream Pieces, Vol. 4 performed by Ethan Green, bass. The Scott Theater, Westminster, MD, March 31, 2016.

Antitheses No. 2 performed by Michael Dobiell, alto saxophone. Church of the Advent, Boston MA, February 19, 2016.

Die Blinde performed by Michelle Fieschi, contralto. Corsica, France, February 16, 2016.

Bright Solo performed by Dave Berrios, baritone saxophone. Seretean Center for the Performing Arts, Stillwater, OK, January 16, 2016.

- 2015 *Wood/Water* premiered by the Griffis (String) Quartet. Distler Hall, Medford, MA, August 13, 2015.
- Old Books* premiered by members of the H2 Saxophone Quartet. Cortona, Italy, July 7, 2015.
- Bright Solo* premiered by Grant Bingham, bassoon. Cortona, Italy, July 10, 2015.
- Park Bench at the End of the World* premiered by faculty and students of the Fresh Inc Festival. Constellation, Chicago, IL, June 20, 2015.
- Ancient Woes, Vol. 1* premiered by Madeline Miskie, soprano. Gildenhorn Hall, College Park, MD, April 28, 2015.
- Five Fantasies on Bach Chorales* premiered by the University of Maryland Chamber Singers. Dekelboun Concert Hall, College Park, MD, April 17, 2015.
- Little Dream Pieces, Vol. 3* performed by Alexandra Porter. Princeton, NJ, February 13, 2015.
- 2014 *Three Sisters in Autumn* premiered by Joanna Jones, Amy Broadbent, Katie Baughman, and Caitlin DeLatte, sopranos. Schrom Hills Park, Greenbelt, MD, October 18, 2014.
- Suite For Sextet* premiered by University of Maryland students. Gildenhorn Hall, College Park, MD, October 12, 2014.
- Danna's Dreams For D'Anna* premiered by D'Anna Fortunato, mezzo-soprano. NATS Conference, Boston MA, July 6, 2014.
- Sunflower Poem* premiered by faculty and students of the Cortona Sessions. Cortona, Italy, July 2, 2014.
- Five Number Pieces* premiered by Frank Chu, piano. Leah Smith Hall, College Park, MD, May 16, 2014.

DISCOGRAPHY

Five Number Pieces recorded by John McDonald, piano, on *Soundscapes*, Innova Records, 2022.

"Six Shots" from *Little Dream Pieces, Vol. 3*, recorded by Diffrazioni Sonore on *Miniatures*, Soundiff SD-07, 2014.

Bonsais, recorded by Elizabeth Erenberg, flute, on *Ascend: A Collection of New Music*, 2014.

Little Dream Pieces, Vol. 1, recorded by the Six Degree Singers on *Six Degrees of Composers*, 2012.

AWARDS/DISTINCTIONS

University of Maryland Flagship Fellowship (2013–2017)
First prize winner, Walsum Award, for *Five Fantasies on Bach Chorales* (2014)
Tufts University Post-Graduate Fellowship in the Recording Arts (2012–2013)

PUBLISHED PAPERS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

"Translations and Musical Settings of Poems by Martial," co-authored with Tyler Goldman. *The Cortland Review*, November 2016.

"Case Studies in Programmatic Music." Guest lecture at the American University in Dubai, March 15, 2016.

"Assessing the Influence of Early Twentieth Century Microtonalists on Charles Ives's *Three Quarter-Tone Pieces*." University of Cincinnati humanitiesNOW Conference, March 5, 2015.

"When an Alternate is Not an Alternate: A Critical Examination of Paul Desmond's 'Music For A While' on LP and CD." Tufts Graduate Research Symposium, Tufts University, April 27, 2012.

SERVICE

District New Music Coalition: Co-Founder and Administrator (2017–present). Promoting the performance and appreciation of contemporary music by connecting performers, composers, institutions, and audiences located in the Washington, DC metropolitan area through concerts, conferences, and inclusive community-building.

Dean's Graduate Advisory Board: Board Member (2014–2017). Represented the University of Maryland School of Music and its interests in monthly conferences with the Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities.

Composers' Colloquium: Director (2015–2016). Initiated, planned, and implemented weekly meeting of composers at the University of Maryland, including student and faculty presentations, discussions of readings, and

invitation and handling of guest composers.

Tempo New Music Ensemble: Board Member (2014–2015) and Artistic Director (2015–2016). Interfaced with departmental leadership and university support services; organized, programmed, and conducted seven concerts of new music per academic year.

Graduate Research Day, Moderator/Judge (April 2016). Chaired, moderated, and evaluated interdisciplinary conference session on information management and intellectual property, featuring presentations by graduate students in Communications, Business Management, and Physics.

Common Threads in Arts and Humanities Research Symposium, Moderator (March 2016). Chaired and moderated conference session "Racialized Bodies," comprising scholarly presentations by graduate students in English, Women's Studies, and Ethnomusicology.

Tufts Graduate Student Council, Representative (2010–2012). Served as Music Department liaison with the graduate student government, encouraging music student participation in university events and non-music student participation in music events.

SELECTED PERFORMING EXPERIENCE

2019– Artifice Ensemble for new choral music (founding member; bass/baritone)
2017– All Souls Church, Unitarian (bass section leader and soloist)
2013–2020 University of Maryland Chamber Singers & Concert Choir (bass/baritone)
2012–2013 The Oriana Consort (bass/baritone)
2010–2012 Tufts University New Music Ensemble (keyboards, percussion)
2011 Gamelan Rinangga Sih Tentrem (bonang, saron, slethem)
2010–2012 Tufts University Jazz Orchestra and small groups (vibraphone)
2010 Tufts University Early Music Ensemble (bass/baritone)
2007–2009 James Madison University Men's Chorus, Chorale, Collegium Musicum,
 and Madison Singers (bass/baritone)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

ASCAP
American Composers' Forum
Society of Composers, Inc.
Society for Music Theory
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia