



ALEX BERKO composer

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EDUCATION

- Rice University Shepherd School of Music, Houston, TX** 2019-2022
Master of Music in Composition, Brown Fellowship: TA in music theory for Rice Preparatory Department
Principal Instructors, Composition: Anthony Brandt, Pierre Jalbert, and Karim Al-Zand
- Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Bloomington, IN** 2014-2018
Bachelor of Music in Composition, concentration in piano performance, certificate in entrepreneurship
Principal Instructors, Composition: David Dzubay, Claude Baker, Aaron Travers, Don Freund
Principal Instructors, Piano: Jean-Louis Haguenaier and Edmund Battersby
- Cleveland Institute of Music Preparatory Division, Cleveland, OH** 2008-2014
Principal Instructor, Composition: Keith Fitch (2013-2014)
Principal Instructor, Piano: Sandra Shapiro (2008-2014)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Teacher, Rice University Shepherd School of Music Preparatory Department** 2019-2022
Teach lectures in composition, theory, and aural skills to high school musicians with previous musicianship skills.
- Composer in Residence, Luzerne Music Center, NY** Summer 2021/22
Teach composition and theory and work with faculty instrumentalists culminating in a final composition recital.
- Composition Faculty, American Festival for the Arts (AFA), Summer Festival** Summer 2021/22
Give seminars and private lessons in composition and theory to high school musicians.
- Teacher's Assistant, Rice University Shepherd School of Music** Spring 2020/21
Assist Anthony Brandt in MUSI 379: Creativity Up Close: creativity as a universal feature of human cognition.
- Private Teacher, Piano, Composition, and Theory** 2013-Present
Teach private lessons to students ranging in age from 5 to 60.

ADDITIONAL STUDIES, RESIDENCIES, & FESTIVALS

- Ragdale Colony Residency** 2023
- Big Sky Choral Initiative Fellow**, studies with Gavin Bryars 2017
- Fresh Inc Festival**, studies with Stacy Garrop 2017
- RED NOTE New Music Festival Workshop Fellow**, studies with Sydney Hodkinson 2017
- NYU/ASCAP Film Scoring Institute**, studies with Mark Suozzo 2016
- California Summer Music Festival**, studies with David Tcimpidis & Louis Karchin 2014
- Atlantic Music Festival**, studies with Eric Ewazen & Sheridan Seyfried 2013
- Interlochen Fine Arts Camp**, studies with Leah Sproul Pulatit 2012

AWARDS

- ASCAP Morton Gould Award 2022/2021
- Finalist (pending result), EarShot Readings, American Composers Orchestra 2022
- Cooper Prize, Rice University Orchestral Composition Award 2022
- Merit Award, Tribeca New Music Competition 2022

1 st place, The American Prize in Choral Composition	2019
Regional EMMY Award in Composition	2019
Finalist, BMI Student Composer Competition	2019/2017
1 st place, Boston New Music Initiative (BNMI) Commission Competition	2018
1 st place, Bloomington Symphony Call for Scores	2018
1 st place, SCI/ASCAP Commission Competition	2016
1 st place, Webster University Composition Competition	2016
1 st place, ACDA Raymond Brock Memorial Competition	2015
1 st place, Carl E. Baldassarre Composer/Performer Competition	2015

SELECTED COMMISSIONS AND WORK

<i>Be</i> written for Rice University Symphony Orchestra (orchestra, 8') Premiered in October 2022, Larry Radcliff, conductor	2022
<i>There Is A City</i> commissioned by Musiqa (voice, clarinet, vibraphone, electronics, 5') Premiered in October 2022 by Musiqa fellows	2022
<i>You Through Me</i> commissioned by Conspirare (SATB choir and string quartet, 9') Premiered in November 2022, Craig Hella Johnson, conductor, Miró String Quartet	2022
<i>Cardinal Directions</i> commissioned by Constellation Men's Ensemble (TTBB choir, 15') Premiere in May 2023, Ryan Townsend Strand, conductor	2022
<i>Erupt/Erode</i> commissioned by James Palmer (solo piano, 2') Premiered in October 2022, James Palmer, piano	2021
<i>Exodus</i> commissioned by The Crossing (SATB choir, 5') Premiered in December 2021 at Dekelbom Hall in College Park, Donald Nally, conductor	2021
<i>Exhale</i> commissioned by The Sounding Board Project (guitar, 2') Premiered online by Bokyoung Byun and Alexandra Iranfar for the Catharsis project	2020
<i>O Me! O Life!</i> commissioned by Stare at the Sun (SATB choir, 11') Premiered at St. Vincent De Paul Church in Chicago, A.J. Keller, conductor	2020
<i>Mayflower</i> co-commissioned by the Cape Symphony and Plymouth Philharmonic (orchestra, 15') Premiered at the Barnstable Performing Arts Center in Cape Cod, Jung-Ho Pak, conductor Premiered at Memorial Hall in Plymouth, Stephen Karidoyanes, conductor	2019
<i>Living in Color</i> commissioned by the Boston New Music Initiative (small chamber ensemble, 8') Premiered at The Community Church of Boston, Tian Hui Ng, conductor	2018
<i>Among Waves</i> commissioned by the Monterey Symphony Orchestra (orchestra, 12') Premiered at Sunset Center in Monterey, Max Bragado-Darman, conductor	2018
<i>Through a Technicolor Glass</i> commissioned by the Society of Composers, Inc. (percussion 4tet, 5') Premiered by the Heartland Marimba Quartet at the 2018 SCI National Conference	2018
<i>Lincoln</i> commissioned by the Cathedral Choral Society (SATB choir, 5') Premiered at the Washington National Cathedral, Donald Nally, conductor	2018

VOLUNTEER WORK

Arts in Medicine Collaborator, MD Anderson Cancer Center	2020-2022
Work closely with the music therapists and the Arts in Medicine department to provide musical support to the young patients and staff at MD Anderson.	

DISCOGRAPHY

The Crossing: RISING w/ THE CROSSING 2020
Featuring *Lincoln*. New Focus Records. Nominated for a 2022 GRAMMY for Best Choral Performance.

PERFORMANCE AND CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE

Collaborative Pianist, Akron University 2022-Present
Work with student instrumentalists for lessons, recitals, juries, and competitions.

Collaborative Pianist, Kent State University 2022-Present
Work with student instrumentalists for lessons, recitals, juries, and competitions.

RICE UNIVERSITY (2019-Present)

Singer on *There Is A City* for voice, clarinet, vibraphone, and electronics 2022
Pianist on *Seu Cabra* for cello and piano 2022
Pianist and Conductor on Master's Recital at Rice University 2021
Pianist on *Sonatine* by Dutilleux for flute and piano 2021
Pianist on *Sonata IV* for flute and piano by Anna Bon di Venezia 2021
Pianist on *Between, Above, Around* for flute and piano 2020
Pianist on *Dialogues in Black and White (after Ellsworth Kelly)* by Paul Novak for solo piano 2020
Pianist on *Living in Color* for chamber ensemble 2019

INDIANA UNIVERSITY (2014-2018)

Conductor on *Through a Technicolor Glass* for percussion quartet 2018
Pianist on *Kaleidoscope* for solo piano as part of Edmund Battersby's Memorial Recital 2017
Conductor on Singing Hoosiers Spring Concert 2017
Pianist on Ligeti *Etude #4, Fanfares* for solo piano on studio piano recital 2016
Featured pianist with NOTUS Contemporary Vocal Ensemble 2016
Singer in NOTUS Contemporary Choral Ensemble, Dominick DiOrio, director 2015-2018
Singer in Conductor's Chorus directed by Masters/Doctoral students 2015-2018
Pianist in improv comedy troop *HoosOnFirst* 2015-2018
Accompanist for Indiana University Choral Ensembles 2015-2018
Singer in Vocal Jazz Ensemble I, Jeremy Fox, director 2015-2017
Conductor on *Forgiven Tears* for SATB choir and cello 2015
Pianist on student composition recitals 2014-2018

CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF MUSIC (2008-2014)

Guest composer/pianist for Carl Baldassarre competition at Cleveland Institute of Music 2015
Pianist in Cleveland Institute of Music Concerto Competition, finalist 2013
Pianist in Cleveland Institute of Music Preparatory recitals 2008-2014

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Technical Director of Videography, Houston Youth Symphony (HYS) 2020-2022
Work with the full scores to guide videographers, giving them cues on what to capture during HYS concerts.

Copyist/Assistant Music Director, Jane Eyre: The Musical 2018
Assisted composer, Paul Gordon, lyricist, John Caird, and orchestrator, Brad Haak on the production.

Pit Musician and Rehearsal Pianist 2018-Present
Perform on keyboard in the pit and function as rehearsal pianist for numerous musicals in Northeast Ohio.

VOLUNTEER WORK

Arts in Medicine Collaborator, MD Anderson Cancer Center

2020-2022

Work closely with the music therapists and the Arts in Medicine department to provide musical support to the young patients and staff at MD Anderson. Some activities include composing/arranging music over heartbeat recordings, working with young cancer survivors to build a sense of empowerment through music, and supplying staff with music during bereavement.

REFERENCES (Listed alphabetically. Contact information available upon request.)

Karim Al-Zand, Composition, Rice University

Anthony Brandt, Composition, Rice University

David Dzubay, Composition, Indiana University

Keith Fitch, Composition, Cleveland Institute of Music

Julia Jalbert, Preparatory Program, Rice University

Pierre Jalbert, Composition, Rice University

Donald Nally, Conductor of *The Crossing*