

# RYAN JESPERSON, COMPOSER: CURRICULUM VITAE

## Home Address, Phone and E-mail

66 Maplewood Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(509) 307-6540  
ryan.jesperson@gmail.com  
rjesperson@umkc.edu

## Web Page

<http://www.ryanjesperson.com>

## Academic Degrees

D.M.A. in Music Composition (expected 2011), University of Missouri, Kansas City  
Artist Diploma in Music Composition (2007), The University of Hartford  
M.M. in Music Composition (2006), The University of Hartford  
Thesis: *The Hercules Quartets* (three string quartets)  
B.M. in Music Composition (with distinction and Honors College Certificate, 2004),  
Washington State University  
B.A. in English (with distinction and Honors College Certificate, 2004), Washington  
State University

## Composition Teachers

Gregory Yasinitsky, Charles Argersinger, Horace-Alexander Young, Ryan Hare,  
Stephen Gryc, Robert Carl, Larry Alan Smith, David Macbride, Mukai Kohei, Zhou  
Long, Chen Yi, James Mobberley, Paul Rudy

## Participation in Festivals and Camps

2008 – Wintergreen Performing Arts Festival Summer Academy

## Additional Lessons and Masterclasses:

John Psathas, Xiaogang Ye, João Pedro Oliveira, Christopher Rouse, John Anthony  
Lennon, Gabriel Garcia Abril, Michael White, Nathan Currier, Kirk Nurock, Paul  
Lansky, Stephen Hartke, Alvin Singleton

## *Academic Employment*

Instructor, New Horizons Northeast, 2010-present

Courses Taught: Microsoft Excel, Outlook, Word, Power Point, Access, Advanced Interpersonal Communication. Microsoft Office Specialist Master Certification

Co-Director, Instructor, Ethel Walker School Summer Arts Camp, 2010  
Summer Camp co-director/Instructor in Creative Writing

Instructor, Farmington Valley Arts Center, 2009  
Summer Instructor in Creative Writing

Instructor, Teaching Assistant, University of Missouri, Kansas City, 2007-2010  
Courses Taught: Private Composition Lessons (upper-divisional undergrads), Orchestration, Ensemble for Composers, Assisted in Freshman/Sophomore Composition Classes, Advanced Orchestration, and the Composers in the Schools program

Professor of Music, The Hartford Conservatory, 2005-2007

Courses Taught: Music History, Performance Practice, Jazz Lab, Class Piano, Humanities

Lessons Taught: Piano, Jazz Piano, Drums

Also served as Coordinator, Principal and Teacher in The Hartford Conservatory's Summer Youth Program

Instructor, Teaching Assistant, The University of Hartford, 2005-2007

Courses Taught: HLM 100, An Introduction to Music History for Non-Majors  
Responsible for teaching, structuring and grading the class

Courses Assisted: HLM 212/213, Music History for Music Majors

Responsible for grading, tutoring, lecturing (as needed) and A/V presentations

Teaching Assistant, Classical Magnet School, Hartford, CT, 2005

Responsible for tutoring students in the after-school program

Teaching Assistant, Selah School District, Selah, WA, 2001-2002

Responsible for accompanying choirs, teaching (as needed), composing and arranging material

Worked with High School and Middle School choirs

### **Other Music-Related Employment**

Copyist, 2003-present

I have worked for Greg Yasinitsky, Jennifer Scovell, Horace-Alexander Young, Chen Yi, and Zhou Long.

I have worked on scores that are published by Theodore Presser, Oxford Publishing, Warwick Publishing, Sound Music Publications.

Pianist, 2003-present

I have played on both the west coast and east coast as a freelance jazz pianist.

Venues include: The Bushnell in Hartford, CT, Foxwoods in CT, Rico's Tavern in Pullman, WA

### **Courses Taught**

Composition Private Lessons (classical and jazz), Music History, Music Appreciation, Orchestration, Ensemble for Composers, Jazz Piano, Jazz Combos, Performance Practice, Humanities, Beginning Piano, Drum Set, Creative Writing, Microsoft Excel, Outlook, Word, Access, PowerPoint, Advanced Interpersonal Communication

### **Courses/Programs Created:**

2010 – Created *The Diverse Composition Project*, a program featuring the award-winning jazz group Diverse and UMKC composers.

2009 – Created CO(mp)LLABORATIONS, an in-house collaboration between UMKC Composers and performers that is now entering its third season.

2007 – Created and coordinated the summer arts program for the Hartford Conservatory. I also hired the summer faculty and oversaw all operations.

### **Membership in Professional Organizations**

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers)

American Composers Forum

American Music Center

Society of Composers, Inc.

National Association of Composers, USA

College Music Society

SEAMUS

UMKC Composers' Guild (President, 2008-2009, Public Relations Officer, 2010)

Studio of Electronic Music (Board Member)

**Awards, Prizes, Honors, Conference Selections**

John Duffy Institute Fellow, 2011  
Winner, UMKC Orchestra Composition Competition, 2010  
UMKC Comprehensive Exam “High Pass” in 2 of 3 sections, 2010  
Electronic Music Midwest Selection, 2010  
Juventas New Music Ensemble Selection, 2010  
Winner, Beethoven Club/Belvedere Festival Composition Contest, 2010  
Winner, KC Chorale Composition Competition, 2010  
SCI Region VI Conference selection, 2010  
SCI Region VIII Conference selection, 2010  
Western Illinois New Music Festival Selection, 2010  
SCI Region V Conference selection 2009  
Featured Composer – “No Extra Notes” Podcast, 2009  
Winner, Kalv Festival Composition Contest, 2009  
Winner, Chappell White Memorial Award, 2009  
CMS Regional Conference Selections, 2009, 2010  
Nebraska at Kearney New Music Festival Selection, 2009, 2010, 2011  
NACUSA National Conference Selection, 2009  
Winner, British Trombone Society Composition Competition 2009  
UCM New Music Festival Selection, 2009, 2010  
CMS International Conference selection, 2009  
Honorable Mention, NACUSA Young Composers Competition, 2008  
Winner, UMKC Orchestra Composition Competition, 2008  
UMKC Chancellor’s Doctoral Fellowship, 2008-2010  
Finalist, UMKC Chamber Composition Competition, 2008  
*Now Watch Me Become* selected for the New York International Independent Film  
and Video Festival, 2007  
UMKC Cons. Top 10 award, 2007  
NACUSA East Coast Chapter Concert selection, 2006, 2008, 2010  
SCI Region V selection, 2005  
Hartt Talent Scholarship, 2004-2007  
ReJoyce Festival selection, 2004  
SCI Region VII selection, 2004  
WSU Honors Thesis Pass with Distinction (for chamber opera *Words for the Dead*),  
2004  
WSU Graduating Senior of the Year in Music, 2004  
WSU Commencement Highlight for the Liberal Arts College, 2004  
Big Ten Award – Visual/Performing Arts, 2004  
Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship, 2004  
Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival Vocal Composition Competition, 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2001, 2004  
Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival Instrumental Composition Competition, 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2004  
SCI National Student Conference selection, 2003  
FASR Undergraduate Research Award, 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2003-2004  
WSU Phase II Music Scholarship, 2002-2004  
FASR Undergraduate Research Award, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, 2001

**Groups and Performers who have requested or commissioned works:**

Saxophonist Joey Abad, 2011 (*Sax Concerto, Not Death, but Love* for Sax Quartet)  
The Anatolian Trio, 2011 (Piano Trio)  
Bassist Ryan Ford, 2010 (*BA(da)SS*)  
The Sophisticates, 2010 (*Memories of New York*)  
Tim Fisher and Memorial Middle School, 2010 (*The Invisible Magic Soccer Phone*)  
Trumpeter Chris Belluscio, 2010 (*Boombbox Serenade*)  
Trombonist Radu Clipa, 2008 (*fragments and memories*)  
Vocalist Ashly Evans, 2008 (*Birdsongs*)  
Flutist Sophia Tegart, 2007 (*Concerto for Flute*)  
Trumpeter Chris Belluscio, 2007 (*Divertimento for Trumpet and Organ*)  
Honors String Quartet (Hartt Community Division Ensemble), 2006 (*...and those seven dwarfs*)  
Violinist Sarah Washburn of the West End String Quartet, 2006 (*Violin Sonata*)  
Clarinetist Ed Nishimura, 2006 (*Romanza for Clarinet and Violin*)  
Hartt Prism Commission, 2004 (*Hardy Boys Variations*)  
Cowiche Conservancy (Yakima, WA), 2004 (*Trombone Concerto*)

**Arranging Commissions or Genre Commissions From:**

West Salem High School, 2007  
West End String Quartet, 2007  
Yakima Valley Community College, 2004  
WSU Crimson Revue, 2003, 2004  
WSU VoJazz, 2004, 2006  
Selah High School, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004

**List of Musical Compositions (partial list):**

*Songs from Behind the Curtain*, an opera in three acts, 2011  
*The Invisible Magic Soccer Phone*, for concert band, 2011  
*Memories of New York*, for a.sx, perc, vla, vc, cb, 2011  
*BA(da)SS*, for solo contrabass, 2010  
*Orphée Redux*, for sop., mezzo-sop., tenor, and pno., 2010  
*Romanza for Alto Saxophone and Violin*, 2010  
*Not Death, but Love*, for string quartet 2010  
*Boombbox Serenade*, for trumpet and electronics, 2010  
*Obscure Songs*, for SSAA Choir, 2010 (TTBB and SATB versions, 2010)  
*Hebdomas Squatinae*, for flute, violoncello and piano, 2009  
*I. Jest*, for orchestra, 2009  
*This Song is Called EZEKIEL...*, for solo clarinet, 2009  
*Sonnets from the Portuguese*, for SATB Choir, 2009  
*Little Tokyo*, for brass quintet and piano, 2009

**List of Musical Compositions (partial list) (cont.):**

*Euphonium > Plutonium*, for solo euphonium, 2009  
*Quatrain*, for string quartet (revision of *The Hercules Quartets*), 2009  
*I Await Your Urgent Response*, for any four performers, 2009 (text compiled from junk emails)  
*Birdsongs*, voice and piano, 2008 (text by Rebecca Bauman)  
*fragments and memories*, trombone and piano, 2008 (trombone and wind ensemble version, 2009)  
*Concertino for Violin and Viola*, for solo vln and vla, with fl, cl, hrn, 2 vlns, vla, vc, cb, 2008 (chamber orchestra version, 2008)  
*Farbenmusik*, for solo piano, 2008/2010  
*Armando's Grand Illusion*, for Jazz Big Band, 2008  
*Concerto for Flute "Icarus"*, for flute and large orchestra, 2007  
*Divertimento for Trumpet and Organ*, for trumpet and organ, 2007  
*Violin Sonata*, for violin and piano, 2007.  
*In the Shadow of God's Wrath – I – Alone in the Woods*, for chamber orchestra, 2007  
*Romanza for Clarinet and Violin*, for clarinet and violin, 2006  
*Rhapsody for Dean Moriarty*, for alto sax and jazz orchestra, 2006/2010  
*Ocean Park {an overture for orchestra}*, for large orchestra, 2006  
*Sonata for Trombone*, (a reworking of *Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra*), for trombone and piano, 2006  
*Three Harlem Songs*, for tenor voice, flute, violoncello and piano, 2006  
*The Hardy Boys Variations*, for 2 pianos, 2005  
*Mizaru, Kikazaru, Iwazaru*, for woodwind quintet, 2005  
*The Women of Leopold Bloom*, for solo bassoon, 2005  
*Humanity Divine* (A setting of *The Last Temptation of Christ* by Nikos Kazantzakis), for medium voice and piano, 2005. Original text version, 2007  
*Chromatizactly*, for Jazz Big Band, 2004  
*The Shadow of the Hill*, for SATB Vocal Jazz Choir, 2003  
*scenes from a solitary beach*, for solo clarinet, 2003  
*Words for the Dead {a chamber opera in one act}*, for 8 voices and piano, 2003

**Published Musical Works**

*fragments and memories*, for trombone and piano. Coventry, UK: Warwick Music, 2009.  
*Angels We Have Heard On High*, for SATB a cappella. Seattle, WA: Sound Music Publications, 2008.  
*Winter Wonderland*, for SATB a cappella. Seattle, WA: Sound Music Publications, 2008.  
*Waltz for Coltrane*, for SATB Vocal Jazz Choir. Seattle, WA: Sound Music Publications, 2005.  
*scenes from a solitary beach*, for solo clarinet. Pullman, WA: LandEscapes, 2004.

### **Published Musical Works (cont)**

- Indiana*, for SATB Vocal Jazz Choir and Big Band. Seattle, WA: Sound Music Publications, 2004  
(separate version available without big band, 2004)
- Living In Sunlight*, for SATB Vocal Jazz Choir. Seattle, WA: Sound Music Publications, 2003.
- Light Through the Glass*, for SATB Vocal Jazz Choir. Seattle, WA: Sound Music Publications, 2002.
- Billy Blew By*, for SATB Vocal Jazz Choir. Seattle, WA: Sound Music Publications, 2002.
- Don't Be So Blue*, for SABL Vocal Jazz Choir. Seattle, WA: Sound Music Publications, 2002.

### **Performances (partial list)**

- fragments and memories*, by the UMKC Wind Symphony, fall, 2011
- Rhapsody for Dean Moriarty*, by Bobby Watson and the UMKC Big Band, fall, 2011
- Birdsongs*, by Ashly Evans in Houston, Texas, spring, 2011
- Memories of New York*, by The Sophisticates, spring 2011
- BA(da)SS*, by Ryan Ford, Spring, 2011
- The Invisible Magic Soccer Phone*, by Tim Fisher and Memorial Middle School, May 2011
- I. Jest*, by Robert Olson and the UMKC Orchestra, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- Hebdomas Squatinae*, at the Nebraska at Kearney New Music Festival, Feb. 14-15<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- Romanza for Alto Saxophone and Violin*, by Sheri Brown and Sarah Washburn, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011
- Romanza for Alto Saxophone and Violin*, by Sheri Brown and Sarah Washburn, 016 New Music Ensemble, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- I Await Your Urgent Response*, at Cabaret No. 3 – The Brötzmann Follies, Hartford, CT, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- ...and those seven dwarfs*, by Peter Witte and the UMKC Graduate String Quartet, in Kansas City, MO, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- Hebdomas Squatinae*, by the Luna Nova Ensemble as part of the Belvedere Festival in Memphis Tenn., June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- Farbenmusik*, at the NACUSA East Coast Chapter Concert (New York, NY), Amanda Arrington performing, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- Boombbox Serenade*, by Chris Belluscio in Boston, MA, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- Farbenmusik*, at the UCM New Music Festival, Amanda Arrington performing, April 10-11<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- “Indeed, this very Love” from *Sonnets from the Portuguese*, by the KC Chorale, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- Farbenmusik*, at the UMKC Composers’ GUILD Concert, Amanda Arrington performing, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Performances (partial list) (cont.)**

*Farbenmusik*, at the Nebraska at Kearney New Music Festival, Amanda Arrington performing, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*I Await Your Urgent Response* by the Butler JSFA Composers' Orchestra, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*This next song is called EZEKIEL...* by Gabby Baffoni, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

*The Women of Leopold Bloom* by Keel Williams in KC, MO, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*Little Tokoyo* at UMKC/KCAI ArtSounds, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*I Await Your Urgent Response* at SCI Region V Conf., Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*Sand* at the Kalv Festival in Sweden, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*fragments and memories* at a BTS event, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*fragments and memories* at a BTS event, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009

*Euphonium > Plutonium* by Nate Gay, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*farbenmusik* by Kari Johnson at the CMS Great Plains Conference, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*Birdsongs* (selections) at the Nebraska at Kearney New Music Festival, March 30-31, 2009

*I Await Your Urgent Response* by Rebecca Ashe, Brad Baumgardner, Ryan Jespersen, and Nate Riebli, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*fragments and memories* at the CMU New Music Festival, Trevon Kizer and Amanda Arrington, March 2-3, 2009

*Flute Concerto – mvt. III* by Sophia Tegart and the UMKC Orchestra, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*fragments and memories* by Radu Clipa, Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009

*Songs of Shelley* (selections) by Elizabeth Comminellis, Ryan Jespersen and Nathan Riebli. September, 2008

*Concertino for Violin and Viola* by Nicholas Szucs, vln, Anne Lanzilotti, vla and members of the Wintergreen Academy, Jim Glazebrook, conductor, July 2008

*Violin Sonata* by Sarah Washburn and Tamila Azadaliyeva, June 2008

*Divertimento for Trumpet and Organ* by Chris Belluscio, May 2008

*scenes from a solitary beach* by Brittany Bastian, April 2008

*Indiana* by the University of Montreal big band and vocal jazz ensemble. March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Montreal

*Pretentious [Title]* by Musica Nova, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008

*Sonata for Trombone* by Radu Clipa, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 2007 in Bucharest, Romania

*Now Watch Me Become* (score) as part of the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival, Sept. 2007

*Romanza for Clarinet and Violin* by Cheryl Melfi and Misty Elfer, Sept. 2007

*...and those seven dwarfs* by the Honors String Quartet and Kate Swanson, June 2007

*The Women of Leopold Bloom* by Thea Groth, May 2007

*Four Sleazy Dudes*, by the Miklos Quartet, Nov. 2006

*Sonata for Trombone*, by Mark Babbitt and Nikolas Caoile, Oct. 2006

*The Women of Leopold Bloom*, by Richard Kandetzki, July 2006

*Mizaru, Kikazaru, Iwazaru*, by Hartt Performance 20/20, April 2006

*The Hardy Boys Variations*, by Anastasia Seifetdinova and Yu-Chen Shih, Feb. 2006

### **Performing Ensembles**

*The Bluebottles* – Stephen Campiglio, spoken word; Ryan Jesperson, pno; Jay Wood, drum set

*The Paper Moon Jazz Trio* – Erica Maas, voice; Ryan Jesperson, pno; Ryan Ford, bass

*Jessica Abbott and the Gorillas of Rhythm* – Jessica Abbott, voice; Matt Reid, tpt; Ryan Jesperson, pno; Ian Johnson, bass; Scott Tenhulzen, drum set

Performed with: Bobby Watson, Nat Reeves, Russell Malone, Dezron Douglas, Steve Davis, Horace-Alexander Young, Greg Yasinitzky

### **Recordings**

*Jazziz Ed. 4* – Matt Reid (pianist on recording) JZD 1004 - 2004

*Chromatizactly on Washington State University Big Band 2003-2004*. Jazz program promotional CD - 2004

*Pure Imagination* – Jessica Rabbitt & the Gorillas of Rhythm (pianist and arranger on recording) Jessica Rabbitt – 2004

*Sunrise at the Speakeasy Café on Washington State University Big Band 2003*. Jazz program promotional CD – 2003

### **Music Performed In:**

Romania, Sweden, Great Britain, Canada, USA - (Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Florida, Indiana, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Colorado, Missouri, Iowa, Virginia, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Kansas, Tennessee, Texas)

Updated – 2/6/2011