

# PETER UNDERHILL

peterunderhill.org | youtube.com/@composingwithopenmusic

---

## EDUCATION

**Master of Music in Composition**, The University of South Carolina May 2020

- Coursework in Music Since 1980, Music Since 1900, Music Theory Pedagogy, Theories of Rhythm and Meter, Schenkerian Analysis, Microtonal Composition, Orchestration, and Computer Music.

**Bachelor of Arts in Music Composition & Piano Performance**, Whitworth University May 2018

- Coursework in Music Theory, Ear Training, Music History, Arranging, Computer Music, Conducting, Piano Literature, Piano Pedagogy, and Instrumental Techniques.
- 

## FEATURED WORKS

*Wargames: A Lament in Eight Parables* for singing/speaking pianist and electronics, *work-in-progress*.

*Album Amicorum* for solo piano, *work-in-progress*.

*Send Light* for generative 4-channel sound and accompanying real-time visualization, 2023.

*Bitter Fruit* for soprano and electronics, 2022.

- Premiered in August of 2022 by Anna Piroli and Fabrizio Nastari as part of the 2022 highSCORE Music Festival.

*Quiver and Quench* for speaking and singing flute quartet, 2022.

- Commissioned by the *Duende* flute quartet for a program at Edisto Beach State Park, SC, focusing on environmental concerns in marine ecology. Premiered in April of 2022.

*Everywhere that Music Is* for wind ensemble, 2021.

- Proposal chosen for the 2021 University of South Carolina Wind Ensemble-Student Composer Collaboration for their *Genesis* concert cycle, with a premiere in April of 2021.

*Consider the Cedar* for flute quartet, 2021.

- Commissioned by the *Duende* flute quartet as a site-specific piece of data-driven music reflecting on United States Geological Survey data for Cedar Creek in Congaree National Park. Premiered in May of 2021 at their concert, *Consider the Cedar*.

*The Many Shapes of Light* for violin and electronics, 2020.

- Commissioned by violinist and composer Jesse Kaiser as part of an extended commissioning project expanding the repertoire for solo violin and electronics with a premiere in April of 2021.

*Slapdash* for flute, trumpet, double bass, piano and percussion; 2020.

- Commissioned by the University of South Carolina Spark Collective.
- Received the 2020 John and Lucretia Herr Award for composition.

*Three Pentiments* for solo piano, 2019.

*Home is a Window* for narrator, flute, trumpet, double bass, piano, and percussion; 2019.

*The Flowers of Reminding* for soprano, bassoon, and piano; 2019.

- Commissioned and recorded as part of *An Evening of Serious Whimsy* collaboration with the Columbia Museum of Art.

*Asterisms* for SABar saxophone trio, 2019.

*Terrarium* for flute, saxophone, horn, piano, and percussion; 2018.

*Pierrot in the Garden* for soprano and piano, 2017.

*Midnight Dances* for solo piano, 2016.

- Won an honorable mention for the international composition competition, *The Contemporary Piano 2017*.

*Night Tour* for orchestra, 2016.

- Winner of the Whitworth Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, 2017.

*Prelude and Double Fugue* for piano trio, 2016.

- Collegiate winner of the Washington State Music Teachers Association Young Composers Project and performed at the WSMTA 2017 Conference in Shoreline, Washington.

---

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### Graduate Assistant for the Southern Exposure New Music Series

2018 – 2020

University of South Carolina

- Provided hospitality, transportation, and technical assistance to approximately 35 guest artists.
- Organized logistics for hall management, promotion, student volunteers, and merchandise sales.
  - Visiting artists included: The Living Earth Show, JACK Quartet, Roomful of Teeth, Sympatico Percussion, Mike Block & Sandeep Das, Claire Chase, RighteousGIRLS, Beo String Quartet, and Founders.
- Organized ca. 15 interviews with prospective guest artists for the 2020 SAVVY Chamber Competition.
- Programmed, promoted, organized, and stage-managed end-of-semester music composition recitals.

### Graduate Assistant for Music Theory and Aural Skills

2018 – 2020

University of South Carolina

- Taught beginning music theory courses to students at Lee Correctional Institution of South Carolina.
- Prepared assignment and assessment materials for multiple sections of six undergraduate theory and aural skills courses to support 4 – 5 section instructors.
- Managed online platforms for gradebooks, digital content, and standards assessment spreadsheets to collect information concerning student achievement for future curriculum adjustment and correction.
- Developed a 32-chapter graded rhythm exercise anthology for undergraduate and graduate courses.
- Proctored standards assessment exams and consulted concerning music engraving software for undergraduate students.

### Co-Artistic Director

2019

*An Evening of Serious Whimsy*, Columbia Museum of Art, South Carolina

- Planned a collaborative concert event in conjunction with the Columbia Museum of Art, University of South Carolina graduate student performers, and visual artists Jimmy Kuehnle and Mimi Kato.
- Programmed and organized logistics for the open-air concert event to celebrate the end of a multi-month visual and interactive sculpture art exhibition.
- Planned and reviewed a local call-for-scores from graduate student composers.
- Oversaw the post-concert recording of the compositions submitted to the call-for-scores.

- Stage Manager and Assistant Organizer** 2019  
*Creativibe Showcase Competition*, University of South Carolina
- Oversaw pre-performance interviews, rehearsals, and technical assistance to support various artists.
  - Managed concert-day performance order and staging to ensure an efficient and professional showcase.
- Private Piano and Composition Instructor** 2018 – 2020  
 Columbia, South Carolina
- Taught weekly piano, composition, and engraving lessons to elementary and middle school students.
- Commissioned Composer and Artist-in-Residence** 2018  
 Colville Junior High School, Washington
- Invited as a featured composer for a two-day workshop, rehearsal, and public concert event with students and community members through the generosity of the Vinson Fund Grant.
  - Offered individual and small-group lessons to middle school composition students.
  - Presented two music composition seminar-style workshops to 80 – 100 students.
  - Premiered two commissioned pedagogical works for intermediate and advanced wind band.
- Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for Music History** 2017  
 Whitworth University
- Prepared classroom materials and graded quiz assessments to ensure student success.
  - Managed online platforms for student gradebooks and digital content.
  - Led end-of-unit student review sessions and proctored assessments to measure learning outcomes.
- Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for Class Piano** 2018  
 Whitworth University
- Monitored student progress in technique and functional piano skills during class sessions.
  - Met with students to assist with technique and to strategize for successful completion of piano proficiency for degree requirements.
- Piano Accompanist and Sound Technician** 2016 – 2018  
 St. Luke Lutheran Church
- Facilitated rehearsals and performances as a collaborative pianist with the Chancel Choir to enhance biweekly Sunday morning services.
  - Monitored live sound reinforcement for speakers and musicians at weekly Sunday morning services.
  - Composed and premiered a new choral composition for Pentecost Sunday celebrations.

---

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Administrative Assistant** 2020 – Present  
 Trinity United Methodist Church of Blythewood, SC
- Updated and revised organization policies and procedures, crafting documentation for volunteers and staff members concerning essential computer software, A/V equipment, and facility use as well as an indexed digital knowledge base for purposes of transition planning.
  - Facilitated planning, promotion, and logistics for four large-scale congregation and community outreach projects, serving upwards of 200 people.
  - Managed all church publications including social media platforms, website content, weekly and monthly newsletters, print and digital bulletins, and slide content for services and live-streams.

---

## SERVICE

### Invited Presenter

2022

Summer Music Appreciation Series, Trinity UMC Blythewood

- Crafted and presented a 90-minute survey of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Classical Music for a lay audience of 25.

### Vice President

2018 – 2020

Collaborations in Contemporary Art, University of South Carolina

- Programmed, organized, promoted, and documented a collaborative performance of Terry Riley's *In C*.

---

## PUBLIC COMPUTER MUSIC ENGAGEMENT

### Composing with OpenMusic YouTube Tutorial Series

2020 – Present

- Created 15 videos, accumulating over 22,000 views, explaining the use of OpenMusic Computer-Assisted Composition software for an advanced undergraduate English-speaking audience.

#### *01. Example: OpenMusic and Harmonic Material (click [here](#) to view)*

- Illustrates possible uses for OpenMusic and shows a sample composition created using the software.

#### *02. Using Lists with Pitch and Rhythm (click [here](#) to view)*

- Introduces viewers to the basic OM environment as well as the use of pitch and rhythm tree lists.

#### *03. More Fun with Rhythm Trees (click [here](#) to view)*

- Provides an in-depth discussion of rhythm trees and notation, and gives two practical examples for creating rhythmic material in OpenMusic.

#### *04. Building an Interval Class Calculator - I (click [here](#) to view)*

- Demonstrates calculations in OpenMusic for analyzing pitch material.

#### *05. Building an Interval Class Calculator - II (click [here](#) to view)*

- Continues to illustrate the use of OpenMusic libraries and functions for analyzing basic pitch class and interval class properties of harmonic materials.

#### *06. Rhythm Quantization in OpenMusic (click [here](#) to view)*

- Outlines the use of the OMQUANTIFY object for the guided transcription of complex rhythms.

#### *07. Building a Pitch Circulation Calculator (click [here](#) to view)*

- Guides viewers through the construction of a patch to calculate the pitch-class circulation of a pitch material in a given CHORD-SEQ object.

#### *08. Making a Rhythmicon! (click [here](#) to view)*

- Introduces the POLY object through a patch emulating the rhythmicon of Henry Cowell.

#### *09. OM, Rhythm, & Ferneyhough (click [here](#) to view)*

- Explains the use of “lambda patch” abstractions, sublists, and accumulators in creating nested-tuplet rhythmic figures inspired by the techniques of Brian Ferneyhough.

#### *10. Batch Editing: Audio & CSV Files (click [here](#) to view)*

- Guides viewers through the use of batch audio editing capabilities in OpenMusic and the use of csv import functions to produce pieces of data-driven music.

#### *11. Markov Chains (click [here](#) to view)*

- Illustrates the MARKOV2 object and provides applications for generating rhythmic and pitch material.

**12. BPF, BPC, & 3DC** (*click [here](#) to view*)

- Explains the use of various 2D and 3D breakpoint function and breakpoint curve objects.

**13. Karabiner Shortcuts in OM & Finale** (*click [here](#) to view*)

- Demonstrates a workaround for key binding and macro limitations in OpenMusic and Finale.

**14. Exploring the OMCS Constraint Library** (*click [here](#) to view*)

- Introduces the OMCS library for solving constraint problems with examples of solutions in the pitch domain, following the techniques of Witold Lutosławski.

**15. Profile Library, Part I** (*click [here](#) to view*)

- Explores the elements of the OpenMusic Profile Library for generating organic variations on melodic material.

---

## MUSIC FESTIVALS

### highSCORE Music Festival

2022

#### Virtual Conference

- Participated as a full composition program member, attending seminars, giving a 45-minute presentation about my work, and collaborating with Anna Piroli and Alberto Barberis for the premiere of my work, Bitter Fruit for soprano and electronics.
- Attended workshops and presentations to discuss contemporary music, music technology, musicology, and music theory, including classes on compositional applications of the Web Audio API.

### highSCORE Music Festival

2017

#### Pavia, Italy

- Participated as a light composition program member.
- Attended workshops and presentations to discuss music theory, contemporary composition, and music technology with Dmitri Tymoczko, Amy Beth Kirsten, David Ludwig, Christopher Theofanidis, Fabio Vacchi, Marina Giovannini, Paolo Girol, Einike Leppik, Riccardo Lorenzetti, and Giovanni Cestino.

---

## RESEARCH AREAS

### Independent Study Under the Direction of Dr. Reginald Bain

2019

#### University of South Carolina

- Microtonal music and the works & writings of James Tenney.

### Independent Study Under the Direction of Professor Brent Edstrom

2018

#### Whitworth University

- Music technology applications with C++, Python, Processing, Arduino, and Teensy.

### Self-Directed Study

2016 – 2018

#### Whitworth University

- Music theory texts by Brindle, Cohn, Horsley, Johnson, Levy, Rings, Rochberg, Schenker, Schoenberg, Taneiev, Tymoczko, and anthologies of current research (The Oxford Handbook of Neo-Riemannian Music Theory, the Cambridge History of Western Music Theory).

---

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- Recipient of the John and Lucretia Herr Award for music composition. 2020
- Awarded each year by the UofSC composition faculty to “an outstanding composition student for best achievement in writing original music.”
- Recipient of the Whitworth Distinguished Collegiate Achievement Award 2018
- Given by vote of the faculty to two seniors who may be regarded as models of the graduate the faculty desires to send out from the University.
- Recipient of the Anna J. Carrel Outstanding Senior Award in Music 2018
- Awarded each year to students who show excellence in music, talent and potential.
- Undergraduate Presser Scholar Award 2017
- Given to a student selected by the university’s music faculty guided solely by consideration of excellence and merit.
- Recipient of Whitworth Music Department Achievement Award 2016
- Recipient of the Karlyn Boppell Music Scholarship 2016 – 17
- Awarded annually to a junior or senior music student for outstanding general performance.
- Recipient of the Ethel Klein Culverwell Memorial Scholarship 2016 – 17
- Awarded to assist deserving and gifted music students.
- Recipient of Whitworth Piano and Composition Scholarships 2014 – 18
- National Merit Scholar 2014
- Awarded to 15,000 American high school seniors for performance on the national PSAT examination.

---

## COMPUTER SKILLS AND PROGRAMS

Finale	Microsoft Office Suite	Max/MSP
Logic Pro X	C++	Pure Data
OpenMusic / OM-sharp	Python	SPEAR
Processing 3	Affinity Publisher	AudioGuide

---

## SELECTED PIANO PERFORMANCES

- Impropera* Opera Revue** 2017  
Coeur d’Alene, Idaho
- Collaborative pianist for *Impropera* Revue of opera arias and sketch comedy.
- Spokane Public Radio (KPBX)** 2017  
Spokane, Washington
- 50-minute interview and performance on Spokane Public Radio (KPBX).
- Whitworth Orchestra Concerto Competition Concert** 2017  
Spokane, Washington
- Winner of the original orchestral composition division.
- Whitworth Orchestra Concerto Competition Concert** 2016  
Spokane, Washington
- Featured soloist for the 1<sup>st</sup> movement of the Grieg Piano Concerto.

**Musicfest Northwest**  
Spokane, Washington

2015 – 16

- Appearances in the Young Artist division of Musicfest Northwest, performing the 1<sup>st</sup> movements of the Grieg and Gershwin Piano Concertos.

---

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP)

2022-Present

Society of Composers, Inc.

2022-2023-Present