

Erik Karl Gustafson

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Vision Statement

As "we travel by a broken road on broken limbs," seeking to make music – as composer and pianist – that lifts up, heals, and connects in community.

Skills/Assets

Versatile and sensitive nature of musical work, including over 170 original compositions and arranged pieces to date: ranging from solo to ensemble, classical to jazz to new age, and sacred to secular works

Unique style of work, especially in original pieces for unusual combinations of performers and instrumentations, including *Alleluia: A Response* for flute, violoncello, solo voice, congregation, bongo drums, mixed choir, and piano – written in 2014 in tribute to **Boston Strong**

Recent increased demand for pieces on a commission basis, with many works by request to date: ranging from sets of pieces for organ solo to hymns to sacred songs

Growing and wide audience, especially online through website: www.erikgmusic.com, and through international YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCPAq70irm45FMwiikER4qwQ (with 7.5K+ hits to date)

Work often highlighted, as with inclusion in special events, such as the 2014 national convention of the American Guild of Organists in Boston, and with programming of pieces for multiple performances beyond premieres

Professionalism as solo and collaborative pianist, with performances in the greater Boston area with established musicians and ensembles, such as Willie Sordillo, Adriana Repetto, Sam Ou, Rob Woodin, Alecia Batson, Cappella Clausura, and the Chancel Choir of Old South Church in Boston

Experience as keyboardist/pianist for worship services and events, having played not only for First Worship at Old South Church in Boston but also for services at other area churches in Massachusetts

Experience as recording artist and recorded composer with limited edition and commercial CD albums, as well as inclusion of work on CD of Sam Ou and Harry Huff: *With String and Pipe* (2012)

Significant training as musician, also with experiences in life-long learning, including two residencies at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts as Composer Fellow in 2012 and 2016, and studies with Alice Parker in 2006 as Fellow during week-long workshop

Work Experience (selected)

2006 - present: Freelance composer and pianist

Recent completion in 2019 of four works commissioned by Adriana Repetto, soprano; works composed for concert in Bautzen, Germany in August 2019

Completion and circulation of studio-recorded CD in 2018: *(for a moment)*, featuring ten original compositions for piano solo and own piano playing

Performance of choral work commissioned by George Sargeant, Director of the A Cappella Singers: *The Coming of Light* for violin, women's chorus, and piano (Text and tune: **Ner Lí**, with words by Mark Strand); work premiered at Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church (Natick, MA: December 2016). See www.erikgmusic.com/genre/commissions for other commissioned works

Especially from 2012 - present: hired as pianist/vocalist for events and concerts at residential and assisted living communities in the Greater Boston area. Programs usually conceived around a season or a theme, and repertoire drawn from classical literature, the Great American Songbook, jazz standards, and original music. Concerts often including sing-along numbers and solo singing of repertoire. Many communities served, currently representing areas of Boston, Brookline and Roslindale/Jamaica Plain

2001- present: Contributing composer for Old South Church in Boston

Musical works performed at Old South Church in Boston since December 2001, with designation as Composer-in-Residence, especially from 2011 to 2016

Music for several liturgical seasons, including for Easter: *Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!* for brass, timpani, mixed choir, and organ (2009), and for Christmas: *There Is No Rose* for flute and mixed choir (2014)

Music commissioned for specific occasions, including a liturgical *Magnificat* for the farewell Sunday of Quinn Caldwell, Associate Minister (2011)

Music in collaboration with other congregants, including *You Are the Living Bread of Life* (Words by Joseph Sardaro) for flute, violin, violoncello, solo voice, mixed choir, and piano (2016)

Original Works Performed (selected)

"Hope" Is the Thing... for soprano duet and piano, Old South Church in Boston (Boston, MA: 2020)

A Place at the Table for flute, violoncello, solo voice, congregation, mixed choir, and piano, Old South Church (2019)

Into the Light for violoncello and organ, Old South Church (2019, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)

Alleluia: A Response for flute, violoncello, bongo drums, solo voice, congregation, mixed choir and piano, Old South Church (2018, 2014)

Beyond Words for alto saxophone and piano, Old South Church (2017)

You Are the Promise of Tomorrow: A Hymn for congregation and organ, Old South Church (2017, 2013, 2012, 2011)

Blessed Are the Dead for flute, French horn, violoncello, tenor solo, mixed choir, and organ, Old South Church (2016)

This Is the Day! for unaccompanied mixed choir, Old South Church (2016, 2012)

First Christmas for flute, violoncello, and organ, Old South Church (2015, 2014, 2013, 2012)

There Is No Rose for flute and mixed choir, Old South Church (2015, 2014)

The Bells of Christmas for unaccompanied mixed choir with alto solo, First Church, Congregational (Cambridge, MA: December 2011)

Sing Alleluia! for brass, mixed choir, and organ with timpani, Old South Church (2002)

Education

Indiana University, School of Music (Bloomington): M.M. in Music Theory (1997)

Harvard University (Cambridge, MA): A.B. in Music, *cum laude* (1994)

Personal

Volunteer pianist for Brigham and Women's Hospital (Boston, MA: July 2017-present) and Tufts Medical Center (Boston: December 2019-present)

Long-time member as bass-baritone of Chancel and Gospel Choirs, Old South Church

Artist certification through the City of Boston (Boston, MA), since 2016