

Erik Karl Gustafson

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Vision Statement

Along with lifting up music and its connections with healing, spirituality, and meaning, I aspire to constructive and socially relevant endeavors as composer and pianist

Skills/Assets

Body of musical works having about 160 original pieces plus 13 arrangements: from solo to ensemble, from classical to jazz to new age, from sacred to secular
Increased demand for pieces on a commission basis, with many works by request to date: ranging from a set of pieces for organ to hymns and sacred songs
Unique style with 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 (2014)
Wide audience: while mainly in the greater Boston area, also world-wide, especially online through website: www.erikgmusic.com, and through YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCPAq70irm45FMwiikER4qwQ (with over 6.8K hits to date)
Featured work, with inclusion in special events, such as the 2014 national convention of the American Guild of Organists in Boston, and with programming of several pieces for multiple performances beyond premieres
Professionalism as solo and collaborative pianist, with performances in the greater Boston area and 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 for First Worship services at Old South Church in Boston and also for services at United Church, Walpole and Trinity Episcopal Church, Randolph
Experience as recording artist and recorded composer with limited edition and commercial CD albums, as well as inclusion 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)

2011 - present: Composer-in-Residence for Old South Church in Boston

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

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 an original hymn for the 200th Anniversary of City Mission Boston (2016) and 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)

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 late August 2019

Release 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 about 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 of music featuring seasonal and thematic 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. See www.erikgmusic.com/event-archive for details.

Original Works Performed (selected)

Pie Jesu for voice and piano, Old South Church in Boston (Boston, MA: 2019)

Sea-Fever for voice and piano, Old South Church (2019)

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

When Words Fail Me: A Prayer without Words for violoncello and piano, Old South Church (2019)

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)

Cradle Hymn for violoncello and mixed choir, Old South Church (2013, 2011, 2009, 2008)

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)

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

Ongoing membership in American Composers Forum and Pi Kappa Lambda

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