

Erik Karl Gustafson

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### Vision Statement

On life's journey, music has continued to serve as a way of healing, caring, connecting, expressing, celebrating, and remembering

*"...we travel on a broken road by broken limbs" (St. Catherine of Siena)*

*"...since love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?" (Robert Lowry)*

### Highlights

Body of completed musical works consisting of about 160 pieces and 11 arrangements to date: from solo to ensemble, from classical to jazz, from sacred to secular

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

Commissioned pieces to date consisting of 14 diverse completed musical works: ranging from a jazz piece to a suite for organ solo to a liturgical *Magnificat*

Musical works heard worldwide, including in concert in Denmark and in Germany

Several musical compositions with repeat performances beyond premieres, including *Cradle Hymn for violoncello and mixed choir* (2013, 2011, 2009, 2008)

Many musical works with original instrumentation and extended musical forces, including *Alleluia: A Response for flute, violoncello, solo voice, congregation, bongo drums, mixed choir, and piano*

Worldwide presentation of musical works on own YouTube channel, with over 6,100 hits to date: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPAq70irm45FMwiikER4qwQ>

Professional recording and circulation of music, including on CD of Sam Ou and Harry Huff: *With String and Pipe* (2012)

Works featured at special events, including an original hymn for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of City Mission Boston (2016)

Multiple works composed during two residencies as Composer Fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (Amherst, VA: 2012 and 2016)

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

Recording of three limited edition, solo piano CDs for the Congregational Care and Support Ministries of Old South Church in Boston: *For Everything There Is a Season* (2008), *Abide with Me* (2012), and *Blessed Spirits* (2013)

Collaboration in performance and recording with established area musicians: Willie Sordillo, Sam Ou, Alecia Batson, Adriana Repetto, and Rob Woodin

Pianist and represented composer for *Into the Light: A Journey with Jesus of Nazareth*, a program for the national convention of the American Guild of Organists in Boston (2014)

Pianist and represented composer for *Remembrance and Hope*, a televised program for the one-year anniversary of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, held at Old South Church (April 2014)

Periodic pianist for services and other events at Old South Church (2006-present)

### **Professional Experience (selected)**

Solo playing of piano (keyboard) for numerous residential communities in the Greater Boston area—for both concerts and events. Concerts featuring seasonal and/or thematic programs, with repertoire drawn from classical literature, the Great American Songbook, and original music; and concerts often including sing-along numbers and some singing of repertoire. Communities served and expanding since 2012, currently representing areas of Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, and Roslindale. See [www.erikgmusic.com/event-archive](http://www.erikgmusic.com/event-archive) for more details.

Writing 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](http://www.erikgmusic.com/genre/commissions) for more details.

### **Original Works Performed (selected)**

*Fanfare* for small brass ensemble and timpani, Old South Meeting House (Boston, MA: 2018)

*Into the Light* for violoncello and organ, Old South Church in Boston (Boston, MA: 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)

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

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

*Still Be Our God* for brass, percussion, solo voice, congregation, mixed choir, and piano, Old South Meeting House (Boston, MA: 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)

### **Life-long Learning**

Class member of course: "Words to Live By: Key Terms in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam," at Hebrew College (Newton, MA: Fall semester, 2014)

Auditor of course: "The American Spirit in Music," at Harvard Divinity School (Cambridge, MA: Spring semester, 2011)

Fellow in week-long composer workshop with Alice Parker (Hawley, MA: October 2006)

### **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**

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

Volunteer pianist for Brigham and Women's Hospital (Boston, MA: July 2017-present)

Long-standing service as baritone/bass in Chancel and Gospel Choirs, Old South Church

Ongoing membership in American Composers Forum and Pi Kappa Lambda