

AJ Harbison Curriculum Vitae

Profile

Composer, singer/songwriter, worship leader and audio engineer. Compositions include solo, ensemble, orchestral, instrumental, vocal, and choral works. Seven years' experience leading contemporary worship by singing and playing guitar and piano. Audio engineering skills include studio and on-location recording, editing, mixing, and live sound.

Education

Master of Music in Music Composition, University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC)

Completion date: May 2016

Graduated with a 3.96 GPA on a 4.0 scale

Principal composition teachers: Chen Yi, Zhou Long, Paul Rudy, James Mobberley

Bachelor of Music in Music Composition, California State University, Fullerton (CSUF)

Completion date: May 2007

Graduated summa cum laude with a 3.91 GPA on a 4.0 scale

Principal composition teachers: Ken Walicki, Lloyd Rodgers, Pamela Madsen

Principal instrument: Piano (teacher: Rob Watson)

Commissions

Fanfare for the Common Kid for the students of Harmony Project KC, 2015, commissioned by FuseBox New Music

Voices Rising United for the Kansas City Women's Chorus, 2014, commissioned by Michael Robert Patch (conductor)

Casa de los Peregrinos for the Hutchins Consort, 2009, commissioned by Howard and Roberta Ahmanson

Flutey and the Beast for flute and tuba, 2008, commissioned by Jeff Mercer

Performances

I Saw in the Night Visions performed by Eman Chalshotori, UMKC, Kansas City, MO (February 2016)

Fanfare for the Common Kid performed by the students of Harmony Project KC, Kansas City Public Library Plaza Branch, Kansas City, MO (December 2015)

Paul: The Road To Damascus performed by LifeHouse Theater, Redlands, CA (August-September 2015)

And See The Flaming Skies (fixed media), to choreography by John Swapshire, UMKC, Kansas City, MO (May 2015)

Ad Lib(er Abaci) performed by Natalie Brooke Higgins, UMKC, Kansas City, MO (April 2015)

Voices Rising United performed by the Kansas City Women's Chorus, Michael Robert Patch, conductor, The Folly Theater, Kansas City, MO (May 2014)

A Magic Like Thee performed by The Singers, Matthew Culloton, conductor, Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church, Saint Paul, MN (May 2014)

Five Scenes performed by Lamar Sims to choreography by Stephanie Whittler, H&R Block City Stage at Union Station, Kansas City, MO (May 2014)

Ad Lib(er Abaci) performed by Shannon McCranor, The Sandbox, Kansas City, MO (February 2014)

Casa de los Peregrinos performed by the Hutchins Consort, Casa de los Peregrinos, Corona del Mar, CA (July 2010)

Flutey and the Beast performed by Jeff and Carmen Mercer, California Baptist University, Riverside, CA (April 2009)

Duo Seraphim Clamabant performed by students for senior composition recital, CSUF, Fullerton, CA (April 2007)

Incidental Music for A Night Sky performed by students for senior composition recital, CSUF, Fullerton, CA (April 2007)

Piano Suite performed by Füreya Ünal for senior composition recital, CSUF, Fullerton, CA (April 2007)

Legend performed by students for senior composition recital, CSUF, Fullerton, CA (April 2007)

I Am Phoenix performed by students for senior composition recital, CSUF, Fullerton, CA (April 2007)

Readings

Cantata for saxophone quartet read by PRISM Quartet, October 2015

Shards for string orchestra read by UMKC Conservatory Orchestra, April 2015

Compositions

The Footsteps Die Out For Ever for narrator, drum set and orchestra, 2016

Stravinstokian for three speaking voices, 2015

I Saw in the Night Visions for solo violoncello, 2015

Fanfare for the Common Kid for beginning string orchestra (grade 0.5), 2015

Snowfall for beginning string orchestra (grade 1), 2015

Fall Colors for beginning string orchestra and solo string quartet (grade 2.5), 2015

Paul: The Road To Damascus (all songs and underscore for original musical theatre production, including full orchestration), 2015

And See The Flaming Skies for fixed media, 2015

Cantata for saxophone quartet, 2014

Tinnambulance for mixed quartet, 2014

Shards for string orchestra, 2014

Voices Rising United for SSAA chorus and piano, 2014

Ad Lib(er Abaci) for solo horn in F, 2013

Lent for chamber orchestra, 2013

Five Scenes for solo piano, 2012

4 Percussion for percussion quartet, 2012

A Magic Like Thee for unaccompanied SATB chorus, 2012
The Rebuilding for string quartet, 2012
Casa de los Peregrinos for the Hutchins Consort, 2010
Light of the World for SATB chorus, 2009
Flutey and the Beast for flute and tuba, 2008
New Hope for bass/baritone voice and piano, 2008
Incidental Music for A Night Sky for large ensemble, 2007
I Am Phoenix for two female voices and guitar, 2006
P.S.Q. for string quartet, 2006
Legend for mixed ensemble, 2006
Duo Seraphim Clamabant for unaccompanied men's chorus (TTBB), 2005
Piano Suite for solo piano, 2005

Grants and Residencies

Composer-in-Residence, Harmony Project KC, Kansas City, MO
2016–2018

Composed one new work for each concert performed by Harmony Project KC (two per year), for different ensembles (e.g. musicianship class, choir, string ensemble).

Inspiration Grant, Arts KC Regional Arts Council, Kansas City, MO
2015

Awarded grant, covering commission fee and honorarium, to compose a new work for the students of Harmony Project KC, premiered in December 2015.

Publications

All concert music scores self-published by AJ Harbison Music
New Hope published by Kallisti Music Press, 2009

Recordings

Scenes and Visions: Concert Music of AJ Harbison (2016)

- Concert music; 5 tracks; AJ composed, recorded, mixed, mastered, and co-produced

Songs From My Shelf (2010)

- Pop music; 11 tracks; AJ composed, performed, recorded, mixed, and produced

Audio/Recording Experience

Freelance Recording Engineer, various projects (Kansas City, MO)
2015–Present

Recorded and edited audio for various concerts and events in Kansas City metro area; organizations included Te Deum, FuseBox New Music, Medical Arts Symphony of Kansas City, Harmony Project KC, ArtSounds, and Collapss.

Recording and Mixing Engineer (student), UMKC Conservatory (Kansas City, MO)
2015–2016

Recorded, mixed, mastered, and co-produced 5-track CD of concert music composed at UMKC, *Scenes and Visions: Concert Music of AJ Harbison*.

Mixing Engineer, LifeHouse Theater (Redlands, CA)
2015

Mixed and mastered instrumental MIDI tracks for recorded soundtrack of *Paul: The Road To Damascus* (original musical theatre production).

Audio Engineer, Brookside Bluegrass Festival (Kansas City, MO)
2015

Set up, sound checked, and engineered live sound for two headlining bands at Brookside Bluegrass Festival, held at Wornall Road Baptist Church.

Recording Engineer (employee), UMKC Conservatory (Kansas City, MO)
2014–2016

Recorded student, faculty, and guest artist concerts on campus and in various locations throughout the city. Included microphone setup and post-production. Also digitized CD archive and assisted with studio recordings on campus.

Audio Engineer, Wornall Road Baptist Church (Kansas City, MO)
2014–2016

Set up, sound checked, and engineered live sound for weddings held at Wornall Road Baptist Church.

Worship Music Director, various churches in Kansas City metro area
2013–Present

Led setup, calibration, and maintenance of sound system and audio equipment for Wornall Road Baptist Church (Kansas City, MO), Grace Presbyterian Church (Lenexa, KS), and Oak Hills Presbyterian Church (Shawnee, KS).

Student, UMKC Conservatory (Kansas City, MO)
2013–2016

Audio/recording courses taken:

- Independent Study in Audio Recording, Robert Beck, instructor (Spring 2015)
- Advanced Audio Recording, Robert Beck, instructor (Fall 2014)
- Basic Techniques of Audio Recording II, Jason Scheufler, instructor (Spring 2014)
- Basic Techniques of Audio Recording I, Jason Scheufler, instructor (Fall 2013)

Singer/Songwriter/Engineer (Costa Mesa, CA)

2010

Wrote, recorded, mixed, and produced 11-track CD of original pop/rock songs, *Songs From My Shelf*, using Logic Pro.

Performance Experience

Worship Music Director, Oak Hills Presbyterian Church (Shawnee, KS)

2016–Present

Led weekly services by singing, playing guitar, and leading spoken liturgical elements. Organized and prepared music charts, planned songs and liturgy for Sunday services, created song arrangements, and rehearsed music with congregational musicians.

Worship Leader, Grace Presbyterian Church (Lenexa, KS)

2015–2016

Led weekly services by singing and playing guitar and piano. Organized and prepared music charts, planned songs for Sunday services, created song arrangements, and rehearsed music with congregational musicians.

Worship Leader, Wornall Road Baptist Church (Kansas City, MO)

2013–2015

Led weekly services by singing and playing guitar. Organized and prepared music charts, planned songs for Sunday services, created song arrangements, and rehearsed music with congregational musicians.

Music Director, Redeemer Presbyterian Church (Newport Beach, CA)

2008–2013

Led weekly services by singing and playing piano and guitar. Began as occasional volunteer in 2008, assumed additional weekly duties and leading in 2009, and was hired part-time in 2011. Organized and prepared music charts, planned liturgy with pastor, created song arrangements, scheduled contract musicians, and rehearsed service music with congregational musicians.

Singer/Songwriter

2007–2013

Performed original and cover songs for guitar and vocals in various small venues throughout Southern California.

Pianist, Embassy Suites Hotel (Brea, CA)

2004–2007

Performed weekly for evening manager's receptions for hotel guests.

Pianist, Hope Community Church (Riverside, CA)

2003–2004

Practiced with worship team during the week and performed with worship team for Sunday morning worship services.

Administrative Experience

Public Relations Officer, UMKC Composers' Guild

2015–2016

Responsibilities included organizing and producing Co(mp)llaborations concert, creating and updating Facebook page, publicizing concerts and other Guild events, and acting as Guild liaison with faculty advisor.

Order Entry Agent, McMaster-Carr Supply Company (Santa Fe Springs, CA)

2010–2013

Responsibilities originally involved entering fax and email orders. Progressively entrusted with additional responsibilities including retrieving orders from online customer database systems; corresponding with customers via email, creating quotes and addressing questions and concerns; and calling buyers to resolve order ambiguities.

Database Marketing Assistant, Rauxa Direct (Costa Mesa, CA)

2008–2010

Supported the database marketing department by maintaining databases, billing, updating reports and metrics, and stocking supplies. Designed and implemented a more efficient filing system for data projects, and also was asked to support information management department in similar ways.

Honors and Awards

Musical

- Pi Kappa Lambda Professional Music Honor Society lifetime member
- Alan A. Mannason Scholarship in Composition, CSUF, May 2006
- Men's Chorus Award, CSUF, May 2005
- Full two-year scholarship in piano performance, CSUF, Fall 2002 through Spring 2004

Academic

- National Society of Collegiate Scholars lifetime member
- Golden Key International Honour Society lifetime member
- Chosen as student speaker for music department, CSUF College of the Arts Commencement, May 2007
- Graduated CSUF summa cum laude (3.91 GPA), May 2007
- CSUF Dean's List, Fall 2002 through Spring 2007 (each semester of undergraduate study)

Professional Affiliations

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), member since 2008

American Composers Forum, member since 2008
Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers, member since 2008
Pi Kappa Lambda Professional Music Honor Society, member since 2007

References

Composition

James Mobberley, Curators' Professor of Composition, UMKC Conservatory
Instructor
mobberleyj@umkc.edu
816.235.2968

Chen Yi, Lorena Searcy Cravens/Millsap/Missouri Distinguished Professor of Composition,
UMKC Conservatory
Instructor
cheyi@umkc.edu
816.235.2911

Audio/Recording

Robert Beck, Chief Recording Engineer, UMKC Conservatory
Instructor, supervisor
beckr@umkc.edu
816.235.2948

Jason Scheufler, Recording Engineer, UMKC Conservatory
Instructor, co-worker
scheuflerj@umkc.edu
816.235.2965

Worship Leading

Dale Thiele, Senior Pastor, Oak Hills Presbyterian Church
Pastor, supervisor
dalethiele@oakhillspca.com
913.553.9687

Kreg Bryan, Senior Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church
Pastor, supervisor
khbryan@gmail.com
816.500.6938