

AJ Harbison Biography

(under 280 words)

AJ Harbison (born 1985) is a composer and singer/songwriter living with his wife and two children in Kansas City. His music lives at the intersection of concert music and vernacular music, each bringing unique vitality to the other in a language both adventurous and accessible. His compositions include solo, chamber and orchestral works, and vocal music from songs to works for mixed chorus. Harbison's music has been performed by ensembles including the Kansas City Symphony, The Singers (Saint Paul, MN), the Kansas City Women's Chorus, The Hutchins Consort, Luna Nova, newEar Contemporary Chamber Ensemble and the students of Harmony Project KC, and has won awards including several Pikes Peak Young Composers Competition awards and first prize in the 2018 Belvedere Chamber Music Festival Composition Contest. *A Magic Like Thee* was one of four pieces selected for performance by The Singers from nearly 400 entries to their 2013 call for choral scores. In 2017-18 he participated in a cross-country collaboration with New York City singer/songwriter Melanie Penn and West Covina (CA) High School's choirs, conducted by Tyler R. Wigglesworth, titled *A Journey of Becoming*. Following the world premiere in California, the first movement was performed in Carnegie Hall in April 2018 as part of Choirs of America's Harmonic Convergence concert. The Kansas City Symphony premiered his orchestral work *Chameleons* on a family series concert in March 2023, and October 2024 will see the premiere of *The Haunted Pavilion* by the Lee's Summit Symphony. Harbison has studied with Leonard Rhodes, Pamela Madsen, Lloyd Rodgers, Ken Walicki, Chen Yi, Paul Rudy and James Mobberley, and holds degrees in composition from California State University, Fullerton and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

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