

Dr. Benjamin R. Fuhrman

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Education

- Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Composition from Michigan State University – 2009

Advisor: Ricardo Lorenz (composition)

Dissertation: *Erebus* – Music for Saxophone Quartet and Computer

- Master of Music in Music Composition from Michigan State University – 2006

Advisor: Ricardo Lorenz

Thesis: *Concerto for Mandolin and Strings*

- Bachelor of Music – Violin Performance, Magna cum Laude from Hope College. Minor in French – 2004

Principal Instructor: Mihai Craioveanu (violin)

Thesis: *An Analysis of Organic Motivic Development in the Andante and Allegro of Berg's "Violinkonzert"*

Teaching Experience

- **Digital Media Instructor**

Information Technology Empowerment Center (ITEC)

Supervisor: Kirk Riley

(517)-432-1451

September 2011 – Present

Duties: Teaching digital media as a subset of the LEGO Robotics program at Otto Middle School, helping students to create a documentary of their experience in the program as they create and program robots in preparation for the annual LEGO Robotics Competition at Michigan State University.

Programs Taught: LEGO Robotics programming environment, Windows Movie Maker, Audacity

- **Mandolin Instructor**

Michigan State University Community Music School

Supervisor: Jaime DeMott

(517)-355-7661 Ext. 11

February 2011 – Present

Duties: Teaching class mandolin lessons for the Michigan State University Residential College in the Arts and Humanities folk music class. Preparing students for their concerts and individual performance-based final exams.

- **Music Mentor** (2007 – 2008), and **CASTL Fellow** (2008 – 2009)
Michigan State University Residential College in the Arts and Humanities
Supervisor: Mark Sullivan
(517)-353-7653
June 2007 – May 2009
Duties: Facilitating student music activities while pursuing independent research related to the scholarship of teaching and learning as it pertains to music.
Research Project: *Engaged Music*
- **Teaching Assistant and Student Administrator of the Computer Music Laboratory**
Michigan State University
Supervisor: Mark Sullivan
(517)-353-7653
August 2005 – May 2009
Duties: Administering laboratory computers, installing and removing software and hardware, MIDI routing, facilitating student knowledge of notation and audio editing programs. As of August 2006, this position was augmented to include teaching electronic music and music composition.
Courses Taught: *Electronic Music, Music Composition (both undergraduate and graduate levels)*.
Programs Taught: ProTools, Reason, Max/MSP/Jitter, PureData, KORE, BBC Sample Library, Vienna Symphonic Library, Gigastudio, Finale, Audacity

Volunteer Teaching Experience

- **Electronic Music Instructor**
Closing the Digital Gap
Supervisor: Marcus Jefferson
(517)-485-7581
June – July 2011
Duties: Course development and teaching music composition using online tools to inner-city students. Currently planning an expansion of the program to serve a greater number of students in the Lansing, MI area.
- **Digital Media Instructor**
Information Technology Empowerment Center (ITEC)
Supervisor: Mark Sullivan
(517)-353-7653
June 2008 – May 2009
Duties: Course development and teaching digital media creation, including film and audio to Lansing, MI area middle school students.

Additional Teaching Experience

- Taught a master class on mandolin improvisation – Community Music School, East Lansing, MI – September 8, 2011
- Private composition and theory instructor – Lansing MI – April 2011 – Present
- Private violin instructor – Lansing MI – February 2011 – Present
- Taught a master class on composing for saxophone and computer at Oklahoma State University – December 11, 2010
- Panel Member – Art342 and SOVA: Discussing the Residency Experience, and the Life of the Professional Artist – Colorado State University – November 17, 2010
- Presented a lecture on original compositions for saxophone and computer at Colorado State University – November 14, 2010
- Presented a lecture on electro-acoustic music at Kalamazoo College – May 21, 2010
- Panel Member - Suitcases: Global Exchange with UDESC Brazil and MSU MFA Candidates – EDGES Conference, Michigan State University – March 20, 2008
- Private tutoring in violin and chamber music in Holland Michigan – 2001-2004

Additional Work Experience

- **Composer in Residence**
ART342
www.art342.org
September 2010 – December 2010
Duties: Composer in residence for ART342, a non-profit arts organization in Fort Collins, CO, focusing on writing my second piece for saxophone quartet and computer.
- **Private Contracting**
January 2010 – Present
Self employed as a composer and computer specialist, focusing on fulfilling commissions, data set generation, and music engraving.

Performance Experience

- **Violinist**
MSU Klezmerim
<http://www.facebook.com/MSUKlezmer>
June 2010 – Present
Klezmer Violinist, and occasionally mandolinist, for the MSU Klezmerim.
- **Mandolinist**
Wisaal
www.wisaalmusic.com
January 2010 – Present
Mandolinist, composer, and occasional guitarist for Wisaal, an Arabic Fusion Band based in Lansing, MI.
- **Violinist**
Hope College Symphonette and Philharmonic

September 2000 – May 2004
Violinist for both of Hope College's orchestras.

- **Freelance**
Various Locations
1996 – Present
Freelance musician (violin, mandolin, guitar, ukulele) throughout the state of Michigan.

Additional Studies

- Master Class with Paul Desenne – 2009
- Master Class with Gabriela Ortiz – 2008
- Master Class with Paul Desenne – 2007
- Master Class with Perry Goldstein – 2006
- Master Class with Bright Sheng – 2006
- Master Class with Augusta Read Thomas – 2006
- Master Class with Peter Dickinson – 2005
- Master Class with Ricardo Lorenz – 2005
- Master Class with John Downey – 2004
- Master Class with Will Gay Bottje – 2003

Commissions

- *A.R.S. for Tenor Saxophone and Piano* for Jeffrey Loeffert – Current Work in Progress
- *Prism Chain for Flute, Saxophone, and Marimba* for Ryan Janus – May 2011
- *Spare Change Suite for Electronically Prepared Toy Piano* for Ty Forquer – March 2011
- *Lyric Variations for Solo Violin* for Barton Rotberg – January 2011
- *Through a Glass, Darkly* for the H₂ Quartet – 2010
- *Songs of a Mute Voice for Baritone Saxophone and Computer* for Jeffrey Loeffert – 2010
- *Chthonic Fragments* for Magnolia West High School of Houston, TX – 2009 – 2010
- *Erebus* for the H₂ Quartet – 2008 – 2009
- *Three English Songs* for Daniel Schuetz – 2008
- *Meditations: An Abstract Pseudo-Liturgy* for Blacksoil Church of Lansing, MI – 2008
- *Fractal Genesis* for Shawn Teichmer – 2008
- *147 Revisited* for University Reformed Church of East Lansing, MI – 2007
- *Sexy Coffee Thing* for Drew Whiting - 2007
- *Hypnos* for Mark Flegg – 2007
- *Minimal Gnosis* for Jack Kinsey – 2006
- *Introduction and Rondo* for Grant Gould – 2004

Awards, Honors, and Performances

- Scheduled premier of *Through a Glass, Darkly* – 2012
- Scheduled premier of *Chthonic Fragments* – Houston, TX – 2012
- Scheduled premier of *Swarm* for mandolin and computer at the Eletro-Acoustic Barn Dance Festival – Fredricksburg, VA – October 29, 2011

- Performance of *Sirens* by violinist Sarah Plum at Drake University – Des Moines, IA – September 15, 2011
- Recipient of the 2011 ASCAP Plus Award – September 9, 2011
- Performance of *Sirens* by violinist Sarah Plum at the Ankunft: Neue Musik Festival – Berlin, Germany – August 25, 2011
- Performance of *Aspen Grove* and *Fusion Dance* at the Concert of Colors – Detroit, MI – July 26, 2011
- Performance of *Cumulus Refractions* with live VJ-ing work by the composer at (SCENE) Metrospace – East Lansing, MI – April 11, 2011
- Performance of *Aspen Grove* at (SCENE) Metrospace – East Lansing, MI – March 30, 2011
- Performance of *Aspen Grove* at Art Alley – Lansing, MI – March 8, 2011
- Performance of *Cumulus Refractions* at the World Electro-Acoustic Listening Room Project – California State University Fullerton – March 5, 2011
- Performance of *Songs of a Mute Voice*, *Hypnos*, and *Prelude for Un-Specified Instrument* at the North American Saxophone Alliance regional conference – Chicago, IL – February 25, 2011
- Performance of *Fusion Dance* at the Michigan Historical Museum – February 6, 2011
- Performance of *Fusion Dance* at Art Reach – Mt. Pleasant, MI – January 24, 2011
- Premier of *Songs of a Mute Voice* at the United State Navy Band's International Saxophone Symposium – George Mason University – Fairfax, VA – January 7, 2011
- Presented a recital of original works for saxophone and computer at Oklahoma State University – December 10, 2010
- Performance of *Fusion Dance* at Elderly Instruments – Lansing, MI – December 4, 2010
- Presented a lecture and recital of original works for saxophone and computer at Colorado State University – Fort Collins, CO – November 14, 2010
- Recipient of the 2010 ASCAP Plus Award – September 10, 2010
- Exhibition of the score and audio of *Erebus* at (SCENE) Metrospace as part of the ResVu 1&2 exhibit – East Lansing, MI – April 10, 2010
- Performance of *Hypnos* at the University of Central Missouri New Music Festival 2010: Dualities – Warrensburg, MO – 2010
- Performance of *Thanatos* at (SCENE) Metrospace – East Lansing, MI – April 3, 2010
- Performance of *Zais* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – March 29, 2010
- Performance of *Gestalt Variations* at Alma College – Alma, MI – February 22, 2010
- Performance of *Study on Morning Religion* at Alma College – Alma, MI – February 22, 2010
- Performance of *Cellular Hallucinations* at (SCENE) Metrospace – East Lansing, MI – February 4, 2010
- Performance of *Hypnos* at Bowling Green State University – February 3, 2010
- Premier of *Gestalt Variations* at *Beauty, Horror and Silence: The Electronic Arts and Music Festival* – Miami, FL – December 5, 2009
- Performance of *Hypnos* (revised for violin) at ElectroAcoustic JukeJoint 2009 – Cleveland, MS – November 14, 2009
- Premier of *Hypnos* (revised for Jeff Loeffert) at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – November 6, 2009

- Performance of *Erebus* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – October 1, 2009
- Premier of *Zais* at the New Music Hartford concert in Hartford, CT – August 30, 2009
- World Premier Performance of *Erebus* by the H₂ Quartet at the World Saxophone Congress in Bangkok, Thailand – July 8, 2009
- Performance of *Erebus* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – May 6, 2009
- Performance of *Cellular Hallucinations* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – April 26, 2009
- Unofficial premier of *Erebus* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – April 23, 2009
- Performance of *Hypnos* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – April 23, 2009
- Premier of *A Discordian Commentary on 'The Gateless Gate'* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – April 23, 2009
- Performance of *Fractal Genesis* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – April 23, 2009
- Performance of *Cellular Hallucinations* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – April 23, 2009
- Performance of *Study on Morning Religion* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – April 23, 2009
- Premier of *Sirens* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – March 31, 2009
- Premier of *Cellular Hallucinations* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – March 31, 2009
- Exhibition of *Meditations: An Abstract Pseudo-Liturgy*, with computer generated images by the composer at the ARC Gallery in Chicago, IL – February 4 – 27, 2009
- Performance of *Fractal Genesis* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – November 21, 2008
- Performance of *Asterion II* at ElectroAcoustic JukeJoint 2008 – Cleveland, MS – November 14, 2008
- Performance of *Study on Morning Religion* at Digital Arts Weeks 2008 – Basel, Switzerland – September 25 – 28, 2008
- Received the MSU Graduate Travel Grant to attend ElectroAcoustic JukeJoint 2008 – September 15, 2008
- Exhibition of *Meditations: An Abstract Pseudo-Liturgy*, with computer generated images by the composer at Gallery 101 of the Kresge Art Gallery in East Lansing, MI – August 16 – 30, 2008
- Exhibition of *Meditations: An Abstract Pseudo-Liturgy*, with computer generated images by the composer in Florianópolis, Brazil – June 10 – 27, 2008
- Premier of *Meditations: An Abstract Pseudo-Liturgy* at Blacksoil Church, Lansing MI – June 14, 2008
- Performance of *Fractal Genesis* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – April 8, 2008
- Premier of *Fractal Genesis* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – April 1, 2008

- Premier of *Cyclical Motion of 5* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI February 13, 2008
- Premier of *Asterion II* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – October 30, 2007
- Premier of *Sexy Coffee Thing* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – October 23, 2007
- Selection of *Study on Morning Religion* as a secondary performance option at ICMC 2007 – July 4, 2007
- Exhibition of *Nyx* from *Statues of Mechanical Gods* at IMMArts TechArt07 Festival – DeKalb, IL – May 19, 2007
- Premier of *Hypnos* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – May 4, 2007
- Premier of *Side Effects May Include...* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – May 4, 2007
- Premier of *Thanatos* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – April 4, 2007
- Premier of *Nyx* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – March 21, 2007
- Premier of *Eris* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – March 21, 2007
- Premier of *Valse Klavier* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – April 12, 2006
- Premier of *Prelude for Un-Specified Instrument* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – April 12, 2006
- Premier of *Dead by the Road* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – March 21, 2006
- Premier of *Eggs Over Boiling* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – March 21, 2006
- Premier of *Rhapsody on the Death of Dr. Gonzo* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – November 7, 2005
- Premier of *Chanson de la Mort* at Michigan State University – East Lansing, MI – November 7, 2005
- Additional performance of *Introduction and Rondo*: for violin and marimba at Hope College – Holland, MI – April 2004
- Premier of *Introduction and Rondo*: for violin and marimba at Hope College – Holland, MI – April 2004
- Premier of *Delphic Processional* in Lansing, MI – October 2003
- Hope College Distinguished Artist Award – 2000
- Hope College Distinguished Scholar Award – 2000

Professional Associations

- Member of the Arts Council of Greater Lansing – 2010
- Individual Member of the National Association of Schools of Music – 2009
- Member of Society of Composers, Inc. (SCI) – 2008
- Member of the College Music Society (CMS) – 2008
- Member of the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS) – 2008
- Member of the American Society for Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) – 2007

- President of the Alliance of MSU Composers 2007 – 2009
- Technical Advisor to the Alliance of MSU Composers 2006 – 2007
- Member of Pi Kappa Lambda national music honor society, Zeta Delta chapter – 2004

Miscellaneous

- Currently developing a web-based series of instructional videos on interactive computer music for SoundNotion.tv
- Audio engineer for the live tracks released by Wisaal of the (SCENE) MetroSpace show recorded on July 18, 2011. Released on wisaalmusic.com September 21, 2011
- Appeared in a YouTube video for the Ukulele Godspell Competition performing an original interpretation of *Amazing Grace* for solo ukulele (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEM71yQUk2w>)
- Featured on *The Basement* on WDBM 88.9 FM as part of the band Wisaal – June 6, 2011
- Audio engineer and performer (violin and mandolin) for the CD *Mosaic* by Wisaal – Recorded June – August 2010, released February 2011
- Audio engineer for the short film *Download*, released by Folio Film Productions – July 28, 2010 (<http://www.vimeo.com/13744215>)
- Contributor to the CD *Ambient Volume VII #1 Radio Sampler*, released by Oasis Disc Manufacturing – 2007
- Audio engineer and contributor to the CD *Tangents*, released by the Alliance of MSU Composers – 2007
- Performer in various ensembles on violin and mandolin (Symphony Orchestras, Church Bands, Pit Orchestras, Jazz Ensembles, Arabic Fusion Ensemble, and Klezmer Ensemble) – 1996 – Present

References

- Dr. Ricardo Lorenz (517)-355-7658, lorenzri@msu.edu
- Dr. Mark Sullivan (517)-353-7653, sullivan@msu.edu
- Dr. Jeffrey Loeffert (405)-269-1693, jeffloeffert@yahoo.com
- Dr. Matthew Schoendorff (810)-730-1330, matthewschoendorff@gmail.com
- Dr. Leigh VanHandel (517)-353-2943, lvh@msu.edu