

Nolan Gasser, Ph.D.

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Curriculum Vitae

Education

Stanford University

Ph.D. in Musicology (Medieval-Renaissance), 2001

Stanford, CA

Dissertation title:

"The Marian Motet Cycles of the Gaffurius Codices:
A Musical and Musico-Liturgical Study"

New York University

M.A. in Composition, 1991 (study with Todd Brief and Menachem Zur)

New York, NY

American Conservatory at Fountainsbleau

Diploma in Composition, 1989

Fountainsbleau, France (study with Gilbert Amy and Tristan Murail)

[Private Instruction in Composition with Betsy Jolas, Paris, 1988-1990]

Ca. St. Univ., Northridge

B.M. in Composition and Piano, 1988 (study with Aurelio de la Vega)

Northridge, CA

Employment/Experience

Pandora Media Inc. (www.pandora.com), 1999–2006

Chief Musicologist; Musical Architect of the Music Genome Project, the musical technology behind the celebrated Pandora.com personalized radio service (now with over 150 million subscribers)

Classical Archives (www.classicalarchives.com), 2001–2012

Leading Classical Music Website, Artistic Director

Professional Composer, Pianist, Arranger, Conductor (all styles), 1980–

Stanford University. 2001–2005

Adjunct Professor (Music History)

Lynmar Winery, Sonoma County, Music Director, 2005–

Director of Ensemble Parnassus, an Early Music performing ensemble

Regular concerts of Renaissance and early Baroque music, 1990–

Publications (partial list)

The Genetics of Musical Taste: What Science and Musicology Reveal About The Music We Love (forthcoming book)

“Living’ with Music: One Musician’s Perspective”, in *Journal of the San Francisco Medical Society* (March 2008); reprinted in *Arts Education in the News*, published by the Dana Foundation (June 2008).

The Anonymous Motets of the Gaffurius Codices, Recent Researches in the Music of the Middle Ages and Early Renaissance (Madison, WI: A-R Editions, forthcoming).

"*Beata et venerabilis Virgo: Music and Devotion in Renaissance Milan*," in *Crossing Boundaries: Issues of Cultural and Individual Identity in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance* (Brussels: Brepols Press, 1999), 203-38.

"Salamone Rossi and the Jewish-Italian Renaissance," in *San Francisco Bay Area Early Music News* (February, 1998), 6-7.

"The Musical Legacy of Battista Guarini's *Il Pastor Fido*," in *San Francisco Bay Area Early Music News* (March, 1996), 11-12.

Papers (partial list)

"The Motet Cycles of the Gaffurius Codices and the New Status of the Motet in Late Fifteenth-Century Italy"
National Meeting of the American Musicological Society, Kansas City, Nov., 1999
Northern California Chapter Meeting of the AMS, UC Davis, October, 1999

"Leonardo in Milan: Music, Theater, and Devotion at the Sforza Court"
Leonardo da Vinci Society, San Francisco, CA, March, 1999

"*Beata et venerabilis Virgo: Music and Devotion in Renaissance Milan*"
Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Annual Conference, February, 1997,
Tempe, Arizona

"The Musical Legacy of Battista Guarini's *Il Pastor Fido*"
October, 1996, Berkeley, CA

"Salamone Rossi and the Jewish-Italian Renaissance"
January, 1996, Berkeley, CA

Compositions (partial list)

The Secret Garden, Op. 19, Opera commissioned by San Francisco Opera. Librettist: Carey Harrison; Visual Design: Naomie Kremer; Director: Jose-Maria Condemi. Premiered March 1-10, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley. Forthcoming performance at Houston Grand Opera (date TBD, followed by other opera houses around the world. Blu-ray DVD to be released by Naxos Records.

Benny & Joon, the Musical (in progress), Broadway-bound musical written with lyricist Mindi Dickstein and book writer Kirsten Guenther, for MGM On Stage and H2H Productions (New York). Off-Broadway regional production slated for fall 2014.

Sonoma Overture, for orchestra, Op.20 (in progress), Orchestral work commissioned by the Santa Rosa Symphony Orchestra, for the opening concert at the new, highly celebrated Green Music Center. Premiered September 30; to be released on a Naxos CD, along with *Cosmic Reflection*.

String Quartet No.2, Op.18 (2011), commissioned by Mr. Robert Uhlmann, in memory of his brothers John. To be premiered as part of the Friends of Chamber Music series in Kansas City, MO, 2013-2014 series.

La Mirada Overture, for orchestra, Op.17 (2010), US premiere at the La Mirada Center for the Performing Arts, La Mirada, CA (April 2, 2010), commissioned for the concert celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of the City of La Mirada, by the La Mirada Symphony, Richard Rintoul, conductor.

V'Samachta (Rejoice!), for violin, clarinet, cello, and piano, Op.16, commissioned to celebrate the Dedication of a new Sefer (handwritten) Torah at Congregation Shomrei Torah, Santa Rosa, CA, by Maxine Nemerovski, violin; Roy Zajac, clarinet; Farley Pearce, cello, Nolan Gasser, piano.

Cosmic Reflection, for orchestra and narrator, Op.15 (2009), for the 2009 International Fermi Space Telescope Symposium, to be premiered (November 2, 2009) by the Boston University Symphony Orchestra, with narrator Carey Harrison, with visuals by NASA-Goddard; commissioned via Stanford University Physics Department and NASA, etc. Recorded by Baltimore Symphony, under Maestro Marin Alsop; to be released on a Naxos CD, along with *Sonoma Overture*.

World Concerto for Cello and Orchestra, Op.14 (2008), US premiere, January 23-24, 2009 (San Francisco and Oakland) by cellist Maya Beiser, with the Oakland Symphony under Michael Morgan, along with 3 world-class ethnic soloists; commissioned by Mr. Jim Bell.

3 Jazz Preludes, for piano, Op.13 (2007), US premier at Carnegie Hall, by pianist Kimball (March 10, 2008); world premier at 2007 Festival San Miguel de Allende (Mexico) by pianist Kevin Fitz-Gerald. Dec. 31, 2007.

GLAST Prelude, for brass quintet, Op.12 (2007), commissioned on behalf of NASA's GLAST Space Telescope, recorded by the American Brass Quintet, with visuals by the NASA-Goddard video and animation team; music-video premiered at the telescope's launch reception in Cocoa Beach, Florida on June 9, 2008; commissioned via Stanford University Physics Department and NASA, etc.

American Festivals, four-part symphonic oratorio (texts by Robert Trent Jones, Jr.), premiered in its entirety at the 2008 Festival del sole (Napa Valley, CA) by the Napa Valley Symphony and Chorus under the direction of Asher Raboy and Lynne Morrow, with soloists Jill Grove, Eric Owens, Lawrence Miller, Mary Youngblood, and oration by actor Craig T. Nelson. Performances of individual movements detailed below.

"Thanksgiving" for orchestra, chorus, mezzo-soprano, baritone, and orator, Op.11 (2007), 4th movement of *American Festivals* cycle, commissioned by the 100 Club (text by Robert Trent Jones, Jr.); premiered at IMG's 2008 Festival del sole (Napa Valley, CA) as part of oratorio's complete performance.

"Memorial Day", for orchestra, chorus, mezzo soprano, violin, trumpet, and pipes, Op.9, 3rd movement of *American Festivals* cycle, commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Fisher (text by Robert Trent Jones, Jr.); premiered (May 28, 2006) by the Arkansas Symphony and Chorus, David Itkin, conductor.

Garden of Epicurus, for tenor, string quartet, oboe, and piano; commissioned by Lynn Fritz; premiered by tenor Marcus Lovett and Alexander String Qt., Oct. 2006.

“Black Suit Blues”, for orchestra, chorus, baritone, and tenor saxophone, Op.7, 2nd movement of *American Festivals* cycle, dedicated to Martin Luther King (text by Robert Trent Jones, Jr.); premiered (February 19, 2005) by the Memphis Symphony and Chorus, David Loebel, conductor; Frank Mitchell, baritone; next performances by the Oakland Symphony and Chorus, Michael Morgan, conductor, January 19, 2007; and Atlanta Symphony and Chorus, Robert Spano, conductor, February 2009.

“Oration on July 4th”, for orchestra, chorus, and orator, Op.6, 1st movement of *American Festivals* cycle, commissioned by Mr. Declan J. Ganley (text by Robert Trent Jones, Jr.); premiered (May 28, 2004) at the 2004 Spoleto Music Festival; Charleston Symphony Orchestra and Chorus; David Stahl, conductor; Sam Waterston, orator.

The Great American, for tenor and orchestra; premiered by the Pasadena Pops Orchestra, Rachael Worby and tenor Dennis McNeil, at the Rose Bowl, July 4, 2005

“It’s De-lovely”, arrangement commissioned December 2004 by the San Francisco Girls Chorus (multi-Grammy award-winning ensemble), premiered at the Chorus’ Gala concert, March 15, 2005, and subsequently toured around the world.

“Christmas by the Bay” (2003), Commercial hit song (regional promotion only in 2003; national promotion in 2004); in 2003, placed in heavy rotation on fifteen radio stations in Greater Bay Area; featuring Tim Hockenberry on vocals.

Irish Easy Pieces, for tenor and traditional Irish ensemble (2003) Commissioned by Robert Trent Jones, Jr.; featuring Dennis McNeil, tenor

Redwood Suite, for solo piano (2002)
Commissioned (and choreographed) by Ms. Noel Hefty

Odi Profanum, for mixed choir (1996)
Text by Horace; featured in international tour by Stanford Chamber Choir, 1998-99

String Quartet No.1 (1995)
Award-winning composition, performed at Lincoln Center (1995); to be recorded by the Alexander String Quartet, Oct., 2006

Awards (partial list)

ASCAP Composition Award, 2004-13

Outstanding Achievement Award, City of La Mirada, CA (Dr. Gasser’s hometown), 2008

American Music Center Composition Award, 2004

Award Arts Roundtable Grant for Collaborative Projects in the Arts
Stanford University, 1996

Brian M. Israel Prize. First Prize for *String Quartet*.
Syracuse University, 1995