

## **Composer Bio (short)**

Hi! I'm Jake Berran (b. 2002), a composer from Minnesota currently studying at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. I believe that music has a magical, captivating power to say what is hard to articulate with other forms of expression. To that end, I love making each new creative process a completely different path through the vast expanse of human emotion and thought, resulting in a unique, multifaceted style. My current compositional interests include exploring humor, juxtaposing aesthetically incongruent material, working with various forms of text, and using electronics in enticing ways. Outside of composition, I am a pianist, percussionist, vocalist, conductor, and music director for musical theater productions.

## **Composer Bio (long)**

Jake Berran (b. 2002) is a composer from Minnesota currently studying at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of Michael Frazier, Jesse Jones, and Jihyun Kim. He enjoys writing for any instrumentation but feels most at home with piano, percussion, concert band, and choir.

His passion for music is rooted in his belief that all languages of expression have unique strengths and work in tandem to create human connection. Berran finds that music has a magical, captivating power to give a voice to those parts of the human experience that aren't always so easily articulated. To that end, he loves making each new creative process a completely different path through the vast expanse of human emotion and thought, resulting in a unique, multifaceted style.

Jake's current compositional interests include exploring humor, juxtaposing aesthetically incongruent material, working with various forms of text, and using electronics in enticing and appealing ways. Given the biases inherent to his upbringing as a white male studying classical music, he values listening outside of the Western canon as much as possible. For the same reason, he emphasizes commentary on large-scale issues and social justice in his creativity.

Outside of composition, Jake has experience directing vocalists, conducting the pit orchestra, and playing piano for the Oberlin Musical Theater Association. He has performed as a solo pianist and accompanist numerous times, placing fifth in the Minnesota Music Teachers Association Senior Young Artist competition in 2020. He also has a strong percussion background from both concert band and jazz band as a vibraphonist. Jake is passionate about teaching and has worked with beginning piano students as a private teacher, beginning band students as a teaching assistant, and Oberlin College students as a math tutor, his other major.

Jake's music has been performed by groups such as the Minnesota Sinfonia and the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble. He was one of three winners in the 2020

Minnesota Sinfonia New Works Competition for his Ballade for Orchestra, and he was second place in the 2020 Minnesota Music Teachers Association Student Composition Contest for his piano solo Rhapsody No. 1. In 2021, he was selected as a composer for White Snake Projects Incarcerated Voices, a collaboration between incarcerated writers and composers to produce vocal pieces.

### **Musical Theater Bio**

Jake is a second year from Minnesota majoring in music composition and math. He believes in the power of music to transform us and has a passion for composing, playing piano and percussion, singing, improvising, and collaborating. Before this production, he was music director for OMTA's *Ordinary Days* in the spring of 2021. Jake has loved working with the cast and pit orchestra and is happy we pulled off the show!