

Jake Berran Composer & Music Director

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Education

M.M. in Composition | 2026 (exp.) | The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University | GPA: N/A
B.M. in Composition & B.A. in Mathematics | 2024 | Oberlin College and Conservatory | GPA: 4.21
Instructors: Anthony Brandt, Stephen Hartke, Jesse Jones, Michael Frazier, Jihyun Kim, Elizabeth Ogonek

Leadership and Professional Experience

Associate Conductor | [College Light Opera Company](#) | Summer 25

- Conducted performances of *Ruddigore* and *La Cage aux Folles*
- Served as vocal coach, chorus master, rehearsal pianist, or assistant conductor for six shows in six weeks
- Orchestrated, arranged, and transcribed music as needed

Assistant Music Director and Head Counselor | [Sitka Fine Arts Camp](#) | Summer 24

- Taught music theory classes and vocal rehearsals for a 30+ student cast of *Newsies*
- Lead individual vocal coaching sessions and coordinated logistics for outreach events
- Supervised and collaborated with a team of 22 counselors to care for 250+ adolescent students 24/7
- Planned and lead educational music activities during recreational time

Music Director & Board Member | [Oberlin Musical Theater Association](#) | 2021 – 2024

- Music directed three productions: *9 to 5: The Musical*, *She Loves Me*, and *Ordinary Days*
- Rehearsed vocal ensembles and pit orchestras; ran auditions
- Procured rehearsal spaces and equipment; recruited pit musicians
- Produced practice materials such as backing tracks and quality archival recordings
- Created a job description for music directors for institutional memory
- Served as a voting member of OMTA at meetings

Dining Operations Manager | [Oberlin Student Cooperative Association](#) | Fall 23

- Oversaw operations for a million-dollar-budget nonprofit that houses and feeds 300+ Oberlin students
- Trained and supported discussion leaders of each dining co-op (position I held previously); expanded training materials with an emphasis on anti-oppression
- Planned logistics for organization-wide events, including food, shift charts, and setup/takedown

Board Member | [Oberlin Student Cooperative Association](#) | 2022

- Assessed, designed, and voted on policies to benefit the organization
- Summarized policy proposals and answered questions and concerns from my co-op
- Served on the Finance Committee and updated scholarship policies

Teaching

Piano Teacher | European Piano Academy | Fall 24 – Spring 25

- Taught 8 students (ages 4–5) in pairs each week, culminating in an end-of-year recital

Teaching Assistant | Shepherd School of Music | Fall 24 – Spring 25

- Graded assignments for undergraduate orchestration and music theory classes

Composition Lesson Teacher | Oberlin Conservatory | Fall 23

- Taught private music composition lessons to non-majors at Oberlin Conservatory

Assistant Music Director | Sitka Fine Arts Camp | Summer 24 (see above)

Teaching Assistant | Oberlin Mathematics Department | Spring 21 – Fall 22

- Instructed and led large-group homework help sessions
- Assisted professors and graded assignments

Additional

- **Piano Teacher for European Piano Academy at Becker School (2024–2025):** taught weekly private lessons to pairs of preschool students, recruited new students at school open house
- **Piano Teacher (2018–2020):** taught weekly private lessons to elementary and middle school students; facilitated performance opportunities
- **Band Teaching Assistant for ISD 196 (Summers 2017–2019):** worked with fourth grade students in small groups

Composition

Significant Works

- **Solos / Duos:** *Seven Regressions*, 2024 (piano, 18'); *Three Songs For Longing*, 2023 (two voices + piano, 10'); *Marimba Sonata*, 2023 (6') *Viola Sonata*, 2022 (+ piano, 6')
- **Chamber Ensemble:** *Monkey in the Middle*, 2025 (percussion quartet, 6') *String Quartet No. 1*, 2023 (12'); *Icicle*, 2022 (clarinet + cello + piano, 7'); *Overthrow the Conductor*, 2022 (Pierrot sextet, 8'); *A Brick In My Cell*, 2021 (voice + cello + piano, 2'); *Membrane Variations*, 2021 (mixed septet, 10')
- **Large Ensemble:** *Music in the Air*, 2024 (choir + orchestra, 8'); *Slice*, 2024 (chamber orchestra, ...searching for..., 2023 (large orchestra, 11'); *The Convergence of The Twain*, 2021 (choir + piano, 8'); *Ballade for Orchestra*, 2020 (small orchestra, 8')
- **Electronics:** Max patch for [interactive installation @ U of Houston](#) ([code](#)), 2025; *Six Etudes for Bass Clarinet and Electronics*, 2023 (12', [code](#)); *Particles*, 2021 (aleatoric composition rendered with [code](#), 4')
- **Film Scores:** *ofrain*, 2025 (film by Eli Johns-Krull, 7'), *Scam Magnet*, 2024 (dir. Kalina Mishev)
- **Musical Theater:** *All In Your Mind* (co-writer & [cast album](#) producer; 14 in cast, 10 in orch., 2h30m)

Awards & Commissions

- **ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards, Honorable Mention, 2025**
- Walter E. Aschaffenburg Prize, awarded annually to a graduating Oberlin composition major, 2024
- *Music In The Air* for chorus and orchestra commissioned by Oberlin Conservatory for the Lorain County Bicentennial, 2024

- Commissioned for [Opera by the Sea](#) benefit concert in Sitka, AK, 2023
- *Icicle* commissioned by Unheard-of//Ensemble, 2022
- *The Convergence of The Twain* selected for performance by Oberlin College Choir, 2022
- Selected as *Sing Out Strong: Incarcerated Voices* composer for [White Snake Projects](#), 2021
- Winner of [Minnesota Sinfonia](#) New Works Composition Contest, 2020

Performance

- **Piano:** performed in Oberlin's new music ensemble in 2024; 5th place in [MMTA Senior Young Artist Contest](#) in 2020; previous repertoire includes *La Campanella* (Liszt) and *Sonata op. 110*, mvt. 3 (Beethoven); selected to play *Children's March* (Grainger) with [MMEA All-State Band](#) in 2019; frequent performer for student composer premieres and readings, chamber recitals, and audition recordings
- **Conducting:** served as Associate Conductor at College Light Opera Company in 2025, completed 4 semesters each of instrumental and choral conducting courses; piano-conducted three musical theater pit orchestras, new works by student composers, and pieces for student contemporary choir *Now Chorale*; conducted 7-hour film recording session at Oberlin in 2024
- **Voice:** [Performed The Crucifixion](#) (Barber) in 2023; choir sub for Trinity Episcopal Church in Houston in 2024–2025; member of Rice Chorale in 2024–2025, Oberlin College Choir in 2022
- **Percussion:** repertoire performed includes *SyNc* (Koshinski, snare + objects), *Ilijas* (Zikovic, marimba), and *Études #1 and #9* (Delécluse, snare); two-time [All-State](#) member; vibraphone in HS jazz band
- **Organ:** took private lessons for one semester
- **Improvisation:** [recorded a performance with George Rogers](#) in 2024, initiated several group sessions with 5-15 students at Oberlin Conservatory

Skills

- **Music Software:** Dorico, Max, Ableton Live, Reaper, FL Studio, basic LilyPond
- **Other Software:** Coding in Python and Java, basic full-stack web development (HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Vue.js, Node.js, SQL, SVG), LaTeX, OpenShot Video Editor, Zotero citation manager, MS Office, GSuite
- **Audio Recording and Production:** produced cast album of new musical [All in Your Mind](#), worked in concert recording department for Rice in 2024–25, handled informally for 15+ concerts, audition tapes, composer readings, and shows at Oberlin
- **Stage Management and Ushering:** worked concerts at Rice in 2024–25
- **Spanish:** scored 8/9 on the ACTFL proficiency scale; took advanced coursework on Spanish literature
- **Mathematics:** placed in the [top 500 scores](#) out of 3,415 in the Putnam competition in 2022; did research in mathematical music theory as part of the honors curriculum at Oberlin in 2023–2024; awarded Edward T. Wong Memorial Prize for achievement and contribution to Oberlin's math department in 2024