

Connor Simpson

Composer • Educator • Music Technologist

Curriculum Vitae - 03/2026

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Summary

Connor Simpson is a composer of spectres and spectra — breaking sounds, half-remembered harmonies, and music that revolves and dissolves. His work has been presented at the 62nd Nuova Consonanza Festival, the soundSCAPE Composition and Performance Exchange, and the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, and performed and recorded by Mivos Quartet, loadbang, and Hypercube. He has received the Creative Achievement Award from Penn State University, the Imagination Fund from the Eastman School of Music, and was a finalist in the Brandenburg Project Commission Competition. Alongside his compositional work, he pursues research in computer-assisted composition, building machine learning tools that transform and recontextualize composed material. Connor holds an M.A. from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied with Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon and Robert Morris, and a B.M. from Penn State University.

Education

M.A. in Music Composition

2025

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

- Thesis: Exploring Latent Space: A Transformer VAE for Generative Symbolic Music — advised by Dr. Evis Sammutis
- Principal Teachers: Dr. Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, Dr. Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez, Dr. Robert Morris

B.M. in Music Composition

2023

Penn State University

State College, PA

- Principal Teachers: Dr. Baljinder Sekhon, Dr. Sarah Genevieve Burghart Rice

Awards, Recognitions & Scholarships

- 2025 **Nuova Consonanza Call for Electroacoustic Works**, Nuova Consonanza, *Selected Work: ill*
Brandenburg Project Commission Competition, Lamont School of Music, *Finalist*
- 2024 **Imagination Fund**, Eastman School of Music, *Recipient*
- 2023 **ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award**, The ASCAP Foundation, *Semi-Finalist*
Creative Achievement Award, Penn State Arts and Architecture, *Recipient*
PSU Wind Ensemble Call for Scores, Penn State Wind Ensemble, *Selected Work: Prancer*
- 2022 **NYCEMF Call for Works**, New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, *Selected Work: Panic*
Francis G. Wood Memorial Scholarship, PSU Glee Club, *Recipient*
W & L Leight Memorial Fund, PSU School of Music, *Recipient*
Golumbic Scholarship, PSU Arts and Architecture, *Nominee*
Valley Family Fund, PSU Arts and Architecture, *Recipient*
PSU Percussion Ensemble Call for Scores, Penn State Percussion Ensemble, *Selected Work: Buzzed*
- 2021 **Burt L Fenner Scholarship in Music Composition**, PSU Composition Department, *Recipient*
Student Engagement Network Grant, PSU Arts and Architecture, *Recipient*
- 2020 **Movers Shakers Designers Makers Call for Theme**, PSU Arts and Architecture, *Selected Work*

Commissions, Festivals & Labs

2026 **ICEBERG New Music Institute**, upcoming

Sydeboob Duo Clinic, upcoming

Valencia International Performance Arts Festival, declined

2025 **62nd Nuova Consonanza Festival**, Rome, Italy

2023 **Eastman GCS**, *As it were* commissioned by the Eastman Graduate Composers' Sinfonietta

Mivos Quartet, *O Vos Omnes* for string quartet during Penn State Residency

Hypercube, *Something which wanders and falls* for Hypercube quartet during CubeLab

2022 **SoundSCAPE Composition and Performance Exchange**, Bobbio, Italy

Cortona Sessions for New Music, declined

Sydeboob Duo, *there are no people* for soprano and bass flute during Penn State Residency

Vibraphone Century, State College, PA

Loadbang, *who knows if the moon's a balloon* for Loadbang ensemble during Penn State Residency

2021 **Longy's Divergent Studio**, Cambridge, MA

Charlotte New Music Festival, Charlotte, NC

2020 **New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival**, NYC, NY

Relevant Experience

Teaching Assistant & Events Manager, EMuSE

Aug 2023 - May 2025

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

- Taught electroacoustic labs for undergraduates at Eastman covering foundational skills in music production, electroacoustic composition, and digital audio.
- Produced large-scale concerts and events for the Electronic Music Studios @ Eastman (EMuSE), including immersive works performed on a 10.1.7 speaker array.
- Coordinated technical production for concerts featuring guest composers including John Chowning, João Pedro Oliveira, and Kyong Mee Choi.

Studio Engineer

Aug 2022 - May 2023

Penn State University

State College, PA

- Managed session logistics, recording, and mixing for student and faculty projects in a professional studio setting.
- Recorded a range of ensemble, chamber, and solo repertoire across the Penn State School of Music including works by Sarah Genevieve Burghart Rice, Micah Mooney, and Tucker Johnson.

Private Composition & Music Theory Teacher

2020 - Present

Self-Employed

Rochester, NY

- Maintain an independent studio teaching composition and music theory to high school and undergraduate students.
- Guide students through score preparation, analysis of contemporary repertoire, career building, and development of individual compositional voice.

Administrative Service

President

2024 - 2025

Eastman Graduate Composers' Sinfonietta

Rochester, NY

- Led the Eastman Graduate Composers' Sinfonietta, commissioning and premiering new works by graduate composers in Kilbourn Hall.
- Managed rehearsal logistics, conductor coordination, and ensemble communications across the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Administered the ensemble's annual programming budget in coordination with the Institute for Music Leadership.

Composition Coordinator

Penn State Honors Music Institute

Summer 2022

State College, PA

- Taught composition lessons and seminars in music history and orchestration for advanced high school students in a pre-college intensive program.
- Mentored students through score preparation for workshop performances with student musicians.

Secretary & Treasurer

Living Music, Penn State

2019 - 2023

State College, PA

- Managed financial accounts and meeting documentation for Penn State's student-run new music organization.
- Coordinated residencies and production logistics for guest artists including Jessie Montgomery, Mivos Quartet, Jenna Lyle, and loadbang.

Adjudicator & Panel Member

Penn State University Composition Competitions

2019 - 2023

State College, PA

- Served on selection panels for the Young Composers Contest, International Call for Scores, and the Biennial International New Music Festival.
- Evaluated submissions annually, alternating between the International Call for Scores and the Biennial International New Music Festival in successive years.

Software & Technical Proficiency

Digital Audio Workstations: Logic Pro, Reaper, Ableton

Audio / Programming: Max/MSP, Pure Data, Csound, C++ (JUCE)

Computer-Assisted Composition: Python (music21, PyTorch), OpenMusic, Wolfram Mathematica

Score Engraving: Dorico, Finale, LilyPond

Web / Portfolio: Jekyll, HTML, CSS/SASS

Additional Employment

Shift Lead

Village Bakery & Cafe

Nov 2025 – Present

Pittsford, NY

Froster / Bake Assist

Nothing Bundt Cakes

Jul 2025 – Dec 2025

Henrietta, NY

Crew Trainer

McDonald's

Mar 2020 – Aug 2021

Troy, PA

Original Compositions & Performances

- Large Ensemble -

As it Were (2023) for sinfonietta (7')

Commissioned by Eastman Graduate Composers' Sinfonietta

Nov. 2023 - Eastman Graduate Composers' Sinfonietta, Kilbourn Hall, Rochester, NY

Prancer (2021) for wind ensemble (7')

Selected for Penn State Wind Ensemble Call for Scores

May 2023 - Penn State Symphonic Band, PSU Eisenhower Hall, State College, PA

- Chamber & Duo -

[new work] (2026 - upcoming) for quartet for flute, clarinet, violin, and cello (5')

Written for Hub New Music as a part of the ICEBERG New Music Institute

Jun. 2026 - Hub New Music, Timuca Arts Foundation, Orlando, FL

[new work] (2026 - upcoming) for duo for soprano and bass flute (5-6')

Written for Sydeboob Duo as a part of the Sydeboob Duo Clinic

Apr. 2026 - Sydeboob Duo, Mise-En_Place, NYC, NY

another veil (2025) for pirot ensemble (8')

M.A. thesis, Eastman School of Music — advised by Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon

O Vos Omnes (2023) for string quartet (6'30")

Written for and recorded by Mivos Quartet as a part of their 2023 Penn State Residency

Something which wanders and falls (2022) for Hypercube ensemble (6'15")

Written for Hypercube Ensemble as a part of CubeLab

Oct. 2022 - Hypercube Quartet, streamed from CubeLab, NYC, NY

there are no people (2022) for duo for soprano and bass flute (ca. 5')

Written for and recorded by Sydeboob Duo as a part of their 2022 Penn State Residency

who knows if the moon's a balloon (2022) for Loadbang ensemble (3'30")

Written for and recorded by loadbang as a part of their 2022 Penn State Residency

I quite like perfect fourths (2021) for duo for flute and Bb clarinet (1')

Jul. 2021 - Amber Lucas, Eva Skanse, streamed from Longy's Divergent Studio, Cambridge, MA

Buzzed (2021) for percussion quartet (6')

Selected for Penn State Percussion Ensemble Call for Scores

Sep. 2022 - Penn State Percussion Ensemble, PSU Esber Hall, State College, PA

May the Lord Protect my Wealth (2020) for string quartet (5')

May 2021 - Spencer Stover, Celeste Belknap, Samuel Rothermel, Sara Johnston, PSU Esber Hall, State College, PA

Mad Song (2020) for baritone voice and piano (5')

Dedicated to Evan Diulus and Rachel Flicker

Apr. 2021 - Evan Diulus, Rachel Flicker, PSU Esber Hall, State College, PA

Decisive Purpose (2020) for duo for tuba and percussion (0'30")

Selected for Moreau VanTuinen Call for Miniatures

Apr. 2020 - Moreau VanTuinen Duo, streamed from Gainesville, FL

i shall imagine life (2020) for woodwind quintet (5')

May 2021 - Centre Winds, PSU Esber Hall, State College, PA

Insufficient Title (2019) for flute and marimba (5')

Dedicated to Andrew Stern and Cara Gould

2019 - Andrew Stern, Cara Gould, PSU Esber Hall, State College, PA

- Solo -

a short cry (2025) for solo violin (5')

Written for the Eastman Jang Composition Collaboration

Apr. 2025 - Ciara McGuire, Howard Hansen Hall, Rochester, NY

Wrong Chain (2022) for solo violin (8')

Written for Bailey Wantuch as a part of the soundSCAPE Festival

Jul. 2022 - Bailey Wantuch, SoundSCAPE Festival, Bobbio, Italy

Purple Gap (2022) for solo vibraphone (2')

Written for Corey Sittinger as a part of the Vibraphone Century Festival

Aug. 2022 - Corey Sittinger, PSU Esber Hall, State College, PA

A Short Piece about Bananas (2021) for solo performer (1')

Dedicated to Orlando Cela

Jul. 2021 - Orlando Cela, streamed from Charlotte New Music Festival, Charlotte, NC

Misunderstandings (2019) for solo multi-percussion (4')
Dedicated to Bella Scotti
Nov. 2021 - Bella Scotti, PSU Esber Hall, State College, PA

Broken Tongue (2019) for solo piano (5')
Dedicated to Haley Fennell
Nov. 2019 - Haley Fennell, PSU Esber Hall, State College, PA

- Electroacoustic & Mixed Media -

Noisy Bugle (2022) for Noisybugle and live electronics (6')

Scordatura (2021) for tuba and euphonium quartet and live electronics (4'10")

ill (2021) for quadraphonic fixed media (9'30")
Dec. 2025 - Mattatoio – la Pelanda, Rome, Italy
Jun. 2021 - PSU Esber Hall, State College, PA

Panic (2019) for fixed media (4'46")
Jun. 2020 - New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, NYC, NY
Nov. 2019 - PSU Esber Hall, State College, PA