

# Elena Specht

## Curriculum Vitae

### EDUCATION

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**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER**  
Master of Music in Composition  
Certificate in College Teaching  
Thurston E. Manning Scholarship in Composition

Boulder, CO  
Expected December 2017

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY BLAIR SCHOOL OF MUSIC**  
Bachelor of Music in Composition, *summa cum laude*  
Minors in American Studies and Horn Performance  
Blair Dean's Honor Scholarship

Nashville, TN  
May 2015

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- **Graduate Teaching Assistant in Music Theory/Aural Skills** (August 2015 – present)  
Courses taught: Aural Skills 1, Aural Skills 3, Aural Skills 4, Basic Music Theory; class assistant for Theory 3 and Theory 4
- **Summer Music Academy Counselor, CU Boulder** (June 2017)  
Instructor/coach in composition, horn, and wind ensemble for high school musicians
- **Student Teaching Assistant in Music Theory** (August 2013 – April 2015)  
Assistant for *The Syntax of Music* and *Harmonic Idioms of the Common Practice Period* (Theory 1 and Theory 2)
- **Music Theory Departmental Tutor** (January 2013 – April 2015)  
Theory/Composition Department, Blair School of Music
- **Student Assistant in Musicology** (August 2012 – April 2015)  
Assistant for *Music in Western Culture* and *Music in the Age of Beethoven and Schubert*
- **Teaching Assistant for *From Bach to Rock: A History of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Music*** (June – July 2013 and June 2014)  
Duke Talent Identification Program for academically gifted students grades 8-10, Duke University, Durham, NC
- **Guest Instructor in Band** (November 2015)  
Oshkosh West High School and Perry Tipler Middle School, Oshkosh, WI; North and South Valley Middle Schools in LaSalle and Platteville, CO
- **Horn and Piano Instructor to students ages 5-16** (February 2009 - August 2012)
- **Tutor in Math, English, and Social Studies for grades 6-12** (November 2009 – March 2012)

### OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- **Composer/Arranger for the Wind Ensemble of the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras** (October 2015 – present)
- **Arranging work for the Denver Pops Orchestra** (August 2017)
- **Library Student Assistant** (August 2015 – May 2017)

Howard B. Waltz Music Library, College of Music, CU Boulder

- **Library Student Assistant** (August 2011 – May 2015)  
Ann Potter Wilson Music Library, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University
- **Transcription and Editing of *The Imposter: Concerto for Banjo*** (January 2014 – April 2015)  
With Dr. Thomas Verrier for the 2015 National College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Conference
- **Childcare** (Fall 2012 – present)  
For individuals and organizations
- **Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches** (June – August, 2012)
- **Red Mango Frozen Yogurt** (May 2011 – July 2011)

## **PRINCIPAL TEACHERS**

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- Daniel Kellogg (CU Boulder)
- Carter Pann (CU Boulder)
- Michael Slayton (Vanderbilt University)
- Michael Rose (Vanderbilt University)
- Leslie Norton (horn; Vanderbilt University)

## **GUEST LESSONS AND MASTERCLASSES**

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- Richard Danielpour
- Kevin Puts
- David Maslanka
- Elliott Schwartz
- Jake Heggie
- Sean Shepherd
- Adam Schoenberg
- Joel Puckett
- Kristen Kuster
- Mark Campbell (libretti writing)
- Fergus McWilliam (horn and chamber music performance)
- Sandrine François (chamber music)

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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- Winner, Wind Ensemble Composition Competition, CU Boulder (Spring 2016)
- Member of Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society
- Selected as Student Marshall for Vanderbilt University Commencement Ceremonies (2015)
- Recipient of the Recording Academy Scholarship (March 2014)
- Runner-up, Vanderbilt University Orchestral Composition Competition (Spring 2014)
- Junior Thesis, “The Challenges and Strategies of Composing for Wind Band/Ensemble,” nominated and selected for the Undergraduate Writing Symposium (March 2014)
- Dean's List, Vanderbilt University (2011-2015)

- Manhasset Senior High School Salutatorian (2011)
- Member of National, Math, Science, Tri-M, and Exemplars Honor Society (2009 – 2011)

## **CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

- New Opera Workshop, CU Boulder (August 2016 – Present)
- Exchange of Midwestern Collegiate Composers Conference (March 2017)
- Presentation on composing for middle/high school bands, CU Boulder (November 2016) and University of Missouri – Kansas City (March 2017)
- Graduate Teacher Program Workshops, CU Boulder (August 2015 – present)
- Engaging Students: Pedagogy Unconference (July 27-28, 2015)
- Guest presentations in middle school and high school music programs
- Student Assistant at the National CBDNA Conference (March 2015)
- High School Composer’s Workshop, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL (Summer 2010)
- National High School Music Institute, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL (Summer 2009)

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- Pendulum New Music Series Committee Member, CU Boulder (January 2016 – present)
- President of the Composers Forum at the Blair School of Music (2014-2015 academic year)
- Vice President of the Composers Forum (2013-2014 academic year)
- Organized and planned recitals of student compositions (August 2013 – present)
- Co-leader of composition studio classes (August 2013 – present)
- Baptist Collegiate Ministry, small group leader and various service activities (2012-2015)
- Intramural Softball (2011-2012)
- National High School Music Institute at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL (Summer 2009)

## **PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

- Piano Assistant and Music Team Member, East Boulder Baptist Church (June 2016 – present)
- Boulder Concert Band (Summer 2016)
- Blair School of Music orchestra, wind ensemble, brass ensemble, horn ensemble, and woodwind quintet (August 2011 – April 2015)
- Solo performances in studio recitals (2012-2015)
- Vanderbilt Music Académie, Aix-en-Provence, France, studying and performing chamber music (July 2014)
- Recorded CD with the Vanderbilt University Wind Symphony (March 2014)
- Performed at National Conference of the National Association for Music Education (October 2014)
- All-County Band and Orchestra Festivals (January 2007 – January 2011)

- Manhasset High School Music Ensembles: wind ensemble, symphonic orchestra, marching band, jazz ensemble, woodwind quintet, pit orchestra, brass choir, brass quintet, drumline, Band of Long Island (2007-2011)

## COMPOSITIONS

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### LARGE ENSEMBLE

- *Rip Van Winkle, Concertino for Tuba and Orchestra*  
Commissioned by the Denver Pops Orchestra  
Upcoming performance: February 24, 2018
- *Knight Ride*  
Beginning band; 1'  
Upcoming performance: December 14, 2017
- *Aquilegia Chorale*  
Beginning band; 1'  
Upcoming performance: December 14, 2017
- *Kateri's Lullaby*  
Intermediate wind ensemble; 5'  
First performance: April 30, 2017
- *Embers to Ash*  
Wind ensemble; winner of the CU Boulder Wind Ensemble Composition Competition; 10'  
First performance: April 20, 2017
- *Passing Time*  
Middle school band, orchestra, and choir; commissioned by the music department at Platt Middle School in Boulder, CO; 4'  
First performance: November 10, 2016
- *From the Mountains to the Coast*  
Wind ensemble; 5'  
Composed: Summer 2016
- *Into the Garden*  
Intermediate band; 8'  
First performance: April 24, 2016
- *Midnight Sun*  
Horn and clarinet soli with mixed strings/winds ensemble, for children; 4'  
First performance: April 18, 2016
- *Modal March*  
Intermediate band; 3.5'  
First performance: May 13, 2015
- *Thunderbolt*  
Intermediate band; 3'  
First performance: May 12, 2015
- *Roads to Home*  
wind ensemble; 8'  
First performance: November 19, 2014
- *A Dance in the Moonlight*

- Orchestra; 5'  
Composed: March/April 2014
- *Shimmering Glass*  
Orchestra; 8'  
Composed: September/November 2014
- *Dark Night*  
Intermediate band; 6'  
Composed: Summer 2013
- *Majestic Horizons*  
Intermediate band; 3.5'  
Composed: December 2013
- *Whirlwind*  
Wind ensemble; 8'  
Reading: February 27, 2013

## SOLO AND CHAMBER

- *On the Summit*  
Horn octet; 7'  
Upcoming performance: Fall 2017
- *Sparks Fly Upward*  
String quartet; 12'  
First performance: April 12, 2017
- *The Plains*  
Solo piano; 12'  
First performance: March 22, 2017
- *From Sea to Sea*  
Solo clarinet; commissioned in honor of John William Derrick Stevens; 7'  
Composed: March 2016
- *Echo*  
Solo horn, 7'  
First performance: February 29, 2016
- *Suite for Brass Quintet*; 13'  
First performance: January 27, 2016
- *Three Port Cities*  
Flute and 2 harps; 14'  
Performed February 21 and 25, 2015
- *Theme and Variations*  
String quartet; 9'  
Performances: November 5, 2014; February 21, 2015
- *Interlace*  
Woodwind quintet; composed for Philip Dikeman and the Blair Woodwind Quintet; 6.5'  
Performances: March 31, 2014; February 21, 2015
- *Rhapsody for Tuba and Piano*; 9'  
Performances: October 2, 2013; March 1, 2014
- *Exodus*

- Horn and piano trio; composed for Leslie Norton; 7'  
Performances: September 9, 2013; February 21, 2015
- *Dragon Park*  
Trombone and tuba; 10'  
Composed: Summer 2013
  - *Music for Winds and Percussion*  
Flute, clarinet, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, and percussion; 10'  
First performance: March 28, 2013
  - *Mood Ring*  
String quartet; 4'  
Composed: February/March 2013
  - *Dawn*  
Brass quintet; 7'  
First performance: February 20, 2013
  - *Spring*  
Violin and cello; 10'  
Performances: October 17, 2012; February 5, 2013
  - *Cascade*  
Flute, horn, and harp; 9'  
Composed: June 2012
  - *Migration of the Apple Beavers*  
Piano, four hands; 3'  
First performance: June 2, 2012
  - *Clowns*  
Solo tuba; 4'  
Performances: April/May 2011; February 9, 2012; April 21, 2012
  - *Rhapsody for Horn and Piano*; 6'  
First performance: April 4, 2012
  - *Mischief in the Night*  
Woodwind quintet; 6'  
Performances: December 13, 2011; February 9, 2012
  - *Playground*  
Tuba duet; 5.5'  
First performance: November 2, 2011
  - *The Glass-Bottomed Box*  
Flute, clarinet, and piano; 8'  
Composed: Fall 2011
  - *Dive*  
Three horns; 4.5'  
Performances: June 8, 2010; June 7, 2011
  - *Travels*  
Piano trio; 6'  
First performance: April 28, 2011
  - *A Stroll for Woodwinds*  
Woodwind choir; 9'  
Reading: September 2010
  - *Piano Trio in A Minor*; 12.5'

- First performance: August 13, 2010
- *Cassiopeia*
  - Two pianos; 4'
  - First performance: April 29, 2010
- *Dance for Tuba and Piano*; 10.5'
  - First performance: April 22, 2010
- *A Cottage by the Sea*
  - Flute and clarinet; 10'
  - Composed: Spring 2010
- *Woolverstone*
  - Brass choir; 5'
  - First performance: July 30, 2009
- *Brass Quintet No. 1*; 4'
  - First performance: April 23, 2009

## VOCAL

- *Dust to Dirt*
  - Opera scene; 9'
  - First performance: June 17, 2017
- *The Red-Headed Daredevil*
  - Mezzo-soprano and piano; 4.5'
  - Performances: April 6 and 8, 2016
- *Although the fig tree blossom not*
  - Soprano and piano; 4'
  - First performance: April 8, 2015
- *Time Passes*
  - Baritone voice and piano; 5'
  - Performances: April 9, 2014; February 21, 2015
- *Magnificat*
  - Women's choir and piano; 5'
  - First performance: February 27, 2014
- *Spam Love Letters*
  - Soprano and piano; 7'
  - Performances: October 17, 2012; November 15, 2012
- *Lullaby*
  - Baritone voice, cello, and vibraphone; 1'
  - Composed: Summer 2012
- *What Teachers Make*
  - Baritone voice and piano; 6'
  - Composed: January/February 2012

## **SELECTED ARRANGEMENTS/TRANSCRIPTIONS**

- *Gershwin Suite (Fascinating Rhythm, Summertime, Strike Up the Band)*
  - Wind ensemble
  - Upcoming performance: November 5, 2017

- *Suite from Anna Magdalena Notebook*  
Wind ensemble  
Performances: November 6, 2016 and March 2017
- *Minuet Sur Le Nome d'Haydn (Ravel)*  
Orchestra  
Reading: April 27, 2016
- *The Imposter: Concerto for Banjo*  
Wind ensemble  
Performance: March 24-25, 2015
- *The Entertainer*  
Trombone and tuba  
Performance: July 27, 2012
- *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*  
Orchestra  
Reading: April 20, 2012
- *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*  
Woodwind quintet  
Performance: Spring 2011
- *Pathetique Sonata*  
Mallet instruments  
Performances: Fall 2010
- *Field Warm-Up/Symphony No. 5, IV. (Beethoven)*  
Marching band  
Performances: Fall 2010