

ELENA SPECHT

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition
University Distinguished Fellow

East Lansing, MI
Expected May 2021

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

Boulder, CO
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

University of Colorado Boulder

- Graduate Teaching Assistant in Music Theory/Aural Skills 2015 – 2017
Courses taught: Aural Skills 1, Aural Skills 3, Aural Skills 4, Basic Music Theory; class assistant for Theory 3 and Theory 4
- Guest Instructor in Orchestration 2017
Lectured in an undergraduate orchestration course
- Summer Music Academy Counselor 2017
Instructor/coach in composition, horn, and wind ensemble for high school musicians

Vanderbilt University

- Student Teaching Assistant in Music Theory 2013 – 2015
Assistant for The Syntax of Music and Harmonic Idioms of the Common Practice Period (Theory 1 and Theory 2)
- Music Theory Departmental Tutor 2013 – 2015
Theory/Composition Department, Blair School of Music
- Student Assistant in Musicology 2012 – 2015
Assistant for Music in Western Culture and Music in the Age of Beethoven and Schubert

Other Institutions

- Teaching Assistant for From Bach to Rock: A History of 20th Century Music 2013 – 2014
Duke Summer Talent Identification Program for academically gifted students grades 8-10, Duke University, Durham, NC
- Guest Instructor in Band 2015 – Present
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 2009 – Present
- Tutor in Math, English, and Social Studies for grades K-12 2009 – Present

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Arranging/Transcription Work

- Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras, composer/arranger for the Wind Ensemble 2015 – Present
- Arranging for the Denver Pops Orchestra 2017
- Transcription and Editing of *The Imposter: Concerto for Banjo* 2014 – 2015
With Dr. Thomas Verrier for the 2015 National College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Conference

Michigan State University

- Theory Area Assistant, creating a library of dictation materials for undergraduate aural skills students to use for practice 2018 – Present

University of Colorado Boulder

- Library Student Assistant, Howard B. Waltz Music Library 2015 – 2017

Vanderbilt University

- Library Student Assistant, Ann Potter Wilson Music Library 2011 – 2015

Independent Childcare Provider

2012 – Present

PRINCIPAL TEACHERS

Michigan State University

- David Biedenbender

University of Colorado Boulder

- Daniel Kellogg
- Carter Pann

Vanderbilt University

- Michael Slayton
- Michael Rose
- Leslie Norton (horn)

GUEST LESSONS AND MASTERCLASSES

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

PRESENTATIONS

- Composing Music for Middle and High School Bands 2016 – 2017
- Exchange of Midwestern Collegiate Composers Conference, University of Missouri Kansas-City
 - University of Colorado Boulder
- Guest Presentations in middle and high school music programs 2015 – Present

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

University of Colorado Boulder

- New Opera Workshop – Composer Fellows' Initiative 2016 – 2018
- Engaging Students: Pedagogy Unconference 2015
- Graduate Teacher Program Workshops 2015 – 2017

Other Institutions

- Exchange of Midwestern Collegiate Composers Conference, University of Missouri Kansas-City 2017
- Student Assistant at the National CBDNA Conference, Vanderbilt University 2015
- High School Composer's Workshop, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL 2010
- National High School Music Institute, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 2009

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Finalist, Ball State Symphonic Band Commissioning Contest 2018
- Winner, Pro Musica Colorado Chamber Orchestra Composition Competition 2017
- Winner, Wind Ensemble Composition Competition, CU Boulder 2016
- Member of Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society 2015 – Present
- Selected as Student Marshall for Vanderbilt University Commencement Ceremonies 2015
- Recipient of the Recording Academy Scholarship 2014
- Runner-up, Vanderbilt University Orchestral Composition Competition 2014
- Junior Thesis, "The Challenges and Strategies of Composing for Wind Band/Ensemble," nominated and selected for the Undergraduate Writing Symposium 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

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Pendulum New Music Series Committee Member, CU Boulder 2016 – 2017
- President of the Composers' Forum at the Blair School of Music 2014 – 2015

- Vice President of the Composers' Forum 2013 – 2014
- Organized and planned recitals of student compositions 2013 – 2015
- Co-leader of composition studio classes 2013 – 2015
- Baptist Collegiate Ministry, small group leader and various service activities 2012 – 2015
- Intramural Softball 2011 – 2012

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

- Freelance work on horn and piano 2010 – Present
- Piano Assistant and Music Team Member, East Boulder Baptist Church 2016 – 2018
- Boulder Concert Band 2016
- Blair School of Music orchestra, wind ensemble, brass ensemble, horn choir, and woodwind quintet 2011 – 2015
- Solo performances in studio recitals 2012 – 2015
- Vanderbilt Music Académie, Aix-en-Provence, France, studying and performing chamber music 2014
- Recorded CD with the Vanderbilt University Wind Symphony 2014
- Performed at National Conference of the National Association for Music Education 2014
- All-County Band and Orchestra Festivals 2007 – 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

LARGE ENSEMBLE

- *Rip Van Winkle, Concertino for Tuba and Band*
Band arrangement commissioned by the Boulder Concert Band; 10'
First performance: July 16, 2018
- *Rip Van Winkle, Concertino for Tuba and Orchestra*
Commissioned by the Denver Pops Orchestra; 10'
First performance: February 24, 2018
- *Three Places in the West*
Intermediate wind ensemble; 8'
First performance: May 6, 2018
- *Maranatha*
Commissioned by the Pro Musica Colorado Chamber Orchestra; 6.5'
First performances: February 9-10, 2018
- *Knight Ride*
Beginning band; 1'
First performance: December 14, 2017
- *Aquilegia Chorale*
Beginning band; 1'
First performance: December 14, 2017

- *Kateri's Lullaby*
Intermediate wind ensemble; 6'
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

- *Light the Day*
Clarinet, cello, and piano; 7'
Commissioned by Annaka Hogelin for Operation Cadence, fall 2018
Upcoming performance: Spring 2019
- *Flash*
Four trumpets; 4.5'
Composed: Summer 2018
- *Lullaby for Flute and Piano*; 5'
First performance: October 16, 2018
- *On the Summit*
Horn octet; 7.5'
Performances: October 22, 2017 and November 1, 2017
- *Sparks Fly Upward*
String quartet; 13'
First performance: April 12, 2017
- *The Plains*
Solo piano; 13'
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

- *Songs of War*
Tenor, trumpet, cello, piano, and percussion
Composed: November 2018
- *The High Line*
Opera scene; 30'
Part of CU New Opera Works – Composer Fellows' Initiative
First performance: June 16, 2018
- *Dust to Dirt*
Opera scene; 10'
Part of CU New Opera Works – Composer Fellows' Initiative
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

- *Tennessee Waltz* (King)

- Orchestra
Performance: October 28, 2017
- *Gershwin Suite (Fascinating Rhythm, Summertime, Strike Up the Band)*
Wind ensemble
Performance: November 5, 2017
 - *Suite from Anna Magdalena Notebook (Bach)*
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 (Béla Fleck)*
Wind ensemble
Performance: March 24-25, 2015
 - *The Entertainer (Joplin)*
Trombone and tuba
Performance: July 27, 2012
 - *Somewhere Over the Rainbow (Arlen)*
Orchestra
Reading: April 20, 2012
 - *Somewhere Over the Rainbow (Arlen)*
Woodwind quintet
Performance: Spring 2011
 - *Sonata No. 8, op. 13, Pathétique, III. (Beethoven)*
Mallet instruments
Performances: Fall 2010
 - *Field Warm-Up/Symphony No. 5, IV. (Beethoven)*
Marching band
Performances: Fall 2010