

Hoff-Barthelson Music School

Developing potential, enriching lives and creating community since 1944

2025 Compose Yourself! Workshop

Dr. Derek Cooper, Coordinator

Call for Submissions of Student Compositions

It's that time of year when we begin looking forward to the annual *Compose Yourself! Workshop* at Hoff-Barthelson! This is a special opportunity for our students to share their compositions with an audience and then to receive feedback from a panel of visiting professional composers.

When? The *Compose Yourself! Workshop* will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2025, from 1:00-5:00 pm, in the Joan Behrens Bergman Auditorium.

- 1:00-4:00 pm – Students receive feedback about their compositions from our esteemed guest composers.
- 4:00-5:00 pm – Each guest composer will give a short presentation about their music.

Who is eligible to submit compositions for consideration? Any HBMS student who composes her/his own music is eligible.

When and how can students submit their compositions for consideration?

- Send materials directly to Dr. Derek Cooper, dcooper@hbms.org.
- All submissions must be accompanied by a COMPLETED [online submission form](#).
- Submissions are due by February 15, 2025. No late submissions will be accepted.
- Students may submit works that are in-progress.

Then what? Student submissions will be reviewed by HBMS composition faculty. Students whose compositions are approved will be invited to participate in the *Compose Yourself! Workshop* on March 8, 2025. Following the workshop, students may be invited to share their compositions on the *Compose Yourself! Recital* (part of the Music of Our Time Festival) on May 17, 2025, at 1:00 pm. These students will be given the opportunity to revise their selected compositions before this concert to incorporate what they learned during the workshop.

Guest Composers: We are excited to once again partner with [Copland House](#) to feature one of their Composers-in-Residence, [Matt Browne](#), along with [Dr. Nils Vigeland](#).

Dr. Nils Vigeland was born in Buffalo, NY in 1950, the son of musicians. He made his professional debut as a pianist in 1969 with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Lukas Foss, conductor. He later studied composition with Foss at Harvard College, graduating with a B.A. in 1972. He earned his Ph.D at The University at Buffalo where he studied composition with Morton Feldman and piano with Yvar Mikhashoff.

His first orchestral piece was conducted by Foss with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in 1970, and Foss gave the first performance of *One, Three, Five* with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra in 1983. His own work appears on CDs from Mode, EMF, New Focus Recordings, Lovely Music, and Naxos. His choral music is published by Boosey and Hawkes. He taught at Manhattan School of Music for thirty years, retiring as Chair of the Composition Department in 2013. To learn more, visit nilsvigeland.com

Colorado-based composer **Matt Browne** (b. 1988) strives to create music that meets Sergei Diaghilev's famous challenge to Jean Cocteau: "Astonish me!", through incorporating such eclectic influences as the timbral imagination and playfulness of György Ligeti, the shocking and humorous polystylism of Alfred Schnittke, and the relentless rhythmic energy of Igor Stravinsky. His music has been praised for its "unbridled humor" (New Music Box) and described as "witty" (The Strad) and "beautifully crafted and considered" (What's On London).

Dr. Browne has had the honor to collaborate with such ensembles as the Minnesota Orchestra, Alarm Will Sound, PRISM Quartet, Albany Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, and the Eastman Wind Ensemble. His music has received honors such as the ASCAP Foundation Rudolf Nissim Prize, an ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composers award, and a BMI Student Composer award.

He received his DMA from the University of Michigan. Previous teachers include Michael Daugherty and Carter Pann.

Questions: If you have any questions, you can email me at DCooper@hbms.org.

Looking forward to a great *Compose Yourself!* and to hearing all of your creations!

Dr. Derek Cooper
Coordinator, *Compose Yourself!*