

# MICHAEL STEPHENS

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## EDUCATION

**University of Pittsburgh.** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Doctor of Philosophy in music composition and theory, August 2007 (GPA: 3.9)

Theory dissertation: "Two Ways of Looking at Messiaen's *Vingt regards sur l'enfant-Jésus*"

Composition dissertation: *Baptism*, for chamber orchestra.

Studied with Eric Moe, Mathew Rosenblum, Roger Zahab, Nathan Davis, et al.

**Kent State University.** Kent, Ohio

Master of Arts in music composition, May 2002 (GPA: 4.0)

Composition thesis: *Words of the Beloved*, for string orchestra, piano, and percussion.

Studied with Richard Devore, Ralph Lorenz, Thomas Janson, Greg Banaszak, et al.

**Cleveland State University.** Cleveland, Ohio

Graduate student in music composition and saxophone performance

Studied with P.Q. Phan and Howie Smith

**Kent State University.** Kent, Ohio

Bachelor of Music in music education, *cum laude*, May 1990 (GPA: 3.5)

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## CURRENT POSITION

**Associate Professor of Music: Chadron State College** (2007-present)

hired as assistant, 2007; promoted to associate, 2012; tenured, 2013

courses taught:

Theory II, III, and IV

Music Education Practicum

Theory Lab II, III, and IV (aural skills)

Woodwind Pedagogy

Music of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Private Instruction: Woodwinds

Private Instruction: Composition

Private Instruction: Improvisation

Elements of Music

Survey of Instrument Repair

Introduction to Music Education

courses created:

FYI 169MU – Opening Pandora's Music Box (approved 2014, taught Spring 2015)

MUS 369 – Music and Civic Engagement (approved 2014, taught Spring 2015)

MUS 328 – World Musical Culture and Globalization (approved 2014)

MUS 250/251/252/351/352 – Music Education Practicum (approved 2012, taught every semester since the Fall of 2012)

ensembles directed:

Jazz Band

Clarinet Ensemble

Community Symphonic Band

Flute Ensemble

Saxophone Quartet

**Music Department Chair**, (2014- )

Recommend teaching assignments to the Dean of Liberal Arts

Manage department expenditures and scholarship awards

Coordinate department events

Lead weekly department meetings and coordinate departmental initiatives

Coordinate department documentation such as:

- catalog changes presented to Academic Review
- advising templates for students and to NCATE
- department assessment for HLC
- NASM reports, such as the HEADS project

## MICHAEL STEPHENS – 2

### COMPOSITIONS

#### selected chamber music:

*Pahá Sápa* (2015), for solo piccolo – 3:45

Commissioned by Amy Likar, to be premiered in October 2015

*Chadron Sketches* (2014), for saxophone quartet – 8:30

Movements II and III premiered by the CSC Saxophone Quartet, Sean DeHaven, soprano, Stephens, alto, Jedd Raymond, tenor, and Drew Kasch, baritone, Memorial Hall Auditorium, Chadron, October 9, 2014

Premiere of complete work scheduled for April 1, 2015

*Oppositions* (2005), a dialogue for clarinet and piano – 6:40

Commissioned by Alia Musica ([www.alia-music.org](http://www.alia-music.org))

Premiered by Julieta Ugartemendia and Matthew Gillespie, Chatham College, Pittsburgh, March 13, 2007

Performed by Bruce Thornton, College of Saint Benedict / Saint John's University, St. Joseph, Minnesota, January 25, 2010

*"Blessed is the lion consumed by man ..."* (2003-4), for cello and piano – 8:43

Premiered by David Russell and Robert Frankenberry, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pittsburgh, February 15, 2004

*Shards of Frozen Ecstasy* (2002), for alto saxophone and piano – 7:20

Premiered at the North American Saxophone Alliance Convention by Jeffrey Price and Jun Okada, University of Iowa, Iowa City, February 16, 2006

*In the Land of Nod* (2001), quintet for woodwinds – 16:30

Premiered by Jacquie Zarach, flute, Rebekah Siegler, oboe, Wendy Hartzheim, clarinet, Nick Reardon, alto saxophone, and Natalia Nicolini, bassoon, directed by Michael Stephens, Ludwig Recital Hall, Kent, May 5, 2001

II. *What began as blissful slumber ...*, performed by the Alia Musica ensemble: Kerrith Livengood, flute, Amy Galbraith, oboe, Julieta Ugartemendia, clarinet, Jeremy Olisar, alto saxophone, and Mark Fromm, bassoon, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pittsburgh, June 12, 2008

*"God, Grant Me the Serenity ..."* (1994 and 1999), for flute and piano – 6:26

Premiered by Lauren Pedersen and Donna Oberlin, Ludwig Recital Hall, March 31, 2000  
Performed by Stephanie Aulston and James Margetts, Chiccoine Atrium, Chadron, December 5, 2009

*Parry's Predicament* (1993), for brass quartet – 2:00

Premiered by John Kuegeler, trumpet, Richard Dowell, horn, Tim Davis, euphonium, and Michael Foster, tuba, Ludwig Recital Hall, December 8, 1993

*Two Pieces for Alto Saxophone and Piano* (1989) – 6:08

Premiered by Bobby Selvaggio and Brian Woods, Ludwig Recital Hall, December 1989

*The Siren's Song* (1988), for solo flute – 5:15

Premiered by Amy Likar, Ludwig Recital Hall, December 1988

Revision performed by Ellen Shirley, Ludwig Recital Hall, May 1989

#### song cycle:

*Beyond Duality* (2003-5), song cycle on the texts of Rumi for soprano and ensemble – 17:20

Premiered by Diba Alvi, soprano, Peggy Yoo, flute, Kathleen Costello, clarinet, Leah Givelber, violin, Aaron Zelkowicz, cello, and Michael Laubach, percussion, directed by Roger Zahab, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pittsburgh, February 12, 2005

#### electro-acoustic music:

*Fantasy* (2003-4), for alto saxophone and electronics – 4:00

Premiered at Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pittsburgh, February 2005

## MICHAEL STEPHENS – 3

### COMPOSITIONS (continued)

#### selected large-ensemble works:

*Baptism* (2006), for chamber orchestra – 8:00

Commissioned and performed by the Duquesne Contemporary Ensemble, directed by David Stock, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, February 24, 2006

Revised version performed by the University of Pittsburgh Orchestra, directed by Roger Zahab, Bellefield Hall Auditorium, Pittsburgh, February 7, 2007

*Oakland Overture* (2002-4), for orchestra – 6:10

Performed by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, directed by Larry Loh, at a reading session of works selected by Jennifer Higdon, Composer of the Year for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Heinz Hall, March 4, 2006

Premiered by the University of Pittsburgh Orchestra, directed by Roger Zahab, Bellefield Hall, March 2004, and performed again November 3, 2004

*Words of the Beloved* (2001-2), for string orchestra, piano, and percussion – 14:46

Performed by the Kent State University Orchestra, directed by Frank Wiley, at a reading session, Ludwig Recital Hall, May 2002

*Crooked River Overture* (2000), for band – 3:30

Commissioned by the Cuyahoga Falls Instrumental Music Patrons

Premiered by the Roberts Middle School Gold Band, directed by Christie Maddox, Roberts Middle School, May 17, 2000

Performed by the Southwest Conference Honor Band, directed by Michael Stephens, Valentine Community School, Nebraska, March 22, 2014

#### jazz and popular-style works:

*Sassy Sadie* (2011), for jazz combo

*Song for Lauren* (2004), for jazz big band

Recorded in a reading session by the University of Pittsburgh Jazz Ensemble

*Hopes and Dreams* (2001), for flute, alto saxophone, and piano

Premiered at my wedding, Unity Chapel of Light, Tallmadge, May 26, 2001

*Corean Holiday* (2000), for jazz fusion combo

Performed frequently by the CSC Professors of Jazz (2009)

*Osmosis originals* (1993-8): *Sunshower*, *A Little Peace*, *Devotion*, *Jacinta*, *Evening Rain*, *Prometheus*, *Views of the Point*, *Dance with Delilah*, *Off the Wall*, and *Cardiac Inertia*

*Osmosis originals co-written with Warren Henry* (1994-8): *Kaleidoscope*, *F.Y.B.*, and *Untitled Toward a Greater Light* (1991), for jazz combo

### FESTIVAL CONDUCTOR

*Nebraska Southwest Conference Honor Band*, Valentine, Nebraska, March 2014

*Festival Band, CSC High Plains Band and Choir Festival*, Chadron, NE (2010, 2012, 2014)

*Wind Band Reading Session, CSC High Festival*, Chadron, NE (2008-9, 2011, 2013)

*Wyoming Northeast District Band*, Moorcroft, Wyoming, November 2008

### CLINICS PRESENTED

Jazz Saxophone Techniques Clinic, *CSC Jazz Festival* (2012) and *CSC Jazz Day* (2010)

Jazz Ensemble Techniques Clinic, *CSC Jazz Festival* (2011)

“Listen and Adjust: Developing Skills for Improving Intonation on Saxophone and Clarinet”, *CSC High Plains Band and Choir Festival* (2011)

Instructor and Cofounder, *CSC Summer Music Camp* (2009-10)

“Fostering Musical Awareness in the Young Band”, *CSC High Plains Festival* (2008)

“Jazz Improvisation, One Note at a Time”, *CSC Jazz Day* (2008 and 2010)

Saxophone Clinician, *Nebraska Bandmasters All-State Collegiate Band* (2008)

Woodwind Clinician for area high schools and middle schools (2007- )

## MICHAEL STEPHENS – 4

### SERVICE

Nebraska Department of Education:

- Ad-hoc committee for the revision of college music education requirements (2014)

Chadron State College, committees:

- Faculty Senate (2014-15)
- Academic Review Committee (2013-14)
- Graduate Council Committee (2008-9, 2010-13)
- Interdisciplinary Studies Faculty Learning Community (2011-12)
- Music Representative for CSC's Scholastic Day (2008-11)

Chadron State College, music department:

- Curriculum Coordinator of Music Theory and Woodwind Studies (2007- )
- Music Education Practicum Coordinator (2012- )
- NMEA/NAfME (Music Education Organization) Advisor (2011-14)
- CSC Jazz Festival Coordinator (2009-12)
- Search Committee Chair for Full-Time Instructor: Guitar and Essential Studies (2014-15)
- Search Committee for Office Assistant: Music, Art, and Theater (2014)
- Search Committee for Professional Staff: Accompanist and Event Coordinator (2013)
- Search Committee for Director of Bands and Brass Studies (2012-13)
- Search Committee for Professional Staff: Accompanist and Event Coordinator (2012)
- Search Committee Chair for Interim Director of Band and Brass Studies (2012)
- Search Committee Chair for Assistant Professor: Director of Bands and Brass (2012)
- Search Committee for Full-Time Instructor: Guitar and General Studies (2008)

University of Pittsburgh:

- Peer Adviser to music teaching assistants (2004-6)
- Search committee for a composition faculty member (2004-5)

Kent State University:

- Graduate Representative to the Music Library Committee (2001-2)
- Alternate Representative to the Graduate Student Senate (2000-1)

### ADJUDICATION

Middle School Contest: Band, Solos, and Ensemble, Scottsbluff (2008-15)

Nebraska District VI Contest, Alliance (2012), Chadron and Scottsbluff sites (2008-11)

South Dakota District Band Contest, Rapid City (2009, 2012)

Wyoming Northeast District Band, and Solo and Ensemble Contest (2008)

South Dakota District Solo and Ensemble Contest, Rapid City (2008)

Sidney Oktoberfest: Marching Band Contest (2007)

### PREVIOUS TEACHING POSITIONS

Teaching Fellow: University of Pittsburgh (2002-7)

courses taught and assisted:

Music Theory I, II, III, and IV	Electronic and Computer Music I and II
Musicianship I and II (Aural Skills)	History of Jazz
Preparation for Music Theory	University Orchestra
Music Since 1945	

Teaching Assistant: Kent State University (2000-2)

courses taught:

Music Theory I and II (including aural skills and keyboard)

Contributed to and implemented departmental exams and quizzes

Instrumental Music Teacher: **Woodsy's Music**, Kent, Ohio (1992-2002)

Taught saxophone, clarinet, and flute, from beginning to advanced levels

Prepared students for contests, recitals, and scholarship auditions

## MICHAEL STEPHENS – 5

**Band Director: Immaculate Conception School, Ravenna, Ohio (1995-2000)**

Taught instrumental music classes and band for grades 4-8

Directed bands and led chamber ensembles in concert

**Band Director: Musical Youth, Inc. (1991-3)**

Schools, NE Ohio: Luther Memorial (Cleveland), St. Louis School (Louisville), St. Gabriel School (Painesville), Immaculate Conception School (Ravenna), Sacred Heart of Mary (Louisville), and St. Joseph School (Canton)

Taught instrumental music classes and band for grades 4-8

Directed bands and led chamber ensembles in concert

### PERFORMANCE

Music Department Faculty Recitals (2008-10, 2012, 2014)

CSC Professors of Jazz (2007- )

festivals and concerts in Nebraska, including Gering, Alliance, Gordon, and Chadron, and in South Dakota: Sturgis and Martin

high school performances and clinics at Torrington (WY), Gering (NE), Rapid City Central (SD), and Rapid City Stevens (SD)

recorded tracks for promotional use, performing saxophone and flute (2011)

Saxophone soloist, various campus and community events, Chadron (2007- )

Joint Faculty Recital with Adam Lambert, performed on saxophones, clarinet, and flute (2008)

Guest appearances with CSC Ensembles and Events:

*Little Shop of Horrors*, saxophone soloist for Entr'acte, October 2012

Sidney Oktoberfest, saxophone with *Jazz Ensemble* and *Jazzbirds* (2007-8)

NCDA Conference, saxophonist backing the *Vocal Jazz Ensemble*, July 2008

Clarinet and saxophone soloist with the *CSC Women's Ensemble* (2008-9)

Guest saxophonist, *NCDA All-State Vocal Jazz*, directed by Paris Rutherford, July 2008

**Band Member or Freelance Musician (1992-2007)**

jazz: *Warren Henry Group*, *Dan Bailey Quartet*, *Rex Shepherd Group*, and *Swing Machine*

blues: *Delgados*, *Bluestones*, and *Fat City Blues*

rock, funk, and pop: *Class Reunion*, *Melvin Lewis Esquire*, *Ed Head Band*

all-occasion: *City Heat*, *Jerry Bruno Band*, and *Carnival*

*Osmosis* ([osmosis.jazzfusion.us](http://osmosis.jazzfusion.us)), original jazz-fusion group – 1994-2002

founding member and contributing composer

performed on alto, tenor, and soprano saxophones, as well as flute and keyboard

opened for *Spyro Gyra*, *Chuck Mangione*, *Marion Meadows*, and *Blood, Sweat and Tears*

semi-finalist for *Musician* magazine's unsigned band contest (1998)

CDs: *Perspectives* (2000) and *Music* (1995)

University of Pittsburgh Orchestra, percussion (2006)

Kent State University Jazz Ensemble I, lead alto (2000-1)

Kent State University ensembles, saxophones and clarinet (1985-90)

Jazz Ensemble I (10 semesters), Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Saxophone Quartet, Marching Band, Flasherbrass (pep band) and pit orchestra for *Chicago*

### ADDITIONAL HONORS

Montclair Who's Who in Collegiate Faculty – 2010-2011 edition

Who's Who Among America's Teachers and Educators, 11<sup>th</sup> edition – 2007

Walter Watson Jazz Award – 2001 and 1990

Musical Youth Principals' Commendation for Outstanding Educators – 1992-3 and 1991-2

National Association of Jazz Educators Citation – 1989 and 1983

James R. Pottenger Memorial Scholarship for Future Educators – 1985

Geneva Area Music Boosters Scholarship – 1985