

Ezra Donner

Ann Arbor, MI 48103 (734) 221-3920

pianist4486@yahoo.com <https://ezradonner.wordpress.com>

Education

Doctor of Music, Composition (2015)
Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

Master of Music, Composition (2011)
Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

Bachelor of Music with High Honors, Composition (2008)
University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, & Dance

Graduated with Honors (2004)
Interlochen Arts Academy

Professional Experience

TEACHING

Founding Director and Teacher (2020-present)
Ezra Donner Piano Studio, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Part-Time Music Faculty (2020)
Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Instructor of Piano (2017-2021)
Ada Conservatory of Music, Ada, Michigan

Associate Instructor of Music Theory (2009-2014)
Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Bloomington, Indiana

MUSIC DIRECTING

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Ypsilanti, Michigan (2023-present)
Duties: leading music on Sunday morning and directing small volunteer choir

The Birmingham Temple, Farmington Hills, Michigan (2015-2022)
Duties: leading music on Friday evenings and directing professional choir

University of Michigan Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Ann Arbor, Michigan (2014-present)
Conductor, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *HMS Pinafore*, *The Mikado*, *Patience*, *Yeomen of the Guard*

Chicago Summer Opera (2016)
Conductor and keyboardist, *Dido and Aeneas*

PIANIST FOR OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE

Miami Summer Music Festival (2016)
Gianni Schicchi, *The Magic Flute*

Interlochen Arts Camp (2006-2008, 2014)
Guys & Dolls, *The Pajama Game*, *Jekyll & Hyde*

Windy City Music Theatre (2016)
Seussical

University of Michigan Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Ann Arbor, Michigan (2014-present)
Patience, *Yeomen of the Guard*, *The Grand Duke*

Brooklyn Repertory Opera (2009)
Orfeo ed Euridice

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Awards and Honors

COMPOSER

Semi-Finalist, American Prize Competition – Orchestra, Opera/Musical Theatre/Film (2016)
Semi-Finalist, American Prize Competition – Chamber Music (2013)
Second Prize, Music Teachers' National Association Composition Competition (2013)
First Prize, Respighi Prize Competition, Chamber Orchestra of New York (2012)
Finalist, Midwest Graduate Music Consortium Call for Scores, University of Chicago (2010)

PIANIST

Finalist, American Prize Competition (2021)
Finalist, American Prize Competition (2016)
Finalist, 2nd International G. Gershwin Music Competition (2015)
Finalist, University of Michigan Concerto Competition (2006)
Semi-Finalist (Second Round), Oberlin International Piano Competition (2004)
Finalist, PianoArts Competition, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (2003)

CONDUCTOR

Third Prize, American Prize Competition – Opera, Community Division (2017-18)
Second Prize, American Prize Competition – Opera, Community Division (2016-17)

Music Festivals

International Conductors' Workshop and Competition (2020)
Atlanta Georgia
Faculty: Adrian Gnam, Gregory Pritchard

Brevard Music Center (2012)
Brevard, North Carolina
Faculty: David Dzubay, Robert Aldridge

John Duffy Composers' Institute (2012)
Norfolk, Virginia
Faculty: John Duffy, Libby Larsen, Michael Colgrass, Tania Léon, Fred Ho, Frank Oteri

New Voices @ CUA (2011)
Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
Chairman: Brian Rice

Klasik Keyifler Composers' Cauldron (2011)
Mustafapasa, Nevsehir, Turkey
Faculty: Kamran Ince, Marc Mellits, Michael Ellison

San Miguel Chamber Music Festival (2010)
San Miguel de Allende, Mexico
Faculty: Marc Satterwhite

Aberystwyth MusicFest International Composition Workshop (2010)
Aberystwyth, Wales, United Kingdom
Faculty: John Metcalf, Gareth Churchill

Summer in Sombor (2010)
Sombor, Serbia
Faculty: Aleksandra Vrebalov, Michael Rose, Kala Pierson, Raiko Maksimovic

Interlochen Arts Camp (2002-2004)
Interlochen, Michigan
Faculty: Thomas Lymenstull, Stephen Perry, John Beall, Michael Albaugh

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Recordings

The American Piano (released September 2014)
studio recording featuring music of great Jewish American composers of the 20th Century
Steel Sky (released March 2012)
studio recording featuring original works for piano performed by the composer
Vox Reflexa New Millennium Composers' Forum (released September 2012)
"The Tower" for Mixed Choir and Piano
Aurea Silva Trio debut album (release TBA)
Variations for Flute, Bassoon, and Piano
studio recording

Reviews

A2 View, April 9, 2016: bit.ly/2kumWq2
Herald Times Online, May 7, 2014: bit.ly/2kXezah
Art Song Update, June 5, 2012: bit.ly/2kcVf4h
Sequenza21, November 2, 2011: bit.ly/2lsaJGL
Miss Music Nerd, June 1, 2010: bit.ly/2kcMloQ
The Big City, March 10, 2010: bit.ly/2kAyF9I

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Selected Performances (* Denotes première)

April 7-10, 2016

“HMS Pinafore (or, The Lass That Loved a Sailor)”

Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan

presented by the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society

December 10-13, 2016

“Patience (or, Bunthorne’s Bride)”

with the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society

Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan

presented by the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society

September 11, 2015

“The American Piano”

a lecture/recital program featuring music of great Jewish American Composers of the 20th Century

Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, CA

presented by the JCCSF and Lehrhaus Judaica

May 31, 2015

“The American Piano”

The Little Shul (Congregation Shivtei Yeshuron Ezras Israel), Philadelphia, PA

presented by The Little Shul and The Feinstein Center for American Jewish History

May 15, 2015

“The American Piano”

Jazz Bistro, Toronto, CANADA

presented by Jewish Music Week in Toronto 2015

April 9-12, 2015

“The Mikado (or, The Town of Titpu)”

Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan

presented by the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society

October 19, 2014

“The American Piano”

North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, IL

presented by the Marilyn and Robert Mitchell Sternberg Cultural Enrichment Fund

August 4, 2014

Variations for flute, bassoon, and piano

White Lake Chamber Music Festival, White Lake, MI

performed by Aurea Silva Trio

June 6-8, 2014

Ile, a sung drama in one act

Vault1031, Louisville, KY

presented by Thompson Street Opera Company

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May 2-3, 2014

* *Ile*, a sung drama in one act

Waldron Arts Center, Bloomington, IN

presented by New Voices Opera

March 17, 2014

* *Street Beat* for reed quintet

Heidelberg University, Tiffin, OH

performed by Akropolis Reed Quintet

March 6, 2014

* *From the Depths* for SATB choir a cappella

Studio Z, St. Paul, MN

presented by First Readings Project Choir

October 12, 2013

* *Mountain Suite* for string orchestra

Carnegie Hall Weill Recital Hall, New York, NY

presented by Chamber Orchestra of New York

October 2, 2013

Doctor of Music Degree Recital, Composition

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

May 26-31, 2013

Ile (excerpts)

Virginia Arts Center, Norfolk, VA

presented by the John Duffy Composers Institute with members of the Virginia Symphony

July 11, 2013

"Notre Amitie," duo recital with Claire DiVizio, soprano

Gobin Memorial United Methodist Church, Greencastle, IN

presented by Greencastle Summer Music Festival

July 26, 2012

* *Occupy* for tenor saxophone and percussion

Searcy Hall Brevard, NC

Casey Grev, tenor saxophone; Kelsey Tamayo and Bilinda Lou, percussion

July 12, 2012

* *Tchotchkes* for violin and piano

Searcy Hall Brevard, NC

Victor Beyens, violin; Ezra Donner, piano

June 1, 2012

* *Ile* (excerpts)

Old Dominion University Norfolk, VA

presented by the John Duffy Composers' Institute

June 1, 2012

iCigarra! for violin, clarinet, soprano voice, percussion, and piano

The Lilypad Cambridge, MA

Claire DiVizio, soprano

presented by the Boston New Music Initiative

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May 26, 2012

Nothing I Have Done for flute, clarinet, harp, mezzo-soprano voice, and piano
The Church of St. John the Evangelist, 154 Somerset Street
West Ottawa, ON
Ottawa New Music Creators

April 7, 2012

**Preludes* for piano
The Bishop Bloomington, IN
Ezra Donner, piano

April 1, 2012

Variations for piano solo
Indiana University Recital Hall Bloomington, IN
Ezra Donner, piano;

April 1, 2012

iCigarra! for violin, clarinet, soprano voice, percussion, and piano
University of North Texas Denton, TX

February 1, 2012

Variations for flute, bassoon, and piano
UAHuntsville Huntsville, AL
February 1, 2012

Resonance, film score
Indiana University Cinema Bloomington, IN

January 30, 2012

* *Nothing I Have Done* for flute, clarinet, harp, mezzo-soprano voice, and piano
De La Salle high school auditorium Ottawa, ON
Ottawa New Music Creators

January 27, 2012

**Horizons* for solo trumpet
University of South Dakota Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts
Vermillion, SD Tim Farrell

January 25, 2012

"O My Luve's Like a Red, Red Rose" (arrangement for baritone voice and piano)
University of the Philippines Abelardo Hall Auditorium Manila, PHILIPPINES
Joseph Legaspi, baritone; Mark Anthony Carpio, piano

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January 1, 2012

iCigarra! for violin, clarinet, soprano voice, percussion, and piano
Catholic University of America Washington, DC
Great Noise Ensemble; David Vickerman, conductor

December 1, 2011

Variations for piano solo
Brooklyn Conservatory of Music Brooklyn, NY
Ezra Donner, piano

October 12, 2011

* *Variations* for flute, bassoon, and piano
Kerrytown Concert House Ann Arbor, MI
Aurea Silva Trio

October 11, 2011

*A Requiem
Indiana University Auer Concert Hall Bloomington, IN
Benjamin Geier, conductor

October 1, 2011

Sonata Judaica
The Firehouse Space Brooklyn, NY
Maria Wagner, clarinet

August 15, 2011

*Mountain Suite
Sakir Pasa Medrese Mustafapasa, Turkey
Orhan Ahiskal and Beril Sun, violins; Meriç Esen, viola; Heidi Hoffman, cello

July 8, 15, 22, 29, 2011

iCigarra!
Fasseas Whitebox Theatre @ The Drucker Center Chicago, IL
Existential Pilot

May 31, 2011

Sonata Judaica
Broad Street Ministry Philadelphia, PA
Mark Dover, clarinet

May 15, 2011

*Antigone
University of Michigan MacIntosh Theatre

March 5, 2011

Sonata Judaica, *iCigarra!*
Deagan Music Chicago, IL Existential Pilot

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March 4, 2011

iCigarra!

The Bishop Bloomington, IN

Existential Pilot

March 3, 2011

Sonata Judaica, iCigarra!

University of Louisville Comstock Concert Hall Louisville, KY

Existential Pilot

March 1, 2011

*iCigarra!

Indiana University Auer Concert Hall Bloomington, IN

Existential Pilot

July 30, 2010

*Hymn for Chamber Orchestra

Orion Orchestra; Toby Purser, conductor

The Penglais School Main Hall, Aberystwyth, Wales

July 20, 2010

High Octane, quintet for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, and percussion

Sombor Quintet

[Art Gallery], Novi Sad, Serbia

July 18, 2010

*High Octane, quintet for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, and percussion

Sombor Quintet

Sombor Town Hall, Sombor, Serbia

May 12, 2010

Existential Pilot Spring 2010 Tour—Concert V

Sonata no. 1 for Piano (2009), Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird (2007), Sonata Judaica (2006)

Claire DiVizio, soprano; Mark Dover, clarinet; Ezra Donner, piano

First Church in Boston, Boston, MA

May 10, 2010

Existential Pilot Spring 2010 Tour—Concert IV

Sonata no. 1 for Piano (2009), Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird (2007), Sonata Judaica (2006)

Claire DiVizio, soprano; Mark Dover, clarinet; Ezra Donner, piano

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

April 30, 2010

Existential Pilot Spring 2010 Tour—Concert III

Sonata no. 1 for Piano (2009), Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird (2007), Sonata Judaica (2006)

Claire DiVizio, soprano; Mark Dover, clarinet; Ezra Donner, piano

Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor, MI

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April 29, 2010

Unwanted Breakage for Dancers, String Quartet, and Piano

'Hammer and Nail', showcasing Indiana University student composers and choreographers

Buskirk-Chumley Theater, Bloomington, IN

Choreographer: Abbe Lansdown

Eric Auerbach, Marie-Elise McNeely, violins; Natalie Williams, viola; Stephen Harms, cello; Ezra Donner, piano

April 28, 2010

*Unwanted Breakage for Dancers, String Quartet, and Piano

'Hammer and Nail', showcasing Indiana University student composers and choreographers

Buskirk-Chumley Theater, Bloomington, IN

Choreographer: Abbe Lansdown

Eric Auerbach and Marie-Elise McNeely, violins; Natalie Williams, viola; Stephen Harms, cello; Ezra Donner, piano

March 9, 2010

Sonata no. 1 for Piano (2009)

The Duplex Cabaret and Piano Bar, New York, NY

Tobenski-Algera Concert Series

Marc Peloquin, pianist

March 5, 2010

New Art/New Music

*immanent blue for solo flute (2010)

Indiana University SoFA Gallery, Bloomington, IN

Alan Tomasetti, flute

March 3, 2010

Existential Pilot New Music Group Spring 2010 Tour—Concert II

Sonata no. 1 for Piano (2009), Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird (2007), Sonata Judaica (2006)

Claire DiVizio, soprano; Mark Dover, clarinet; Ezra Donner, piano

Ethical Society of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

March 2, 2010

Existential Pilot New Music Group Spring 2010 Tour—Concert I

Sonata no. 1 for Piano (2009), Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird (2007), Sonata Judaica (2006)

Claire DiVizio, soprano; Mark Dover, clarinet; Ezra Donner, piano

Concert I: WMP Concert Hall, New York, NY

December 1, 2009

*Sonata no. 1 for Piano (2009)

Indiana University Auer Concert Hall, Bloomington, IN

Ezra Donner, piano

July 25, 2009

Opera Singers' Initiative 2009 Benefit Concert

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird (2007), song cycle for voice and piano

Hotel Giraffe, New York, NY

Andrea Bellissimo, soprano; Grace Guo, piano

June 6, 2009

Music by American composers of the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird (2007)

New York Public Library, 96th Street Branch, New York, NY

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Andrea Bellissimo, soprano; Ezra Donner, piano

April 15, 2008

Final Recital, Creating Musical Theatre Class, Joan Morris, professor

*Antigone, an opera (excerpts)

University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, & Dance Walgreen Drama Center, Ann Arbor, MI

Rebecca Nathanson, soprano; Kathryn Mueller, mezzo-soprano; Brandon Grimes, baritone; Ezra Donner, piano

March 22, 2008

Claire DiVizio, Student Recital

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird, song cycle for voice and piano

University of Michigan Stearns Building Cady Room, Ann Arbor, MI

Claire DiVizio, soprano; Ezra Donner, piano

March 10, 2008

University of Michigan Student Composers' Forum

*Rust Belt for string quintet

University of Michigan Britton Recital Hall, Ann Arbor, MI

Jessica Harvey and Erin Zehngut, violins; Thomas Carter and Christia Bieda, violas; Jeremy Crosmer, cello

February 16, 2007

Midwest Composers' Symposium

Sonata Judaica [alternate title: Structures] for clarinet and piano

Indiana University Auer Concert Hall, Bloomington, IN

Mark Dover, clarinet; Ezra Donner, piano

April 16, 2007

University of Michigan Student Composers' Forum

*Five Songs for bass voice, cello, and piano

University of Michigan Britton Recital Hall, Ann Arbor, MI

Andrew Munn, bass voice; Maia Dedrick, cello; Ezra Donner, piano

March 8, 2007

University of Michigan Student Composers' Forum

*Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird, song cycle for voice and piano

University of Michigan Britton Recital Hall, Ann Arbor, MI

Rebecca Nathanson, soprano; Ezra Donner, piano

November 20, 2006

University of Michigan Student Composers' Forum

*Sonata Judaica [alternate title: Structures] for clarinet and piano

University of Michigan Britton Recital Hall, Ann Arbor, MI

Mark Dover, clarinet; Ezra Donner, piano

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March 13, 2006

*Symphonic Idyll for orchestra

“A Concert of Orchestral Premières”

University of Michigan University Symphony Orchestra

University of Michigan Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor, MI

Clinton Smith, conductor