

# JOSEPH BRIAN SOWA

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## Education

MM, Music Composition, Brigham Young University, expected graduation: 2012.  
BM, Music Composition, Editing minor, Magna Cum Laude, Brigham Young University, 2010.

## Composition Studies

Principal teachers at Brigham Young University: Stephen Jones, Steve Ricks, and Neil Thornock.  
Additional lessons with Robert Aldridge (Montclair State), Julian Anderson (Guildhall), Mark Applebaum (Stanford), Chaya Czernowin (Harvard), David Dzubay (Indiana), Lansing McLoskey (University of Miami), and Harold Meltzer.  
Orchestration masterclasses with Luc Brewways, David Crumb, Augusta Read Thomas, and Melinda Wagner.

## Awards, Honors, and Fellowships

- 2011                    ASCAP Plus Award Recipient
- Student, Brevard Summer Music Festival  
Studied composition with Robert Aldridge of Montclair State and David Dzubay of Indiana for six weeks
- Graduate Student Fellowship, Brigham Young University  
\$15,000 to write a violin concerto for the BYU Chamber Orchestra
- International Graduate Student Scholarship, King's College London  
£5,000 toward masters studies
- Finalist, ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Awards  
for "Summer Has Ten Thousand Stars" for orchestra  
*N.B.—out of a pool of nearly 750 national applicants*
- 2010                    Commission, Barlow Endowment for Music Composition  
for "Book of Imaginary Beings" for saxophone, bass, piano, and percussion  
*N.B.—While still an undergraduate, I was one of nine composers selected out of a pool of 117 international applicants.*
- Dean's List, School of Music (winter semester)
- 2009                    Student, European American Musical Alliance Summer Program  
Studied composition, theory, and musicianship skills in June in Paris with Philip Lasser of Juilliard and others

Finalist, ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Awards  
for “Two Metaphors”\* for clarinet and piano  
(\* 2nd and 4th movements of Clarinet Sonata)

2nd place, Vera Hinckley Mayhew Creative Arts Contest in Music Composition  
for “Two Metaphors” for clarinet and piano

2008 Laycock Grant for Creative Collaboration in the Arts  
Received as part of a group of seven student composers to write, rehearse,  
and perform new music with twenty other music majors. I wrote the grant  
letter, managed the budget, and supervised all aspects of the project’s  
completion.

ORCA Grant for undergraduate research  
Studied choral music and Judeo-Christian pseudepigrapha for a work that  
evolved from a choir piece into a clarinet sonata

2nd place, Vera Hinckley Mayhew Creative Arts Contest in Music Composition  
For “Go Exploring,” for piano, string quartet, and percussion

2007 Dean’s List, School of Music (winter semester)

## Publications and Presentations

“The State of Scholarly Research on Harrison Birtwistle.” *Brio* (Journal of the UK/Ireland branch  
of the International Association of Music Librarians) 48 (Autumn/Winter 2011): 24–38.

“Meanings of Music: Metaphors, Proportions, and Physiology.” To be presented as part of the  
BYU Honors Program Lecture Series, Provo, UT, December 1, 2011.

“Life After Brahms: Learning to Live with the ‘Classical Music’ of the Twentieth Century.”  
*Insight*, April 2010: 38–44.

“‘Sweet As!’: the intensifier As in New Zealand and Australian English.” *English Today* 98 (June  
2009). 58–61. (also presented at the conference of the Linguistics Association of the  
Southwest, Provo, UT, Sept. 24–26, 2009.)

“The Role of the Human Conversation in Fostering a Love for Writing.” *Tutoring Strategies*,  
Winter 2009: 51–53.

“Writing in the Undergraduate Music Theory Curriculum.” *Writing in the Disciplines*, Winter  
2009: 58–61.

“How Serving a Mission Gave Me a ‘Sweet As’ Research Opportunity.” *Insight*, April 2009: 27.

## Work Experience in Music

2011–present Instructor, First-year Music Theory (Music 195 and 196)  
Taught a class of nine music majors common-practice harmony through  
modulation and basic chromatic techniques. Developed my own pedagogy  
that centered on composition with an emphasis on form and texture.

- 2008–present      Freelance Music Copyist and Orchestrator  
Orchestrated stray recitatives for 2009 BYU production of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, typeset examples for books on piano pedagogy and 1920s jazz, created scores and parts for various chamber works.
- Fall 2010            Instructor, Music Theory Fundamentals (Music 190)  
Taught a class of 100 music minors the basics of music notation and theory.
- Winter 2010        Teaching Assistant, First Semester Composition (Music 188)  
Organized, hired, and rehearsed musicians on two separate occasions to record 40 student pieces.
- 2007–2010         Teaching Assistant, Advanced MIDI and Music Notation Lab  
Supervised lab usage, answered technical questions, wrote several handouts to assist lab users, did copy work, including band, choral, and chamber music scores. Also organized work schedules, coordinated with faculty supervisor, assisted in hiring new TAs, supervised completion of copy work.
- Summer 2009        Intern, Barlow Endowment for Music Composition  
Processed applications and facilitated the judging process for a prestigious international composition commissioning competition. Worked with composers David Rakowski, Dan Gawthrop, Steve Ricks, and Ethan Wickman; Joseph Alessi, principal trombonist of the New York Philharmonic; and members of the BYU faculty.
- 2006–2008         Research Assistant, HBLL Music and Dance Special Collections  
Captured, restored, and lightly edited 5000+ hours of audio, including interviews of William Primrose with David Dalton, using Pro Tools and Cedar Cambridge system. Wired five computers to audio equipment. Integrated new mixing board into audio system. Produced CDs, created album covers for series of Primrose interviews (41 CDs) and for series of Dalton concerts (40 CDs). The former was made for the International Viola Society. Created editorial style guide for making CD back covers.

### **Work Experience in Editing, Writing, and Design**

- Summer 2010        Editorial Consultant, BYU Honors Program Publications  
Worked with Dr. Rory Scanlon and Cheri Earl in the Honors Department to refine the concept of *Insight* magazine, including its stance toward its audience, its content, and so on; created a production schedule to produce both a print magazine and an online edition; created a course outline by which the magazine and its online counterpart can be produced in two discrete semesters by students of varying backgrounds and abilities.

- Winter 2010 Senior Designer, Stowaway Magazine  
Proposed the basic grid for the magazine's design. Designed the table of contents, the culture spread, a feature article, and an ad for the magazine's website. Did copyfitting and helped ensure coherency of design throughout the magazine. Helped with miscellaneous writing and editing throughout the magazine.
- 2009–2010 Managing Editor, BYU Honors Program Publications  
TA'd for a class to write content for the magazine and newsletter. Supervised development of content with the publisher, Dr. Gary Hatch. Designed and laid out the newsletter, the *Spark*, and the magazine, *Insight*. Coordinated with Humanites Publication Center in editing and miscellaneous design issues related to *Insight*. Fact checked, proofread, and handled publication of *Insight*.
- 2008–2009 Intern, Humanities Publication Center  
Supervised the layout and design of College of Humanities Magazine, Winter 2009. Did layout for, proofread, and produced a 350-page book on Mt. Vesuvius studies. Laid out articles for *Insight* magazine, Winter 2009. Completed various other editing and layout assignments.
- 2009 Writing Fellow  
Read and commented on student papers twice in every semester. Conferenced with each student for 30 minutes regarding the suggestions given with the goal of helping them become better writers. Assigned to work with students in a different course each semester. Winter semester, I followed a bioethics class. Fall semester, I followed a humanities civilization class.

## Service and Leadership

- 2010–2011 Council member, BYU Graduate Student Society  
Helped publicize and organize events for BYU's 3,300 graduate students.
- 2009 President, Student-Provo City Alliance  
Founded a group to help students get involved in local politics. Results included registering students to vote and preventing the implementation of an unpopular city ordinance.
- 2007–present Music Theory Tutor  
100+ hours over the past 5 years

## Memberships and Affiliations

ASCAP  
Linguistics Association of the Southwest

# Complete List of Compositions

(performances, commissions, and awards bulleted)

## Orchestral

“Myths and Legends” for solo violin and chamber orchestra (2011); 11’

- ☞ Funded by a BYU Graduate Student Fellowship
- ☞ Partial reading 5 August 2011 by the Brevard Music Center Orchestra, John Shin, soloist, David Dzubay, cond.
- ☞ To be premiered 7 December 2011 by the BYU Chamber Orchestra, Jared Starr, soloist, Kory Katseanes, cond.

“Summer Has Ten Thousand Stars” for full orchestra (2009–2010); 10’

- ☞ Premiered 10 April 2010 by the BYU Philharmonic Orchestra, Jamie Teot cond.
- ☞ 3rd Place, 2010 Vera Mayhew Creative Arts Contest in Music Composition.

## Chamber

“Fangled Contraption” for flute and alto saxophone (2011); 2’

- ☞ Premiered 5 August 2011 by Erin and Michael Torres at the Brevard Music Festival
- ☞ To be performed 2 December 2011 at the “Celebration Concert” of Ohio State University, by Erin and Michael Torres.
- ☞ To be performed January 2012 at the 35th International Saxophone Symposium at George Mason University by Erin and Michael Torres.
- ☞ To be performed January 2012 at Muskingham University by Erin and Michael Torres.

“Interstate Pastoral” for flute, clarinet, and bassoon (2011); 7’

- ☞ Premiered 14 July 2011 by Erin Torres, Dana Howell, and Reiss Schoendorf at the Brevard Music Festival

“A Field Guide to Natural History” for saxophone, bass, piano, and percussion (2010–2011); 24’

- ☞ Commissioned in 2010 by the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition.
- ☞ Premiered 7 June 2011 at the 2011 Convention of the International Society of Bassists at San Francisco State University by David Kjar, Eric Hansen, Scott Holden, and Ron Brough.
- ☞ Performed 5 October 2011 at Brigham Young University by Ray Smith, Eric Hansen, Scott Holden, and Ron Brough

“Gorre and Daphetid” for piano trio (2011); 5’

- ☞ Written for a modern dance collaboration with choreographer Anne Garlick.
- ☞ Read 23 February 2011 by the New York Piano Trio.
- ☞ Premiered March 31 and April 1 in the BYU Dance Department’s “New Works New Voices” concert.

“floboe” for flute and oboe (2010); 3’

- ☞ Premiered 10 November 2010 at Brigham Young University by Danielle Priest and Megan Beardall

“Odds and Ends” for flute, clarinet, bassoon, violin, and cello (2004/2009); 15’

- ☞ Premiered 11 November 2009 at Brigham Young University by Nicole Okeson, Rulon Bailey, Jessi Judd, Ashley Kunz, and Natachia Li.

“Monet’s Gardens” for saxophone quartet (2009); 7’

- ☞ Read by the US Coast Guard Sax Quartet, 1 October 2009.

**“Spira Mirabilis”** for 2 recorders and 2 toy pianos (2009); 12’

- ☞ Premiered 21 April 2011 at Brigham Young University by Joseph Sowa, Eric Callison, Mark Witmer, and Ben Taylor

**“Thoughts that Keep You Awake”** for flute, soprano sax, and 3 perc. (2009); 5’

**“You Mean the World to Me”** for saxophone and tam-tam (2009); 9’

- ☞ Premiered 3 April 2009 by Skyler Murray.
- ☞ Performed again 18 November 2009 by Skyler Murray.

**“Clarinet Sonata”** for clarinet and piano (2008–2009); 24’

- ☞ Finalist, 2009 ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards.
- ☞ 2nd Place, Vera Mayhew Creative Arts Competition in Music Composition.
- ☞ First complete performance 30 September 2011 at Baldassin Pianos in Salt Lake City by Jaren Hinckley and Jed Moss
- ☞ First movement performed 1 and 5 April 2011 at Brigham Young University by Tara Hill and Mark Witmer
- ☞ Second, third, and fourth movements performed 11 November 2009 at Brigham Young University by Hannah Bates and Jackie Bodily.
- ☞ Second movement read by Jean Kopperud and Stephen Gosling of the New York New Music Ensemble, 11 November 2008.
- ☞ Funded by a grant from BYU’s Office of Undergraduate Research.

**“I AM”** for chamber ensemble (1.1.1.1-1.1.1.0-2 perc.-pno/cel.-1.1.1.1.1) (2008); 8’

- ☞ Premiered by the Musical North Chamber Ensemble, Lev Ivanov cond., as part of “The Fall Collection” project, 5 November 2008.
- ☞ Funded by a grant from the Laycock Endowment for Creative Collaboration in the Arts, for which I wrote the grant letter, managed the budget, and supervised all aspects of the project’s completion.

**“Go Exploring”** for piano, string quartet, and percussion (2008); 9’

- ☞ 2nd Place, Vera Mayhew Creative Arts Competition in Music Composition.
- ☞ Read by fEARnoMUSIC, 20 March 2008.

**“Fluidity”** for harp (2007); 4’

**“Quarter-Life Crisis”** for bassoon (2007); 5’

- ☞ Premiered on 29 February 2008 at Brigham Young University by Darcy Whetten

## Keyboard

**Prelude “Sad Clown”** for piano solo (2009); 2’

**“In and Through All Things”** for organ (2010–2011); 6’

- ☞ Premiered 27 March 2011 by Douglas Bush at the Catholic Cathedral in Moscow, Russia.
- ☞ Performed again 23 April 2011 by Douglas Bush at the Salt Lake Tabernacle.
- ☞ To be performed 12 March 2012 by Neil Thornock at Libby Garner Concert Hall, University of Utah

**Prelude “Silent Chambers”** for piano solo (2009); 2’

- ☞ Premiered by Lee Deitterich at the École Normale de Musique de Paris, 25 July 2010.

**“Galaxy”** for piano solo (2009); 5’

**“When Your Best Ain’t Good Enough”** for piano, four hands (2007); 5’

☞ Premiered on 14 November 2007 at Brigham Young University by Randy Peck and Danny Gledhill

## **Vocal and Choral**

**“In Praise of Songs that Die”** for high voice and piano (2011); 3’

☞ Premiered 7 July 2011 by Jason Weisinger and Bolton Ellenberg at the Brevard Music Festival

**“God’s World”** for SATB choir (2009); 5’

**“A Lake and a Fairy Boat”** for high voice and piano (2008); 4’

☞ Premiered 18 December 2008 by Karen Baron and Chris Koelzer

**“When the Messiah Comes”** for high voice and piano (2008); 3’

☞ Premiered on 25 April 2009 by David Batchelor and Eric Callison

## **Electronics**

**“Lavender Summer”** for pre-recorded electronics (2009); 5’

☞ Premiered on 4 December 2009 at Brigham Young University

**“What About That Girl?”** for electronics (2006); 5’

☞ Premiered on 17 November 2007 at Brigham Young University

☞ Performed again on 11 November 2009