

Paul Alexander Lessard

Curriculum Vitae & Works List

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address:

Fine Arts Center
Arkansas State University
2412 Quapaw Way
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EDUCATION

- 2023 **Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition**
University of Toronto
Thesis composition: Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra
Supervisor: Prof. Gary Kulesha
- 2018 **Master of Music in Composition and Saxophone Performance**
University of Florida
- 2016 **Bachelor of Science in Physics and Music**
Gettysburg College

Composition Teachers:

- Gary Kulesha 2018-2023: University of Toronto
- James Paul Sain 2017-2018: University of Florida
- Paul Richards 2016-2017: University of Florida
- Avner Dorman 2012-2016: Gettysburg College
- Dorothy Chang Summer 2019: Orford Musique Composition Workshop

Saxophone Teachers:

- Jonathan Helton 2016-2018: University of Florida
- Amanda Heim 2013-2016: Gettysburg College

UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

2024-present **Arkansas State University**, Jonesboro, AR

Full-Time Instructor

Coordinator of Composition and Music Theory

- Create syllabi, teach, grade, hold office hours
- Teaching composition and music theory at both undergraduate and postgraduate level
- Coordinating curriculum for undergraduate music theory sequence
- Evaluating applicants to the composition program and balancing teaching load between instructors
- Instructor of record for:
 - o MUS 1513: Theory I (3 cr.)
 - o MUS 1513-H: Honors Theory I (3 cr.)
 - o MUS 6443: Analytical Procedures (3 cr.)
 - o MUSP 1111/3111/6111: Applied Composition (1 cr.)
 - o MUSP 1112/3112/6112: Applied Composition (2 cr.)

2022-2024 **East Tennessee State University**, Johnson City, TN

Adjunct Faculty

- Create syllabi, teach 10-13 credits per semester, grade, hold office hours
- Instructor of record for:
 - o MUSC 1100: Music Fundamentals (4 cr., includes Aural Skills)
 - o MUSC 1300: Music Theory & Aural Skills I (4 cr.)
 - o MUSC 1310: Music Theory & Aural Skills II (4 cr.)
 - o MUSC 3630: The Enterprising Musician (3 cr.)
 - o MUSC 4200/4250: Applied Composition (1cr.)
 - o MUSC 4200/4250: Applied Composition (2cr.)
 - o MUSC 4600: Orchestration and Arranging (3cr.)

2019-2022 **University of Toronto**, Toronto, ON

Teaching Assistant

- Applied Composition (full-hour lessons)
- Composition Skills I
- Aural Skills III
- Music Theory IV

2021 **University of Toronto Scarborough**, Scarborough, ON

Teaching Assistant

- Music and Technology

2016-2018 **University of Florida**, Gainesville, FL
Graduate Assistant

- Applied Saxophone
 - o Taught weekly half-hour and full-hour lessons
 - o Adjudicated end-of-semester juries
- Woodwind Skills II
 - o Taught saxophone module and graded

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019-present **Freelance Private Lesson Instructor**

- Teach weekly one-on-one lessons in Music Composition
- Develop teaching materials personalized to each student's needs and goals
- Prepare students for university applications

2019-2022 **Dixon Hall Music School**, Toronto, ON

- Taught weekly one-on-one and group lessons in Music Theory, Flute, Clarinet, and Saxophone
- Prepared students for Royal College of Music (RCM) exams, competitions, and university auditions

PUBLICATIONS

Lessard, Paul. Forthcoming. *Blowbang*. Greensboro, NC: C. Alan Publications.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Y2K to Today: 21st-Century Music for Saxophone and Percussion," World Saxophone Congress. With Matthew Geiger, percussion. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, 2023.

"World Premiere: Paul Alexander Lessard's *Concerto for Alto Saxophone*," World Saxophone Congress. With Casey Dierlam Tse, piano. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, 2023.

"Imagery: 21st-Century Music for Saxophone and Percussion," International Conference for Saxophone Pedagogy and Performance. With Matthew Geiger, percussion. Virtual, 2023.

- “Music for Tenor Saxophone and Electronics,” North American Saxophone Alliance Region X Conference. Virtual, 2021.
- “Music for Tenor Saxophone and Electronics,” International Conference for Saxophone Pedagogy and Performance. Virtual, 2021.
- “Song and Dance: Music for Saxophone and Piano,” North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference. With Casey Dierlam Tse, piano. Tempe, AZ, 2020.
- “Song and Dance: Music for Saxophone and Piano,” United States Navy Band International Saxophone Symposium. With Casey Dierlam Tse, piano. Fairfax, VA, 2020.
- “Quasi-Baroque’: Canadian Premiere of Avner Dorman’s *Suite for Solo Saxophone*,” North American Saxophone Alliance Region X Conference. London, ON, 2019.
- “Suites for Solo Saxophone,” World Saxophone Congress. Zagreb, Croatia, 2018.
- “Saxophone Quartet Premieres,” North American Saxophone Alliance Region VI Conference. As a member of the Catalyst Saxophone Quartet. Valdosta, GA, 2017.
- [Untitled Performance], United States Navy Band International Saxophone Symposium. With Brendan Catalano, saxophone. Fairfax, VA, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Music Theory (SMT)

Society of Composers, Authors, and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN)

North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA)

GRANTS AND FUNDING

- 2023 ETSU Travel Funding.
- 2023 Mary B. Martin School of the Arts Grant.
- 2018-2022 University of Toronto Fellowship.
- 2019-2021 Ontario Graduate Scholarship.
- 2020 University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies Conference Grant.
- 2020 University of Toronto Faculty of Music Travel Grant.

WORKSHOPS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2023 Conference for High-Impact Instructional Practices. Johnson City, TN.
- 2023 ETSU Center for Teaching Excellence Retreat. Johnson City, TN.
- 2019-2021 Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra Composer Fellowship. Hamilton, ON.
- 2019-2020 Piano Lunaire Composer’s Symposium. Toronto, ON.
- 2019 Orford Musique Composition Workshop. Orford, QC.
- 2017 Université Européenne de Saxophone. Gap, France.

SERVICE

- 2024-present Music Curriculum Committee Member. Arkansas State University.
2024-present Composition and Music Theory Coordinator. Arkansas State University.
2023, 2024 Juror, Kenton Coe Composition Competition.
2021-2022 Composition Area Representative. Music Graduate Students' Associate.
University of Toronto.
2021 Abstract Committee Member. University of Toronto Graduate Music
Conference.
2019 Logistics Assistant. University of Toronto New Music Festival.
2017-2018 Program and Logistics Assistant. Southeastern Saxophone Symposium.

SELECTED WORKS AND PERFORMANCES

Performances at juried academic conferences marked with an asterisk

Concert Works

- 2024 *Gettin' (A)head*. Saxophone quintet (SATTB). 6.5'.
- ~~June 2024: Premiere performance by Quintesax. Virtual. Postponed due to performer illness.~~
- 2023 *Blowbang*. Alto saxophone and percussion. 9'.
- *December 2023: Premiere performance by Slair. World Saxophone Congress, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain.
- December 2023: Performance by Paul Lessard, saxophone and Matthew Geiger, percussion. East Tennessee State University Percussion Faculty Recital. Martin Center for the Arts, Johnson City, TN.
- 2023 *Beckoning*. Open instrumentation. 6'.
- November 2023: Premiere performances by Midori Marsh (soprano) and Bryan Holt (violoncello). Tranzac Club, Toronto, ON. 2 performances.
- 2023 *A Debilitating Case of "The Animes"*. Flute, violoncello, and piano. 12'.
- 2022 Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra. 20'. Doctoral Thesis.
- *December 2023: Premiere performance (version for saxophone and piano) by Paul Lessard and Casey Dierlam Tse. World Saxophone Congress, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain.

- 2021 *WHAT. ARBITRARY. SILLINESS.* Wind ensemble. 10'.
- March 2022: Premiere performance by the University of Toronto Wind Ensemble, conducted by Dr. Gillian MacKay. MacMillan Theatre, Toronto, ON.
- 2021 *Crazy Rhythm Moves.* Violin or viola and piano. 2'. Pedagogical piece.
- July 2021: Selected for inclusion on the syllabus of the Calgary Contemporary Showcase.
- 2021 Saxophone Quartet "Kaleidoscope". 12'.
- 2020 *Escape Room.* Chamber opera. 60'. Libretto by Michael Albano.
- January 2021: Premiere performance by the University of Toronto Opera Workshop. Virtual.
- 2020 *Talking with Myself.* Tuba solo. 10'.
- March 2021: Recorded by Ian Feenstra.
- 2020 *Légende.* String orchestra. 6'.
- March 2022: Recorded by the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra.
- 2019 *funkin' eh.* Piano solo. 5'.
- January 2020: Premiere performance by Stephanie Chua. Bunker Lane Press, Toronto, ON.
- 2019 *Death Stick.* Soprano saxophone solo. 6'.
- *March 2020: Premiere performance by Brendan Catalano. North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference, Tempe, AZ.
- 2019 *BAMF.* Violoncello solo. 1'.
- August 2019: Premiere performance by Robbie Bui. Gilles Lefebvre Concert Hall, Orford, QC.
- 2019 *Word Association: Vodka.* Clarinet, violin, violoncello, piano, and percussion. 5'.
- August 2019: Premiere Performance by Orford Musique Contemporary Music Ensemble, conducted by Véronique Lacroix. Gilles Lefebvre Concert Hall, Orford, QC.

- 2019 *Loonie & Toonies*. Chamber Wind Ensemble. 4'.
- January 2020: Recorded by Winds of the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Ron Royer.
- 2019 *Some Items, Fox Preferred, Penultimate Destination* (2019). Saxophone ensemble (SnSSAAATTTBBBs). 11'.
- March 2020: Premiere performance by the University of Toronto Saxophone Ensemble, conducted by Lorenzo Guggenheim. Father Madden Hall, Toronto, ON.
 - November 2020: Trinity Laban Saxophone Choir, conducted by Gerard McChrystal. St. Alfege Church, London, England.
- 2018 *Modern Love: XXX*. Mezzo-soprano, flute, clarinet, violin, and violoncello. 4'. Text by George Meredith.
- *January 2019: Premiere performance by Julia Barber, mezzo-soprano. University of Toronto New Music Festival, Walter Hall, Toronto, ON.
- 2018 *Gearshift Arena*. Wind ensemble. 6'.
- May 2018: Recorded by the University of Florida Wind Symphony, conducted by David Waybright.
- 2017 *Overworld*. Saxophone Quartet. 7'.
- March 2018 – Premiere performance by Catalyst Saxophone Quartet. University of Florida Recital Hall, Gainesville, FL.
 - *March 2019 – University of Toronto Saxophone Quartet. North American Saxophone Alliance Region X Conference, London, ON.
 - *March 2023 – Canadian Armed Forces Saxophone Quartet. North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference, Hattiesburg, MS.
- 2016 *Booyakashaw*. 2 Alto Saxophones. 5'.
- January 2017: Premiere performance by Brendan Catalano and Paul Lessard. United States Navy Band International Saxophone Symposium, Fairfax, VA.

Music for Visual Media

- 2019 *Homewrecker: In a Manor of Speaking* (2019). Video game soundtrack and voice acting. Independent.
- April 2019: Launch Presentation at Level Up! Showcase, Toronto, ON.

- 2019 *Maestro* (2019). Video game soundtrack. Independent.
- April 2019: Launch Presentation at Level Up! Showcase, Toronto, ON.

Arrangements

- 2020 Georges Bizet, *Carmen Suites no. 1 and no. 2*. Arranged for chamber ensemble.
- February 2021: Broadcast by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Shaftesbury Productions “*Frankie Drake Mysteries: Music at Midnight.*”
- 2020 Laura Gertrude Lemon, “Mazurka” from *Three Moravian Dances*. Arranged for violin and harp.
- January 2021: Broadcast by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Shaftesbury Productions “A Music Lover’s Guide to *Mudoch Mysteries.*”
- 2020 Maurice Ravel, *Pavane pour une Infante Défunte*. Arranged for chamber ensemble.
- January 2021: Broadcast by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Shaftesbury Productions “A Music Lover’s Guide to *Mudoch Mysteries.*”
- 2020 Johann Strauss, *Le Beau Danube Bleu*. Arranged for chamber ensemble.
- January 2021: Broadcast by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Shaftesbury Productions “A Music Lover’s Guide to *Mudoch Mysteries.*”
- 2018 Jules Demersseman, *Fantaisie sur un Thème Originale*. Arranged for alto saxophone and concert band.
- July 2018: Performance by Paul Lessard, saxophone, and the Hagerstown Municipal Band, conducted by Lynn Lerew. City Park, Hagerstown, MD.
- 2018 Pyotr Tchaikovsky, “Danse Russe” from *Swan Lake*. Arranged for alto saxophone and concert band.
- July 2018: Performance by Paul Lessard, saxophone, and the Hagerstown Municipal Band, conducted by Lynn Lerew. City Park, Hagerstown, MD.