

Nicholas Borgia-Tran, Composer and Educator

New York, NY

Nicholastrancomposer [at] gmail.com | nicholastrancomposer.com

Education

Doctor of Musical Arts, Music Composition Expected 2026

Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY

- Graduate Center Fellow

M.Phil, Music Composition Expected May 2024

Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY

- Graduate Center Fellow
- Research Areas: Queer theory, composition pedagogy, refugee studies

Bachelor of Music, Composition 2017—2019

Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Boston, MA

- *Summa cum laude*

Undergraduate Coursework 2015—2017

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

- Coursework in music composition and philosophy
 - National QuestBridge Scholar
-

University Teaching Experience

Hunter College, City University of New York 2023-2024

Adjunct Professor, Graduate Center Fellow

- MUSTH 101 Music Theory Fundamentals
- Delivered in-person instruction to music majors, minors, and non-majors covering Western music theory concepts such as scales, intervals, triads and seventh chords, and cadences.
- Created experiential learning workshops in improvisation, melodica performance, and DAW usage, in addition to traditionally notated exercises.
- Led students through a Central Park sound walk to explore contemporary form in post-1990 experimental music.

Queens College, City University of New York 2022-2023

Adjunct Professor, Graduate Center Fellow

- MUSIC 001 Introduction to Music
- Delivered in-person instruction to non-majors exploring Western music history, with forays into intercultural music, Southeast Asian music, popular music, and sound art.
- Featured music-research in queer theory, refugee studies, social justice, and other interdisciplinary studies.
- Engaged non-majors in graphic score and foley art compositions.

Private Studio and Non-University Teaching Experience

Manhattan School of Music Precollege, New York 2023-present

Substitute List

- Sub list for pre-college MSM courses including high school theory 1 and 3, high school ear training, and beginning group piano.

New Arts Music Studio, New York 2021-present

Piano and Composition Instructor, Co-Founder

- In-person and virtual lessons for piano and composition students of all skill levels, ages 4-adult.
- Recruit and maintain 20+ students and 5+ teaching faculty.

Administrative Experience

Woodcock Foundation, New York 2022-present

Grants and Administrative Associate

- Stewarded \$1.95M toward mission-related causes in education equity, gender diversity, inclusive economy, and civic engagement.
- Organized a convening of 10 different nonprofits for a workshop titled “Artificial Intelligence and the Creative Sectors.”
- Collaborated with staff and trustees to produce conference materials for the Center of Effective Philanthropy, Trust-Based Philanthropy, and National Center for Family Philanthropy.

Convergence Ensemble, Boston 2020-2021

General Manager

- Led staff, board members, and advisors, through a 3-month fiscal feasibility and program diversity consultancy with external consultants.
- Authored the 5-year strategic plan.
- Successfully grew the annual operating budget by 48.89% through grant and donor funds.
- Produced and co-designed 3 public concerts, and 2 educational programs for students with disabilities.
- Sustained and developed relationships with 5+ local venues, 7+ educational institutions, and 18+ musicians.

Academic Service and Professional Development

Selection Committee Member, Manhattan International Composers Conference Spring 2024

CUNY Graduate Center

Composition Representative, Student Executive Committee 2023-2024

CUNY Graduate Center

Participant, Teach@CUNY Late Summer Institute 2023

Workshops in decolonial pedagogy, peer-to-peer learning, and experiential learning.

Music Related Publications

Editor, *Missing Voices of AIDS: An Anthology of Piano Solo Works* Forthcoming, 2024

American Composers Alliance

Selected Conferences, Invited Presentations, and Interviews

- "Composing the Body: Teaching Collaboration and the Art of *writing for*."** 2023
Paper presented at the 2nd Teaching Composition: A Symposium on Music Composition Pedagogy at the University of Utah.
- "Exploring inscription, unlearning, and queer consciousness in music."** 2023
Inaugural presentation at the new Composing in the Borderless series at Hunter College.
- "Creating a Utopian Queer Sound."** 2023
Public presentation at the Deep Listening: Contemporary Composers of the New York Scene series at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library.
- Interview on the *Naked Truth: Queer Artist Interviews* podcast.** 2021
Discussions about artistic practice and queer music making.
- Radio Interview on Austin KOOP, TX** 2020
Discussions about new music.
- "You Can Make Weird Sounds Too!"** 2020
Guest presentation at Dobby Middle School, Austin, TX, about creativity, sound exploration, and pathways to being a musician.

Concerts as Co-Artistic Director

- American Voice in Poetry and Song** 2021
- Music from underrepresented composers, combined with conversations about who is an "American voice." Funded by the Avison Fund.
- Earl Kim: *Now and Then*** 2020
- A salon-event celebrating the music and nuclear disarmament work of Earl Kim, organized with guest lectures by Ray Matsumiya (Oleander Initiative) and Joseph Gerson (Campaign for Peace, Disarmament, and Common Security). Funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
- Interactive Musical Educational Program** 2020
- A hybrid concert designed for students with learning disabilities at Charlestown High School featuring commissioned poetry, improvisation with students, and guided composition. Funded by the Boston Cultural Council.

Selected Upcoming Commissions and Projects

- New work** for International Contemporary Ensemble. 2024
- New sound installation** in collaboration with sound artists Yule Han and Qi Xia. 2024
- SHOE SOUNDS.** A music and fashion collaboration with Jordan Dexter Adams. 2024

Cello Concerto , commissioned by Athos Maelstrom.	2024
New work for solo piano, commissioned by Kerem Ernur.	2025
New multimedia work. An interdisciplinary project with urban designer Doug Berger.	2025-2026

Selected Previous Premieres

<i>Intrinsic Fracturing</i> for solo cello, commissioned by Athos Maelstrom.	2023
<i>Holding Reflections</i> for Talea Ensemble.	2023
<i>On Becoming Space</i> for pierrot ensemble, commissioned by Boston Musica Viva and premiered by Der Gestanke.	2023
<i>blue drag on sterile canvas</i> for percussion solo, commissioned by Luke Helker and supported by the Koch Cultural Trust.	2022
<i>Disintegrated Cork</i> for horn, viola, cello, and piano, commissioned by Joseph Borgia.	2021
<i>Innocent Water</i> for string quartet, commissioned by National Sawdust and premiered by JACK.	2020
<i>Idealist Conception of a Bird</i> for guitar and electronics, commissioned by Margins Guitar Collective.	2020
<i>Fermions, Leptons, and Quarks</i> for string quartet, premiered by Mivos Quartet.	2019

Selected Performance Venues of Original Compositions

Elebash Hall, New York, NY
National Sawdust, New York, NY
Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX
Pickman Hall, Cambridge, MA

Reviews

<i>On Becoming Space</i> , reviewed in the <i>Boston Musical Intelligencer</i>	2023
<i>Innocent Water</i> , reviewed in <i>The Strad</i>	2020

Awards and Distinctions

Graduate Center Fellowship	2021-2026
Honorable Mention , loadbang commission competition	2021
Winner of Boston Musica Viva's <i>Write It Now! Commission</i>	2021
Winner of National Sawdust's <i>New Works Commission</i>	2020
Composer Residency , Keep Composers Weird, Austin, TX	2020
Inaugural Composer , zFestival	2020