



Curtis Rumrill

composer, writer, educator, organizer

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curtisrumrill.com

About

Curtis Rumrill is a composer, writer, educator, and organizer. His work moves between fiction, experimental music theater, opera, improvisation, performance, and instrumental chamber music. His compositions have been performed throughout Latin America, the United States, and Europe. His work includes the opera *Her Holiness*, *The Winter Dog*, and the experimental music-theater works *What the Interference Took*, *Riding the Fader*, *Unky Dead Bones McGringo* and *The Saddest Music in the World*. He is a member of the research group *Musica ex machina* at IRCAM in Paris. His work has been commissioned and premiered by Ensemble L'Itinéraire, Ensemble Dal Niente, Rage Thormbones, Soo Yeon Lyuh, Ashley Bathgate, Théo Ould, collective lovemusic, Juna Toksöz, Duo Riso and others. Alongside his artistic work, Rumrill is a labor and community organizer, and currently the West Coast Local Representative for the NY NewsGuild, representing journalists and other media workers, including at ProPublica. He is a Professor of Music Theory at San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and a Doctoral Candidate in Music Composition at UC Berkeley. His teaching emphasizes experimentation, creative risk-taking, skill-building, and the development of one's own voice.

Education

Degrees

UC Berkeley, PhD (music composition), Doctoral Candidate

Bowling Green State University, Master of Music (music composition)

Syracuse University, *magna cum laude* Bachelor of Music (music composition, music history minor, performance honors in classical guitar)

Principal Composition Teachers

[Carmine Emanuele Cella](#)

[Myra Melford](#)

[Mu-Xuan Lin](#)

[Edmund Campion](#)

[Franck Bedrossian](#)

[Cindy Cox](#)

[Elainie Lillios](#)

[Christopher Dietz](#)

[Daniel Strong Godfrey](#)

[Sally Lamb McCune](#)

[Patrick Long](#)

Teaching

WNT100.CR— Creative Writing About Music, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Winter 2026—
Present, Professor

Theater 100 / UGBA 190T—From Imagination to Innovation: Activating creativity for transformational
change, UC Berkeley, Spring 2025, Spring 2026, Teaching Assistant

MMT 604— Graduate Theory Review, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Semesterly, Fall 2024—
Present, Professor

Reading and Composition R1B—Reading and Writing About Music, UC Berkeley, Fall 2024, 2 sections,
Instructor of Record

Music 158A—Music and Computing, UC Berkeley, Summer 2024, Spring 2025, Instructor of Record

L&S 25—Beyond the Uncanny Valley: Art, AI, and Robotics, UC Berkeley, Spring 2024, Teaching
Assistant

Music 26AC—Music in American Culture, UC Berkeley, Fall 2023, Teaching Assistant

Music 57—Introduction to Electronic Music Composition, UC Berkeley, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Summer
2023, Instructor of Record

Music 53A—Harmony I, UC Berkeley, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, Instructor of Record

Music 198—Group Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates, UC Berkeley, Spring 2022, Instructor of
Record

Music 25—Introduction to Music Theory, Analysis, and Notation, UC Berkeley, Fall 2019, Spring 2020,
Summer 2022, Instructor of Record

Music 29—Music Now, UC Berkeley, Spring 2019, Teaching Assistant

Professional and Research Activities

Academic Advisor, San Francisco Conservatory of Music for Master of Music (MM) and Professional
Studies Certificate (PSC) students, Fall 2026-Present

Presenter: *IRCAM Forum Workshops 2026*, Institut de recherche et coordination acoustique/musique
(IRCAM), March 2026

Member: *Musica ex machina*, working group at Institut de recherche et coordination acoustique/musique
(IRCAM), Fall 2025-Present

Workshop presentation, 2022 AMS/SEM/SMT, “Music Scholars and Labor Unions”

Works Presentation, Stanford University, February 1, 2022

Board Member: Kamratōn Ensemble, 2021-2025

President: CNMAT Users Group, 2018-2019, 2021-2023

President: Berkeley New Music Project, 2018-2019, 2021-2023

Board Member: Society of Composers, Inc. Student Council 2020-2022

Co-Founder: MusicArte Festival in Panama, 2013-2015

Board Chair: Alia Musica, 2013-2018

Awards

The Alfred Hertz Memorial Traveling Scholarship (2025)

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award (2023)

Nicola De Lorenzo Prize in Music Composition (2020)

Nicholas C. Christofilos Jr. Memorial Prize (2020)

Selected Works and Performances

The Saddest Music in the World — 2026 (pno, cl, gtr, synthesizers, narration, electronics) ~45'00"

- workshop performance by the composer with [Duo Riso](#), CLEAT Series, Elastic Arts, Chicago, IL, USA, June 12, 2026

What the Interference Took — 2026 (theater work for performer, invented instruments, live electronics) ~1:00'00"

- first workshop performance at Sound Arguments, a seminar presented by Orpheus Instituut, Ghent (BE), and the Academy of Creative and Performing Arts, University of Leiden (NL) at Instrument Inventors Initiative, The Hague, The Netherlands, March 30, 2026
- performed by the composer with [Juna Toksöz](#)

Solfeggio Tones — 2025 (accordion) 4'15"

- premiered by [Théo Ould](#), UC Berkeley Wu Recital Hall, Berkeley, CA, USA, November 7, 2025

Songs of Hope — 2025 (fl, cl, gtr, vla, electronics) 25'00"

- premiered by [collective lovemusic](#), United States of Love 2.0, ExtraMod, GMEM – Centre national de création musicale, Le Module (Friche la Belle de Mai), Marseille, France, June 26, 2026

Tell Me a Story— 2024 (fl, sop, electronics) 9'30"

- premiered by [SydeBoob Duo](#), MITU580 Theater, Brooklyn, NY, USA, January 10, 2025

The Square— 2024 (fl, ob, cl, bsn, hrn, tpt, tbn, perc, vln, vln, vla, vc) 11'30"

- premiered by [Eco Ensemble](#), Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, May 9, 2024

Abigail, Martin, the Virus and the Voice of God— 2023 (fl, cl, vln, vc) 15'00"

- premiered by [Ensemble l'Itinéraire](#), UC Berkeley Morrison Hall, Berkeley, CA, USA, October 27, 2023

Riding the Fader— 2023 (curdlephone and electronics) 60'00"

- premiered by [Juna Toksöz](#) at UC Berkeley Center for New Music and Audio Technology, Berkeley, CA, USA, April 12, 2023

Today I Made Not a Sound— 2022 (chromelodeon and heckelphone) length indeterminate

- deliberately unperformable, score is available [here](#), if you would like to imagine its performance

Unky Dead Bones McGringo— 2022 (two trombones, singing, augmented auto-harp and augmented banjo with multimedia projections) 40'00"

- premiered by [Rage Thormbones](#), UC Berkeley Center for New Music and Audio Technology, Berkeley, CA, USA, March 31, 2022

In this Styrofoam Room (revised version)— 2021 (fl, cl, sop, vln, vc) 8'00"

- premiered by [Kamratōn](#), Scholes Street Studio, New York City, NY, USA, July 8, 2022

What is death to some fish eggs?— 2020 (fl, cl, sop, vln, vc) 12'00"

- premiered by [Kamratōn](#), Music on the Edge: Microtonal Music Festival, Frick Fine Arts Center, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, February 29, 2020

The Fur Rabbits of Toft Farms— 2019 (haegeum and cello) 17'30"

- premiered by [Soo Yeon Lyuh](#) and [Ashley Bathgate](#), Freer Sackler Gallery, The Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art, Washington, DC, October 11, 2019

The Very Unfortunate Sheeps— 2019 (soprano and live electronics) 8'30"

- premiered by [Anna Elder](#), Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, June 29, 2019

Opera: *Her Holiness, The Winter Dog*— 2019 (fl, cl, perc, sop, sop, sop, sop, mezzo, microtonal organ, vln, cv) 80'00"

- premiered by [Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble](#) and [Kamratōn](#), with [Shana Simmons Dance](#), New Hazelett Theater, Pittsburgh, PA May 30-31, 2019

Songs of an Unnamed Kingdom— 2018 (fl, cl, tbn, perc, sop, sop, sop, mezzo, vln, cv) 15'00"

- premiered by [Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble](#) and [Eco Ensemble](#), Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, April 14, 2019

Domestic Beasts of Vinland Char – 2017 (fl, ob, cl, hrn, perc i, perc ii, hrp, elec gtr, sop, vln, vla, vc) 22'00"

- premiered by [NAT 28](#), Kelly Strayhorn Theater, Pittsburgh PA, USA, January 20, 2018

In this Styrofoam Room – 2017 (fl, ob, cl, sop, vln, vc) 8'00"

- premiered by [Kamratōn](#), The Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, May 7, 2017

The Passion of the Wilt-Mold Mothers – 2016, (sop, sop, sop, mezzo) 45'00"

- premiered December 10, 2016 by [Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble](#) at the Frick Fine Arts Center, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Rover – 2005, revised 2016 (fl, sax, vln, sop i, sop ii, pno, perc i, perc ii) 22'30"

- revised version premiered by [Tony Arnold](#) and Anna Elder with [Alia Musica](#), Heymann Theater, Pittsburgh, PA, USA May 26, 2016
- premiered by the Syracuse University Contemporary Music Ensemble, Setnor Auditorium, Crouse College, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA, November 2005

The Parasite, and Her Sister – 2015 (perc, sop, e gtr, vln, vc) 15'00"

- premiered by [Ensemble Dal Niente](#) at the Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City, Mexico, June 5, 2015
- toured Latin America, summer 2015

The Parasite, and Her Mother – 2015 (perc, sop, pno) 7'30"

- premiered by the soundSCAPE Trio ([Aiyun Huang](#), [Tony Arnold](#) and [Thomas Rosenkranz](#)), at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Panama City, Panama, June 6, 2015

The Triptych – Part I completed 2011, Part II completed 2014 (trombone and tape) co-composed with [Juna Toksöz](#), Part I, 8'30", Part II, 11'00"

- Part II premiered by [Juna Toksöz](#), at Numu: Neue und Unentdeckte Musik, Baden, Switzerland, January 23, 2015
- Part I premiered by [Juna Toksöz](#) at the Cla-Zel Bar, Bowling Green, OH, USA, December 1, 2011

The Long Hibernation – 2013 (sax, perc, sop, pno, vln) 15'00"

- premiered by [Ensemble Dal Niente](#) at the Teatro Amador, Panama City, Panama, June 13, 2013

Sex Poem for Lightbulb by Beetle – 2012 (sop, fl, gtr, perc i, perc ii) 10'00"

- premiered by Liz Pearse, Katrina Leshan, Rowan Hammond, Aiyun Huang and Paul Stevens at the [soundSCAPE Festival](#), Maccagno, Italy, July 14, 2012

The Haddock – 2012 (fl, bari sax, trm, perc i, perc ii, pno, sop, vln, vc) 13'30"

- Trinity United Methodist Church, Bowling Green, OH, USA, April 9, 2012

Il Missionario – 2011 (fl, snare) 2'00"

- premiered by [Lisa Cella](#) and Neil Ruby at the [soundSCAPE Festival](#), Maccagno, Italy, July 15, 2011

Tra le Stella – 2011 (solo guitar) 6'30"

- premiered by Andy Booth at the [soundSCAPE Festival](#), Maccagno, Italy, July 13, 2011

Lupe Prometió a la Virgen – 2011 (trombone and guitar pedals) 9'30"

- premiered by [Juna Toksöz](#) at the Wooster Center, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, USA, April 30, 2011

Social Justice Organizing

The NewsGuild of New York, New York, NY
West Coast Local Representative, August 2026–Present

United Auto Workers Local 4811, Berkeley, CA
Department Steward, 2018–Present

Larry Krasner for Philadelphia District Attorney Re-election Campaign, Philadelphia, PA
Organizer, May 2021

Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals (PASNAP), Conshohocken, PA
Union Organizer, Staff Representative, August 2012 – December 2017, November 2007 – August 2010

Common Ground Legal, New Orleans, LA
Member of Media and Legal Team, November 2006 – May 2007

Partnership for Onondaga Creek, Syracuse, NY
Media Work and Strategy Development, June 2004 – December 2005

R2K Legal Foundation, Philadelphia, PA
Organizer, Summer of 2001

Student Coalition on Organized Labor, Syracuse, NY
Organizer, Fall 1999 – Spring 2001

Professional Organizations

American Composer's Forum
BMI
New Music USA
Society of Composers, Inc.

References available upon request