

ADAM BERN

BIO

Adam is an up-and-coming composer living in Brookline, MA. His compositions have garnered attention, his recent solo piano work *Quaestiones Sine Responsa* being named a finalist in the American Prize Ernst Bacon Memorial Award and earning him the Berklee Composition department's Jeronimas Kaçinskas Award for outstanding achievement in composition in 2024. His compositions are informed by his eclectic background, having rigorous academic training in physics and engineering, an interest in birdsong, and a passion for global folk traditions. Adam often blurs the lines between contemporary classical composition, jazz, folk and world music through exploration and experimentation. He is fascinated by composition as a tool for introspection, self-discovery and self-healing. Adam strongly believes in music as a powerful, universal tool for communication. He is currently the creative director of the *Beyond Category Collective*, a world music influenced jazz fusion group that fosters mutual understanding and respect through recording, performance and community outreach. It is the feeling of community in music that drives him to write music, collaborate, and teach. Adam is currently finishing his last semester of studies in composition at the Berklee College of Music.

EDUCATION

Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA

Bachelor of Arts, Composition, Expected in 12/2024

- GPA: 4.0/4.0 - *Summa Cum Laude Honors*
- Jeronimas Kaçinskas Award in Composition, 2024
- Finalist for American Prize Ernst Bacon Memorial Award, 2024

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

Master of Science, Aerospace Engineering, 10/2020

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Bachelor of Science, Engineering Physics, 05/2015

SKILLS

- Composition, Orchestration, Arranging, Production, Recording, Performance (Violin, Viola, West Asian and Latin percussion)
- Jazz and classical theory, contemporary notation
- Classroom and private teaching experience
- Collaboration and project leadership experience
- Software: ProTools, Logic, Sibelius

(adults)

RECENT EXPERIENCE CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND BAND LEADER 05/2024 to Current

Beyond Category Collective, Boston, MA

- Founded Beyond Category Collective, world music influence jazz fusion group with goal to foster community, mutual understanding and respect
- Composes and arranges original music for Beyond Category
- Organizes logistical aspects such as booking recording studios, performance venues, etc.
- Develops and maintains website and social media presence

FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT 09/2022 to Current

Berklee Global Musician Community

- Founded and led the Berklee Global Musician Community, a student organization that engages with music and culture from around the globe
- Organized a series of lectures, jam sessions, and special events that included guest artists from in and out of the Berklee community, including 3 Grammy nominees
- Consistently communicated with guest artists, team members, and the Berklee administration as part of running the organization

TREASURER 01/2021 to Current

Berklee Society Of Composers, Boston, MA

- Treasurer of Berklee Society of Composers, a student community of composers at Berklee with weekly guest artists speakers (including Matt Aucoin, Alexandra Du Bois, and Caroline Shaw), workshops, and performances
- Managed budget of organization and wrote funding proposals for semester/bi-semester performances
- Required consistent communication with performers, team members, performance venues, and Berklee administration, as well as complex problem-solving of logistical issues that arise

FREELANCE COMPOSER, ARRANGER, PERFORMER 01/2019 to Current

Adam Bern Music, Boston, MA

WORKS

- *Beyond Category*, for alto sax, tenor sax, tenor vocals, violin, piano, electric guitar, electric bass, and drum set, 2024 (in progress)
- *Circuit*, for full orchestra, 2024 (in progress)
- *Meditation in Db*, for string orchestra, 2023 (in progress)
- *Quartet for the Day of Atonement*, for oboe, bassoon, violin, and violoncello, 2023 (in progress)
- *Fourth Streaming*, for violin solo and string orchestra, 2023
- *Quaestiones Sine Responsa for String Quartet*, 2023 (un-released)
- *Quaestiones Sine Responsa*, for solo piano, 2023
- *A Study of Fugal Counterpoint - 7 Fugues in the style of J.S. Bach*, for solo piano, 2023 (to be recorded)
- *The Road Not Taken*, for voice and piano, 2022 (soon to be recorded)
- *May Peace Be Upon Him/Her/Them*, for solo piano, 2022
- *Guilt and Sadness*, for solo piano, 2022

- *Angst*, for solo piano, 2021
- *Lament*, for violin, saxophone, Hindustani vocals, piano, synth, bass, and percussion, 2021 (to be released)

PERFORMANCES/RECORDINGS

- Original works performed in Old South Church concert in Sept 2024 (upcoming)
- *Quaestiones Sine Responsa* performed by Mia Elezović in Apr 2024 (upcoming)
- *The Road Not Taken* performed at a masterclass with Matthew Aucoin in Mar 2024 (upcoming)
- *Fugue in F Minor in the Style of J.S. Bach* performed in Composition department's "Best Inventions Plus" concert in Mar 2024 (upcoming)
- *Quaestiones Sine Responsa for String Quartet* performed by Mivos Quartet in Feb 2024
- *Fourth Streaming* performed by the Berklee World Strings in "The History of Jazz Violin Concert" in Dec 2023 (available on Vimeo)
- *Quaestiones Sine Responsa* performed at Society of Composer's *Reverie* Concert in Oct 2023
- *Quaestiones Sine Responsa* recorded and released in Jul 2023 (available on Vimeo)
- *May Peace Be Upon Him/Her/Them* recorded and released in 2022 (available on all platforms)
- *May Peace Be Upon Him/Her/Them* performed in Composition department's "Harmony Too!" concert
- *Angst* performed at 2022 Atlantic Music Festival
- *Guilt and Sadness* performed at 2022 Atlantic Music Festival
- *Guilt and Sadness* recorded and released in 2022 (available on all platforms)
- *Angst* recorded and released in 2022 (available on all platforms)
- *Angst* recorded and released in 2022 (available on all platforms)
- *Angst* performed in Society of Composer's Spring Concert in Apr 2021
- *Lament* performed by the Berklee Contemporary Indian Ensemble in the "*Uñarvu*" concert in Apr 2022

MASTERCLASSES/COMPETITIONS/COMMISSIONS

- Commissioned work *Fourth Streaming* for Berklee World Strings "History of Jazz Violin" concert in 2023
- Masterclass with Derek Bermel at Berklee in Nov 2023
- Masterclass with Elainie Lillios at Berklee in Nov 2023
- *May Peace Be Upon Him/Her/Them* featured "Harmony Too!" concert as part of Berklee-wide tonal harmony competition in 2023
- Selected participant for the Silkroad Global Musician Workshop (full scholarship) in 2022
- 2022 Atlantic Music Festival (AMF)
- Masterclass with MacArthur Genius recipient jazz violinist Regina Carter

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Newsletter Content Creator**, Berklee Composition Department, Sept 2023 - May 2024
- **Core Music Peer Tutor**, Berklee College of Music, Sept - Dec 2022
- **Jazz Violin Instructor**, **Frank Hamilton School of Atlanta**, Mar - Dec 2021
- **Private Instructor in Violin and Composition**, Freelance, Oct 2020 - Jun 2021
- **Freelance Violinist**, FLAN, Oakland City Swing, Rialto's Atlantic Celtic Christmas, 2019 - 2020
- **Graduate Research Assistant**, Georgia Institute of Technology, May 2016 - Oct 2020
- **Post-undergraduate Researcher**, Muon Proton Scattering Experiment (MUSE), Sept 2015 - Jan 2016

- **Undergraduate Researcher**, National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, May 2013 - Aug 2014
- **Evening Lab Coordinator**, Montgomery College - Rockville Campus Physics Department, Sept 2015 - May2016
- **TA for AEP 2640**, Cornell University, Sept - Dec 2014
- **Peer Tutor for MATH 1910**, Cornell University, Sept 2012