

MATTHEW SHORTEN

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EDUCATION

- 2016-2020 **B.Mus. in Composition, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University**
summa cum laude & Founder's Medalist (Valedictorian)
Minors: Voice Performance & Violin Performance
Thesis: "Samuel Barber & the Art of Isolation: An Exploration of Song & Sonority"
Teachers: Stan Link & Gabriela Lena Frank (composition), Melissa Rose & Tracy Prentice (voice), Maria Romero (violin & historical performance), Tucker Biddlecombe & Robin Fountain (conducting), Melanie Lowe and Joy Calico (musicology).
- 2023-2025 **M.A. in the History of Art, Graduate Program in the History of Art, Williams College**

FESTIVALS, ARTIST RESIDENCIES & TRAINING

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| 2021-2022 | Visiting Researcher, Global Arts Division, Tokyo University of the Arts | Tokyo, Japan |
| 2021-2022 | Artist-in-Residence & Guest Conductor, Voices of Singapore | Singapore |
| 2021 | Visiting Teaching Artist, Phuket School of Music | Phuket, Thailand |
| 2021 | Japanese Language School, Middlebury Summer Language Schools | Middlebury, VT |
| 2019-2021 | Tenor Scholar & Resident Composer, VOCES8 Scholars Programme | London, UK |
| 2020 | Emerging Artist, Victoria Bach Festival | Victoria, TX |
| 2019 | Voice & Composition Fellow, Cortona Sessions for New Music | Cortona, Italy |
| 2018 | Voice & Composition Scholar, Wintergreen Music | Wintergreen, VA |
| 2016 | New Haven Symphony Young Composer's Program | New Haven, CT |

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & ENSEMBLE AFFILIATIONS

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| 2023-present | Tenor & Guest Artist, Bach Society of Minnesota | St. Paul, MN |
| 2023-present | Tenor, Apollo's Fire | Cleveland, OH |
| 2023-present | Tenor, Servire Chorus | Wake Forest, NC |
| 2022-2023 | Tenor & Artistic Co-Director, Cantus | Minneapolis, MN |
| 2022-present | Tenor, Ensemble Altera | Providence, RI |
| 2022-present | Tenor, Red Dot Baroque | Singapore |
| 2021-present | Tenor, Professional Artist Roster, Voices of Singapore Singers | Singapore |
| 2020-2021 | Tenor Staff Singer, Cathedral Church of the Advent | Birmingham, AL |
| 2020-present | Tenor, Professional Artist Roster, Chorosynthesis | Seattle, WA |
| 2020-present | Tenor, Professional Artist Roster, Taylor Festival Choir | Charleston, SC |
| 2019-present | Tenor, Professional Artist Roster, VOCES8 Scholars | London, UK |
| 2019-2020 | Assistant Conductor, Vanderbilt University Singers | Nashville, TN |
| 2019-2020 | Choral Scholar, St. George's Episcopal Church Chancel Choir | Nashville, TN |

SELECTED WORKS & COMMISSIONED COMPOSITIONS

- 2022 **The Last Tea** for SATB choir and strings
Oratorio based on the ritual death of Japanese tea master Sen no Rikyū. Premiere forthcoming.
- Nebulae** for organ
Commissioned by Choir & Organ Magazine for the New Music Series, published in May 2022 Issue.
- Ekphrases** for string quartet
Commissioned by the Aster Quartet at the University of Michigan, 2022 Winner of the Gustave Rosseels Endowed String Quartet Prize. Supported by a Binkow String Quartet Commission Grant.
- Desert Pools** for tenor and strings or piano
Premiered at the National Gallery Singapore with the support of the National Arts Council. Poetry by Sara Teasdale.
- 2021 **There Swells A Song** for SATBBB choir
Written for the King's Singers New Music Prize. Poetry by James Weldon Johnson.

- When All Falls Silent** for SATB choir
Written for the King's Singers New Music Prize. Poetry by Antoni Silvestri.
- 2020 **Agnus Dei** for SATB choir
International Semi-Finalist at the 2020 Walter Hussey Composition Competition.
- Three Seasons in New England** for tenor and strings
Setting of three poems by Sara Teasdale; premiere postponed due to COVID-19.
- Ophelia** for violin and piano
Commissioned by Emily Monroe of Vanderbilt University and Peter Sheppard Skaerverd of the Royal Academy of Music, London.
- 2019 **Celestial Dreams** for koto, shakuhachi, violin, viola and cello
Commissioned by Kyo-Shin-An Arts, NYC; Premiered at the Tenri Cultural Institute
- White Fog** for SATB choir
Commissioned by the VOCES8 Scholars and the VOCES8 Foundation. Premiered at Minnesota Public Radio. Poetry by Sara Teasdale.
- Chrysalis** for flute, Bb clarinet, violin, and marimba
Commissioned by the Cortona Sessions for New Music in Italy.
- Three Etchings** for string quartet
Commissioned by Chatterbird for the *Hit and Pluck* collaborative.
- Autumna** for solo harp
Commissioned by harpist Anwen Thomas at the Royal Academy of Music, London.
- 2018 **Floating Isles** for orchestra
Premiered by the Vanderbilt Symphony Orchestra. Winner of the 2018 Vanderbilt Orchestra Call for Scores, the 2019 Tennessee Valley Music Festival Composition Competition, and Finalist at the 2019 American Composers Orchestra EarShot Readings with the Sarasota Orchestra.
- Australian Reverie** for tenor, Bb clarinet, and piano
Settings of poems by Australian poets, including a text by the composer. Ongoing project for creating a canon of Australian Art Song.
- Cosmos** for string quartet
Commissioned by musicians at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University.
- The Boat** for flute, Bb clarinet, violin, cello, and piano
Film score premiered at the Wintergreen Summer Music Festival.
- Rose and Myrtle** for voice and piano
Premiered at the Wintergreen Summer Music Festival. Poem by Sara Teasdale.
- Woodcuts** for trumpet and piano
Commissioned by Allison Bridger at the Blair School of Music.
- 2017 **On the question of angels** for baritone and piano trio
Commissioned by and written in collaboration with Ava Leavell Haymon, Louisiana Poet Laureate. Premiered at the Blair School of Music.
- Tectonic Plates** for marimba
Commissioned by musicians of the Vanderbilt Percussion Group & Ji-Hye Jung.
- Solace** for Bb clarinet and piano
Commissioned by musicians at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University.
- Suite for String Orchestra**
Premiered at the Living Sounds Concert Series at the Blair School of Music.
- 2016 **Le Tempête** for piano trio
Commissioned by the NHSO Young Composer's Program and premiered at Yale's Sudler Hall.

- 2015 **Rebirth** for SATB choir and chamber orchestra
Premiered at Yale University's Woolsey Hall by the Guilford High School Chorus & Symphony.

AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & COMPETITIONS

- 2023 Graduate Academic Merit Fellowship, Williams College, Williamstown, MA
- 2021 Henry Luce Scholar, Luce Scholars Program, Luce Foundation, New York, NY
- 2020 Founder's Medal for First Honors, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University
International Semi-Finalist, Walter Hussey Choral Composition Competition
International Semi-Finalist, James Toland Vocal Arts Competition, Oakland, CA
- 2019 Rhodes Scholarship Finalist, District VII, Rhodes Trust, Oxford, UK
S.S. and I.M.F. Marsden Prize for Excellence in Scholarship (Best Thesis), Vanderbilt University
Winner, Tennessee Valley Music Festival Composition Competition
General Director's Award, James Toland Vocal Arts Competition, Oakland, CA
Potter Opportunity Grant, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University
Finalist, American Composers Orchestra EarShot Residency, Sarasota Orchestra
- 2018 Winner, Vanderbilt University Orchestra Call for Scores
International Semi-Finalist, James Toland Vocal Arts Competition, Oakland, CA
Potter Opportunity Grant, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University
- 2017 Margaret Branscomb Prize, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University
Second Place, First-Year Division, National Association of Teachers of Singing
Finalist, Inaugural Choral Call for Scores, Vanderbilt University Choirs
- 2016 Blair Dean's Honor Scholarship, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University
Linde B. Wilson Scholarship, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University
Esther Byington Lindquist Scholarship

TEACHING EXPERIENCE, MASTERCLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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| 2023 | Cantus High School Education Residency & Masterclass Series | Minneapolis, MN |
| 2022 | Cantus High School Education Residency & Masterclass Series | Minneapolis, MN |
| | Early Choral Music Workshop (Byrd, Lotti & Tallis), Voices of Singapore | Singapore |
| | VOS Choral Scholars, Masterclass and Workshop, Voices of Singapore | Singapore |
| | VOS Concert Choir, Masterclass and Workshop, Voices of Singapore | Singapore |
| | VOS Boys Choir, Masterclass and Workshop, Voices of Singapore | Singapore |
| | VOS Senior Choir, Masterclass and Workshop, Voices of Singapore | Singapore |
| 2021 | Vocal Technique and Choral Repertoire Workshop, Voices of Singapore | Singapore |
| | Introduction to Composition Workshop, Phuket School of Music | Phuket, Thailand |
| 2019 | Composition Workshop (1 Week), Tennessee Valley Music Festival | Huntsville, AL |
| | Adopt-A-Choir Initiative, Nashville Symphony Schermerhorn Center | Nashville, TN |

PRESS & PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 "Nebulae" for organ, commissioned by *Choir & Organ* Magazine and the VOCES8 Foundation.
Published in the May 2022 Issue.
https://www.rhinegold.co.uk/choir_organ/new-music-series-matthew-shortens-nebulae-for-solo-organ/
- 2021 "Vanderbilt Alumnus named Luce Scholar." *Vanderbilt News*, March 12, 2021.
<https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2021/03/12/vanderbilt-alumnus-named-luce-scholar/>
- 2020 "Student Stories: Blair Graduate [Matthew Shorten] Prepares for the International Stage through VOCES8 U.S. Scholars Program." *Vanderbilt Immersion Pathways*, August 18, 2020.
<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/immersion/student-stories-matthew-shorten/>

- 2019 “Young Composers Visit the Tennessee Valley Music Festival.” Interview with Matthew Shorten and German Lopez conducted by Dorrie Nutt for WLRH 89.3 FM/HD, June 12, 2019.
<https://wlrh.org/News/young-composers-visit-tennessee-valley-music-festival>

PRESENTATIONS & RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2019 “Samuel Barber & the Art of Isolation: An Exploration of Song & Sonority”
Undergraduate thesis written for the Bachelor of Music in Composition at Vanderbilt University.
- “Mountain as Mandate, Ancient Archetype, and Earthly Escape: Guo Xi’s *Early Spring* (1027)”
Study of *Early Spring* for the Department of Art History, Vanderbilt University, December 8th, 2019.
- “The Chilling Textural Liberation and Resonant Horror of Krzysztof Penderecki’s *Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima*”
Paper written for the Department of Music Theory, Vanderbilt University, April 15th, 2019.
- 2018 “*Das Lied von der Erde*: Gustav Mahler’s Seminal Defiance of Classical Classification”
Essay written for the Department of Musicology, Vanderbilt University, April 10th, 2018.
- “Tea, Ceremony and Ceramics: Agents of Healing, Transformation, and Cultural Symbolism”
Invited paper and presentation at the Vanderbilt Undergraduate Writing Symposium in 2018.
- 2017 “City as Sound: Musical Structures in the Tokyo-Centric Writings of Natsume Sōseki”
Essay written for the Department of Asian Studies, Vanderbilt University, April 8th, 2017.
- “Music as an Intergenerational and Cross-Cultural Symbol: An Interview with My Dad”
Invited paper and presentation at the Vanderbilt Undergraduate Writing Symposium in 2017.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

- 2021-2022 Henry Luce Scholar, Luce Foundation, NY
- 2019 Assistant Conductor, University Singers, Vanderbilt University
- 2018-2020 Co-Founder & Vice President, ACDA Chapter, Vanderbilt University
- 2018-2020 President, Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Chapter, Vanderbilt University
- 2018-2020 Lead Curator & Co-Chair, Blair Salon Concert Series, Vanderbilt Ingram Commons
- 2018-2020 Senior Co-Chair, Blair SEGUE Orientation & Mentorship Program for First-Year Students
- 2018-2020 President, Blair Composers Forum, Vanderbilt University
- 2018-2020 Lead Curator, Living Sounds, New Music Concert Series, Vanderbilt University
- 2018-2020 Tenor Section Leader, Vanderbilt Chorale, Vanderbilt University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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| American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) | VOCES8 Foundation |
| Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) | Voices of Singapore (VOS) |
| Early Music America (EMA) | World Alliance of Children’s Choirs (WACC) |
| Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) | |
| Luce Scholars Program, Henry Luce Foundation | |