

# AARON HELGESON

## Composer/Educator/Arts Administrator

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### EDUCATION

- University of California San Diego (La Jolla, California)** 2013  
Ph.D. in Composition, Fletcher Jones Dissertation Fellow  
Dissertation Advisor: Roger Reynolds  
Other Teachers: Philippe Manoury, Rand Steiger, Chinary Ung
- University of California San Diego (La Jolla, California)** 2007  
M.A. in Composition  
Thesis Advisor: Roger Reynolds  
Other Teachers: Chaya Czernowin, Philippe Manoury, Chinary Ung
- Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)** 2005  
B.Mus. in Composition  
Principal Teacher: Lewis Nielson  
Other Teachers: Pauline Oliveros, Jeffrey Mumford, Randolph Coleman
- Oberlin College (Oberlin, Ohio)** 2005  
B.A. in Theater Summa Cum Laude
- Interlochen Center for the Arts (Interlochen, Michigan)** 2000  
Studies in composition

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE (Professor-Rank or Equivalent)

- Montclair State University, Cali School of Music (Montclair, New Jersey)** 2020-present  
Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition (2020-present)

#### Courses:

**Private Study in Composition** (4-6 students)

Weekly private instruction of graduate and undergraduate composers

**Music Theory I-II** (15-20 students)

Core music theory sequence at the Cali School covering fundamentals of analysis and part-writing in tonal music

**Aural Skills I-IV** (20-30 students)

Core aural skills sequence at the Cali School covering sight singing, rhythm reading, dictation, transcription, solfege, ear-training, and eurhythmics in tonal music

**Composition Practicum** (10-15 students)

Weekly meeting of entire composition area including faculty and guest presentations, technical tutorials, masterclasses, and group lessons.

**Faculty Service:****Area Coordinator, Composition & Music Theory** (2020-present)

Advise all undergraduate and graduate degree students in Composition, oversee admissions for Composition applicants, produce area performance activities, plan and execute guest residencies, manage graduate assistants, coordinate adjunct faculty.

**Member, Disability Caucus** (2020-present)

Discuss and propose actionable policies and procedures surrounding accessibility for students, faculty, and staff. Assist in generating reports, analytics, and proposals for the University Senate.

**Additional Duties:**

Research and plan changes to the Music Theory and Aural Skills curriculum including textbook review, policy proposals, curriculum development, and creation of assessment tools for program-wide utilization.

Design and oversee implementation of Graduate Theory Comprehensive Exam.

**Longy School of Music of Bard College (Cambridge, Massachusetts)**

2016-2020

Chair of Composition and Music Theory (2019-2020)

Faculty in Composition (2016-present)

**Courses:****Private Study in Composition** (4-10 students)

Weekly private instruction of graduate and undergraduate composers

**Composition Department Seminar** (10 students)

Weekly meeting of entire composition area including faculty and guest presentations, technical tutorials, masterclasses, and group lessons

**Performer-Composer Collaboration Lab** (10-20 students)

Project-based course focused on methods and techniques of musical collaboration, culminating in the world premiere of new musical works

**Contemporary Chamber Music** (3-6 students)

Contemporary Chamber music coaching for student ensembles

**Additional Duties:**

Direct the Composition portion of Longy's Divergent Studio summer institute in contemporary music including budget oversight, faculty and guest contracts, admissions, marketing, scheduling, and concert production.

Direct admissions and recruitment for all Composition degree programs.

Serve on the Academic Council, responsible for approval of new courses, faculty performance reviews, and artistic programs

Manage Longy's Computer Music Studio including purchase/repair of hardware and software, scheduling, maintenance, and supervision of student staff.

Perform academic advising for all composition degree students.

Oversee curriculum revision and course development for the Composition and Music Theory department.

Develop courses for future blended and project-based course offerings.

**Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)**

2010-2016

Assistant Professor, Non-Tenure Track (2013-2016)

Visiting Assistant Professor (2010-2011)

**Courses:**

**Private Study** (6-12 students)

Weekly private composition instruction of composition majors.

**Orchestration** (10-20 students)

Core course in advanced instrumentation and orchestration.

**New Music Workshop** (10-20 students)

Workshop for composition and music performance majors on collaboration and instrumental idiom.

**Craft of Composition** (5-10 students)

Beginning composition for non-majors.

**Writing for Voice** (5-10 students)

Seminar on composing for the classically-trained voice including units on registers and fachs, scansion and text-setting, working with singers, and choral writing.

**Musical Borrowing** (5-10 students)

Seminar on contemporary practices of quotation, arrangement, mimicry, and appropriation across several traditional and popular musics

**Experimental Music** (5-10 students)

Seminar on experimental music in the tradition of John Cage, LaMonte Young, Yoko Ono, and Alvin Lucier, as well as more recent examples.

**Additional Duties:**

Primary academic advisor for composition majors.

Oversee departmental recruitment and admissions efforts.

Attend and evaluate student degree recitals.

Sponsor student organizations and special projects.

Design and supervise student research assistant projects.

Serve on conservatory faculty diversity panel.

Assist in and co-ordinate events for departmental faculty searches.

Design and implement guest artist residencies.

Coach contemporary music chamber ensembles and Contemporary Music Ensemble.

Assist in training new department faculty.

Adjudicate auditions for student honors.

Design study away opportunities for students interested in contemporary music.

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE (Other Appointments)

**University of Hartford, Hartt School of Performing Arts** (Hartford, Connecticut) 2019-2020  
Visiting Assistant Professor (Sabbatical Replacement)

**Courses:**

**Private Composition Study** (9 students)

1-on-1 lessons with graduate and undergraduate composers.

**New York University** (New York, New York) 2018-2019  
Visiting Assistant Professor (Sabbatical Replacement)

**Courses:**

**Graduate Seminar in Music Composition** (8-10 students)

Colloquium for graduate composers featuring guest lectures, student and faculty presentations, and production management for annual graduate composers concert.

**Graduate Private Composition Study** (5 students)

1-on-1 lessons and project advising with doctoral composers.

**University of Chicago** (Chicago, Illinois) 2017-2018  
Postdoctoral Fellow

**Courses:**

**Introduction to Music: Materials and Design** (10-15 students)

Introduction to musical principles (melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, etc) through weekly creative tutorials and assignments including remixing, songwriting, and MIDI sequencing. Offered for undergraduate non-majors with no prior training.

**Private Lessons in Composition** (2-3 students)

Weekly composition lessons for undergraduate and graduate students.

**Additional Duties:**

Serve as inaugural composer fellow for the Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition.

Compose commissioned works for Ensemble Dal Niente, Imani Winds, and The Crossing.

Develop additional new work with Lyric Opera Chicago director Matthew Ozawa.

Give presentations on creative work to the university community and to the public.

**Third Street Settlement Music School** (New York, New York) 2016-2017  
Instructor of Music Theory and Composition

**Courses:**

**Music Theory I-VII** (10-20 students)

Course sequence following the Royal Academy of Music model covering harmonic analysis in diatonic key areas, modes, voice-leading, counterpoint, and common

practice formal structures.

**Composition Workshop** (10-20 students)

Beginning, intermediate, and advanced group composition classes for middle- and high-school students.

**University of California Washington Center** (Washington, DC)  
Teaching Fellow

2012-2013

**Courses:**

**The Arts in Our Capitol** (15-25 students)

Blended seminar in arts organizations and not-for-profit structures in Washington, DC featuring site visits, guest lectures, and practical arts training.

**Additional Duties:**

Teach private lessons and coordinate performance opportunities for enrolled composers.

Present lectures on the performing arts in Washington.

Supervise arts internships at institutions like the National Symphony, Library of Congress, and National Gallery.

**University of California San Diego** (La Jolla, California)  
Associate Instructor

2009-2010,  
2011-2012

**Courses:**

**Introduction to Composition III** (12 students)

Counterpoint, instrumentation, formal development, text-setting.

**Beginning Musicianship** (18 students)

Sight singing, rhythm reading, and aural transcription.

**Additional Duties:**

Produce student performance events.

Teach supplementary private lessons.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Look and Listen Festival** (New York, New York)  
**Executive Director**

2018-present

Direct a three-day contemporary music festival taking place at visual art venues in New York City. Oversee all programming, production, fundraising, marketing, publicity, and broadcast efforts. Cultivate and hire annual Guest Artistic Directors, and help them maintain the festival's long-term vision. Manage all areas of the festival budget. Create and execute artist and vendor contracts. Supervise meetings with the Board of Directors, and work with the President to maintain board participation.

- Northern Ohio Youth Orchestras Young Composer Program** (Oberlin, Ohio) 2015-2016  
**Program Director, Young Composers Program**  
 Create, design, and direct a Young Composer Program for the Northern Ohio Youth Orchestras (NOYO). Recruit, create commissioning agreements for, and mentor undergraduate composers for their role as Composer-in-Residence. Design educational program components for NOYO members consisting of weekly private composition lessons and bi-weekly composition classes. Supervise the Composer-in-Residence and provide support for their delivery of educational components.
- Search Journal for New Music and Culture** (Cambridge, Massachusetts) 2013-present  
**Reviewer**  
 Regularly review articles submitted for publication in academic areas including music analysis, philosophy of music, critical theory, and musicology with particular emphasis on topics relating to phenomenology and cognitive science.
- Camera Lucida** (La Jolla, California) 2008-2010  
**Manager**  
 Manage the Camera Lucida chamber music series, a partnership between the San Diego Symphony and UCSD Department of Music. Produce monthly performance events in coordination with the Artistic Director. Collaborate on marketing promotions with sponsors. Design and implement marketing and publicity tools including website, concert podcast, e-mail newsletters, print advertisements, and direct mail campaigns. Maintain donor relations. Oversee box office operations.
- UC San Diego Festival of New Music** (La Jolla, California) 2007-2009  
**Director**  
 Oversee the production of UC San Diego's annual two-week music festival, in co-ordination with Department of Music administration and local venues. Obtain funding for production and marketing costs, guest honoraria, and equipment fees from granting organizations. Supervise meetings of the board of directors concerning apportionment of funds and programming. Correspond with international guest artists and co-ordinate their itineraries. Design and produce concert programs.
- Lyric Opera San Diego** (San Diego, California) 2007-2009  
**Administrative Assistant**  
 Provide general administrative support for Lyric Opera San Diego including oversight of music library and rental scores, development and implementation of web-based marketing, screening artist resumes, and assisting with auditions.
- La Jolla Playhouse** (La Jolla, California) 2006  
**Assistant Composer**  
 Provide general artistic support to principal composers for productions of Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage* and Charlie Smalls' *The Wiz*. Act as copyist and arranger of handwritten sheet music and vocal charts. Assist in directing and recording music rehearsals. Coordinate instrument rental.

## **PUBLICATIONS** (Refereed Articles)

***How Creativity Feeds Depression*** 2021  
I Care If You Listen (July 2021)

Discussion of the affects that life circumstances and working methods of creative artists have in creating and reinforcing depressive symptoms, as well as personal and pedagogical structures for minimizing both the appearance and impact of those symptoms during the creative process.

***What is phenomenological music and what does it have to do with Salvatore Sciarrino?*** 2013  
Perspectives of New Music, Vol. 51 No. 2, pp. 5-36

Analysis of Salvatore Sciarrino's music, in particular his *Infinito Nero*, using concepts from phenomenological philosophy.

## **PUBLICATIONS** (Other Invited Texts)

***John Cage's Radio Play 'James Joyce, Marcel Duchamp, Erik Satie: An Alphabet'*** 2012  
***John Cage's Percussion Music***  
***John Cage's Solo Piano Music***  
Published by the John Cage Trust

Discussions of Cage's music published in association with the John Cage Centennial in Washington, DC.

***Hearing Gender: The Co-Performance of Gender in .....*** 2008  
Published in **Composer's Notebook Quarterly No. 5**

Discusses conceptualizations of gender motivated by musical experience, using audience reactions to a performance of my work ..... in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

## **PUBLICATIONS** (Non-Print Formats)

***Interview: Aaron Helgeson*** 2021  
Looseleaf Notebook Podcast

Interview with composer Julia Adolphe on personal narratives of depression and its impact on the creative process.

## **DISCOGRAPHY**

***The Book of Never*** 2023  
Navona Recordings

Portrait album of my choral music, performed by multiple Grammy-winning choir The Crossing, including *The Book of Never*, *Snow Requiem*, and *A Way Far Home*.

***Poems of Sheer Nothingness: Vocal Music of Aaron Helgeson*** 2016  
Innova Recordings

Portrait album of my music for soprano and ensemble, featuring performances by Grammy-winning soprano Susan Narucki and the Talea Ensemble, of *Poems of Sheer Nothingness* and *Notes on a Page (of Sappho)*.

***A Place Toward Other Places*** 2013  
Oberlin Music  
Portrait album of clarinetist and Oberlin Conservatory professor Richard Hawkins, featuring *A Place Toward Other Places* as well as works by Elliott Carter, William Albright, and Benjamin Broening.

***New Music from San Diego*** 2009  
Carrier Records  
Anthology of music by San Diego composers featuring *If Where is Of to Why* performed by Redfishbluefish.

## HONORS, AWARDS & GRANTS

**American Academy of Arts and Letters Awards** (Current Nominee) 2020  
Nominated by members of the Academy for various awards relating to music composition.

**Barlow Endowment Commission** 2017  
Major commission for *The Book of Never*, a large-scale cycle of choral works for The Crossing to be premiered in July 2020

**Ohio Arts Council Award** 2016  
Recognizes Ohio artists for the “exceptional merit of a body of work, and exemplifies the highest level of achievement in a particular discipline that advances the art form”

**Alvarez Chamber Orchestra Composition Competition** (Finalist) 2015  
Awarded for *Through Glimpses of Unknowing*

**Mivos Kanter String Quartet Composition Competition** (Finalist) 2013  
Awarded for *Brief regards for sometimes*

**Aaron Copland Fund Recording Grant** 2014  
Awarded for portrait CD, *Poems of Sheer Nothingness: Vocal Music of Aaron Helgeson*

**Earplay Donald Aird Composers Competition** (Finalist) 2013  
Awarded for *A Place Toward Other Places*

**ASCAP Plus Award** 2012-2016  
Provides recognition to composers who create music with value beyond the scope of performance surveys.

**Fletcher Jones Dissertation Fellowship** 2012  
Full dissertation funding for an outstanding doctoral candidate at UC San Diego (one award per year)

**Eiler Foundation Grant** 2008, 2009  
For costs associated with recording of *Notes on a Page (of Sappho)*, and appearance at the Acanthes Festival respectively



<b>American Composers Forum Subito Grant</b>	2007
For appearance at the June in Buffalo Festival	
<b>Fulbright Grant (Finalist)</b>	2007
One of 17 national finalists selected across all disciplines for academic work in Austria	
<b>UC San Diego Teaching Excellence Award</b>	2006
For outstanding instruction in the Department of Music	
<b>Saul Chaplin Award</b>	2005
Awarded by producer Harold Prince for outstanding young composers of opera and music theater	

## RESIDENCIES & GUEST APPEARANCES

<b>Divergent Studio Summer New Music Institute</b> (New York, NY)	2018-2021
Composer-in-residence delivering masterclasses, work presentations, performances, and workshops on creative wellness.	
<b>Mannes School of Music, The New School</b> (New York, NY)	2018
Guest professional development lecture on releasing an album, using my <i>Poems of Sheer Nothingness</i> as a case study	
<b>Northwestern University Bienen School of Music</b> (Evanston, IL)	2018
Presentation on compositional methods used in creating <i>Echoes of Always</i>	
<b>Oberlin Conservatory of Music</b> (Oberlin, OH)	2017
Presentation and Q&A on recent work	
<b>Boston University</b> (Boston, Massachusetts)	2016
Presentation on incorporation of transcription in recent creative works	
<b>Stony Brook University</b> (Stony Brook, New York)	2016
Guest residency in association with Stony Brook Premieres performance of <i>Oceans of Nothing V</i>	
<b>Internationale Musikinstitut Darmstadt</b> (Darmstadt, Germany)	2016
Week-long residency surrounding performance of <i>A Place Toward Other Places</i> , with guest presentation entitled "What is Phenomenological Music?"	
<b>Bunel Street Arts Center</b> (Homer, Alaska)	2016
Invited composer and panelist for Wild Shore's 2016 tour celebrating the centennial of the National Park Service, with performances of <i>A Place Toward Other Places</i>	
<b>Stony Brook University</b> (Stony Brook, New York)	2016
Masterclasses with students and guest presentation of <i>Snow Requiem</i> and its relationship to creative non-fiction	

<b>University of Northern Colorado</b> (Greeley, Colorado)	2015
Week-long residency surrounding performance of <i>Poems of Sheer Nothingness</i> featuring masterclasses, presentations, and open rehearsals	
<b>Carleton College</b> (Northfield, Minnesota)	2015
Presentation of creative methods employed in my anti-oratorio <i>Snow Requiem</i> and their relationship to methods found in creative non-fiction	
<b>The Hartt School of Performing Arts</b> (Hartford, Connecticut)	2014
Presentation of three recent works with explanations of compositional process	
<b>PlayLoud! Chamber Music Festival</b> (New York, New York)	2014
Invited attendance for performance of <i>A Long While</i>	
<b>Resonant Bodies Festival</b> (Brooklyn, New York)	2014
Attendance at the world premiere of <i>A Long While</i> and guest panelist for roundtable discussion	
<b>Nief-Norf Festival</b> (Greenville, South Carolina)	2014
Week-long guest composer residency including featured performance, coachings, lessons, masterclasses, and lectures	
<b>MATA Festival</b> (New York, New York)	2014
Invited attendance at performance of <i>A Place Toward Other Places</i> at The Kitchen	
<b>ISCM World New Music Days 2013</b> (Vienna, Austria)	2013
Invited attendance at performance of <i>Never Thoughts for Us to Forget</i> by Ensemble Reconsil	
<b>Monday Evening Concerts</b> (Los Angeles, California)	2012
Invited attendance at performance of <i>If Where is Of to Why</i> by members of Palimpsest and Redfishbluefish	
<b>San Francisco State University</b> (San Francisco, California)	2012
Presentation of three recent works with explanations of concepts found in phenomenological philosophy and their impact on my compositional methods	
<b>Oberlin Conservatory of Music</b> (Oberlin, Ohio)	2012
Duo lecture with Richard Hawkins on idiomatic and extended clarinet writing and the relationship between composers and performers during the commissioning process	
<b>IRCAM ManiFeste</b> (Paris, France)	2012
Invited attendance for world premiere of <i>Nor Eyes, Nor Thou, I Know</i>	
<b>Stanford University Symposium on Graduate Composition Pedagogy</b> (Palo Alto, California)	2012
Discussion panels with Scott Lindroth (Duke University) and Dan Trueman (Princeton University)	
<b>Leeds New Music Weekend</b> (Leeds, England)	2011
Invited attendance at performance of <i>Nothing from Nothing (is Black are White)</i> by Duo Echoi	

<b>Little William Theater Festival of New Music</b> (Los Angeles, CA)	2010
World premiere of four works <i>Oceans of Nothing I-IV</i> , commissioned by Los Angeles arts collective Machine Project for the festival	
<b>Soundisfaction Festival of New Music</b> (La Jolla, CA)	2009
Curated concert featuring the world premiere of <i>Notes on a Page (of Sappho)</i> and contemporary arrangements of baroque music	
<b>Stanford University</b> (Stanford, California)	2009
Presentation of three of recent chamber works, with discussion of their relationship to principles found in Edmund Husserl and Maurice Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology of perception	
<b>UC San Diego</b> (La Jolla, California)	2009
Presentation of notes from lectures given by Salvatore Sciarrino at the 2008 Acanthes Festival, with original analysis of several major works	
<b>Acanthes Festival</b> (Metz, France)	2008
Invited attendance at world premiere of <i>If Where is of to Why</i>	
<b>CallT2</b> (La Jolla, California)	2007
Analysis presentation of Helmut Lachenmann's second string quartet, with an original English translation of the performance notes (originally in German)	
<b>Carlsbad Music Guild</b> (Carlsbad, California)	2007
A brief historical presentation of twentieth-century music with emphasis on Helmut Lachenmann's early music, including his work <i>Pression</i> for solo cello	
<b>Etcetera Festival of New Music</b> (La Jolla, California)	2007
Invited attendance at world premiere of <i>Brief Regards for Sometimes</i>	
<b>June in Buffalo</b> (Buffalo, New York)	2007
Invited attendance at performance of <i>Brief Regards for Sometimes</i> and roundtable discussions with other guest composers	
<b>Music and the Moving Image</b> (Santa Barbara, California)	2006
Produced performance of Erik Satie's <i>Entr'acte</i> at UC Santa Barbara, including improvised sound paintings to early silent films	
<b>Midwest Composers Symposium</b> (Ann Arbor, Michigan)	2005
Invited attendance at performance of .....	
<b>Midwest Composers Symposium</b> (Iowa City, Iowa)	2003
Invited attendance at performance of <i>Writing on a Manuscript of JS Bach</i>	

**COMMISSIONING PERFORMERS & PRESENTERS** (Alphabetical Order)

Donald Berman, piano  
 Les Cris de Paris  
 The Crossing

Duo Echoi  
Ensemble Dal Niente  
Gregory Fulkerson, violin  
Sharon Harms, soprano  
Richard Hawkins, clarinet  
Imani Winds  
Little William Theater Festival of New Music  
Montclair State University Singers  
Susan Narucki, soprano  
Brendan Nguyen, piano  
Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble  
Palimpsest  
Stony Brook Contemporary Chamber Players  
Third Angle New Music  
University of Chicago

#### **OTHER PERFORMERS** (Alphabetical Order)

Arditti Quartet  
Argento Ensemble  
Berlin Pianopercussion  
Donald Berman, piano  
Tiberiu Baicoianu, clarinet  
David Bowlin, violin (ICE)  
Aaron Michael Butler, percussion  
Corrinne Byrne, soprano  
Mckenzie Camp, percussion  
Joanna Chao, piano  
Collage New Music  
Daniel Corral, accordion  
Duo Helix  
Sage DeAgro Ruopp, soprano  
Ensemble MMM . . .  
Ensemble Échappé  
Ensemble Reconsil  
Formalist Quartet  
Isabel Gleicher, flute  
Zachary Good, clarinet (Fonema Consort)  
Hong Kong New Music Ensemble  
Juventas New Music Ensemble  
Andrew Kozar, trumpet  
Eric Lamb, flute (ICE)  
loadBang  
Eileen Mack, clarinet  
Reiko Manabe, flute  
Mark Menzies, violin  
Jessie Nucho, flute

Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble  
Oberlin Percussion Group  
Oberlin Wind Ensemble  
Palimpsest  
Daniel Pesca, piano  
redfishbluefish  
Isaac Shankler, accordion  
SONAR Ensemble  
Zoe Sorrell, flute  
Spektral Quartet  
Luke Storm, tuba  
James Sullivan, clarinet  
Talea Ensemble  
Alice Teyssier, soprano (ICE)  
Ken Thomson, clarinet (Bang-on-a-Can)  
Doug Tournquist, tuba  
Eric Umble, clarinet  
Uusinta Ensemble  
Malla Vivolin, flute  
Brian Walsh, clarinet  
Wavefield Ensemble  
Wild Shore  
Yarn/Wire  
Marika Yasuda, piano

## **PERFORMANCE VENUES & FESTIVALS** (Alphabetical Order)

L'Arsenal (Metz, France)  
Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, Tennessee)  
Austrian Cultural Forum (New York, New York)  
Bargemusic (Brooklyn, New York)  
The Barns Performing Arts Center (Washington, DC)  
Berliner Kabarett Anstalt-Theater (Berlin, Germany)  
Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, Ohio)  
Bunnell Street Arts Center (Homer, Alaska)  
Center for New Music (San Francisco, California)  
CENTREQUATRE (Paris, France)  
Chatham University (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred (Wilmington, Delaware)  
Church of Our Savior's Atonement (New York, New York)  
Church of the Holy Trinity (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)  
Cleveland Museum of Art (Cleveland, Ohio)  
The Colburn School (Los Angeles, California)  
Colgate University (Hamilton, New York)  
Composer's Concordance (New York, New York)

DiMenna Center for Classical Music (New York, New York)  
Federal Hall (New York, New York)  
Feta FM Fest (Miami, Florida)  
FLATFILEgalleries (Chicago, Illinois)  
Furman University (Greenville, South Carolina)  
Hammer Museum (Los Angeles, California)  
Hunter College (New York, New York)  
Hyde Park Salon Series (Chicago, Illinois)  
Instituto Cervantes (New York, New York)  
JACK (New York, New York)  
The Juilliard School (New York, New York)  
Kent State University (Kent, Ohio)  
The Kitchen (New York, New York)  
Klavierhaus (New York, New York)  
Konzerthaus Berlin (Berlin, Germany)  
Lancaster New Sounds (Lancaster, Pennsylvania)  
Lawrence University (Appleton, Wisconsin)  
Leeds University (Leeds, United Kingdom)  
Logan Center for the Arts (Chicago, Illinois)  
Longy School of Music of Bard College (Cambridge, Massachusetts)  
Luther Place Memorial Church (Washington, District of Columbia)  
MANIFESTE (Paris, France)  
Maybeck Recital Hall (Berkeley, California)  
Miller Theater (New York, New York)  
Montclair State University (Montclair, New Jersey)  
Music Mansion (Providence, Rhode Island)  
Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)  
Peck School of the Arts (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)  
Pickman Concert Hall (Cambridge, Massachusetts)  
Play Loud! Chamber Music Festival (New York, New York)  
Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)  
Resonant Bodies Festival (New York, New York)  
Rockefeller Chapel (Chicago, Illinois)  
Roulette (New York, New York)  
Ryugoku Monten Hall (Tokyo, Japan)  
Seventh Avenue Performances (San Francisco, California)  
Sibelius Academy (Helsinki, Finland)  
Spectrum (New York, New York)  
St. James Episcopal Church (Alpine, Texas)  
St. John's Episcopal Church (Brooklyn, New York)  
Studio Z (St. Paul, Minnesota)  
SUNY Buffalo (Buffalo, New York)

Wiener Konzerthaus (Vienna, Austria)  
University of California San Diego (La Jolla, California)  
University of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois)  
University of Huddersfield (Huddersfield, United Kingdom)  
University of Iowa (Iowa City, Iowa)  
University of Miami (Coral Gables, Florida)  
University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, Michigan)  
University of Northern Colorado (Greeley, Colorado)  
Unruly Music Festival (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)  
Y Studio (Hong Kong, China)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Composers Forum  
American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP)  
New Music USA  
The Recording Academy  
Society of Composers, Inc. (SCI)  
Society of Music Theory

## SELECTED PRESS

"Simultaneously virtuoso display and engaging instrumental drama."  
- New York Times (April 18, 2014)

"Eerily beautiful and thoroughly engaging."  
- Cleveland Classical (March 13, 2015)

"[Helgeson's *Poems of Sheer Nothingness*] pushes the idea of song into the furthest realms. Helgeson is more than up to the task and the results are sublime. High culture gets no more elevated - and ultimately elevating - than this."  
- An Earful (January 8, 2017)

"Elusive and disorienting...and more powerful for it."  
- Philadelphia Inquirer (December 19, 2016)

"Listeners [of Helgeson's music] find themselves, quite wonderfully, lost in the act of listening."  
- I Care If You Listen (October 27, 2016)

"Unusually affecting."  
- WQXR New York (May 14, 2014)

# AARON HELGESON

## Work List & Performance History

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### **The Next Day** (2021)

Chorus (SATB)

4 min.

*Written for Heather J. Buchanan and the Montclair State University Singers*

May 20, 2021 - Montclair State University (Montclair, New Jersey)

Montclair State University Singers, Heather J. Buchanan (conductor)

### **The Book of Never** (2018-2020)

Chorus (SSAATTBB)

43 min.

*Commissioned by the Barlow Endowment for The Crossing*

June 11, 2022 - Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

The Crossing, Donald Nally (conductor)

TBD, 2022 - TBD (New York, New York)

The Crossing, Donald Nally (conductor)

### **An Island We Never Leave** (2019)

Flute

15 min.

*Commissioned by Third Angle New Music*

June 21, 2020 - Portland State University (Portland, Oregon)

Sarah Tiedemann (flute)

October 17, 2019 - New Expressive Works (Portland, Oregon)

Sarah Tiedemann (flute)

### **Echoes of Always** (2018)

Flute, Harpsichord, Harp, String Orchestra

8 min.

*Commissioned by Ensemble Dal Niente*

November 3, 2018 - National Sawdust (Brooklyn, New York)

Wavefield, Nicholas DeMaison (conductor)

April 27, 2018 - Logan Center for the Arts (Chicago, Illinois)

Ensemble Dal Niente, Michael Lewanski (conductor)



**Calls of close and away** (2017)

Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn

8 min.

*Commissioned by Imani Winds*

TBD, 2021 - TBD (Brooklyn, New York)

SoundMind

June 16, 2020 - Longy School of Music (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Imani Winds

February 11, 2018 - Rockefeller Chapel (Chicago, Illinois)

Imani Winds

**A Way Far Home** (2016)

Chorus (SSAATTBB), Organ

10 min.

*Commissioned by The Crossing*

February 12, 2017 - Colgate University (Hamilton, New York)

The Crossing, Donald Nally (conductor)

December 17, 2016 - Christ Church Christania Hundred (Wilmington, Delaware)

The Crossing, Donald Nally (conductor)

December 16, 2016 - Holy Trinity Church (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

The Crossing, Donald Nally (conductor)

**Oceans of Nothing V** (2016)

4 Percussion

15 min.

*Commissioned by the Stonybrook Contemporary Chamber Players*

April 8, 2018 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Oberlin Percussion Group, Michael Rosen (conductor)

November 11, 2016 - Roulette (Brooklyn, New York)

Stonybrook Contemporary Chamber Players

November 10, 2016 - Stonybrook University (Stonybrook, New York)

Stonybrook Contemporary Chamber Players

**Snow Requiem** (2015)

Soprano, Violin, Chorus (SSAATTBB), String Orchestra, Percussion

20 min.

March 8, 2015 - Cleveland Museum of Art (Cleveland, Ohio)

Alice Teyssier (soprano), David Bowlin (violin), Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble, Oberlin Collegium Musicum, Timothy Weiss (conductor)

March 6, 2015 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Alice Teyssier (soprano), David Bowlin (violin), Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble, Oberlin Collegium Musicum, Timothy Weiss (conductor)

**A Long While** (2014)

Soprano, Piano

8 min.

*Commissioned by Sharon Harms*

June 15, 2019 - Longy School of Music of Bard College (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Corrine Byrne (soprano), Donald Berman (piano)

February 2, 2017 - Longy School of Music of Bard College (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Corrine Byrne (soprano), Donald Berman (piano)

February 5, 2016 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Sage DeAgro-Ruopp (soprano), Daniel Michalak (piano)

November 6, 2014 - Instituto Cervantes (New York, New York)

Sharon Harms (soprano), Joanna Chao (piano)

September 4, 2014 - JACK (Brooklyn, New York)

Sharon Harms (soprano), Katherine Dowling (piano)

**Poems of Sheer Nothingness** (2012-2013)

Soprano, Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Piano

35-40 min.

*Commissioned by Susan Narucki*

April 27, 2019 - Kent State University (Kent, Ohio)

Kent State University New Music Ensemble, Adam Roberts (conductor)

December 3, 2018 - Longy School of Music of Bard College (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Ensemble Uncaged, Andrew Kozar (director)

October 15, 2017 - Longy School of Music of Bard College (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Mary Mackenzie (soprano), Collage New Music, David Hoose (conductor)

February 27, 2016 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Susan Narucki (soprano), Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble, Tim Weiss (conductor)

September 24, 2015 - University of Northern Colorado (Greeley, Colorado)

Sharon Harms (soprano), University of Northern Colorado Contemporary Players

October 22, 2014 - Conrad Prebys Music Center (La Jolla, California)

Susan Narucki (soprano), Talea Ensemble

September 26, 2014 - Roulette (Brooklyn, New York)

Susan Narucki (soprano), Talea Ensemble

**A Place Toward Other Places** (2012)

Clarinet in Bb

11 min.

*Commissioned by Richard Hawkins*

April 18, 2021 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Mercer Bristol (clarinet)

November 17, 2018 - Spectrum NYC (Brooklyn, New York)

Kevin Kay (clarinet)

June 11, 2018 - Pickman Recital Hall (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Carlos Cordeiro (clarinet)

June 3, 2018 - St. John's Episcopal Church (Brooklyn, New York)

Eric Umble (clarinet)

April 20, 2018 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Tiberiu Baicoianu (clarinet)

March 18, 2018 - St. James Episcopal Church (Alpine, Texas)

Eric Umble (clarinet)

March 4, 2018 - University of Miami (Coral Gables, Florida)

Eric Umble (clarinet)

November 5, 2017 - University of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois)

Katie Schoepflin (clarinet)

March 17, 2017 - Henrietta Hensler Design Studio (Lancaster, Pennsylvania)

Eric Umble (clarinet)

February 2, 2017 - Longy School of Music of Bard College (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Eric Umble (clarinet)

August 25, 2016 - The Barns Performing Arts Center at Wolf Trap National Park (Washington, DC)

Ken Thomson (clarinet) with Wild Shore

August 23, 2016 - Federal Hall (New York, New York)

Ken Thomson (clarinet) with Wild Shore

August 14, 2016 - Bunnell Performing Arts Center (Homer, Alaska)

Ken Thomson (clarinet) with Wild Shore

April 23, 2016 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Ryan Toher (clarinet)

April 17, 2015 - Hyde Park Salon Series (Chicago, Illinois)

Zachary Good (clarinet)

June 24, 2014 - Make Music New York (New York, New York)

Eileen Mack (clarinet)

April 16, 2014 - The Kitchen (New York, New York)

Lauri Sallinen (clarinet) with Uusinta Ensemble

February 21, 2014 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Richard Hawkins (clarinet)

February 13, 2014 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Richard Hawkins (clarinet)

May 28, 2013 - Luther Place Memorial Church (Washington, DC)

Jennifer Hughson (clarinet) with SONAR New Music

November 5, 2012 - Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, Tennessee)

Richard Hawkins (clarinet)

**Nor eyes, nor thou, I know** (2012)

Men's Chorus (TTBB)

8 min.

*Commissioned by Les Cris de Paris*

July 1, 2012 - CENTQUATRE (Paris, France)

Les Cris de Paris, Geoffroy Jourdain (conductor)

**Through glimpses of unknowing** (2011)

Piano

10 min.

*Commissioned by Brendan Nguyen*

September 15, 2019 - Tufts University (Boston, Massachusetts)

Donald Berman (piano)

June 15, 2019 - Longy School of Music of Bard College (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Donald Berman (piano)

May 31, 2019 - Bargemusic (Brooklyn, New York)

Donald Berman (piano)

May 3, 2019 - Music Mansion (Providence, Rhode Island)

Donald Berman (piano)

April 17, 2019 - Conrad Prebys Music Center (La Jolla, California)

Donald Berman (piano)

November 5, 2017 - University of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois)

Daniel Pesca (piano)

February 2, 2017 - Longy School of Music of Bard College (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Donald Berman (piano)

May 7, 2015 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Marika Yasuda (piano)

February 25, 2015 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Marika Yasuda (piano)

December 3, 2014 - Klavierhaus (New York, New York)

Julia den Boer (piano)

September 27, 2014 - The Juilliard School (New York, New York)

Joanna Chao (piano)

May 16 & 17, 2014 - Austrian Cultural Forum (New York, New York)

Joanna Chao (piano)

April 23, 2012 - Conrad Prebys Music Center (La Jolla, California)

Brendan Nguyen (piano)

### **Never thoughts for us to forget** (2011)

Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Contrabass  
7 min.

*Commissioned by the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble*

November 11, 2013 - Wiener Konzerthaus (Vienna, Austria)

Ensemble Reconsil, Roland Freisitzer (conductor)

March 10, 2011 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble, Timothy Weiss (conductor)

### **Oceans of Nothing I-IV** (2010)

2 Accordions, 2 Clarinets, 2 Violins, 2 Tubas

1 - 30 min.

*Commissioned by Machine Project for the Little William Theater Festival of New Music*

October 16, 2011 - UCLA Hammer Museum (Los Angeles, California)

Andrew Tholl & Andrew McIntosh (violins)

October 9, 2010 - UCLA Hammer Museum (Los Angeles, California)

Daniel Corral & Isaac Schankler (accordions)

September 4, 2010 - UCLA Hammer Museum (Los Angeles, California)

Brian Walsh & James Sullivan (clarinets)

August 28, 2011 - UCLA Hammer Museum (Los Angeles, California)

Luke Storm & Doug Tornquist (tubas)

### **Transcriptions on listening to time** (2010)

Chamber Orchestra (1-1-2-0, 1-0-1-0, 2-2-2-1, piano, percussion)

3 - 30 min.

*Commissioned by Palimpsest*

November 17, 2010 - Conrad Prebys Music Center (La Jolla, California)

Palimpsest, Rand Steiger (conductor)

**Notes on a page (of Sappho) (2009)**

Soprano, Flute, Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Crotales, Tambourine, Bass Drum, Harp, Guitar, Violin, Viola, Violoncello  
15 min.

May 14, 2019 - Dimenna Center for Classical Music (New York, New York)

Alice Teyssier (soprano), Ensemble Échappé, Benjamin Grow (conductor)

March 20, 2011 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Alice Teyssier (soprano), Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble, Timothy Weiss (conductor)

May 16, 2009 - Conrad Prebys Music Center (La Jolla, California)

Alice Teyssier (soprano), Palimpsest Ensemble, Nicholas Deyoe (conductor)

**If where is of to why (2008)**

2 Pianos, 2 Percussion

11 min.

*Written for the Acanthes Festival*

January 6, 2016 - Y Studio (Hong Kong, China)

Hong Kong New Music Ensemble Academy

May 25, 2015 - Konzerthaus Berlin (Berlin, Germany)

Berlin PianoPercussion

March 30, 2015 - Hunter College (New York, New York)

Yarn/Wire

March 14, 2015 - Chatham University (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

Yarn/Wire

March 12, 2015 - SUNY Buffalo (Buffalo, New York)

Yarn/Wire

October 23, 2014 - UWM Peck School of the Arts (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

Yarn/Wire

October 22, 2014 - Lawrence University (Appleton, Wisconsin)

Yarn/Wire

October 20, 2014 - Studio Z (St. Paul, Minnesota)

Yarn/Wire

March 24, 2014 - Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, Ohio)

Yarn/Wire

December 3, 2012 - Zipper Concert Hall (Los Angeles, California)

Palimpsest & redfishbluefish

October 14, 2011 - Tenri Cultural Institute (New York, New York)

Yarn/Wire

February 18, 2011 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble

September 2, 2008 - Berliner Kabarett Anstalt-Theater (Berlin, Germany)

Berlin PianoPercussion

July 10 & 18, 2008 - L'Arsenal (Metz, France)

Berlin PianoPercussion

**Nothing from nothing (is black are white) (2007)**

Flute, Vibraphone

22 min.

*Commissioned by Duo Echoi*

April 29, 2017 - Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church (San Francisco, California)

Jessie Nucho (flute) and Mckenzie Camp (percussion)

March 18, 2015 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Zoe Sorrell (flute) and Aaron Michael Butler (percussion)

July 27, 2014 - Ryougoku Monten Hall (Tokyo, Japan)

Reiko Manabe (flute) and Mizuki Aita (percussion)

June 6, 2014 - Furman University (Greenville, South Carolina)

Zoe Sorrell (flute) and Jon Clancy (percussion)

February 14, 2013 - University of Huddersfield (Huddersfield, United Kingdom)

Duo Echoi

March 20, 2011 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Duo Echoi

February 20, 2011 - Leeds University (Leeds, United Kingdom)

Duo Echoi

February 21, 2008 - UC San Diego Department of Music (La Jolla, California)

Duo Echoi

January 28, 2008 - UC San Diego Department of Music (La Jolla, California)

Reiko Manabe (flute) and Ross Karre (percussion).

January 4, 2008 - Studio Z (St Paul, MN)

Duo Echoi

**A listening song (2007)**

Violin

5 min.

June 14, 2007 - UC San Diego Department of Music (La Jolla, California)

Mark Menzies (violin)

**Brief regards for sometimes** (2006)

2 Violins, Viola, Violoncello

21 min.

November 5, 2017 - University of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois)

Spektral Quartet

May 28, 2013 - Luther Place Memorial Church (Washington, DC)

SONAR New Music Ensemble

April 4, 2008 - Maybeck Recital Hall (Berkeley, California)

Formalist Quartet

February 21, 2008 - Peck School of the Arts (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

Formalist Quartet

February 20, 2008 - FLATFILEgalleries (Chicago, Illinois)

Formalist Quartet

October 26, 2007 - Church of Our Savior's Atonement (New York, New York)

Formalist Quartet

June 7, 2007 - State University of New York at Buffalo (Buffalo, New York)

Arditti Quartet

May 19, 2007 - UC San Diego Department of Music (La Jolla, California)

Formalist Quartet

**A crane wife** (2005)

Non-Singing Voice, Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Tenor, 2 Baritones, 3 Flutes, 3 Percussion

50 min.

February 2-4, 2005 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Matthew Ozawa (staging), Michael Weyandt (baritone), Taylor Bibat (voice), Daniella Risman

(soprano), Elizabeth Shoup (mezzo-soprano), Samuel Levine (tenor), Dashon Burton (bass), Oberlin

Contemporary Music Ensemble, Aaron Helgeson (conductor)

**Self portrait (without me)** (2004)

Flute

7 min.

September 8, 2021 - Sibelius Academy (Helsinki, Finland)

Malla Vivolin (flute)

November 20, 2018 - Miller Theater (New York, New York)

Isabel Gleicher (flute)

May 2, 2016 - Stuttgart University of Music and Performing Arts (Stuttgart, Germany)

Eric Lamb (flute)



February 23, 2005 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Aaron Helgeson (flute)

**Shards of forever across a blinding elsewhere** (2003)

Trumpet

5 min.

June 15, 2017 - Pickman Concert Hall (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Andrew Kozar (trumpet)

April 11, 2017 - Center for New Music (San Francisco, CA)

Andrew Kozar (trumpet) with loadBang

February 2, 2017 - Pickman Concert Hall (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Andrew Kozar (trumpet)

May 2, 2005 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Max Sternberg (trumpet)

**Writing on a manuscript of JS Bach** (2003)

Violin, Viola, Violoncello

8 min.

May 28, 2005 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Laurel Talley (violin), Kristina Hendricks (viola), Brian Howard (cello)

October 18, 2003 - University of Iowa (Iowa City, Iowa)

Laurel Talley (violin), Kristina Hendricks (viola), Brian Howard (cello)

..... (2002)

Flute

5 min.

September 17, 2017 - Ryogoku Monten Hall (Tokyo, Japan)

Reiko Manabe (flute)

February 2, 2017 - Longy School of Music of Bard College (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Aaron Helgeson (flute)

March 6-12, 2012 - "mmm . . ." Studios (Tokyo, Japan)

Reiko Manabe (flute)

April 23, 2004 - University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, Michigan)

Aaron Helgeson (flute)

March 17, 2003 - Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, Ohio)

Aaron Helgeson (flute)

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