Chris Neiner | Composer, Performer & Educator

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Education

2021 Cleveland Institute of Music: Master of Music in Composition (Cleveland, OH)
Principal Teacher: Keith Fitch

2017 Indiana University Jacobs School of Music: Bachelor of Music in Composition (Bloomington, IN)
Principal Teachers: Aaron Travers, Claude Baker, Don Freund, and P.Q. Phan

Residencies, Festivals, and Fellowship Programs

2026 Artist-in-Residence: Ellis-Beauregard Foundation (Rockland, ME)
2026 Composer-in-Residence: Stars in the Classics (Chagrin Falls, OH)
2025 Gabriela Ortiz Composing Studio: OAcademy Music Conservatory (virtual)
2024 EarShot Readings: Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra (Chicago Heights, IL)
2023 Suncoast Composer Fellowship Program: Soundbox Ventures (Sarasota, FL)
2022 Impulse New Music Festival (virtual)
2019 Composer-in-Residence: Music in the Circle (Cleveland, OH)
2018 Mostly Modern Festival (Saratoga Springs, NY)
2017 RED NOTE New Music Festival (Normal, IL)
2015 New Music on the Point (Leicester, VT)

Commissions

2026 *A Love of Her Own*, mezzo-soprano, violin & piano: Stars in the Classics (Chagrin Falls, OH)
2026 *Happy Birthday, Alan!*, cello ensemble: Harris Event Committee (Cleveland, OH)
2025 *Figures with Birds*, violin, cello & piano: NO EXIT New Music Ensemble (Cleveland, OH)
2024 *Tuneful Celebration*, concert band: Burnsville High School (Burnsville, MN)
2024 *4 x 4*, piano solo: Ohio Music Teachers Association (Cincinnati, OH)
2023 *Tales of Euclid Beach Park*, clarinet, violin, cello & piano: Stars in the Classics (Chagrin Falls, OH)
2023 *Time Machine Hyperboles*, mixed sextet: NO EXIT New Music Ensemble (Cleveland, OH)
2022 *Aurora Fanfare & Dance*, clarinet quartet: Aurora School of Music (Aurora, OH)
2021 *Rocky River Counterpoint*, concert band: Lutheran High School West (Rocky River, OH)
2020 *Spiral Suite*, piano solo: Aurora School of Music (Aurora, OH)
2019 *Serenade for the Ghosts*, clarinet & string quartet: Stars in the Classics (Chagrin Falls, OH)
2017 *Playtime*, violin, horn & piano: Neiner Trio Consortium (Bloomington, IN)
2017 *Songs*, soprano & piano quintet: Vietnamese American Society for Creative Arts (Orange, CA)
2016 *To Rose*, horn & piano: Kevin Miescke, Eastern Illinois University (Charleston, IL)

Honors, Awards, and Recognition

2026 Individual Excellence Award: Ohio Arts Council (Columbus, OH)
2026 Selected Composer: Ohio MTNA, "A Living Legacy: New Works" (Cincinnati, OH)
2024 Commissioned Composer Award: Ohio MTNA (Cincinnati, OH)
2024 Semifinalist: Summermusik Commission Competition (Cincinnati, OH)
2023 Finalist: Festival of New American Music Call for Scores (Sacramento, CA)
2022 Honorable Mention: ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards (New York, NY)
2022 Finalist: Left Coast Chamber Ensemble Composition Contest (San Francisco, CA)
2020 Finalist: ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards (New York, NY)
2020 Finalist: Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra Call for Scores (Los Angeles, CA)
2019 Winner: Boston New Music Initiative Call for Scores (Boston, MA)
2018 Honorable Mention: American Modern Ensemble (New York, NY)

University Engagement

2025 Guest Composer: Otterbein University Department of Music (Westerville, OH)
2024 Guest Artist Residency: Otterbein University Department of Music (Westerville, OH)
2023 Guest Presenter: Kent State University Composition Department (Kent, OH)
2023 Guest Presenter: Cleveland State University Composition Department (Cleveland, OH)

Teaching Experience

2023–26 Composition Mentor: Contemporary Youth Orchestra (Cleveland, OH)
2021–26 Piano Teacher: Neiner Piano Studio (Cleveland Heights, OH)
2020–25 Composition Faculty: Aurora School of Music (Aurora, OH)
2019–20 Composition and Theory Mentor: Cleveland School of the Arts (Cleveland, OH)

Performing Experience

2023–26 Pianist: Sunday Studio Series (Cleveland, OH)
2023–26 Pianist: Stars in the Classics (Chagrin Falls, OH)
2023–26 Accompanist: Orange City School District (Pepper Pike, OH)
2022 Pianist: Tuesday Noon Organ Plus Concerts, Church of the Covenant (Cleveland, OH)
2021 Pianist: Access Theater Project, *The Last Five Years* (Mayfield, OH)

Press

2026 McLaughlin, Kevin. "Studio Espressivo: Masquerading Melodies (June 7)" Cleveland Classical clevelandclassical.com/studio-espressivo-masquerading-melodies-june-7/

"Fast, cheeky, and fun, with a Gershwin-like tang." (6/19/2026, review of *Burlesquing*)

2019 Kulma, David. "Music in the Circle Series Debuts (July 11 & 14)" Cleveland Classical clevelandclassical.com/music-in-the-circle-series-debuts-at-mixon-gartner-july-11-14/

"Living in the post-John Adams universe and incorporating the zazzy colors of the current new music dialect, Neiner's spiraling, perpetual motion piece offers pleasant shocks and melting cadences." (7/17/19, review of *Infinite Spinning*)

Concert Production

2026 Chairman, Cleveland Composers Guild (Cleveland, OH)
2023–26 Co-Artistic Director: Sunday Studio Series, Murray Hill Galleries (Cleveland, OH)
2023–25 Public Relations Manager: Cleveland Composers Guild (Cleveland, OH)
2021 Co-Chair: Ariel's Light, Acacia Reservation (Lyndhurst, OH)
2019 Co-Chair: Leora's Reverie, Acacia Reservation (Lyndhurst, OH)
2019 Associate Director: Music in the Circle (Cleveland, OH)
2018 Production Assistant: Vietnamese American Society for Creative Arts & Music (Orange, CA)

Arranging & Miscellaneous

2024–26 Arranger & Songwriter: It's CeCe TV, Night, Night Pig Productions (Chagrin Falls, OH)
2024–25 Copyist: Keith Fitch, Cleveland Institute of Music (Cleveland, OH)
2024 Orchestrator: Cleveland Pops Orchestra (Beachwood, OH)
2019–26 Lead Sheet Arranger: OPUS 216 (Cleveland, OH)
2021–22 Orchestra Librarian: Jim Brickman & The Brickhouse Network (Cleveland, OH)
2018–19 Copyist: Anthony Plog (Freiburg, Germany)
2017–19 Arranger & Editor: Reimagining Opera for Kids (Bloomington, IN)
2016–18 Copyist: Indiana University Jacobs School of Music Composition Dept. (Bloomington, IN)
2016–17 Copyist: Keith McCutchen, Kentucky State University (Frankfort, KY)