

Ethan Isaac

Curriculum vitae

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EDUCATION & TRAINING

- 2028** PhD in Composition/Theory; University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (Anticipated)
Teaching Fellow
- 2023** M.A. in Music Composition; Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Graduate Student Worker, Audio Engineering
Composition Studies with Scott Ordway and Robert Aldridge
- 2018** B.A. in Music; Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
Composition Studies with Kyle Gann

INSTITUTES, RESIDENCIES, AND FESTIVALS

- 2026** precept.concept.precept XVII Residency, Bled, Slovenia.
- 2024** Avaloch Farm Institute Residency (*The Fluid*: Ethan Isaac, Soo Yeon Lyuh, Soo Jin Lyuh)
- 2023** Sō Percussion Summer Institute, Princeton, NJ
SPLICE Institute, Kalamazoo, MI
- 2022** Sō Percussion Summer Institute, Princeton, NJ
- 2020** NYU Screen Scoring Workshop, New York, NY

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & APPOINTMENTS

- 2026** Director, Charles Ives Society, New Haven, CT
- 2025** Teaching Fellow, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2024** Teaching Fellow, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Guest Lecturer, Indiana University, Graduate Composition Seminar
Artist in Residence, Physics Department, University of Pittsburgh, PA
- 2023** Teaching Fellow, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2022** Audio Engineering Graduate Student Worker, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Guest Lecturer, Rutgers University, Audio Engineering Seminar

- 2021** Audio Engineering Graduate Student Worker, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
- 2020** Assistant Audio Engineer, Digital Island Studios, New York, NY
- 2019** Assistant Audio Engineer/A2, Strings Music Festival, Steamboat Springs, CO
- 2018** Assistant Audio Engineer, Marlan Barry Audio, Kingston, NY

TEACHING

Music Theory I,II, III, IV and Intro to Western Art Music; University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. – Teaching Fellow since arrival, assisted professor with grading of homework and taught alone, with control over my own curriculum, once a week.

Music Production; Tzohar Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA. – Teaches production skills to college-age students during a religious gap year program.

Private Teacher. – Teaches composition, music theory, and electronic production. Students have produced electronic music and band scores for their local high schools and have gone on to colleges such as Bard. 6 years of experience.

Octopus Music School, North Brunswick, NJ. – Substitute Teacher

AWARDS, COMMISSIONS & GRANTS

- 2025** Support for Artists, Grant, City of Pittsburgh. Casey Droege Cultural Productions
Bessie Pearl Snyder Travel Grant, University of Pittsburgh.
A&S Research Grant, University of Pittsburgh
- 2024** ***Biblethumping***, Commission; *folx* Percussion. Supported by Zildjian and Percussive Arts Society.
Bessie Pearl Snyder Travel Grant, University of Pittsburgh.
10th Anniversary Alumnx Concert, SPLICE 2024, ***Warp and Weft*** with Leni Konigsberg and Dara Etienne
- 2023** ***Gilding the Fourfold***, Commission; Lawrence College, WI, for Saxophonist Evan Ney.
Bessie Pearl Snyder Travel Grant, University of Pittsburgh.
- 2022** Department Summer Funding Award; Department of Music, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University
- 2022** Travel Grant; School of Graduate Studies, Rutgers University
- 2021** ***Turnpike***, for two horns, fixed media, and interactive video [20 minutes]; for Richard Deane, Associate Principal Horn of the New York Philharmonic
- 2019** ***Seasons of Blithewood Garden***, Blithewood Composition Competition First Prize Winner

RECORDINGS

Imaginary Keyboards; Ethan Isaac, electronic keyboards; Kwami Winfield, percussion; Rachael Gunning, soprano; Kate Blaine; piano. Produced and engineered by Ethan Isaac; released via Bandcamp (40 minutes, 2020)

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

2026 ***Lavender*** Nois Quartet, Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA 4/4

Ethereal Semantics Ethan Isaac and Sam Bernhardt, Government Center, Pittsburgh, PA 1/21

2025 ***Sounding Body*** Danielle Kuntz; Frick Fine Arts, Pittsburgh, PA 12/17

Biblethumping folx Percussion, Mise-en-Place, New York, NY 8/25

2024 ***Tortured Sand*** Ethan Isaac and Danny Fratina; Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pittsburgh, PA

Tortured Sand. Self Performed; Government Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Reason is a Tree Staid. Self Performed; Government Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Seaboard Prelude. Self Performed; Government Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Tortured Sand Ethan Isaac and Danny Fratina; Bellefield Hall, Pittsburgh, PA

Warp and Weft. Interpreter along with Leni Konigsberg. Western Michigan University.

Reason is a Tree Staid. Self Performed; Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pittsburgh, PA

Gilding the Fourfold. Evan Ney, Nick Hull; Recital Hall, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI

The Divine Carousel. Self Performed; Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Pittsburgh, PA

Enough about Me, How about You? Pitt Composers Ensemble; Pittsburgh, PA

Going Dennis Fixed Media; Pittsburgh, PA

2023 ***Tension:Release.*** Jacob Kline, Gabriella Reyna, Arnav Shirodkar, McKenzie Squires. Princeton University; Princeton, NJ 7/29

Ouroboros. Ethan Isaac, McClane Bernshausen, Melody Tang, Rhiannon Robinson. Lee Recital Hall; Princeton, NJ 7/28

Tension:Release. Jacob Kline, Gabriella Reyna, Arnav Shirodkar, McKenzie Squires. Small World Coffee; Princeton, NJ 7/21

Waypoints. Robin Meiksins. Dalton Recital Hall; Kalamazoo, MI, 6/25

Heartstring. Timothy Chooi and Carl Bolleia. Schare Music Hall; New Brunswick, NJ, 4/25

- Chronicle in Stone.*** Fixed Media. Shindel Choir Hall; New Brunswick, NJ, 4/2
- 2022** ***A Conspiracy of Feelings.*** HELIX! New Music Ensemble. Le Poisson Rouge; New York, NY. 11/20
- Ideal : Reality.*** Sō Percussion Summer Institute. Taplin Auditorium; Princeton, NJ 7/24
- Executive Dysfunction.*** Sō Percussion Summer Institute. Princeton Public Library; Princeton, NJ 7/20
- Executive Dysfunction.*** Sō Percussion Summer Institute. Small World Coffee; Princeton, NJ 7/15
- Mind Map.*** HELIX! New Music Ensemble. Shindel Choir Hall; New Brunswick, NJ, 4/24
- Ground-Sky.*** Self-Performed. Shindel Choir Hall; New Brunswick, NJ, 4/10
- String Quartet No.1 Mvt. IV.*** Momenta Quartet, Schare Music Hall; New Brunswick, NJ, 3/29
- 2021** ***Lighting Bugs.*** Rachel Guarino, Rutger's Black Box Theater; New Brunswick, NJ, 11/23
- "Who Are You?".*** Rutgers Vocal Ensemble, Nicolas Music Center; New Brunswick, NJ, 12/06
- 2018** ***Ode to Falmouth.*** Rachael Gunning, Harrison Jarvis, Ethan Isaac, Blum Hall; Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 5/10
- Ground-Sky.*** Ethan Isaac, Blum Hall; Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 5/10
- Fantasy Suite.*** Harrison Jarvis, Blum Hall; Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 5/10
- Elestial.*** Kwami Winfield and Ethan Isaac, Blum Hall; Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 5/10
- Seaboard Prelude.*** Ethan Isaac, Blum Hall; Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 5/10
- 2017** ***Genevieve.*** Madison Ownings and Danny Castellanos, Chapel of Holy Innocents; Annandale-on-Hudson 2/24
- Chordal Prelude No. 3.*** Danny Castellanos, Chapel of Holy Innocents; Annandale-on-Hudson 2/24
- Chordal Prelude No. 5.*** Ethan Isaac, Chapel of Holy Innocents; Annandale-on-Hudson 2/24
- Chordal Prelude No. 1.*** Danny Castellanos, Chapel of Holy Innocents; Annandale-on-Hudson 2/24
- Twelve and a Half Crippled Verses.*** Danny Castellanos and Corey Chang, Chapel of Holy Innocents; Annandale-on-Hudson 2/24
- Contemplation.*** Danny Castellanos, Chapel of Holy Innocents; Annandale-on-Hudson 2/24
- Eight Electronic Interludes.*** Fixed Media, Chapel of Holy Innocents; Annandale-on-Hudson 2/24

- 2016 *Genevieve*.** Madison Ownings and Da Capo Chamber Players, Bito Hall; Annandale-on-Hudson 12/05
- 2014 *Eye*.** Wind Quintet, Mannes School of Music; New York 4/11
***Carousel*.** Evan Kauffmann, Mannes School of Music; New York 2/21
- 2013 *Dark Woods*.** Talea Quintet, Mannes School of Music; New York, 12/7
- 2012 *Piano Trio No.1*.** Mannes Prep Trio. Mannes School of Music; New York, 12/11

MEDIA COVERAGE

[New York Classical Review](#). 11/21/2022

“Ethan Isaac’s *A Conspiracy of Feeling*, inspired by a 1920s Russian novel and play, evoked post-revolutionary moods in an almost Elgarian sweep of broad melody and nostalgia.”

– David Wright

COMPLETE CATALOGUE OF WORKS

Orchestral Works

- 2023 *Tohu Va-Vohu*.** Orchestra and Live Electronics Written for Rutgers Symphony Orchestra. [7’].
- 2022 *Nimrod Fragments*.** Orchestra . Written for the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra. [9’]
- 2022 *A Conspiracy of Feelings*.** Chamber Orchestra Written for the HELIX! New Music Ensemble. [7’]
- 2021 *Mind Map*.** Chamber Orchestra. Written for the HELIX! New Music Ensemble. [5’]

Electro-acoustic Chamber Works

- 2026 *Lavender*.** Saxophone Quartet, Film, and Voice-over. Written for ~Nois [13’]
- 2024 *Tortured Sand*.** *Reliquary*, Trumpet, and Live Processing. Written for course taught by Charles Peck [5’]
- 2022 *Turnpike*.** Two Horns, Live Processing, Fixed Media, and Video [20’]. Commissioned by Richard Deane (Assistant Principal Horn, New York Philharmonic)
- 2022 *Ideal : Reality*.** Drumset Quartet and Live Processing [5’] Written for the So Percussion Summer Institute.
- 2019 *Seasons of Blithewood Garden*.** Brass Quartet, Four Rainsticks, Fixed Media [5’]
- 2018 *Elestial*.** Seaboard and Metal Objects. Written for Kwami Winfield and Ethan Isaac. [7’]

Acoustic Chamber Works

2024 *Biblethumping*. Percussion Duo. Commissioned by Folx Percussion, supported by Zildjian. [5']

2023 *Enough about Me, How about You?* Improvising Ensemble, Written for Pitt Composer's Concert [6']

2023 *Heartstring*. Violin and Piano. Written for Timothy Chooi [5'].

2023 *Ouroboros*. Percussion Trio and Voice, text by Ethan Isaac. Written for the So Percussion Summer Institute. [8']

2023 *Tension:Release*. Percussion Quartet, Written for the So Percussion Summer Institute. [3']

2022 *Executive Dysfunction*. Percussion Trio, text by Ethan Isaac. Written for the So Percussion Summer Institute. [5']

2022 *String Quartet No.1 Mvt. IV*. String Quartet, written for Momenta Quartet. [6']

2014 *Eye*. Wind Quintet [2']

2013 *Dark Woods*. Flute, Clarinet, Viola, Vibraphone, Piano, [4']

2012 *Piano Trio No.1*. Piano, Violin, Cello [4']

Electro-acoustic Vocal Works

2023 *Reason is a Tree Staid*. Tenor and Fixed Media (or Organ) [9']

2018 *Ode to Falmouth*. Soprano, Piano, and Seaboard (synthesizer) [6']

2017 *Contemplation*. Piano and Amplified Humming [3']

Acoustic Vocal Works

2024 *In the Shape of a Home*. Vocal Sextet, Written for Ekmeles [9']

2021 *"Who Are You?" From W.B Yeats Land of Heart's Desire*. Vocal Ensemble, Piano [6']

2016 *Twelve and a Half Crippled Verses*. Tenor and Piano [5']

2016 *Genevieve*. Mezzo-Soprano and Piano [3']

Electronic Works

2024 *De-fence*. Fixed Media [6']

2023 *Going Dennis*. Fixed Media [7']

2022 *A Chronicle in Stone*. Fixed Media [7']

2022 *Ethereal Semantics*. Fixed Media [11']

2017 *Eight Electronic Interludes*. Fixed Media [14']

Solo Works (Electro-Acoustic and Acoustic)

2025 *Sounding Body*. Pedal Harp. Written for Danielle Kuntz. [6']

2024 *The Divine Carousel*. Just Intonation Piano and Live Processing. Written for Physics Residency. [5']

2023 *Waypoints*. Alto and Concert Flute, Live Processing, and Fixed Media. Written for Robin Meiksins. [7']

2021 *Centerless*. Cello and Fixed Media [4']

2018 *Seaboard Prelude*. Seaboard [4']

2018 *Ground-Sky*. Digital Piano and Live Processing [10']

2017 *Fantasy Suite*. Just Intonation Piano [16']

2017 *Chordal Prelude No. 5*. Piano [3']

2016 *Chordal Prelude No. 3*. Piano [5']

2016 *Chordal Prelude No. 1*. Piano [1']

2014 *Carousel*. Piano [4']

2012 *Fallen Dream*. Piano [4']

LANGUAGES

English – Native

French – Intermediate

REFERENCES

Charles Peck
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