

Jon Jeffrey Grier

composer

348 Pimlico Road
Greenville, SC 29607
home (864)-675-0705; school (864) 355-2561
newertunes@hotmail.com
www.newertunes.com

Education

D.M.A., Composition, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, August, 1987, Magna Cum Laude. Composition and electronic music study with Dr. Gordon R. Goodwin and Dr. Samuel O. Douglas; theory study with Dr. Jerry Curry. Thesis composition: *Drones*, for orchestra.

M.M., Theory, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, August 1982, Magna Cum Laude. Advanced studies with Dr. Jerry Curry and Dr. Sam Douglas. Thesis: four-semester syllabus, with instructional and testing materials, for the USC sight-singing/ear-training core sequence. These materials were used for approximately five years thereafter.

M.M., Composition, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, December 1977, Summa Cum Laude. Composition and theory study with Ramon Zupko. Thesis composition: *Cumulo Nimbus*, for wind ensemble.

B.A., Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI, June 1975, Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa. Major in music, with departmental honors. Concentrations in composition and education, with teaching minor in psychology and Michigan secondary certification. Composition and theory study with Dr. Lawrence Rackley Smith.

Experience and Current Activity

8/88-Present: Instructor of Advanced Placement Music Theory, Advanced Topics in Music Theory, and Honors Music History, and **Composer in Residence** at the Greenville Fine Arts Center, a magnet school for the gifted and talented in the arts in the School District of Greenville County. Elected Teacher of the Year by colleagues, '94-'95 and '04-'05; also artist-in-residence 1/86-6/86, sabbatical replacement 1/85-6/85. Duties include classroom instruction in traditional analytical theory, vocabulary, sight-singing and ear-training, historical style and its evolution, form analysis, and introductory acoustics; student passing rate of over 90% on the AP Music Theory Test since 1988. Many pieces composed for Fine Arts Center student and faculty performers; authored majority of instructional materials used in FAC theory courses. Mentor/sponsor for Fine Arts Center Composers' Society and Foothills GreenArtists.

9/82-12/82 and 3/83-6/83: Professor of Music, Kalamazoo College (sabbatical replacement). Duties included classroom and private instruction in theory, history, appreciation, composition, and arranging; director of, and arranger for, Jazz Lab Band and Wind Ensemble.

1/79-5/82: Instructor of sight-singing/ear-training and intro theory, University of South Carolina (assistantship). 7/81: taught seminar in musique concrète techniques for the elementary school music teacher.

1/85-Present: Keyboardist and arranger with Greenville-based groups Oracle, a jazz-fusion ensemble, and Edgewise, a jazz piano trio. Also active as free-lancer.

Instrumental background in piano, electronic keyboards, and trumpet. Piano teacher in home and commercial studios, 9/75-5/82. Member of National Association of Composers USA, Southeastern Composers' League, American Music Center, and ASCAP.

Publications

- 2011** *Contra-Dances*, for Two 'Cellos (2022). ISG Publications.
- 2010** *Brieflets*, for String Quartet (Quartet #1, 1989), *A Moment's Notice*, for 5-part strings (1990), and *Too Many Notes*, for three 'cellos (2006). Frank Warren Music Service.
Three Inventions for Band (1987). Imagine Music Publishing.
- 2006** *Tango de Hippo*, for middle school band (2000); comic, w/ sound effects. Imagine Music.
A Child I Was, SATB madrigal (1989, rev.1999), w/ text by the composer. Imagine Music.
- 2005** *Habanera Chromatique*, for oboe and marimba (1994); w/ vrsns. for clarinet, alto flute. Manduca.
Cripple Creek Counterpoint, for flute quartet (1992). Little Piper Publications.
- 2003** *Rondo Bacchanale*, for strings, timpani, and violin solo (premiered by Greenville County Youth Orchestra, 1992. Latham Music.
A Skeleton in the Closet, for string quartet (1999). Cartoonish Halloween music, with copious special effects and theatrics; for younger players. Latham Music.
Take Me Out to the Ball Game, arranged for four violas or violins(1998). Comedic and very theatrical; 4th viola, after an argument, gets thrown out of the concert. Latham Music.
- 2001** CD recording of all three string quartets by the Ceruti Quartet of the University of Memphis. Includes premiere of *Quartet #3*, the "Automotive." Grant support from the Metropolitan Arts Commission, the Greenville Fine Arts Center, and the University of Memphis.
- 2000** *Cosmic Encounters*, for piano (1984). "Twelve Interplanetary Etudes on the Intervals for Intermediate Terrestrial Piano." The pieces describe sequential stages of a spaceflight from Earth to Saturn; as the intervals get larger with each piece, the distance from Earth increases. Manduca Music Publications.
An Afternoon in a Striped Balloon (1998), for 'cello and piano. Both parts designed to be playable by 3rd-year players; alternate solo parts for viola and violin. Latham Music.
Stop the Time, I Want to Get Off! (1999), for guitar ensemble (5 guitars, bass, drums). Fast bop, frequent stop time. University of Northern Colorado Jazz Press.
- 1999** *Swing Shift* (1998; "A" sections in funk 2, "B" sections in swing 4, with swing 8ths constant) and *Get 'em While They're Hot* (1997), both for guitar ensemble. UNC Jazz Press.
- 1998** *Holiday Music*, for string quartet (1993). 11 seasonal carols & songs arranged in various jazz styles. Latham Music Enterprises.
Significant Others, for viola and bass (1994; also arrnged for violin and 'cello). 4 movements describing a courtship ("Come Here Often?," "Marche Hormonale," "Potatoes and Potahtoes," "Bliss"). Ludwin Music.
- 1997** *Hannah's Waltz* for 'cello and piano (1996); *Death, Taxes, and Tristan*, for piano trio (1992). Manduca Music Publications.
- 1996** *Cripple Creek Counterpoint*, version for woodwind quintet (1992, rev. 1995), *Ménage à Trio*, versions for string trio or 2 violas and 'cello (1994), and *A Stitch in Time*, for 5-part strings (1992; etude in jazz rhythms). Frank Warren Music Service.
Three Scats, Etudes in Jazz for piano (1988, with rhythms and titles evoking scat singing); and *The Ant Hill*, for 2 pianos, 4 hands (1983; intermediate). Manduca Music Publications.

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- 1996 "Letters Home" and "Zeed," from *Floot Loops*, 5 short pieces in jazz for flute and piano (1979), published in the *American Piper*, journal of the Flute Club of America. Little Piper Publications.
- 1992 *Propagatia*, for bass trombone and piano (1988; rev. 1989). Trombone Association Publications.
- 1991 *Polka Impetuoso*, for concert band, grade 5 (1987). Fast humorous. Kjos Music Co.
Jazz Suite for Two, 3 intermediate pieces for piano 4 hands (1990). Warner Bros., out of print.
- 1990 *Jazzmatazz*, 8 teaching pieces in various jazz (1988). Warner Bros., out of print.
- 1988 *Allegretto Animoso*, for 5-part strings, grade 3 (1985; rev. 1987). Warner Bros., out of print.
- 1986 *Five*, for brass quintet (1981). Five short interrelated movements dealing with two principal themes; middle movement a palindrome. The Brass Press.
- 1986 *Nursery Riffs*, 6 familiar children's songs and nursery rhymes arranged in various jazz styles for advanced intermediate piano (1984). Kjos Music Co.
- 1984 *Jazzbag*, 22 teaching pieces in various jazz styles for intermediate piano (1980). Includes introduction to jazz phrasing and syncopations. Kjos Music Co.
- 1983 *Santamajazz*, 10 familiar carols arranged in jazz for piano (1981). Adv. Intermediate. Kjos.

Commissions, Grants, Awards, Major Performances

- 2012 *Voices from the Village* (2006/2011, version for female voice and piano trio), to be premiered by the Kandinsky Trio with soprano Ariana Wyatt, April 2012.
- 2011 *Four Are in the River*, (2011, vrsn for soprano and quartet), premiered by alumni of the Fine Arts Center with soprano Anna Diemer at the Annual Meeting of the Emrys Foundation, May 2011.
Voices from the Village, for female voice and piano, performed on the Americana Festival of the Boston Metro Opera, May 2011.
March 2011 concert with Ceruti String Quartet: *Symbionts*, for Violin and Viola, premiered by violinist Tim Shiu and violist Lenny Schranze; *Significant Others* (1994, violin/'cello version) premiered by violinist Soh-Hyun Park Altino and 'cellist Leonardo Altino; and, *Four Are in the River* (2011, version for quartet with viola solo) premiered by the Ceruti quartet. Performance and compositions supported in part by a school-wide grant from the Braitmayer Foundation.
- 2010 *All for One*, for Woodwinds, Marimbas and Strings, premiered by students of the FAC, May 2010. All-percussion version to be premiered by students of UNC Charlotte, Spring 2012.
Diverse Variations on A-C-P, for oboe, violin, viola, 'cello and piano, commissioned & premiered as the winning composition of 1st Annual Rapido! contest (2009) sponsored by the Atlanta Chamber Players, April 2010.
Overcoming, A Rhapsody on We Shall Overcome, for Piano Quintet, performed in the "In Remembrance of the Dream" concert by the Ritz Chamber Players, Jacksonville, January 2010.
Locriana, for Piano Quartet (2010)—Four Movements on the Locrian Mode—premiered by the Kandinsky Trio with guest violist Olivia Hajioff, January 2010.
- 2009 *Overcoming*, Rhapsody on We Shall Overcome for Piano Quintet, premiered by FAC students.
Morning, Goodbye, jazz ballad for vocal, rhythm section and strings, premiered by students of the Fine Arts Center (major revision of 1993 arrangement).

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- 2008** *Voices from the Village*, on personal ads from the Village Voice and the New York Times (2006), premiered by soprano Mimi Wyche at 25th Anniversary Gala of the Emrys Foundation.
- A Fifth Season*, for orchestra, premiered by the Greenville County Youth Orchestra as part of dedication of the new FAC building; based in part on the John Acorn sculpture *The Seasons*.
- Triple Dances*, for clarinet, alto sax, and bassoon, performed with choreography at the Greenville County Museum for the 25th anniversary celebration of the Emrys Foundation.
- 2007** *Passacaglia and Gigue*, for string sextet, premiered by students of the Greenville Fine Arts Center who won the 2007 Converse College Chamber Music Competition performing it.
- Chamber orchestra version of *The Number of Things* premiered by the GCYO.
- 2006** *Too Many Notes*, for three 'cellos, premiered by student 'cellists of the Greenville Fine Arts Center; these players won the 2006 Converse College Chamber Music Competition with it.
- 2005** *A Moment's Notice*, for 5-part strings (1990), performed by students of the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts during tour of Italy.
- After Long Ventures*, for clarinet, piano, and chamber orchestra, on a poem of Walt Whitman, premiered by Greenville County Youth Orchestra at FAC.
- String Quartet #2*, the "Nautical," performed by the Lyra Quartet, Quartet in Residence at the Callanwolde Arts Center, Atlanta.
- Composures*, for mixed winds and/or brass, performed at New Music Festival IV, University of Nebraska-Kearney.
- 2004** \$5000 Surdna Grant Recipient for electronic music study with Dr. Daniel Koppelman, Furman University. *Edigitudes*, for string quartet and synthesized sounds on CD, performed by FAC students, May 2005.
- Three Equivocal Songs*, for Violin and Chamber Orchestra, premiered 22 April by the Greenville County Youth Orchestra, Chloe Robinson, soloist.
- String Quartet #2*, the "Nautical," performed by the Conversant Quartet in November at the Annual Convention of the College Music Society in San Francisco.
- String Quartet #3*, the "Automotive," performed 8 March by Ceruti Quartet as part of concert sponsored by the National Association of Composers, USA, in New York City.
- Nostalgias*, for Piano Trio, performed by new music group Sounds New in San Francisco 22 Feb.
- 2003** FAC Teacher of the Year for 2004-2005; top ten finalist, School District of Greenville County.
- Habanera Chromatique*, for oboe and marimba, performed as part of Summer festival 2003 at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London, England.
- Nostalgias*, for Piano Trio, performed in New York City at inaugural concert of the Aurelia Trio.
- Takes Two*, for Flute Solo and Chamber Orchestra, supported by grant from the Metropolitan Arts Commission and premiered by the Foothills Philharmonic, Rhea Jacobus, flute.
- Contra-Dances*, for 'Cello Duet (2001-02), premiered by FAC 'cellists and performed—to standing ovation-- at 2003 Southeastern Composers League Forum at the University of Georgia.
- 2002** *Nostalgias*, for Piano Trio (1991; rev. 1996), performed on season-ending subscription concert by the Kandinsky Trio, Ensemble-in-Residence at Roanoke College.

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- 2002** *String Quartet #3, the "Automotive"* (1998), performed as final work of the 2002 Southeastern Composers League Forum at Mercer University by the Ceruti Quartet; three curtain calls.
Scherzophrenia, for String Quartet (2002), premiered by FAC Cripple Creek Quartet.
Polka Diabolique, for Viola and Piano (2001), premiered by FAC violist Hannah Shaw.
Habanera Chromatique, for Oboe and Marimba (1994), performed by oboist Thomas Livermore in Suffolk, England.
- 2001** *Tango de Hippo* (2000) for middle school band, premiered in a combined concert by the Hughes Academy Symphonic Band and the Greenville Concert Band.
Habanera Chromatique, for oboe and marimba (1994, revised 1998; revised version transcribed for clarinet and marimba, 1998) performed in recital by Kelly Vaneman, oboe, faculty member of Converse College.
Passacaglia for Strings (2001) performed by FAC students at the Converse College Annual High School Chamber Music Competition; awarded 2nd Place.
Incidental music commissioned for Warehouse Theater production of *Blood Wedding* by Federico Garcia Lorca; recorded by Strings/Chamber Music students from FAC.
- 2000** *A Child I Was*, an SATB madrigal (1989, rev. 1999), performed and awarded 2nd Place in the 21st Annual Choral Composition Contest and Festival, Ithaca College School of Music.
Significant Others, for viola and bass, performed as part of the Southeastern Composers' League Forum 2000, held at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.
Individual Artist Grant, from the Metropolitan Arts Council (South Carolina Arts Commission) to support the manufacture of CD's of the string quartets recorded by Ceruti Quartet.
The Number of Things, for string quartet, alto sax, and marimba, composed to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Greenville Fine Arts Center.
- 1998** *Swing Shift*, for guitar ensemble, premiered by students of the Fine Arts Center.
- 1997** *Significant Others*, for viola and bass, awarded co-honorable mention (no 1st place award given) in the International Society of Bassists 1997 Composition Contest.
Felis Imperius, for chamber orchestra, premiered by the Greenville County Youth Orchestra.
Nostalgias, for piano trio (a major revision of *Rondoids* [1991]), premiered by the Merling Piano Trio of Western Michigan University in a series of in-home and public concerts 16-19 April. Composer participated with grant support from the American Composers Forum.
In Pursuit, for orchestra, performed by Greenville Symphony Orchestra, 18-19 January.
Get 'em While They're Hot, for guitar ensemble, premiered by students of the Fine Arts Center.
- 1996** *Quartet #2, the "Nautical"* (1991; major revision 1995), performed by the Ceruti String Quartet of the University of Memphis in the Memphis New Music Festival. 3 descriptive, sometimes humorous movements ("Pegleg," "Adrift," "Great White").
- 1995** *Brieflets*, for String Quartet (Quartet #1), programmed by the Ceruti String Quartet; performances include the Memphis New Music Festival and the Tennessee MTNA convention.
- 1994** Individual Artist Grant, Metropolitan Arts Council (South Carolina Arts Commission), for the composition of *In Pursuit*, commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Greenville Fine Arts Center, premiered by the Greenville County Youth Orchestra 2 May 95.

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- 1993 Alliance for Quality Education grant for *Holiday Music*, 11 seasonal carols and songs arranged in various jazz styles for string quartet; recorded by FAC student performers, recordings sold.
- 1992 Individual Artist Grant, from the Metropolitan Arts Council (South Carolina Arts Commission) to support the composition of *Soliloquy* for the Greenville County Youth Orchestra.
Alliance for Quality Education grant to implement world music unit in FAC theory curriculum.
Incidental music for FAC production of *Where is the Queen?*, realized on the Ensoniq VFX-SD.
- 1991 *Rondoids*, for piano trio, commissioned and premiered by the Kandinsky Trio, artists-in-residence at Roanoke College. (revised 1996 and re-titled *Nostalgias*.)
Alliance for Quality Education grant to support recording of various FAC student instrumental ensembles in a professional studio; studio recording unit added to theory curriculum.
- 1990 Individual Artist Grant to support the composition of *Yings and Yangs*, for two violas.
Alliance for Quality Education grant in support of student string quartet studio recording.
- 1989 *Co-Variants*, for orchestra, commissioned and premiered by the GCYO.
- 1987 New York premiere of *Two by Four*, for two pianos, by new music ensemble GAGEEGO.
- 1986 *Advancing Dimensions*, for strings, voices, percussion, and piano, commissioned and premiered by the Greenville Fine Arts Center, composer conducting. Math/geometry theme; choreography by FAC dance instructor, poetry and stage props contributed by FAC students.
- 1984 Individual Artist's Grant to support composition of *Cosmic Encounters*, a collection of 12 sketches, each emphasizing one of the 12 chromatic intervals, for intermediate piano. Includes interval theory & analysis exercises for each piece; space exploration theme.
Excerpts from *Summer Sweet*, for stage band, performed at the Memphis State University New Music Festival XI; *Summer Sweet* premiered by the Kalamazoo College Jazz Lab Band, June '83.
- 1983 *Two by Four* and *The Ant Hill*, for two pianos, four hands, commissioned by the Michigan Music Teachers Association, and premiered at the MMTA convention in Detroit.
- 1982 2nd place in Southeastern Composers' League graduate composition contest with *Five*, for brass quintet; *Five* performed October 1984 at College Music Society national convention by the Nashville Contemporary Brass Quintet.
- 1981 ASCAP Young Composer's Grant awarded for *Cumulo-Nimbus*, for symphonic band; *Cumulo-Nimbus* performed at Symposium VI for New Band Music by the Virginia Intercollegiate Band.
- 1980 *Mosaics Music* commissioned by South Carolina Educational Radio Network; used for 5 years on *Mosaics*, a weekly news/features program.

Other Representative Compositions

Attitudes (2009), Three Hormonal Duets for flutes or alto flutes.

Three Polish Folk Songs (2009), arranged for flute and piano.

Canonic Fanfare (2009), for brass.

Eurotänze (2006), dance suite for brass (Prelude, Waltzer, Habanera, Reel, Pavane, Tarantella).

Waka Songs, on love poems of the *Hyakunin Isshu* (2005), for soprano and viola.

Present Affections, for violin and piano (2003). Six movements, modeled on a Baroque suite.

Jumpstart, for jazz combo (2001). Mid-tempo funk.

September Blue, for string quartet or orchestra (1999). Mid-tempo bluesy jazz, for younger players.

Cops and Robbers, for trumpet duet (1995). 2 movements ("He Went That-a-way," "Gotcha!").

Christmas Around the Synthesizer (1990; rev. 2003). 8 popular carols realized on the Ensoniq VFX-SD.

Three Bits, in jazz, for two violas and piano (1989; "Rondino Latino," "Death, Taxes, and Tristan," "[Get Your] Ducks in a Row"). "Tristan" also transcribed and published for piano trio (1992).

Breaking Ground, for orchestra (1988). Concert overture.

Three Inventions for Band (1987). "Fantasia Agitato," "Elegy," "Ostinato Energico". Band, grade 5.

Elbo Macaroni #35 (1982). A group improvisation format for stage band. Each player receives a list of described parts (not notated), and explanations of conductor's signals.

Unisons, for three flutes and piano (1981). All players double on percussion instruments.

Three Romances, for flute and piano (1976). Dark and brooding, with some common melodic elements.

Compositions as member of jazz-fusion ensemble Oracle and jazz quartet Edgewise

Come Fly With Love Again (1995, rev. 2007). Latin, with vocal (lyrics by Peggy Lynn Haden).

The Old Guys Can Still Do It (2003). Dissonant, progressive blues.

You Break Me Up (2002). Straight-ahead blues.

Hidden Love (2002). Slow latin fusion.

Samba Hemiola (2002). Fast samba.

Palmetto Breeze (2002). Bossa with stop time.

Forte-tude (2002). High-power mid-tempo funk; outside melody.

Escalation (2002). Straight-ahead w/chromatic root progressions.

Mystery Man (1999). Mid-tempo fusion groove.

Eleonore Digs Me (1999). Funk arrangement.

Flight o' Fancy (1996). Fast, light 5/4 & 6/4.

Well, You Needn't (1995). Fast, hard-swinging arrangement of Thelonius Monk standard.

Just for You (1994). Traditional jazz ballad.

The Old Guys Can Still Do It (1992). Fusion/latin.

Sleaze Factor (1990). High-power rock shuffle.

Monkey Wrench (or, *How To Be a Chromatic Band in a Pentatonic World*, 1989). Latin & straight-ahead sections juxtapose pentatonic and chromatic materials.

Calypso de Facto (1987). Calypso and big-band.

Evasive Action (1988). Fast, high-power swing.

Pass the Brains, Please (1985). 5/4, tongue-in-cheek horror music with electronic effects.

Marigold (1985). Traditional jazz ballad.

Friday Solitary (1984). Straight-ahead up-tempo.