

The Crane School of Music • SUNY Potsdam

CRANE

COMPOSITION

## Composition at Crane

Our Composition program is a small and highly selective one, which provides our composition students with individualized attention and access to significant opportunities. Majors in Composition begin private study during their first year in the program. In addition to the weekly private lessons with our faculty composers, there are weekly opportunities for all of the composers at Crane – faculty and students together – to meet to discuss each other’s works, to work with guest composers, and to discuss other topics relevant to the art, craft and business of composition.

Although students may choose to focus on either electronic or non-electronic composition, the program requires at least two semesters of study in both areas. Additional coursework in the major includes orchestration/arranging, counterpoint, jazz/pop/world musics, and a selection of theory/history elective courses.



*Dr. Sommerfeldt teaching in the PoEMS electronic music studio at Crane.*

There are many opportunities for student composers to hear their works performed live in one of our two concert halls, or in our more intimate recital hall. Composition majors may also produce a complete recital of their works in collabo-

ration with their colleagues in the performance area. Composition majors will compile a Capstone Portfolio of pieces, which can be used in preparation for either graduate studies or professional work opportunities.

For students who would like to study composition and are not necessarily interested in the major, Crane offers a **Minor in Composition** for qualified music majors. Composition study is also available as an elective in a class setting.



*The Ethel string quartet reading compositions by Crane composition major in 2017.*

## Recent Guest Composers and Performers

The Crane School of Music has a long history of fostering composers, supporting new music, and commissioning new works. In addition, each year, we welcome guest composers and performers specializing in new music to campus. Recent guest composers, all of whom have conducted masterclasses with composition students, have included **Libby Larsen**, **Gunther Schuller**, film composer **Joe Kramer**, and bass clarinetist/composer **Michael Lowenstern**. Guest ensembles to the Crane School who specialize in new music, such as **janus trio**, the **Akropolis**

Reed Quintet, the SOLI Chamber Ensemble, and the string quartet Ethel, have read student compositions as part of their residencies, providing invaluable feedback to composition majors.



*Composer Gunther Schuller talks with Crane students and faculty during his 2012 visit to Crane*

## **Crane Composition Faculty**

- **Dr. Ivette Herryman Rodriguez**  
ivetteherryman.com
- **Dr. David Heuser**  
davidheuser.com
- **Dr. Jerod Sommerfeldt**  
jerodsommerfeldt.com
- **Dr. Philip Salathé**  
philsalathe.com
- **Dr. Timothy Sullivan**  
*Composition area coordinator*  
sullivtr@potssdam.edu  
timsullivan.weebly.com
- **Dr. Gregory Wanamaker**  
gregorywanamaker.com

## **Recent Composition Graduates**

- Bill Ryan, professor of composition, Grand Valley State University
- Ronald G. Vigue, executive director of Orchestra 2001, Philadelphia
- Rob Smith, professor of composition, University of Houston
- Ryan Fraley, composer and arranger, Indianapolis
- John-Paul Brabant, doctoral program, University of Hawai'i
- Lance Day, composer and independent producer, New York
- Michael Blostein, composer and educator, Albany
- Larisa Montanaro, performer, composer and educator, Austin
- Paul Riker, composer/audio engineer for the visualization lab at King Adbullah University of Science & Technology, Saudi Arabia

## **Visit Our Website**

**[www.potsdam.edu/crane](http://www.potsdam.edu/crane)**

You will find complete information about Crane and SUNY Potsdam on our website, including detailed information about the audition process. In addition to a performance audition, composition applicants will be asked to submit a portfolio of scores (and recordings, if available) of three recent pieces that represent their best work. We look for work that displays creativity, awareness of current styles and potential for growth. When you visit Crane for your audition, you will also have a brief interview with some of our composition faculty.



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