****Christina S. Rusnak

**Composer / Explorer / Cultural Catalyst**

Curriculum Vitae

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**Profile**

Passionate about composing about place and the human experience, composer **Christina Rusnak** works at the intersection of place, nature, culture, history and art to integrate context into her music from the world around her to convey something meaningful about the human experience. Ms. Rusnak composes for diverse instrumentations, including Chamber Ensemble, Orchestra, Wind Band, Choral, Jazz, Electro-acoustic Film and Solo works, with lyrical lines, and organic rhythms and textures.

**Leadership & Board Service** (most recent)

**Board President**, International Alliance for Women in Music, 2020-2024; Treasurer 2016-2019

**Director,** Composing in the Wilderness Seminar, Alaska, 2019

**Interim Executive Director**, Orchestra 2001, 2010-2011

**Awards and Grants**  (most recent)

**American Prize 2025,** Finalist, Composition, Orchestra, *Time After All*

**American Prize 2024,** 2nd place Award; Composition, Orchestra, *The South Pass*

**American Prize 2024,** Finalist, Composition Chamber Ensemble, *FREE LAND*

**Global Music Awards, Bronze Winner** 2023, Composer for *Voices of the Land* recording

**Regional Arts and Culture Council Grant,** 2023 to record Voices of the Land

**Regional Arts and Culture Council Grant,** 2022 to record record Pine Meadow

**Oregon Arts Commission Grant,** 2020 to travel to Visby for VICC residency

**Education**

**Masters in Music Composition**; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, 2010; Summa Cum Laude

**Graduate Certification, Arts Leadership**, University of North Texas, 2010; Summa Cum Laude

**Graduate Certification, Cultural Planning**, University of British Columbia, 2017

**Compositions** (abbreviated selection – see website for more)

*King Tides Piano Trio Fall 2025*

In the Water I See My Dreams. SSA HS Choir 2025

Steppin’ Up Jazz Ensember/Band 2025

Wide Open Spaces             Horn and Piano                                       2024

Life Across the Sea Symphonic Wind Ensemble 2024

Time After All Orchestra (Grade 5) 2023

Unbidden Piano Solo 2022

SWELL                               Percussion Solo with Electronics                     2022

Respite                               Clarinet Solo                                                     2022

Pine Meadow Percussion Quartet 2022

The Forest & the Architect Flute, Clarinet, French Horn, Violin, Cello 2021

The South Pass Chamber Orchestra 2021

Water and Stone Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello & Percussion 2021

Call for Justice Saxophone Quartet 2021

Fanfare for Justice French Horn Quartet & Solo 2020

Hyas Tyee Temwata Adaptable Small Wind Ensemble 2020/2019

The Coast in Winter         Adaptable Small Wind Ensemble with Soloist 2020/2018

Dune Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello 2020

Liberty’s Light Women’s a’ Capella Choir 2019

Passage Wind Symphony 2019

Dusk Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Marimba (piano 2008) 2019

Hyas Tyee Temwata Wind Band 2019

WYAM, Celilo Falls             Flute, Piccolo, Clarinet, Fr. Horn, Bass, & 2018

Percussion Quartet

Oregon Trail (3 mvmts)      Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Percussion, 2018

A House Divided Viola, Piano (for Kino Films) 2018

Querido Difunto Women’s Choir (Dearly Departed in Spanish) 2017 (orig Eng.2016)

Queridos Amados Women’s Choir (Dearly Beloved in Spanish) 2017 (orig Eng. 2011)

Glacier Blue Cello Solo 2017

The Way Through Violin, Cello, Clarinet, Marimba 2015

Canyon Voices Flute, Clarinet/Bs Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Perc 2014

Coal Creek 2 violins, Bass Clarinet, Marimba 2013

FREE LAND Percussion, Flute, Violin, Cello, Trumpet 2012

**Performances** (abbreviated selection)

Wide Open Spaces Eugene Oregon & Seattle WA January/July 2025

Unbidden Eugene Oregon & Seattle WA January/July 2025

Le Jardin Perdu Various, Oregon & Washington (9 perf.) March-June 2024

Pine Meadow Thomas Jefferson HS Richmond, VA November 2023

The Forest & the Architect Juventas New Music Ensemble, Boston Mass November 2023

Canyon Voices Juventas New Music Ensemble, Boston Mass September 2023

The Forest & the Architect Frederick Law Olmsted Nat’l Historic Site July 2023

Kyripo Teatro di San Lorenzo, Italy May, 2023

SWELL                               Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon                  August 2022

Respite                               Leach Botanical Gardens, Portland OR            August 2022

The Forest & the Architect Six performances: Boston (2), NYC (2), March-October 2022

Rochester NY, Houghton, Michigan

Fear: Unspoken Geography IAWM International Conference, Corvallis OR June 2022

Dusk Quartet                     Lincoln Hall, Portland Oregon February 2020

Glacier Blue                       Weill Hall, Carnegie Hall, New York February 2020

Oregon Trail Suite             FeNAM, Sacramento CA, November 2019

Kyripo Women’s Music Festival, Velos, Greece September 2019

The Coast in Winter Winona State University, Minnesota April 2019

The Mountain Within Beaverton Symphony Orchestra November 2018

Coal Creek Portland, OR May 2017

**Recordings / Films** (abbreviated selection)

***Voices of the Land,*** Six Chamber works; Juventas New Music Ensemble, Navona Records: 2023

***Unbidden****,* Contemporary Eclectic Music for the Piano #23, Jeffrey Jacobs, Ariel Records; 2022

***Dusk****,* Jazz and Meditations, Jeffrey Jacobs # 16, Ariel Records: 2020

***Glacier Blue***, Moto Celeste, Ovidiu Marinescu, Navona Records / Parma Recordings: 2019

***Dearly Departed & Dearly Beloved***, Intersections, Performed by Vocal Luna, Ansonica Records / Parma Recordings: 2016

**Commissions, & Residencies** (abbreviated selection)

##### 2024 **Commission**: ***Wide Open Spaces****,* The Grapefruits

2023 **Commission:** ***Life Across the Sea,*** Winona State University, Minnesota

2022 **Residency,** Visby International Centre for Composers, Visby, Sweden

2021 **Commission and Residency, *Pine Meadow*,** Pine Meadow Ranch, RoundHouse Foundation; September

2021        **Commission**: The Forest and the Architect, American Wild Ensemble + Consortium

2021        **Commission**: ***Rosalie en Haar Trouwe Meubels,****and* ***Un ravalement precipité*,** Piano (Silent Films) by Carlton University, Ottawa, CA

2020 **Commission:** ***Fanfare for Justice*** for Low Horn Solo and for Horn Quartet by Mark Olsen

2019          **Commission:** ***Oregon Trail,*** Landscape Music; performed by Citywater at the **Festival of New American Music, Sacramento, CA**

2017 **Commission:** ***Glacier Blue*** for solo cello by Third Angle New Music Ensemble

2016 **Commission:** ***Dearly Departed*** by Vocal Luna Ensemble

2014 **Commission:** ***The Way Through*** for North Cascades National Park

2013 **Commission:** ***Canyon Voices*** by Oregon State Parks**:** Composer in Residence for Cottonwood Canyon State Park

2012 **Commission:** ***Free Land*** by Homestead National Monument

2010 **Commission:** ***Rapartee*** by Bottom Line Duo

2009-10**Commission:** ***161 Glass*** by Dallas Contemporary Museum for the new Art Space

**Published Essays, Articles and Interviews.** (abbreviated selection)

*Voices of the Land,*October 2023 Navona Records

 <https://www.navonarecords.com/news/inside-story-christina-rusnak-voices-of-the-land/>

*Widening Inclusion & Visibility,* July 5, 2018, New Music Box

[*https://nmbx.newmusicusa.org/widening-inclusion-visibility/*](https://nmbx.newmusicusa.org/widening-inclusion-visibility/)

*Commissioning Landscape Music,* June 2017, Landscape Music.org

[*http://landscapemusic.org/essays/commissioning-landscape-music/*](http://landscapemusic.org/essays/commissioning-landscape-music/)

*New Music and Place: Creating Community*, April 25, 2016, New Music Box,

<http://www.newmusicbox.org/articles/new-music-and-place-creating-community/>

*Composing Advocacy: Social Voices*, April 19, 2016, New Music Box,

<http://www.newmusicbox.org/articles/composing-advocacy-social-voices/>

*Money, Support and the Voice of New Music*, April 13, 2016, New Music Box,

<http://www.newmusicbox.org/articles/money-support-and-the-voice-of-new-music/>

*New Music as Advocacy for Place*, April 4, 2016, New Music Box,

<http://www.newmusicbox.org/articles/new-music-as-advocacy-for-place/>

**References**

Andrea Reinkemeyer, Director of Composition, George Mason University, [andrea@andreareinkemeyer.com](mailto:andrea@andreareinkemeyer.com) Phone 503-883-2571

Oliver Caplan, Artistic Director, Juventas New Music Ensemble, [oliver.caplan@juventasmusic.org](http://oliver.caplan@juventasmusic.org)

Phone 617-894-0359

Libby Meyer, Professor, Director of Composition, Michigan Tech University, [ecmeyer@mtu.edu](mailto:ecmeyer@mtu.edu) Phone 906-487-3015

Stephen Lias, Stephen F. Austin, Professor, Composition, [slias@sfasu.edu](mailto:slias@sfasu.edu) Phone: 936-468-4056