

RYAN BROWN | composer

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born 10.21.79

Composer **RYAN BROWN** draws heavily on his omnivorous musical tastes while maintaining a unique sound all his own. His works are often noted for their energy and off-kilter, foot-tapping rhythms and have been called “**modern composed music at its best: nimble, expressive, ear-turning, and strange in an accessible way, highly virtuosic but never pretentious.**” (Washington City Paper)

Ryan’s music has been performed by many notable groups, performers, and presenters, including pianist **Lisa Moore**, the **California E.A.R. Unit**, **NOW Ensemble**, **Gaudeamus Music Week** (Netherlands), and the **MATA Festival**. Radio features have included NPR’s **Forum with Michael Krasney** and Richard Freidman’s **Music from Other Minds**. In 2007 French record label trAce released *Banksy* on the album *Post-Minimalism*.

Ryan has received an Emerging Composer Award from the **Gerbode and Hewlett Foundations**, and a Morton Gould Young Composer Award from **ASCAP**. He is currently a fellow in the Brooklyn Philharmonic’s Composer Mentoring Program. Upcoming premieres and commissions include music for **janus**, the **Paul Dresner Ensemble**, and the **Brooklyn Philharmonic**.

In 2006, along with composer Jonathan Russell and clarinetist Jeff Anderle, Ryan co-founded San Francisco’s annual **Switchboard Music Festival**, an 8-hour music marathon bringing together composers and performer’s who are challenging traditional genre lines. Himself active as both an electric guitarist and electric bassist, Ryan has been a featured performer in works by Terry Riley, Steve Reich, and John Adams, as well as the premiere performance and recording of Steve Mackey’s *Measures of Turbulence*.

Ryan is a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and California State University, Long Beach, and is currently a graduate fellow at Princeton University. He has studied with Dan Becker, Martin Herman, Steve Mackey, and Bruce Miller. **Visit his website at www.ryanbrownmusic.com.**

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Music (in progress) | Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
- Master’s of Music, Composition (2005) | San Francisco Conservatory of Music, SF, CA
- Bachelor’s of Music, Composition (2002) | CSU Long Beach, Long Beach, CA

AWARDS

- 2008 Morton Gould Young Composer Award | ASCAP
- 2007 Emerging Composers Award | Wallace A. Gerbode and William and Flora Hewlett Foundations
- 2007 American Composers Forum Northern California Composers Commissioning Program

- Honorable Mention for *Our Friend Adam* | 2006 Audio Inversions Composition Competition
- 2002 Paul C. Lindsey Composer Award | Cal State University, Long Beach

RECENT COMMISSIONS

- Janus (flute, viola, and harp)
- Brooklyn Philharmonic (string quartet and string ensemble)
- Sissy-Eared Mollycoddles (baglama, percussion, and double bass)
- Left Coast Chamber Ensemble (flute and cello)
- Paul Dresher Electro-Acoustic Band (clarinet, keyboard, percussion, electric guitar, and violin)

RECENT AND UPCOMING PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- **September 7-13, 2009:** Amsterdam, Netherlands | *Banksy* performed at Gaudeamus Week Festival
- **May 21, 2009:** New York, NY | *Ceramics* performed by Lisa Moore on Keys to the Future Festival
- **May 17, 2009:** New York, NY | *World Premiere for String Quartet* performed by members of the Brooklyn Philharmonic
- **April 24, 2009:** San Francisco, CA | *Our Friend Adam* performed by Adorno Ensemble
- **April 19, 2009:** Chicago, IL | *Our Friend Adam* performed by Accessible Contemporary Music
- **April 5, 2009:** New York, NY | *Ceramics* performed by Lisa Moore
- **March 29, 2009:** San Francisco, CA | *Same Mistake Twice* performed on Switchboard Music Festival
- **March 21, 2009:** Los Angeles, CA | *Our Friend Adam* performed by EAR Unit
- **December 17, 2008:** New York, NY | *Our Friend Adam* performed by NOW Ensemble
- **December 11 & 15, 2008:** Mill Valley & San Francisco, CA | world premiere of *Bedside Manner* by Left Coast Chamber Ensemble (commissioned work)

DISCOGRAPHY

- "Post-Minimalism" [TraceLabel 2007, trace 024 / 2CD] *Banksy*, performed by the SFCM Guitar Ensemble, Jonathan Russell, conductor

RADIO

- May 3, 2007 | Richard Friedman's *Music from Other Minds*
- March 22, 2007 | NPR's *Forum with Michael Krasney* discussion concerning Bay Area composers, along with Pamela Z, Belinda Reynolds, and Robin Cox

ONLINE

- Interview and profile on InnerViewWorld.com
- Featured in online new music journal *Sequenza 21*

GROUPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Switchboard Music Festival (www.switchboardmusic.com)
- ASCAP
- American Composers Forum
- American Music Center

- Society of Composers

FESTIVALS

- 2007 Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium
- 2005 Bang on a Can Summer Institute

SELECTED LIST OF WORKS

Bedside Manner (2008) 7:30

flute and cello

Goodbye Painted Ladies (2008) 5:30

baglama, percussion, double bass

KNEE GAS (ON) (2008) 8:00

2 bass clarinets

Ceramics (2007) 7:30

solo piano

Our Friend Adam (2005-2007) 6:00

alto sax, electric guitar, electric bass, piano

alto sax, marimba, piano, violin, cello

flute, bass clarinet, piano, electric guitar, double bass

flute, bass clarinet, marimba, piano, violin, cello

THICK SKIN (2007) 13:00

amplified bassoon (or bass clarinet), brass quartet, drum kit, electric guitar, electric bass

Big Dig (2006) 7:30

clarinet, violin, djembe (optional), marimba, cello

Bad Apples (2005) 6:00

bluegrass string band: mandolin, banjo, acoustic guitar, double bass

Teeth (2005) 10:00-12:00

musical saw, vibraphone, (any low drone instrument), crotales (or glockenspiel), wire coat hangers

Same Mistake Twice (2005) 8:00

2 electric guitars and electric bass

Something's Happened (2005) 6:00

electric viola (or violin) and electric guitar (both can also be played acoustically)

Banksy (2004) 8:30

12 classical guitars, electric guitar, electric bass, 1-2 percussionists

The Light by Which She May Have Ascended (2004) 5:00

4 cellos and pre-recorded tape

Prince Oogog (2004) 5:30

alto sax, electric guitar, electric bass, piano

Oogog Says Hello (2004) 4:00

solo piano

Three Preludes for Solo Viola (2004) 3:30, 1:30, 4:00 (ttl. 9:00)

solo viola