

# SHIRLEY MIER

Composer ♪ Music Director ♪ Music Educator

[music@shirleymier.com](mailto:music@shirleymier.com) ♦ 612-720-0820 ♦ [www.shirleymier.com](http://www.shirleymier.com)

## Education

- **Ph.D. in Composition**, 2005: University of Minnesota. Principal instructors: Alex Lubet (advisor), Judith Zaimont.  
Dissertation: *Visages: A Song Cycle for Mezzo-Soprano and Orchestra*.
- **M.A. in Composition** (minor in Theatre Arts), 2002: University of Minnesota.
- **B.A. in Music** (Theory & Composition), 1988: Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA.  
Advisor: Jon Chenette.
- Institute for European Studies, Vienna, Austria, 1986-87.

## Awards and Distinctions

- **Recipient** of The Howard B. and Ruth F. Brin Jewish Arts Endowment Fund Grant, for the musical *The Allen Street Yiddish Theatre Presents: Cinderesther*, 2013
- **ASCAP Plus Award Recipient** for 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09.
- **Finalist** in the Frank Ticheli Composition Contest sponsored by Manhattan Beach Music (Category 2, Young Concert Band), for *Maiden Voyage*, 2006.
- **Doctoral Dissertation Fellow**, University of Minnesota, 2004-05.  
**Dissertation:** *Visages, A Song Cycle for Mezzo-Soprano and Orchestra*; explores cross-cultural themes connecting China and America.
- **Winner** of the University of Minnesota School of Music's annual Call for Scores competition, for "Tibetan Girl" (mezzo soprano and orchestra; excerpt of *Visages*), 2005.
- **Winner** of the Fifth Annual H. Robert Reynolds Composers' Competition, 2004, for *Theme and Deviations for Band*. New York premiere at Carnegie Hall by the National Wind Ensemble, May 30, 2004.

## Publications

- *The Twelve Dancing Princesses* (children's musical), Dramatic Publishing, 2016
- *Forge Ahead!* (Grade 3 Concert Band), Alfred Music, 2013
- *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* (children's musical), Dramatic Publishing, 2012
- *Song of the Wind: An Aztec Legend* (Grade 2 Concert Band), Alfred Music, 2011
- *Maiden Voyage* (Grade 3+ Concert Band), Grand Mesa Music Publishers, 2010
- *Nancy Carlson's "Harriet and Walt"* (children's musical), Samuel French, Inc., 2010
- *Madeline's Christmas* (children's musical), Dramatic Publishing, 2005
- Educational piano duets: *Western Trail* (2004), *Royal Pavane*, (2001), *Four-Leaf Clover*, *Journey Home*, *Follow the Piper!* (2000) (Nat'l Federation Selection, 2004-06), Alfred Music

## Commissions

- ***Of Lakes and Legends***, chamber orchestra. Century College Chamber Orchestra, May 2017.
- ***Steampunk Overture***, intermediate concert band. St. Michael-Albertville High School Wind Ensemble, May 2016.
- ***The Twelve Dancing Princesses***, musical adaptation of the fairy tale. Libretto by Jennifer Kirkeby. Stages Theatre, Hopkins, MN, March 2015.
- ***Llama Llama Holiday Drama***, musical adaptation of the book. Libretto by Jennifer Kirkeby. Stages Theatre, Hopkins, MN, November 2013.
- ***Courage Shining Forth***, advanced symphonic band. Minnesota Symphonic Winds, April 2013.
- ***Duck for President***, musical adaptation of the book. Libretto by Jennifer Kirkeby. Stages Theatre, Hopkins, MN, September 2012.
- ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon***, incidental music score. Script by Jeannine Coulombe, based on the book by Grace Lin. Stages Theatre, Hopkins, MN, April 2012.
- ***Llama, Llama, Red Pajama***, musical adaptation of the book. Libretto by Jennifer Kirkeby. Stages Theatre, Hopkins, MN, January 2012.
- ***Six Scriabin Preludes***, orchestral arrangement of piano preludes by Alexander Scriabin. Century Chamber Orchestra, Century College, March 2011.
- ***Laura Numeroff's "If You Give a Moose a Muffin,"*** musical adaptation of the book. Libretto by Jennifer Kirkeby. Stages Theatre, Hopkins, MN, January 2011.
- ***Forge Ahead!***, intermediate concert band. Cottage Grove Middle School Eighth Grade Band, Cottage Grove, MN, March 2010.
- ***'Twas the Night Before Christmas***, musical adaptation of the famous poem. Libretto by Jennifer Kirkeby. Stages Theatre, Hopkins, MN, November 2009.
- ***Song of the Wind: An Aztec Legend***, intermediate concert band. Roosevelt High School Band, Minneapolis, MN, May 2009.
- ***Robert Munsch's "The Paper Bag Princess,"*** musical adaptation of the book. Libretto by Jennifer Kirkeby. Stages Theatre, Hopkins, MN, April 2009.
- ***Jan Brett's "The Mitten,"*** musical adaptation of the book. Libretto by Jennifer Kirkeby. Stages Theatre, Hopkins, MN, January 2008.
- ***Mashed Monsters***, original musical. Book/lyrics by Christina Akers. Minnesota Fringe Festival, July-August 2007.
- ***Strange Attractor***, electro-acoustic ballet exploring chaos theory. American Composers Forum and The Dance Institute (formerly Ballet Arts Minnesota), Pantages Theatre, Mpls, April 2007.
- ***Nancy Carlson's "Harriet and Walt,"*** musical adaptation of the children's book. Libretto by Jennifer Kirkeby. Stages Theatre, Hopkins, MN, January 2007.
- ***Stages Theatre's "A Christmas Carol,"*** musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel. Libretto by Buffy Sedlachek. Stages Theatre, Hopkins, MN, November 2006.
- ***Madeline's Christmas***, musical adaptation of the children's book. Libretto by Jennifer Kirkeby. Stages Theatre, Hopkins, MN, 2004.
- ***Soulless, Bloodsucking Lawyers: A (Brief) Musical!***, 2003. Co-composed with playwright Toni Halleen. Minnesota Fringe Festival, 2003, and Bryant Lake Bowl, 2004. (Highest Attended Show at the 2003 Minnesota Fringe Festival, and voted Audience Pick for Best Musical.)
- ***Theme and Deviations for Band***, Seward Concert Band, Minneapolis, 2003.

- *Twelfth Night* (text settings), Shakespeare in the Park, Twin Cities, 2003.
- *When You Get a Minute*, theme song for Kevin Pearson film, Minneapolis, 2002.
- *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, musical adaptation of the fairy tale. Book/lyrics by Mark Rosenwinkel. Stages Theatre, 2002.

## Other Compositions: Concert Music

### Jazz Band

*Spanky the Llama Blues* (3'), Carondelet Middle School Jazz Band, 2005

### Orchestra

*Visages: A Song Cycle for Mezzo-Soprano and Orchestra* (18'), 2005:

Century Chamber Orchestra, November 2008

U of M Symphony Orchestra, March 2005 ("Tibetan Girl")

Dakota Valley Symphony, April 2006

Century College Chamber Orchestra, November 2008 (chamber orchestra version)

### Chamber/Miniature

*A Light Breeze* (1'), percussion solo, 2007

*Express Lane (100 items or fewer)* (1'), percussion ensemble, 2007

*Blink: a string quartet in 100 notes* (1'), 2007

*Invention for String Trio* (5'), U of M, 2001

*Album Leaves* (3'), brass quintet, U of M, 2001

*Mini-Suite for Oboe and Bassoon* (5'), U of M, 2000

### Vocal/Choral

*Visages: A Song Cycle for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano* (piano-vocal arrangement of the orchestral work) (18'), 2005 (multiple performances)

*One Hundred Years*, chorus/piano (3'), Silver Bay, NY, 2002 (commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Silver Bay Association)

*The Buck in the Snow* (Edna St. Vincent-Millay), mezzo/piano (4'), U of M, 2001

*Herbst (Autumn)* (text: Rainer Maria Rilke), SSAA (2'), 2000

### Electronic/Multimedia/Commercial

*Trailer of Terror!*, 2001 (Quicktime film and soundtrack)

*Fender Bender* and *Passacaglia* (Minnesota Public Radio "Buttons"), 2001

## Other Compositions: Theatre and Dance

*The Allen Street Yiddish Theatre Palace Presents: Cinderesther*, a retelling of the Cinderella story in the Yiddish Theatre tradition; book/lyrics by Brian Vinero, 2015 (in progress)

*Much Ado About Nothing*, University Theatre, U of M, 2002

*Alexander At Delphi*, Center for Independent Artists, 2002, and Minnesota Fringe Festival, 2010 (**M.A. Thesis**: one-act musical drama based on Alexander the Great; book/lyrics by Minrod Mier)

*The Bitter Festie Play*, Minnesota Association of Community Theatres One-Act Play Festival, 2001 (Incidental music)

***Heart of the Faerie Queen***, Minnesota Fringe Festival, 2000 (Incidental music)  
***The Skid Row Kids Save Christmas***, Far From the Tree Productions, Minneapolis, 1999  
(Holiday musical; book/lyrics by Minrod Mier)  
***A Cup of Kindness***, MACT One-Act Play Festival, 1999 (Incidental music)  
***An Old-Fashioned Christmas***, Grand Theatre, Stillwater, MN, 1996 (Title song)  
***Messiah***, Genesis Theatre, Minneapolis, 1989 (Incidental music)  
***The Caucasian Chalk Circle***, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA, 1988 (**Senior project**)

## Residencies and Educational Outreach

- **Guest Composer/Presenter** for the U of MN Composition Seminar class, February 2016
- **Resident Composer/Conductor** for the St. Michael-Albertville High School Band, for *Maiden Voyage*, St. Michael, MN, February 2015
- **Composition Judge** for the MMTA Piano Duet Competition, 2014 & 2015
- **Writer and Presenter** of “Exploring the Blues,” an educational workshop at the SUUSI (Southeast Unitarian Universalist Institute) conference, 2014-2016
- **Resident Composer/Conductor** for the Kenyon-Wanamingo High School Band, for *Maiden Voyage*, Kenyon, MN, May 2012
- **Resident Composer/Conductor** for the Zumbrota-Mazeppa High School Band, for *Maiden Voyage*, Zumbrota, MN, October 2011
- **Guest Composer/Conductor** at the Minnesota River Valley Wind Ensemble fall concerts, for *Theme and Deviations for Band*, Mankato, MN, Fall 2010
- **Presenter** at the 2010 Century College Campus Conference, *Journeys*, for “Visages: Tale of a Journey” and “The Music of Cabaret”, Century College, April 2010
- **Resident Composer** at Cottage Grove Middle School, for *Forge Ahead!*, 2009-10
- **Resident Composer and Conductor** at California State University-Bakersfield, for *Theme and Deviations for Band* (rehearsed and conducted the ensemble; gave master classes, seminars and public talks), June 2009
- **Co-Presenter** at the 2008 Century College Campus Conference, *Revolution!*, for “Revolution: The Soundtrack!”, Century College, April 2008
- **Resident Composer and Conductor** for the Mankato Wind Ensemble (MSU-Mankato) at the MMEA Midwinter Clinic (Mpls, MN) and the MSU-Mankato Winter Band Concert (Mankato, MN) for *Theme and Deviations for Band*, 2008
- **Music Resource Specialist** (Consultant, Arranger, Pianist): World Culture Magnet School’s “On Stage” production, *Music of the Americas*, St. Paul, 2007
- **Guest Speaker** at Minnehaha Academy: *Music in Theatre: Telling the Story*, 2007
- **Clinician** at the MMEA Midwinter Clinic: *Using the Book Creatively II: Music, Literacy, and the Arts*, 2006
- **Composer/Conductor** at Symposium 30 for New Band Music, for *Theme and Deviations for Band*. College Band Directors National Association (Virginia Chapter) Richmond, VA, 2005.
- **Composer Participant** at the SCI Region VI Conference, for *Theme and Deviations for Band*, San Antonio, TX, 2005.

## Teaching Experience: Higher Education

**Instructor of Music**, Century College, White Bear Lake, MN, Fall 2007 – present

Courses taught:

- Music Theory I and II
- Advanced Music Theory I and II
- Ear Training I and II
- Advanced Ear Training I and II
- Music History II
- Fundamentals of Music
- Songwriting
- Enjoyment of Classical Music (classroom and online)
- Popular Music in American Society (classroom and online)
- Introduction to Music Notation Software (classroom and online)
- Theatre Orchestra
- Century Chamber Orchestra (Music Director and Conductor, 2007-08 and 2014-15)

**Music Dept. Executive**, 2014-15 (Head of the Music Dept.)

**Social Media guru**, 2014-present: creation and maintenance of the Century College Music Dept. Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/centurycollegemusic](http://www.facebook.com/centurycollegemusic))

**Instructor** for the PACE program (Preparing to Achieve a College Education), a Century College program for underrepresented students with high academic potential in the Twin Cities community (Popular Music in American Society), 2009-2012

**Lecturer**, University of Wisconsin, River Falls, Spring 2006 (one-semester appointment)

Course: Music Theory and Ear Training 131

**Teaching Assistant**, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2000-2004

Courses taught: Foundations in Music Theory: Analysis and Ear Training I, II, III and IV.

Duties included:

- Teaching the ear-training lab
- Teaching seminars in music technology, part-writing and ear training
- Grading assignments and proctoring individual sight-singing and keyboard skills tests

**Instructor of Record** for Foundations in Musical Theory: Analysis and Ear-Training II, U of M, Summer 2001

**Lab Monitor**, U of M Computer Music Lab, Ferguson Hall, 2004.

**Music Theory Tutor**, U of M second-year theory students, 2004-05.

**Consultant** for the proposed music theory curriculum at the new Main Street School of Performing Arts, Hopkins, Minnesota, 2003-04

**Grading Assistant**, MUS 212 (Harmony), Grinnell College, 1987-88

**Instructor Assistant**, Ear Training Lab for MUS 212 (Harmony), Grinnell College, 1985-86

## Teaching Experience: Performance

### **Piano, Voice and Composition Teacher:**

Private instruction in composition, 2007-present

Chenoweth Music Studio (piano and voice), Roseville, 1996-2000

Chaska School of Music (piano), 1995-98

**Member:** Minnesota Music Teachers Association, 1997-2001

(Served on the Theory Committee)

## Teaching Experience: Theatre Education

### **Music Director and Pianist:**

Stages Theatre's Teen Workshops in Musical Theatre, 2007-09

Escalate Studio's Musical Theatre and Audition Workshops, 2005-07

Stages Theatre's Summer and Winter Workshops in Musical Theatre, 2001-06

Stages Theatre's Junior Conservatory Workshop, 2005

Steppingstone Theatre's Musical Theatre Extravaganza! Workshops, 2002-04

Stages Theatre's Summer Conservatory Workshops, 2002-05, 2007-08

American Variety Theatre Company's Summer Workshops, 1995-98

**Composer and Pianist:** Steppingstone's Step on Stage Workshops, 2001-04

**Theatre Workshop Instructor:** *Free to Be, You and Me*, Stages Theatre, 2001

**Improvisational Theatre Pianist and Playwriting Workshop Instructor:**

Florida Studio Theatre (Sarasota, FL), 1993

## Theatre & Other Performing Experience

**Guest Conductor:** Seward Concert Band, 2007

**Pianist/Actor:** 100 Years of Rotary, Great American History Theatre, 2005

(Performances in St. Paul, MN; Waterloo, IA; Chicago, IL; Hutchinson, MN)

**Guest Conductor:** Dakota Valley Summer Pops Orchestra, 2005-06

**Pianist/Keyboardist:** Dakota Valley Summer Pops Orchestra, 2001-05

**Substitute Pianist:** Shepherd of the Hill Church, Chaska, 1998-2003

**Improvisational Theatre Pianist:** Stevie Ray's Comedy Troupe, 1994-2005

(Composed and arranged music for improvisational sketches, accompanied improvised scenes, created musical improvisation structures and assisted with sketch preparation.)

**Accompanist:** Nostalgia, women's vocal trio, 1995-98

**Co-Creator, Co-Director and Pianist:** Forgotten Broadway, 1996

## Music Directing Experience

### Educational Theatre

**Resident Artist** at Stages Theatre, 2002-present

(Composer, Music Director, Soundtrack Sequencer)

**Music Director** for 20+ productions, including:

*Annie Jr.*, Stages Theatre, 2011 (pianist/conductor)

*Willy Wonka*, Stages Theatre, 2010 (pianist/conductor)

*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Stages Theatre, 2008 (pianist/conductor)

*Honk!*, Stages Theatre, 2007 (pianist/conductor)

*Stages Theatre's "A Christmas Carol,"* Stages Theatre, 2006

*Seussical*, Stages Theatre, 2006 (pianist/conductor)

*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, Steppingstone Theatre, 2005

*Charlotte's Web*, Stages Theatre, 2005

*The Emperor's New Clothes*, Steppingstone Theatre, 2005

*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Stages Theatre, 2003

*Wizard of Oz*, FAIR Middle School, Crystal, MN, 2003

*Three Billy Goats Gruff*, Stages Theatre, 2002

### Community and College Theatre

**Music Director** for 40+ productions, including:

*The Rocky Horror Show*, 2016

*Company*, Century College, 2014 (pit orchestra conductor)

*The Pirates of Penzance*, Century College, 2012 (pit orchestra conductor)

*Cabaret*, Century College, 2010 (pit orchestra conductor)

*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Morris Park Players, 2006 and 1999

*Jesus Christ Superstar*, Morris Park Players (MPP), 2003

*West Side Story*, MPP, 2000

*Little Shop of Horrors*, MPP, 1998

*Oliver!*, Masquers Theatre, 1998

*The Secret Garden*, Lakeshore Players, 1996

*Hello, Dolly!*, Masquers Theatre, 1995

*Gypsy*, Lakeshore Players, 1994

*Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Masquers Theatre, 1993

*Cabaret*, Lakeshore Players, 1993

*Of Thee I Sing*, Lakeshore Players, 1992

*Godspell*, Masquers Theatre, 1992

*Jesus Christ Superstar*, St. Louis Park Players, 1992

*Fiddler on the Roof*, Masquers Theatre, 1991

*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, MPP, 1991

*South Pacific*, MPP, 1990

*My Fair Lady*, Masquers Theatre, 1990

*Tintypes*, Lakeshore Players, 1990

*Oklahoma!*, Community Theatre of Burnsville, 1990

*The Fantasticks*, Follow Me Players, St. Louis Park, MN, 1989

*Annie Get Your Gun!*, Masquers Theatre, 1989

## **Applied Music Study**

- Piano Instruction from John Jensen, Minneapolis; Gerold Heitz, Vienna; Barb Lien, Grinnell College
- Voice Instruction from Ann Frederickson, Minneapolis
- Conducting lessons from Stephen J. Ramsey (Dakota Valley Symphony), Minneapolis

## **Professional Development/Enrichment**

Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) participant, Century College, 2014-15

MCUCM Conference attendee (technology breakout sessions), St. Paul, MN, 2012

Sibelius 7 Software Training study (online course), 2012

Teaching Professor Conference attendee, Washington DC, 2012

Midwest Band Clinic attendee, Chicago, IL, Dec. 2008

MMEA Midwinter Clinic attendee, Mpls, MN, Feb. 2008

Composer participant & attendee at ACF's Tuesday Salon concerts, St. Paul, MN

Attendee at the Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute (open rehearsal), 2006

Composer participant at the SCI Region VI Conference, San Antonio, TX, 2005

Composer presenter in Master Classes at the University of Minnesota, given by: Samuel Adler, Jennifer Higdon, Aaron Jay Kernis, Libby Larsen, Stephen Paulus, George Tsontakis

Seminar and Workshop Participation:

Century College Campus Conferences, 2008, 2009, 2010

Century College Teaching Circle: Wellness in the Classroom, Century College, Spring 2008 (semester-long project)

Active Learning: Techniques to Engage Students, Century College, 2007

Grand Rights: Licensing Music for Dance & Theater, 2007

Music in Motion, collaborative workshops for composers and choreographers (American Composers Forum), 2005-06

Publishing for Composers (American Composers Forum), 2005

Preparing Future Faculty Retreat (U of M), 2004

Preparing for Music Teaching in Higher Education (U of M), 2004

New Music Forum (Muziko Nova: St. Olaf College), 2004

Business Basics for Composers (American Music Center), 2001

## Professional Affiliations and Organizations

American Composers Forum  
ASCAP  
College Music Society  
Society of Composers, Inc.  
The Dramatists Guild  
New Musical Theatre Exchange

## References

Elliot Wilcox, Music Dept., Century College  
3300 Century Ave. N.  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
651-779-3214; [elliott.wilcox@century.edu](mailto:elliott.wilcox@century.edu)

Dr. Amy Roisum-Foley, Director of Bands, Minnesota State University-Mankato  
202 Performing Arts Center  
Minnesota State University-Mankato  
Mankato, MN  
507-389-2795; [amy.roisum-foley@mnsu.edu](mailto:amy.roisum-foley@mnsu.edu)

Sandy Boren-Barrett, Artistic Director, Stages Theatre Company  
1111 Mainstreet  
Hopkins, MN 55343  
952-979-1122; [sandybb@stagetheatre.org](mailto:sandybb@stagetheatre.org)

Jennifer Kirkeby  
Playwright, Actor, Director, Resident Artist (Stages Theatre Company)  
612-269-9270; [jenk4@comcast.net](mailto:jenk4@comcast.net)

Alex Lubet, PhD, Morse Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of Music  
University of Minnesota  
122 Ferguson Hall  
2106 4th St. S., Minneapolis, MN 55455  
612-624-7840; [lubet001@umn.edu](mailto:lubet001@umn.edu)

Additional references available upon request.