RUTH MEYER SACKS

4112 Tablerock Drive
Austin, Texas 78731

(512) 969-0745
ruth2sacks@gmail.com

Website: https://www.ruthmeyersacks.com/

Links to publishers:

- https://www.universaledition.com/en/Contacts/Ruth-Meyer-Sacks/
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Music Composition – University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1984-1986

M.A. in Music Composition – University of Pennsylvania, 1982-1984

B.M. in Music Composition and Theory – Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Oberlin, Ohio, 1978-1982

- Composition studies with George Crumb, Richard Wernick, Jay Reise, Chinary Ung, Richard Hoffmann, Edward Miller, Walter Aschaffenburg, Simon Sargon, and Thom David Mason
- Piano studies with Peter Takács, Frances Walker, and Alfred Mouledous
- Electronic music studies with Conrad Cummings and Gary Nelson
- Music theory studies with Leonard B. Meyer and Richard Taruskin

COMPOSITIONS AND PERFORMANCES

HILL COUNTRY AVIARY, eight progressive pieces for piano solo (11 ½ - 12 min.), 2026.

- Commissioned by the Orpheus Academy of Music as pedagogical compositions.
- Published by Universal Edition.

ANYTHING HELPS, for chorus and orchestra (36 min.), 2013-2025.

- Setting of seven poems, which were assembled by Ruth Meyer Sacks from signs held by people experiencing homelessness in Austin, Texas.
- Published by Universal Edition.

LOVE OF MUSIC, for youth ensemble: voices, violins, cellos, guitars, pianos, and percussion (1 ½ min.), 2022.

- Commissioned for the Twentieth Anniversary of the Orpheus Academy of Music, Austin, Texas.
- Performed by an Orpheus Academy student ensemble, Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C., July 2023.

REFLECTIONS, for youth string quartet and piano (4 min.), 2021; revised 2026.

- Commissioned by the Orpheus Academy of Music.
- Performed by Orpheus Academy faculty and students, Austin, May 2026.

IN MEMORIAM, MUSIC FOR OUR TIME, for guitar solo (14 min.), 2020-2021.

- Published by Bergmann Edition.
- Commissioned by guitarist, Klondike Steadman, of the Orpheus Academy of Music.
- Performed by Klondike Steadman, Boston, November 2022 and Austin, January 2023.

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? (A CELL PHONE TRIO), for soprano, mezzo-soprano, and piano (3½ min.), 2020.

- Text by Skye McManus and Ruth Meyer Sacks.
- Performed by Skye McManus (soprano), Rebecca Hample (mezzo-soprano), and Faith Liu (piano) on an Orpheus Academy of Music faculty recital, Austin, March 2026.

- Performed by Skye McManus (soprano), Chelsea DeLorenz (mezzo-soprano), and Ruth Meyer Sacks (piano) on an Orpheus Academy of Music faculty recital, Austin, March 2020.

MELODRAMA, for piano four-hands (4½ min.), 2019-2020.
- Performed by Ruth Meyer Sacks and Jae-Eun Baek on Orpheus Academy of Music faculty recitals, Austin, January 2020 and June 2022.

SIX PIECES FOR PREPARED PIANO (7 min.), 2019.
- Commissioned by the Orpheus Academy of Music as educational compositions.

PRELUDE-DARK RIVER, for piano solo (2 min.), 2019.
- Commissioned by the Orpheus Academy of Music as an educational composition.
- Performed by Valeria Diaz at a Unitarian Universalist Church service, Austin, November 2024.
- Several performances by Orpheus Academy students and faculty, Austin, 2019-present.
- Published by Universal Edition

FOLKSONG FRENZY, for flute, violin, viola, two guitars, piano four-hands, and percussion (5 min.), 2019.
- Commissioned by the Orpheus Academy of Music.
- Performed by members of the Orpheus Academy faculty, Austin, March 2019 and April 2023.

PRELUDE, for youth string ensemble and piano (4 min.), 2008-2009.
- Performances by The Pittsburgh Youth Pops String Ensemble, conducted by Erika Pierce, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March and April 2009.

THREE POEMS, for cello and piano (13½ min.), 2006.
- Published by Universal Edition.
- CD recording by Barbara George (cello) and Jim James (piano), September 2019.
    - CD title: *Femme, Music by Women Composers*.
- Performed by Barbara George and Jim James, as part of the Elements Concert Series, Austin, April 2019 and March 2020.
- Poem 1 performed by members of the Orpheus Academy faculty, Austin, May 2024 and March 2026.

FANTASY OVERTURE, for orchestra (10 min.), 2004-2006.
- Commissioned and performed by the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra, conducted by Bruce Lauffer, Pittsburgh, May 2006.

FOUR IMPRESSIONS, for piano solo (17 min.), 2003-2004; revised 2020.
- Published by Universal Edition.
- Impression 1 performed at the University of Nebraska at Kearney New Music Festival IV, March 2005.
- Impression 1 performed by Liliana Maffiotte at the Centre de Cultura Contemporania de Barcelona, Spain, November 2003.

SEVEN KLEZMER-STYLE ARRANGEMENTS, for clarinet and violin, accompanied by orchestra (30 min.), 2003.
- Commissioned and performed by the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra and members of the Hot Matzohs (a Pittsburgh Klezmer ensemble), conducted by Bruce Lauffer, Pittsburgh, December 2003.

NOCTURNE, for orchestra (9½ min.) 2001-2003.
- Commissioned and performed by the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra, conducted by Bruce Lauffer, Pittsburgh, April 2004.

LET'S CELEBRATE, for chorus, string orchestra, piano, and percussion (3½ min.), 2001.
- Performed by the Washington Festival Chorale and the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra, conducted by Bruce Lauffer, Pittsburgh, December 2004.

- Performed by the Quaker Valley Middle School Chorus and Orchestra, conducted by Michelle Crawford, Sewickley, Pennsylvania, December 2001.

MI SHEBERACH (A PRAYER FOR HEALING AND PEACE), for orchestra (11½ min.), 1999-2000.

- Read by the University of Pittsburgh Orchestra, conducted by Roger Zahab, Pittsburgh, April 2001.

***KLEZMER-STYLE COMPOSITIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS*,** for the Hot Matzohs (clarinet, violin, keyboard, and percussion), 1998-200125th.

- Several performances in the Pittsburgh area, 1998-2005.

SEQUENCES, for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, french horn, trumpet, trombone, percussion, piano, two violins, viola, cello, and double bass (11½ min.), 1996-1997.

- Performed by the University of Miami's *Other Music Ensemble*, conducted by Dennis Kam, Miami, Florida, November 1997.

STRING QUARTET, for two violins, viola, and cello (13½ min.), 1995-1996.

- First movement performed at the University of Miami, May 1996.

DRUM SYMPHONY, for orchestra (12 min.), 1994-1996.

- Performed by the South Florida Youth Symphony, conducted by Dennis Kam, University of Miami, June 1997.

SUNSHINE CITY AND THE GREEN DEMONS, for flute, oboe, clarinet, and bassoon (9½ min.), 1985-1986.

- Published by Earnestly Music (of Frank E. Warren Music Service).
- Performed by the New England Reed Trio, Brookline, Massachusetts, May 1998.
- Performed at the University of Miami, April 1996.
- Performed at the College Music Society's 30th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 1987.
- Performed at the Florida State University Festival of New Music, April 1987.
- Performed on a Penn Composers' Guild concert, Philadelphia, Feb. 1986.

AN AVALANCHE SYMPHONY, for orchestra (20 min.), 1985-1986.

- Ph.D. dissertation composition.

SANDSONG, for double bass, accompanied by violin, viola, and cello (12 min.), 1984.

- Performed by bassist Bertram Turetzky and members of the Memphis State University faculty at the MSU New Music Festival XIV (now the University of Memphis), February 1986.
- Performed by Timothy Cobb (double bass), Thomas DiSarlo (violin), Susan Ung (viola), and Larry Figg (cello) on a Penn Composers' Guild concert, Philadelphia, April 1985.

CLOUDS OF MAGELLAN, for chamber orchestra (8 min.), 1984.

- Read by the New School of Music Chamber Orchestra, Philadelphia, May 1985.

A CELEBRATION, for two french horns, electric piano, two violins, viola, cello, and double bass (9 min.), 1984.

- Musical score for the documentary film produced for the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Performed and recorded by members of the Penn Contemporary Players, conducted by Ruth Meyer, March 1984.

FIVE SONGS, for violin solo (11 min.), 1984.

- Performed by Thomas DiSarlo on a Penn Composers' Guild concert, Philadelphia, October 1984.

SUN, for string octet (7½ min.), 1983.

- Performed on a Penn Composers' Guild concert, Philadelphia, May 1984.

SHADOWS, for two pianos (12 min.), 1983; revised 2025.

- Published by Universal Edition.
- Performed by Ruth Meyer and Christian Hertzog on a Penn Composers' Guild concert, Philadelphia, March 1984.
- Four movements inspired by the book *Shadow*, translated and illustrated by Marcia Brown (From the French of Blaise Cendrars)

BOTTICELLI (JUNGLE MUSIC), for tenor recorder, clarinet, cello, and two percussionists (12½ min.), 1983.

- Musical score for Terrence McNally's play, *Botticelli*, which was presented by Theater Lab II at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Performed and recorded by members of the Penn Composers' Guild, November 1983.

FRAGMENTS OF SAPPHO, for soprano, piccolo/alto flute, and harp (16 min.), 1982-1983.

- Published by Universal Edition.
- Performed by members of the New Music Consort (Barbara Martin—soprano, Rachel Rudich—piccolo/alto flute, and Elizabeth Panzer—harp) at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York City, January 1987.
- Performed on a Penn Composers' Guild concert, Philadelphia, November 1983.

ICON, for flute, clarinet, trumpet, two violins, viola, and cello (11½ min.), 1982.

- Performed on a Penn Composers' Guild concert, Philadelphia, May 1983.

NUWEIBA, for large chamber ensemble (8 min.), 1982

5:5:4:5:5, for flute, french horn, cello, percussion, harp, and piano (13½ min.), 1981.

- Performed at Oberlin, March 1982.

FIVE PAINTINGS BY GEORGIA O'KEEFFE, for piano solo (8 min.), 1981.

- Performed by Ruth Meyer at the Ethical Society Auditorium in Philadelphia and at Saint Joseph's Church in New York City as part of the Perpetuo Mobile concert series, November 1985.
- Performed by Ruth Meyer on a Penn Composers' Guild concert, Fall 1982.
- Performed by Ruth Meyer at the Midwest Composers' Symposium, Northwestern University, April 1982.
- Performed by Ruth Meyer at Oberlin, November 1981.

DESMODUS ON G-SHARP, for two trumpets, french horn, and trombone (7 min.), 1980-1981.

- Performed at Oberlin, May 1981.

FIVE PIECES, for chamber orchestra (9 min.), 1980.

- Movements 4 and 5 read by the Oberlin Chamber Orchestra, Spring 1981.
- *FIVE PIECES* (for chamber orchestra) is an orchestration of *FIVE PIECES* (for flute, cello, and piano).

FIVE PIECES, for flute, cello, and piano (9 min.), 1980.

PIECE FOR CLARINET, BASSOON, AND MARIMBA (9½ min.), 1980.

- Performed at Oberlin, May 1980.

FOUR POEMS OF E. E. CUMMINGS, for soprano, flute, alto flute, and bass clarinet (9½ min.), 1979-1980.

- Performed by Indrani Kowlessar (soprano), Robin Poor (flute), Leslie Chin (alto flute), and Mark Gallagher (bass clarinet), Oberlin, May 1980.

MUSIC FOR CLARINET AND PIANO (6½ min.), 1979.

- Performed by Mark Gallagher (clarinet) and Ruth Meyer (piano), Oberlin, May 1979.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Guest composer at a Texas State University Composition Department Forum, October 2024.

Finalist in The Foundation Orchestra Association's Fourth Annual International Composition Competition, Reno, Nevada (*MI SHEBERACH*), 2006.

Performance at the University of Nebraska at Kearney New Music Festival IV (*IMPRESSION 1*), 2005.

"Highly Commended" in the *BIBF (British and International Bass Forum) Double Bass Composition Contest* (*SANDSONG*), 2001.

First Prize in the New England Reed Trio International Chamber Music Composition Competition (*SUNSHINE CITY AND THE GREEN DEMONS*), 1997.

Guest composer at a University of Miami Composition Department Forum, 1996.

Performance at the College Music Society's Thirtieth Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana (*SUNSHINE CITY AND THE GREEN DEMONS*), 1987.

Performance at the Florida State University Festival of New Music (*SUNSHINE CITY AND THE GREEN DEMONS*), 1987.

Guest composer at the New Music Consort's January 29, 1987 concert at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York City (*FRAGMENTS OF SAPPHO*).

First Prize in the (former) International League of Women Composers' Seventh Annual Search for New Music (*SANDSONG*), 1986.

BMI Student Composer Award (*SANDSONG*), 1986.

Performance at the (former) Memphis State University New Music Festival XIV (*SANDSONG*), 1986.

University of Pennsylvania David Halstead Music Prize (*SUNSHINE CITY AND THE GREEN DEMONS*), 1986.

Finalist in the Composers, Inc. Competition (*SUNSHINE CITY AND THE GREEN DEMONS*), 1986.

Finalist in the College Music Society's Composition Competition (*SANDSONG*), 1986.

University of Pennsylvania Graduate Fellowships, 1982-1986.

Artist residency at The MacDowell Colony, Summer 1985.

BMI Student Composer Award (*CLOUDS OF MAGELLAN*), 1985.

University of Pennsylvania Hilda K. Nitzsche Prize (*SANDSONG*), 1985.

Finalist in the Composers, Inc. Competition (*SANDSONG*), 1985.

ASCAP Raymond Hubbell Musical Scholarship Award, 1984.

BMI Student Composer Award (*FRAGMENTS OF SAPPHO*), 1984.

University of Pennsylvania David Halstead Music Prize (*SUN*), 1984.

Finalist in the American Harp Society's Annual Composition Contest (*FRAGMENTS OF SAPPHO*), 1984.

MUSIC THEORY PAPERS

"Stravinsky's Use of Classical Cadential Gestures in *The Rake's Progress*"

- Ph.D. theory paper (advisor: Leonard B. Meyer), 1985.

"The Boston Group"

- Written for Richard Taruskin's Twentieth Century Theory course at the University of Pennsylvania, 1985.
- Includes excerpts from Ruth Meyer's interview of Harold Shapero, Natick, Massachusetts, November 29, 1985.

PROFESSIONAL MUSICAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Composer and Arranger, 1986-present.

Piano, Composition, and Musicianship Instructor, Orpheus Academy of Music, Austin, Texas, 2018-present.

- Awarded "Teacher of the Year," July 2024.
- Teach private piano and composition lessons to students of all ages and levels.
- Teach musicianship classes to children of all ages and levels.
- Teach "Composing for Short Film" at the Orpheus summer camp.

Freelance Composer and Arranger, Orpheus Academy of Music, Austin, Texas, 2017-present.

- Composed and arranged pieces for elementary level music ensembles (voice, violin, guitar, piano, and percussion), which are published in the Orpheus "Adventures Through Sound" textbooks.
- Arranged pieces for the Orpheus "Movie Music Ensemble" summer camp.
- Compose and arrange educational piano pieces.

Substitute Piano and Musicianship Instructor, Orpheus Academy of Music, Austin, Texas, 2017-2018.

- Gave substitute private piano lessons to students of all ages and levels, and substitute taught musicianship classes.

Accompanist, Temple Beth Shalom Choir, Austin, Texas, 2011-2012.

Piano Instructor, Miami, Florida and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1997-2011.

- Gave private piano lessons, music theory instruction, and composition lessons to students of all ages and levels.

Music Theory Lecturer, Southern Methodist University and Dallas College Richland Campus, Dallas, 1987-1988.

- Courses taught: Theory I and II; Aural Skills I and II.

Piano Instructor, Performing Arts School, Garland, Texas, 1987-1988.

- Taught group piano classes and gave private lessons to children of all ages and levels.

Music Theory Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1986-1987.

- Courses taught: Theory I and II; Aural Skills I and II.

Rehearsal Pianist, Choral Society, University of Pennsylvania, 1985-1986.

Rehearsal Assistant, American Music Theater Festival, Philadelphia, 1985.

Arranger, 1984-1986.

- Arranged the piano reduction of Richard Wernick's *VIOLIN CONCERTO*.
- Arranged the piano-vocal score of Jay Reise's opera, *RASPUTIN*.

Piano Instructor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1984-1986.

- Taught private piano lessons to students of all ages and levels.

Music Theory Teaching Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, 1983-1985.

- Courses taught: Theory I and II; Aural Skills I and II; Theory for Nonmusic Majors.

Rehearsal Pianist, University of Pennsylvania Choral Society, 1982-1983.

Administrative Assistant, Performance Office, University of Pennsylvania, 1982-1983.

- Circulated publicity, designed posters, marked orchestral parts, handled phone calls, sold tickets at concerts, and ushered concerts.

Aural Skills Instructor and Music Theory Tutor, Oberlin Conservatory, 1980-1982.

- Taught Aural Skills I.
- Privately tutored theory, sight singing, and solfège.