

Denis Rafael Nassar Baptista

B.Mus., M.Mus. in Composition

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B.Mus in composition from the University of Campinas, Brazil and M.Mus in composition from the University of Calgary. Experience teaching at post-secondary institution as well as at music conservatories, music schools and private studio. Ministers master classes and workshops nationally and internationally on subjects such as:

songwriting, composition, arranging, orchestration, harmony, improvisation, counterpoint, classical and jazz piano, and other subjects. **Work as music instructor and songwriting program director at Prairie College, adjunct instructor at Trinity Western University as well as music director and composer at My Land Productions.** Experience in composing for chamber music, orchestra, choir, jazz band and electro acoustic in various styles and genres such as: instrumental classical music, opera, musical theatre, jazz, Latin music, film and theater soundtrack. Active pianist, who plays in jazz concerts, churches and gives piano recitals nationally and internationally.

BACKGROUND

Master of Music in Composition by the University of Calgary, Canada, (2013-2017).

- Composition courses with Alan Bell and Laurie Radford. Analysis course with David Eagle. Thesis supervised by Allan Gordon Bell.

Bachelor of Music in Composition by the University of Campinas, Brazil, (2004-2009).

- Composition course with Silvio Ferraz, Jose Augusto Mannis, Jonatas Manzolli, Ney Carrasco, Denise Garcia and Luiz Henrique Xavier.

AWARDS/COMPETITIONS

- Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship, 2014
- Richard Johnston for advanced skills in chamber music composition, 2015
- Award for outstanding accomplishments by the Government of Alberta, 2015

- Piano Trio piece “Kosmos” received an award of public’s favorite choice at the Land’s End National Composers Competition in Canada, 2015
- 3rd place at the Land’s End National Composers Competition in Canada, 2015
- Winner of the 2018 Opera Disrupted International Composers Competition with his opera “Opera “The Incredible Journey”. Competition hosted by the opera company Cowtown Opera.
- One of 9 composers honored in the National Composition Competition Beethoven's Legacy organized by the Orchestre Metropolitain in Montreal. Honorable mention received for the quality, originality and imagination of orchestral writing, 2020.

COMPLEMENTARY COURSES

- Music Pedagogy at University of Campinas
- Musical Analysis and generative improvisation with Claude Ledoux and Alexandro Markeas (composers and professors at Paris Music Conservatory)
- Music Heuristic with Ricardo Mandolini (composer and professor at University of Lille III, Lille, France)
- Popular Piano (Jazz and Brazilian music), improvisation, harmony and arrangements with Hilton Valente (Pianist and harmony professor at University of Campinas)
- Classical Piano with the Cuban Pianist Rosa Tolon (Professor at University of Sagrado Coração, Brazil).
- Classical piano with Gabriel Rebolla from Georgia State University.
- Popular Piano (Jazz and Brazilian music) with Rafael dos Santos (Professor at University of Campinas).
- Percussion on Brazilian rhythms with Chico Santana (Teacher at University of Campinas)
- The relationship between percussion and piano on Brazilian music with Daniel Magalhaes (Pianist and percussionist from the Music Conservatory of Tatui)
- Maracatu (Brazilian Rhythm) on Piano and percussion with Andre Marques (Piano teacher at Conservatory of Tatui, Pianist from Hermeto Pascoal group and Curupira Group)

- Improvisation and Harmony (Hermeto pascoal Style) with Ricardo Zoio (Bass player from Hermeto Pascoal group and Curupira Group)
- Composition course with Arrigo Barnabe
- Classical Guitar with Daniel Kacelnik (University of Campinas)
- Popular Guitar (Jazz and Brazilian music) with André Alcantara
- Piano music interpretation and piano pedagogy with Michael Angel
- Saxophone with Weber Marely

EXPERIENCE

Instructor at Trinity Western University / September 2023 to present

- Create and design the course GAME320 “Video Game Sound and Music”
- Teach sound design, composition, music theory and orchestration based on different game genres as well as history of sound and music in video games.
- Implementation of sound and music in game engines like Unity using the middleware FMOD.

Music Instructor and Songwriting Program Coordinator at Prairie College / July 2018 to present

- Create and design courses
- Design and coordinate the songwriting program
- Teach composition, music theory, arranging and music history
- Research and write papers
- Speak in events related to the college
- As a faculty member I participate on administrative decisions regarding the college together with other faculty members.

Music Teacher / June 2004 to present

Private Teaching

- Registered R.C.M. teacher. Prepare piano, guitar and theory students for the Royal Conservatory of Canada (2010 to present)
- Teach harmony and counterpoint to undergraduate students of music.
- Teach classical piano, jazz piano, classical guitar, jazz guitar and improvisation.
- Teach basic and advanced theory, composition, orchestration, arranging and counterpoint.

Ministered Master Classes involving: Piano, Harmony and Composition / 2009 – present

- Mentorship of students and open lectures
- Invited by ARMTA (Alberta Music Teachers Association) and private teachers associations

Composer and Music Director / 2017 – to present

My Land Productions

- Compose and produce soundtracks for video productions including film, corporate videos, documentaries, and commercials.
- Arrange and orchestrate music.
- Direct music productions

Commission from the Calgary Wind Symphony / 2022

- Write a 6min piece for wind orchestra.
- Research about traditional Brazilian rhythms and dances.
- Collaborate with musicians and conductor Jeremy Brown.

Commission from the Orchestre Metropolitain in Montreal / 2021

- Compose a 13min piece for orchestra and narrator based on a book called *Le Pelleteur De Nuages*.
- Collaborate with musicians and other two composers who were writing pieces for the same concert.
- Collaborate with narrators and actors.

Royal Conservatory of Music – Voice Syllabus / 2019

- The compositions *The Incredible Journey* and *Sick* were included in the Voice Syllabus 2019

Recording Pianist and Programmer / 2016 - present

- Live in Fort McMurray by Denis Nassar – 2009 piano album
- The Bow Djangos – 2016 album (recorded piano)
- In Spirit and Truth by Mark Mckellar – 2019 album (recorded piano)
- Rewrite this life by Karlee Thiessen – 2019 album (recorded piano)

- Topsy Turvy by Greg Julas – 2019 album (recorded piano)
- Athabasca Falls by Joseph Tennant – 2019 album (recorded piano)
- We've all been there by Sneha Reddy – 2020 album (programmed & recorded piano)
- 2020 by Josh Bellingham – 2020 album (recorded piano)

Music Analysis Presentation / 2016

University of Calgary Graduate Music Conference

- Presentation about my Master's degree thesis on speech melody and orchestral music.

Teacher Assistant / September 20013 to April 2016

The University of Calgary

- Counterpoint, Harmony and Materials of Music

Workshop about Brazilian music: 2012

AMEF Music Conference Alberta, Red Deer

- Lecture about the difference between Samba and Bossa-nova.

Composer and Music Director / 2014 – to present

A Call To Worship Event, Calgary

- Composing and arranging for chamber orchestra, singers and band
- Working with musicians and directing all the music of the event

Theater Composer/ September to November 2014

University of Calgary production of B. Poetry

- Compose the soundtrack for the play
- Work with director Brian Smith

Musical Theater Composer and Music Director/ September to November 2014

University of Calgary production of Mother and Her Children

- Compose songs and instrumental music in a variety of jazz styles.
- Work with director Adrian Young and a large crew from diverse areas
- Provide vocal coaching for the actors

Music Teacher / September 2012 to June 2014

Music Makers, Calgary

- Prepare students for the RCM exams (2010 to present)
- Teach Jazz piano, improvisation and harmony
- Teach advanced theory and composition

Worship Minister and Music Director / 2013 to June present

First Evangelical Free Church, Calgary

- Compose and arrange music for worship band and choir.
- Plan events for youth and community
- Lead the church music program

Piano Performance

- Active piano performer who consistently gives piano recitals and jazz concerts.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Music Analysis Presentation / June 2017

ATINER, Athens – Greece.

- Presentation about my orchestral piece *Minha Terra* and the documentary being filmed based on the creative process of this piece.

Music Analysis Presentation / June 2015

ATINER, Athens – Greece.

- Presentation about my research on speech melody and my plans to use it on an orchestral piece.

Composer of Contemporary Dance Production / 2009

Dance production *Onde Os Ventos Se Encontram*, **Brazil**

- Compose soundtrack for entire dance choreography.
- Working alongside with dancers and choreographers

Music Teacher / January 2004 to July 2009

Martha Hoffman Conservatory, **Brazil**

- Teach composition, harmony, classical and jazz piano
- Organize recitals

Music Director / January 2004 to August 2009

Baptist Memorial Church, **Brazil**

- Mentorship of new musicians
- Compose and arrange music for band, chamber group and choir.

Event organizer and Music Director / April 2006

Event for The University Student Community

- Compose and prepare arrangements
- Rehearse band of undergraduate students on music

LIST OF MAIN WORKS

Solo instrument

- Vestibulando for Piano (2003)
- Maloco for Piano (2003)
- Doidê for Piano (2006)
- Ba for Viola (2005)
- Vidraça for Piano and Tape (2009)
- The last hour samba for piano (2009)(audio version for piano and saxophone)
- Homesick Bossa for Piano (2011)
- Canção de uma terra seca for Piano duet (2011)
- Snow Samba for Piano (2011)
- Gratitude for Piano (June, 2019 – commissioned by the Fort McMurray Music Teachers Association)

Vocal music

- Se Esta Rua (November, 2017 / based on a folk Brazilian song)
- Sick (November, 2017 / based on a poem by Shel Silverstein)
- Cãnone da brisa do mar / Canon of the sea breeze for Voices and Acoustic Guitar (2007)
- Saudade (2006) – recorded by Brazilian artist Sandy Leah. Watch
- He lives for Voice and Piano (2010)
- Glory to God for Choir (2009)

Chamber Music

- Kosmos for Piano, Violin and Cello (Award winning piece and finalist at the Land's End Composers National Competition)(January 14th, 2015)
- String Quartet n°1 (April, 2014)
- Quintet n°1 for Flute, Clarinet, Horn, Violin and Cello (December, 2013)
- Escaleta injusta / Imperfect Melodica for Piano and Melodica (2006)
- Gramanis for Piano, Viola and Melodica (2006)

- Baladinha (co-author: Weber Marely) for Piano and Melodica (2006)
- Variações de um Louco / Variations of a madman for Piano and Viola (2004)

Orchestra

- Minha Terra for Orchestra and Sound Files (Jan, 2017 / World Premiere April 10th – University of Calgary Orchestra). Watch a short documentary about this piece on the Web series New Music Paths.
- A Cry from a Dry Land for Wind Orchestra (Commissioned by the Calgary Wind Symphony. World Premiere – June 19th, 2022)
- Le Pelleteur De Nuages / The Cloud Shoveller for Orchestra (Commissioned by the Orchestre Métropolitain in Montreal. World Premiere – February 25th, 2022 in Montreal)

Opera/Musical

- The Incredible Journey (February, 2018 / operetta – Winner of the 2018 International opera competition “Opera Disrupted”)
- Green Pastures (September, 2019 / musical / operetta)

Sountrack

- Soundtrack for the theatre play “Mother Courage and Her Children” by Bertolt Brecht, produced by the University of Calgary and directed by Adrian Young. (February, 2017)
- Soundtrack for the theatre play “Bloody Poetry” by Howard Brenton, produced by the University of Calgary and directed by Brian Smith. (November, 2014)
- CTV commercial for Fort McKay (2017)
- Soundtrack for the Dance performance “Onde os ventos se encontram” (2009) (Co-author: Weber Marely)
- Soundtrack for the Russian movie “Um homem com uma câmera”, by Dziga Vertov (2009) (Co-authors: Vinícius Muniz, Lucas Scholles Lima e Gustavo Lemos Picanço)