

# Eugene Alexander Birman

# EAB

• USA  
• United Kingdom  
• Hong Kong SAR  
Phone: | | | | | E-Mail: |

## Curriculum Vitae

### EDUCATION

University of Oxford, Christ Church, Oxford, UK  
D.Phil in Music Composition, August 2015

The Juilliard School, New York, NY  
M.M. in Music Composition, May 2010

Columbia University, New York, NY  
B.A. in Economics, May 2009  
Honors: Dean's List, 2006, 2008

Accademia Musicale Chigiana, Siena, Italy  
"Diploma di Merito" in Film Music Composition, August 2007  
"Attestato di Frequenza" in Music Composition, August 2007

### TEACHERS

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Martyn Harry and Robert Saxton, University of Oxford | 2012-2015 |
| Toivo Tulev, Fulbright Research grant advisor        | 2010-2011 |
| Christopher Rouse, The Juilliard School              | 2008-2010 |
| Luis Bacalov, Accademia Musicale Chigiana            | 2007      |
| Azio Corghi, Accademia Musicale Chigiana             | 2007      |
| Samuel Adler, The Juilliard School                   | 2004-2008 |
| David Conte, San Francisco Conservatory of Music     | 2001-2005 |
| John Adams, private study                            | 1999-2002 |

### AWARDS/RESIDENCIES

2021 Times Higher Education Asia Excellence and Innovation in the Arts Award  
2021 Manchester International Festival Artist-in-Residence  
2019 Zarya Center for Contemporary Art, Artist-in-Residence  
2019 Yaddo Artist Residency  
2018 enoa Artist-in-Residence, Helsinki Festival (August-September 2018)  
2018 John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship  
2018 Norton Stevens Fellow, MacDowell Colony (honorary)  
2017 Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize  
2017 ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composers Awards  
2017 Trauma&Revival Residency and Commission, sponsored by the European Union and kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga, Latvia (May-October 2017)  
2017 Francis Chagrin Award, Sound and Music  
2017 Bogliasco Fellowship  
2016 Ucross Residency  
2015 Estonian-American Innovation Award, presented by the Baltic-American Freedom Foundation  
2013, 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Frank Robert Abell Young Composers Competition (University of Louisville)  
2013 John Lowell Osgood Memorial Prize (University of Oxford)

2013 Young Composers Award, the European network for professional chamber choirs - TENSO  
2013 Banco Santander Academic Travel Award  
2013, Composer-in-Residence, Visby International Centre for Composers, Visby, Sweden (April 2013)  
2012, Halstead Award, University of Oxford, Christ Church  
2010-2011 Fulbright Research Full Grant to Estonia (studies in Composition and Medieval Polyphony at Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre with Toivo Tulev)  
2009, Composer in Residence, Visby International Centre for Composers, Visby, Sweden (Feb-Mar 2009)  
2009 A. Ellstein Memorial Scholarship and 2010 Rodgers and Hammerstein Scholarship, The Juilliard School  
2009, Juilliard Orchestra Competition Winner  
2008 and 2009 Gretchaninoff Memorial Prize  
2007, 1st prize Concorso Internazionale di Composizione "Lavagnino 2007"  
2007 Full Merit Scholarship – Accademia Musicale Chigiana  
2005 Collage New Music Young Composers Competition  
2005 ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composers Awards  
2005 National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) ARTS Award

### NOTABLE PERFORMANCES AND PERFORMERS

- Ongoing research and performance projects totaling over US\$1,000,000 in funding in collaboration with the Berliner Festspiele and Berliner Philharmoniker, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Manchester International Festival, Singapore International Festival of Arts, Beijing Music Festival, Hong Kong New Vision Arts Festival, Macao International Music Festival, EU National Institutes of Culture, HKSAR, Osage Art Foundation, with performances/premieres planned in 2023-25 in Europe and Asia.
- Performances by the Berliner Philharmoniker, London Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Orquestra Gulbenkian, St Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, Staatsoper Stuttgart's Junge Oper im Nord, Theatre of Voices, BBC Singers, Latvian Radio Choir, Coro Gulbenkian, Chamber Choir Ireland, Eric Ericsons Kammarkör, Royal Northern Sinfonia, EXAUDI,

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Avanti! Chamber Orchestra, Sinfonietta Riga, Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, Helsinki Chamber Choir, Estonian National Male Choir, Orchestre Symphonique Ose!, Divertimento Ensemble, Third Sound, YXUS Ensemble, ContempoArtEnsemble, Ensemble Õ!, Ensemble U:, Resonabilis, the Cavaleri, Ligeti, Piatti, and Villiers Quartets, Quartetto Prometeo, PUBLIQuartet, members of the Deutsches Oper, the Accademia Musicale Chigiana, and the Milan Conservatory, as well as by soloists Maxim Vengerov, LiLa, Maurizio Ben Omar, Joby Burgess, Oren Marshall, and Iris Oja, in eight US states, Argentina, Belgium, China, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

- “Nostra Culpa,” a cantata dubbed “Financial Opera” by the world media, commissioned by Estonian Music Days for Tallinn Chamber Orchestra with soloist Iris Oja on an original libretto by Scott Diel, has been featured in practically every major publication in Europe and the US, including BBC World TV, NY Times, Wall Street Journal, LA Times, Le Figaro, The Telegraph, Süddeutsche Zeitung, and countless others.

- “Russia: Today”, produced with support from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the US Department of State, and the Austrian Foreign Ministry, among a half-dozen international NGOs, which gives (anonymous) voice to the real experiences of Russian people across the former USSR, premiered on the EU-Russia border in September 2021, screened in Russian cinemas in October-November 2021, and recently presented at Kings Place, London in February 2023 with EXAUDI, where it was lauded as a “powerful” (Telegraph), “eerily prescient” (New York Times), “hour-long immersion in the complexities and contradictions of contemporary Russia” (Financial Times).

- A new opera for the Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg (in co-production with the Grand Théâtre de Genève, Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, Royal Flemish Opera, and Staatstheater Saarbrücken) with the Orchestre de Chambre du Luxembourg and stage director Stéphane Ghislain Roussel (LU), an ambitious multidisciplinary collaboration with the South Korean virtuoso violinist Bomsori Kim (SK), Kingsley Ng and Stephanie Cheung for MIF and New Vision Arts Festival, a multimedia work for Hong Kong Dance Company and Chinese star cellist LiLa (CN/DE), and a new work for the Quatuor Arod (FR), performances in Belgium, China, Germany, Hong Kong and Macao SARs, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

- Participant in numerous international music festivals (Festival International d'Art Lyrique d'Aix-en-Provence as Fellow in the Opera Académie, Helsinki Festival as Artist in Residence, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Lucerne Festival, Tenso Days, Nordic Music Days, Arena New Music Festival, Milan: Cinque Giornate per la Nuova Musica, Estonian Music Days, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Chigiana Festival,) residencies with the Minnesota Orchestra, London Philharmonic, London Sinfonietta, among others. Performances at leading concert halls such as Royal Festival Hall with Philharmonia Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Berlin Konzerthaus, Orchestra Hall with Minnesota Orchestra (USA), the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (PT), Teatro dei Rozzi, Alhambra (CH), Palazzo Litta (IT), Trinity Wall Street (USA), Estonia Concert Hall (EE), Southbank Centre (UK), the Sheldonian Theatre (UK), St. Rumbold's Cathedral (BE), Mona Bismarck Gallery (FR), and above the Arctic Circle in Finland (Rovaniemi and Ivalo with the Helsinki Chamber Choir and Arctic Chamber Orchestra.)

- Discography includes *Nostra Culpa: Vocal Music by Eugene Birman* released by Alba Records in February 2021, featuring “Lamentations” (2012-16), “Nostra Culpa” (2013), and “State of the Union” (2015-16), performed by the Helsinki Chamber Choir and ContempoArtEnsemble with Iris Oja, soloist; *Philharmonia Composers' Academy Vol 2* featuring “Adagio” (2017) performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra and distributed by NMC Records in 2018, *North Wind, South Wind*, released September 2012 concurrently with ERP, Naxos, and Abeille Musique, featuring “Defixio2” (2010/rev. 2011), performed by Resonabilis; *Next Wave*, released November 2014 by NMC Records, featuring “The winter desert of my silences” (2014), performed by Oren Marshall and Sound Intermedia, and PUBLIQuartet's debut album under the Concert Artists Guild label in 2015.

- Appearances on RTÉ Lyric FM (Ireland), L RTP (Rádio e Televisão de Portugal) “Geography of Sound”, RTS Radio Télévision Suisse, Yle (Finnish National Radio), Danish Broadcasting Corporation, BBC World TV, Deutsche Welle, Latvian National Radio, CBC-Radio Canada, Sveriges Radio, CNN, BBC Nightwaves, Bloomberg TV, Radio France, NPR's “All Things Considered” with Robert Siegel, Radio Classica, Good Morning America, ERR Klassikaraadio, and Sky Classica, which aired on over a dozen dates an interview and recorded broadcast of “Mi Vedi” (2012) from the Teatro dei Rozzi, Siena, Italy.

## SELECTED PRESS

“A piece of high drama, soaring vocals, and intense emotion.” - Tim Bowler, **BBC News**

“Wonderfully enlivened...what results is a work of simple command and clean execution...It's subtle, but it's all there.” - Samuel Breen, **The Independent**

"Electrifying and earth-shaking." - *translated from the original Estonian* – Saale Kareda, **Eesti Kultuurileht "SIRP" (Estonian Cultural Journal)**

“Epitomizes sublime form...It is a clearly contemporary, aggressive, fresh, modern piece.” - *translated from the original Portuguese* - João Lopes Marques, **Jornal de Noticias (Journal News)**

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“His work is, at once, ingenious, hypnotic, brave, and beautiful” - **Festival Internazionale A.F. Lavagnino**

“A rich imagination, bravura, and sense of esthetics. The career of...Eugene Birman is booming.” - Susanne Vermeulen, **Festival van Vlaanderen**

“A breakthrough in public art.” – **ReNew Vision Festival, HKSAR**

"This work is one almighty claxon for today's listeners as much as it is a wake-up call for the world." – George Parris, **Musica Nova Festival**

"A theater for the ears...Birman's dramatic choral modernism inspires the Helsinki Chamber Choir singers to exceptionally tight virtuosity." - *translated from the original Finnish* – Kare Eskola, **Yle (Finnish national public broadcasting)**

“The most radical and ambitious music...it was a testament to Birman's deft, confident writing that its bewildering sequence of by turns violent, angry, passionate, lyrical, and animalistic episodes always sounded deeply and powerfully personal. The piece and its performance were genuinely incredible and unforgettable” – Simon Cummings, **Eesti Kultuurileht "SIRP" (Estonian Cultural Journal)**

“A powerful hour-long immersion in the complexities and contradictions of contemporary Russia.” – Andrew Jack, **Financial Times**

“Magnificent and compelling...as powerful and moving as it was undoubtedly original and thought-provoking.” – Keith Potter, **OPERA magazine**

## TEACHING/RESIDENCIES

September 2024 – present

- Acting Head of the Academy of Music, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, HKSAR

September 2022 – August 2024

- Associate Professor, Coordinator of the Composition Concentration (from 2020) Academy of Music, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, HKSAR

November – December 2013, April 2023

- Composer-in-Residence, Estonian Academy of Music & Theatre. Tallinn, Estonia

Subjects: Composition, Career development

January 2020 – August 2022

- Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, HKSAR

Subjects: Composition, Form and analysis, Western music history

October 2013 – December 2019, October 2021 – March 2022

- Tutor, Music Faculty, University of Oxford. Oxford, UK

Subjects: Composition, Twentieth-century opera libretto, Techniques of Composition, Film Music, 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century music analysis, 19<sup>th</sup> century music history

August 2021

- Composer-in-Residence, Bijloke Summer Academy / LOD muziektheater

July 2021

- Artist-in-Residence, Manchester International Festival

May 2021

- Composer-in-Residence, Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel

September 2017 – December 2019

- Research Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, HKSAR

Subjects: Special topics, Composition, Form and analysis, Western music history, thesis supervision

July – August 2019

- Artist-in-Residence, Zarya Center for Contemporary Art

June – July 2019

- Fellow, Académie du Festival d'Aix

May 2019

- Composer-in-Residence, The Corporation of Yaddo

May 2018 – April 2019

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- Fellow, John Simon Guggenheim Foundation  
August – September 2018

- enoa Artist-in-Residence, Helsinki Festival  
May 2018

- Fellow, MacDowell Colony  
April 2018

- Composer-in-residence, Bard Music West  
Subjects: Special Topics, Composition, Form & Analysis  
May – October 2017

- Composer-in-residence, Trauma&Revival, European Union National Institutes of Culture and kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga, Latvia  
March – April 2017

- Fellow, Bogliasco Foundation  
March – April 2016

- Composer-in-residence, Ucross Foundation  
September 2014 – February 2016

- Composer-in-residence, Joby Burgess, elected by Sound & Music  
January – November 2014

- Composer-in-residence, Oren Marshall/Sound Intermedia, Higher Education Programme, elected by Sound & Music  
September 2013 – May 2014

- Composer-in-residence, Ruthless Jabiru, Portfolio programme, elected by Sound & Music  
January 2013 – March 2014

- Tutor, OPUS Programme, Christ Church, University of Oxford. Oxford, UK  
Subjects: International trade and finance, Entrepreneurial strategy  
September – December 2013

- Visiting scholar, Estonian Academy of Music & Theatre. Tallinn, Estonia  
Subjects: Composition, Estonian musical sociology  
April 2013

- Composer-in-residence, Visby International Centre for Composers. Visby, Sweden  
April 2012

- Composer-in-Residence, Nordplus IP Academy, Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Vilnius, Lithuania  
February – March 2009

- Composer-in-residence, Visby International Centre for Composers. Visby, Sweden

Additional master classes/presentations at the University of Lincoln, Tianjin Juilliard School, University of Hong Kong, Dartmouth College, Columbia University, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the Juilliard School, the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary, the Tenso Days 2013 music festival/conference in Marseille, France, and as the keynote speaker at the Tenso 2014 Professionals Meeting in Berlin, Germany. Also, keynote speaker at the 2013 Pärnu Leadership Conference in Pärnu, Estonia – the Baltic States' largest leadership conference for business professionals.

## LIST OF WORKS

### Orchestral

**Message** (2019) – 8' 15"

**Violin Concerto** (2011-18) – 26' 30"

**Adagio** (2017) – 9'

**Come tu non sapessi, che l'amore è un respiro lievitato** (2016) – 4' 30"

**Manifesto** (2013/r. 2014) – 10' 15"

**Imago Dei** (2013) – 7' 15"

**Nostra Culpa** (2013) - dramatic voice, string orchestra - 14' 30"

**Tomorrow, At Dawn** (2008) - 6'

### Stage Works

**Vivacissimo** (2023) – vc + digital vc ensemble – 12' 45"

**Os dias mais longos e os dias curtos** (2022) – large choir, pno + live electronics – 54' 30"

**En vertu de...** (2021) – baritone, pic/alto fl, cl/bass cl, soprano saxophone + live electronics – 32' 45"

**The Once and Future** (2021) – dramatic voice, symphony orchestra – 72'

**ARIA 空氣頌** (2020) – 5 solo voices, children's choir + live electronics – 79' 45"

**Russia: Today** (2020) – 5 solo voices + live electronics – 56' 45"

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|                | <b>How some children played at slaughtering</b> (2020) – 2 performers (cb, perc, voice/narration, stage effects) + live electronics – 16' 45" |
|                | <b>The sound of your solitude and mine</b> (2018) – pic/fl/bass fl, bass cl, vln, vc – 16' 30"  |
|                | <b>Hiroshima</b> (2015) chamber orchestra, vocal effects – 9' 45"   |
|                | <b>Mi vedi</b> (2012) - soprano, baritone, actress, bass cl, pno, perc, vln, vc - 5' 30"  |
| Choral         | <b>Lamentations</b> (2012-2016) – 16' 15"   |
|                | <b>State of the Union</b> (2015-2016) – 37' 45"   |
|                | <b>Stabat Mater</b> (2015) – 7'   |
|                | <b>Field of the Dead</b> (2014) - 12'   |
|                | <b>289</b> (2014) - 8' 15"  |
|                | <b>Ah, libertà</b> (2013) - 4' 30"  |
|                | <b>La rosa rosa</b> (2012) - 4' 30"   |
| Large ensemble | <b>Addio</b> (2014) - fl, ob, cl, pno, vln, vc - 6' 15"   |
|                | <b>Red Desert</b> (2011) - pic/fl, cl, pno, perc, vln, vc - 9'  |
| Small ensemble | <b>Music of Rain</b> (2008) - mezzo soprano, ney, kanun, fl, bass cl/cl, perc - 4'  |
|                | <b>String Quartet no. 2</b> (2024) – 4'   |
|                | <b>Otherhood</b> (2022) – 2 dramatic voices, pno + live electronics – 38' 30"   |
|                | <b>Pensées</b> (2017) - dramatic voice, pic/fl/bass fl, pno, vc, cb + live electronics - 37' 30"  |
|                | <b>RUMOR</b> (2016) – vc, pno or pno solo – 7' 15" – 8'   |
|                | <b>Erlikönig</b> (2014) - tenor, pno - 6' 45"   |
|                | <b>ad Mortem</b> (2014) - dramatic voice, bass fl, kannel, vc - 9' 45"  |
|                | <b>String Quartet no. 1</b> (2013) - 7' 15"   |
|                | <b>Violin Sonata no. 2</b> (2012) - 10' 15"   |
|                | <b>I awoke and there were no walls to shield me from the moonlight</b> (2011) - dramatic voice, bass fl, kannel, vc - 9' 30"                  |
|                | <b>Defixio2</b> (2010/r. 2011) - dramatic voice, fl, kannel, vc - 5'  |
|                | <b>Silence.scape</b> (2010) - perc trio - 10' 15"   |
|                | <b>Seasons of Pasternak</b> (2005) - mezzo-soprano, cl, vl, vc, pno - 21' 15"   |
|                | <b>Violin Sonata no. 1</b> (2003) - 19' 45"   |
| Solo           | <b>Solo Violin Sonata</b> (2021) – 9'   |
|                | <b>D Major Preludes</b> (2015-2017) – pno – 17'   |
|                | <b>We are not alone</b> (2015) - percussion + live electronics - 6'   |
|                | <b>The winter desert of my silences</b> (2014) - tuba + live electronics - 10'  |
|                | <b>NOX</b> (2012) - pno - 6' 30"  |
|                | <b>One Sun, 1 Moon</b> (2012) - soprano saxophone - 20' 30"   |
|                | <b>The devil in the street, in the middle of the whirlwind</b> (2011) - pno - 6'  |
|                | <b>The limit in the black ink of the pear tree</b> (2011) - cl - 8' 15"   |
|                | <b>You faced the waves</b> (2011) - pno - 14' 15"   |
|                | <b>Contemplations</b> (2005) - pno - 14' 15"  |