

M.O. Abbott
composer / trombonist / educator

Michael Owen Abbott
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Germany

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born 26.04.1979, Redwood City, CA, USA

Education & Training

- 2018-present Private composition & intonation study with Marc Sabat, Berlin, Germany
- 2012-2020 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, USA
Doctor of Musical Arts (ABD – on academic leave of absence)
Master of Music (2014)
Composition Instructors: Sever Tipei, Scott A. Wyatt, Heinrich Taube, Erin Gee, Eli Fieldsteel
Trombone Instructors: Jim Pugh, Elliot Chasanov
- 2011-2012 Private composition study with Brian Belét and Janis Mercer, San Francisco Bay Area, CA, USA
- 1997-2001 Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, USA
Bachelor of Music, with Distinction (2001)
Composition Instructors: David Liptak, Stefan Freund
Trombone Instructors: John Marcellus, Mark Kellogg
- 1995-1998 Private trombone study with Mark Lawrence, San Francisco, CA, USA

Teaching Experience

- 2004-present Private lessons in composition, trombone, music theory, music technology
- 2017 TA Instructor for Music, Sound, Technology (MUS 209), University of Illinois
also assisted in developing curriculum for this first-run course
- 2016-2017 TA Instructor for undergraduate Aural Skills I & II (MUS 107-108), University of Illinois
- 2012-2013 TA Instructor for undergraduate Music Theory and Practice I & II (MUS 101-102), University of Illinois
TA Instructor for undergraduate Aural Skills I & II (MUS 107-108), University of Illinois

Ensemble Experience

- 2020-present Harmonic Space Orchestra, Berlin, Germany
- 2019 Sinfonia da Camera, Urbana, IL, USA
- 2019 Ostrava New Orchestra & Ostravská banda, Ostrava, Czech Republic
- 2016-2019 UI Repertory Jazz Orchestra, Urbana, IL, USA

- 2012-2018 Illinois Modern Ensemble, Urbana, IL, USA
- 2017 Urbana Pops Orchestra, Urbana, IL, USA
- 2017 UI Philharmonia Orchestra, Urbana, IL, USA
- 2000-2001 Eastman Musica Nova, Rochester, NY, USA
- 1996-1997 San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 1994-1996 California Youth Symphony, CA, USA

Other Professional Experience

- 2017-2019 Mac Endpoint Services Specialist, Tech Services at FAA, University of Illinois
- 2016-2019 Administrator of Computer Music Project (CMP), University of Illinois
CMP is a 9-seat Linux lab, with Linux file and web servers
- 2013-2019 Administrator of Computer-Assisted Music Instruction Laboratory (CAMIL), University of Illinois
CAMIL consisted of 2 Mac labs, 35 seats total, with a Mac file and web server
- 2014-2015 Research Assistant for Experimental Music Studios (EMS), University of Illinois

Awards, Grants & Recognition

- 2019 Dissertation Travel Grant (3,000 USD), University of Illinois Graduate College
- 2018 Presser Graduate Music Award (10,000 USD)
- 2017-2018 3rd place, American Prize in Composition, Vocal Chamber Music
Transistor (2012) for voice and piano
- Finalist, American Prize in Composition, Instrumental Chamber Music
Ascension Tube (2017) for mixed sextet
- 2017 19th Annual 21st Century Piano Commission Award (with pianist Whitney Ashe) (2,000 USD)
- Fall Conference Travel Grant (350 USD), University of Illinois
- Ranked as "Excellent" by students as TA Instructor for MUS 108 (Aural Skills II, honors section)
- 2016 Fall Conference Travel Grant (350 USD), University of Illinois
- 2013 Ranked as "Excellent" by students as TA Instructor for MUS 108 (Aural Skills II)
- 1997-2001 Lois Rogers Scholarship, Eastman School of Music

Jury-Selected Performances

- 2019 Ostrava Days, Ostrava, Czech Republic
Ascension Tube (2017) for mixed sextet
- ICMC-NYCEMF, New York, NY, USA
White Standee Line (2016) for 8-channel fixed media

- Diffrazioni Multimedia Festival, Florence, Italy
"I Said Top-Top" (2017-2018) for fixed media (8-channel version)
- 2018 EMS60, Urbana, IL, USA
White Standee Line (2016) for 8-channel fixed media
- International Computer Music Conference (ICMC), Daegu, Korea
White Standee Line (2016) for 8-channel fixed media
- New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival (NYCEMF), New York, NY, USA
green unpredictable (2014) for stereo fixed media
- Noisefloor Festival, Stoke-upon-Trent, UK
"I Said Top-Top" (2017-2018) for fixed media (9-channel version)
- Xenharmonic New Music Showcase, Muncie, IN, USA
Ascension Tube (2017) for mixed sextet
- NSEME, Denton, TX, USA
"I Said Top-Top" (2017-2018) for fixed media (16-channel version)
- EME/EMM 2018 Invitational Mini-Conference, Charleston, IL, USA
"I Said Top-Top" (2017-2018) for fixed media (2018 stereo version)
- 2017 International Computer Music Conference (ICMC), Shanghai, China
"I Said Top-Top" (2017-2018) for fixed media (original stereo version)
- SEAMUS National Conference, St. Cloud, MN, USA
White Standee Line (2016) for 8-channel fixed media
- SCI National Conference, Kalamazoo, MI, USA
White Standee Line (2016) for 8-channel fixed media
- 2016 Diffrazioni Multimedia Festival, Florence, Italy
White Standee Line (2016) for 8-channel fixed media
- Electronic Music Midwest, Romeoville, IL, USA
White Standee Line (2016) for 8-channel fixed media
- SEAMUS National Conference, Statesboro, GA, USA
green unpredictable (2014) for stereo fixed media
- 2015 NUNC! 2, Evanston, IL, USA
Water Lettuce (2014) for saxophone quartet
- Midwest Graduate Music Consortium, Evanston, IL, USA
Water Lettuce (2014) for saxophone quartet

Additional Festivals, Conferences & Workshops

- 2018 Darmstädter Ferienkurse, Darmstadt, Germany
- CHIMEFest, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2017 Formalized Score Control: Using Python and Abjad in Music Composition, Stanford, CA, USA
- 2016 SPLICE Institute, Kalamazoo, MI, USA

- 2015 New Music on the Point (NMOP), Leicester, VT, USA
 Workshop for Algorithmic Computer Music (WACM), Santa Cruz, CA, USA
- 2014 Charlotte New Music Festival, Charlotte, NC, USA

Selected Compositions

Mumbo Jumbo (2018) for bass trombone, piano and electronics
 Composed for the 19th Annual 21st Century Piano Commission
 Premiered by M.O. Abbott & Whitney Ashe on February 15, 2018, Urbana, IL, USA

"I Said Top-Top" (2017-2018) for fixed media
 Performances:
 March 29, 2019 – Diffrazioni Multimedia Festival, Florence, Italy
 May 8, 2018 – Noisefloor, Stoke-upon-Trent, UK
 April 6, 2018 – CHIMEFest, Chicago, IL, USA
 March 10, 2018 – NSEME, Denton, TX, USA
 February 22, 2018 – EMM/EME Invitational Mini-Conference, Charleston, IL, USA
 October 17, 2017 – ICMC, Shanghai, China
 March 30, 2017 – CMP Concert, Urbana, IL, USA

Ascension Tube (2017) for mixed sextet
 Performances:
 August 22, 2019 – Ostrava Days, Ostrava, Czech Republic
 April 15, 2018 – Xenharmonic New Music Showcase, Muncie, IN, USA
 February 15, 2018 – 21st Century Piano Commission Concert, Urbana, IL, USA

White Standee Line (2016) for 8-channel fixed media
 Performances:
 June 22, 2019 – ICMC-NYCEMF, New York, NY, USA
 November 17, 2018 – EMS60, Urbana, IL, USA
 August 6, 2018 – ICMC, Daegu, Korea
 April 20, 2017 – SEAMUS National Conference, St. Cloud, MN, USA
 April 1, 2017 – SCI National Conference, Kalamazoo, MI, USA
 November 24, 2016 – Diffrazioni Multimedia Festival, Florence, Italy
 October 13, 2016 – Electronic Music Midwest, Romeoville, IL, USA

green unpredictable (2014) for stereo fixed media
 Performances:
 July 17, 2018 – NYCEMF, New York, NY, USA
 February 11, 2016 – SEAMUS National Conference, Statesboro, GA, USA
 September 27, 2014 – Sound of Science, Champaign, IL, USA

Palinode (2014) for baritone voice, bass clarinet, trumpet, and trombone
 Commissioned by the Charlotte New Music Festival, for loadbang ensemble
 Performances:
 December 3, 2014 – loadbang, New York, NY, USA
 June 22, 2014 – loadbang, Charlotte, NC, USA

Water Lettuce (2014) for saxophone quartet
 Composed for the U of I Graduate Saxophone Quartet
 Performances:
 November 7, 2015 – NUNC! 2, Evanston, IL, USA
 April 18, 2015 – Midwest Graduate Music Consortium, Evanston, IL, USA
 May 4, 2014 – U of I Graduate Saxophone Quartet, Urbana, IL, USA

Skills

Composition	Chamber Music, Electroacoustic Music, Microtonality, Just Intonation, Computer-Assisted Algorithmic Composition
Trombone	Classical, Jazz, Avant-garde, Contemporary/New, Improvisation, Microtonality, Just Intonation
Education	Composition, Trombone, Music Theory, Music Technology, Aural Skills
Music Software	Abjad, Ableton Live, Audacity, DISSCO, Dorico, Grace/Common Music, LilyPond, ProTools, Sibelius, SPEAR, SuperCollider
Programming	Bash, C++, Grace/Common Music, HTML, JavaScript, Lisp, PHP, Python, SuperCollider
I.T.	Mac Systems Administration & Endpoint Services AirWatch/Workspace ONE, Munki, Mac Server, Open Directory Linux Systems Administration Ubuntu Server, NFS, NIS Active Directory, Apache, AWS, Infoblox, PaperCut, SCCM, SVN, VirtualBox, vSphere