

# Chris Beckstrom

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## PROFILE

- Talented film composer complemented by more than 12 years of experience as performing musician.
- Awarded Best Score for short “What is a Canepa?” at Christopher Coppola’s PAH-Fest Chicago Digital Media festival (2008).
- Extensive composition experience for jazz orchestra and a wide variety of ensembles.
- Recognized by Down Beat Student Music Awards for Outstanding Studio Orchestra (2005).
- Multi-instrumentalist: saxophones, bass clarinet and clarinet, keyboard, accordion, various percussion, and ethnic woodwinds.
- Recognized for uninhibited creativity driven by a unique, personal perspective of music and sound.

## EDUCATION

*Columbia College Chicago (CCC) • Chicago, Illinois*

**Master of Fine Arts in Music Composition for the Screen** (2008)

- Completed 5-week immersion program in Los Angeles including internship as assistant to film/TV composer Blake Neely.

*Western Michigan University • Kalamazoo, Michigan*

**Bachelor of Arts Cum Laude in Music and Spanish** [double major] (2006)

- Awarded 4-year School of Music and Saxophone Studio scholarships (2002–2006).
- Completed 2-month study abroad experience in Santander, Spain (2005).

## TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

- Music notation software:
  - Logic Pro
  - Sibelius
  - Ableton Live
  - Finale
  - Pro Tools
- Recording technology and production
- Score preparation

## SCORING EXPERIENCE

- Films:
  - “RIP” directed by Brandon Mata (2010)
  - “Ronnie Appleseed” directed by Adam Salasek [entry for Chicago 48 Hour Film Project] (2009)
  - “Gum and Get It” directed by Joseph Meredith [recorded at Capital Records] (2008)
  - “Hermano” directed by Tatiana Matos (2008)
  - “What is a Canepa?” directed by Jane Canepa (2008)
  - “Donut Touch” directed by Mary Horan (2008)
  - “Silent Noise” directed by Patrick Smith (2008)
  - “Hermit” directed by Adam Salasek (2008)
  - “No One” directed by Julio Ramos [additional music] (2007)
  - “Forgiven” directed by Julio Ramos (2007)
- “Every Drop Counts” and “Twin Cities” Grain Belt Beer Commercial Contest entries directed by Burke Daneman (2009)
- “The Yellow Boat” live theatrical production directed by Lori Thompson [scored and performed] (2007)
- “Aching to Go Home” theatrical production [collaborated with composer Michael Attias to create live accompaniment] (2004)

**ADDITIONAL COMPOSITIONS**

- "Free Radicals" – Piece commissioned by the CCC New Music Ensemble (2009)
- "Ceora" – Arrangement commissioned by the CCC Jazz Ensemble (2008)
- "The Gwen Project" – Acted as Music Director; composed 3 full movements and interludes between all pieces to create hour-long collaborative composition performed by a diverse ensemble (2007)
- "Salam Aleikum" – Commissioned by the Powers Catholic High School Wind Ensemble (2007)
- "The Sound of Art" – Suite written for jazz orchestra based on images of 7 famous paintings (2006)
- "Blackout" – Arrangement for Stefon Harris and performance with the WMU Jazz Orchestra (2006)
- "España" – Concert of original music based on study abroad experience in Spain (2005)

**INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE***Master Classes*

- Walter R. Sundling Junior High School – Saxophone sectional (2009–2010)
- Central Michigan University – Jazz Project (2009)
- Columbia College Chicago
  - Film & Video program [scoring] (2008–2009)
  - MFA Music Composition for the Screen program [technology] (2009)

*Private Lessons*

- Junior and senior high students and adults

**COLLABORATIONS**

- Showchoir Camps of America – Rehearsal and performance musician (2004, 2006–2009)
- Lutheran Music Mission – Musician/contributor on contemporary Christian music recordings (2006–Present)

**RECENT PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE***Independent*

- Amy Yassinger Organ Trio – Organ (2009–Present)
- Tom Knific Quartet – Tenor saxophone (2008–Present)
  - "Lines of Influence" CD released October 2008 (Azica/AJD-72240)
- The Chris Beckstrom Band – Leader, saxophones, keyboards, percussion (2008–Present)
- The Accidental Orchestra – Leader, accordion, percussion, bass clarinet (2008–2009)
- Gypsi Fari [reggae] – Saxophones (2008–2009)
- Black Umbrella Brigade [experimental] – Saxophones (2007–2009)
- Four Finger Five [rock] – Saxophones (2007–2009)

*Collegiate*

- Columbia College Big Band – Lead saxophone (2007–2008)
- Columbia College Vocal Jazz Ensemble – Rhythm section coach and saxophone (2006–2007)
- Western Michigan University Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Octet – Saxophones (2002–2006)
- Western Michigan University Gold Company [vocal jazz] – Saxophones (2003–2006)