

# Studying Composition at the University of New Mexico

## FACULTY

### THEORY & COMPOSITION

David Bashwiler, undergraduate theory coordinator

Peter Gilbert, composition area advisor

Richard Hermann, upper-division and graduate theory coordinator

José-Luis Hurtado, Music of the Americas Concert Series coordinator

Karola Obermüller, John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium coordinator

Patricia Repar, director of Arts-in-Medicine

### TECHNOLOGY & RECORDING

Doug Geist, Grammy award winning audio engineer

Micah Hood, MAST Electronic Music Lab

## DEGREES OFFERED

Bachelor of Music: Concentration in Theory and Composition

Master of Music: Concentration in Theory and Composition (with a thesis in either theory or composition)



## WHY UNM?

The University of Mexico has a beautiful, architecturally unique campus and at the center of it is a large and busy music department with over 50



faculty (30 full-time) and over 350 students filling orchestras, wind symphonies, choruses and an opera program. And of course there is lots of contemporary music.

The UNM composition students are a tight-knit group, getting together

every Friday to work on collective projects, share ideas, improvise together or visit with guest composers or performers. They also present their work to each other at the end of each term in a large group feedback session. With a large, diverse composition faculty, students have a broad choice in teacher and can rotate studios each year to get fresh perspectives on their music.



NMNM performs adventurous rep and student works every term

New Music New Mexico (NMNM) is a group made up of graduate and outstanding undergraduate players who play challenging repertoire including Nono's *Guai ai Gelidi Mostri*, Crumb's *Vox Balaenae*, Reich's *Double Sextet*, Scelsi's *Anahit*, Messaien's *Quartour pour*

*le fin du temps*, Abrahamsen's *Schnee*, as well as works by Oliveros, Tenney, Feldman, and so on. The Composition studio and NMNM work together to put on 3 joint concerts each term mixing repertoire and student works.

Every year, UNM is host to the John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium--one of the biggest, longest-running new music festivals in the Southwestern US. Recent guest composers have included Augusta Read Thomas, Chen Yi, Vijay Iyer, Martin Bresnick, Lei Liang, Betsy Jolas, Raven Chacon & Hilda Paredes. Recent visiting performers have included the Arditti, Del Sol and Amernet String Quartets, Sound Icon (Boston), E-Mex Ensemble (Cologne), Susan Narucki, and Emanuele Arciuli. The week-long festival includes many concerts, workshops, reading sessions and masterclasses for composers and performers alike.

Students interested in collaboration will find lots of opportunities. In the past few years UNM composition students have created projects with students in the theatre & dance department, with the IFDM (Interdisciplinary Film and Digital Media) Program, with visual artists, and with architecture students. We have worked on cultivating relationships with creative faculty all across campus to be ready to facilitate student collaborations so the possibilities are wide.

The technology lab has new iMacs at workstations with cool new desks that height adjust to allow for standing-desk work. There is a new Moog replica that matches the original Moog we have on campus. It is normal for the Moog to be burbling out some analogue craziness making the lab a fun and lively space.



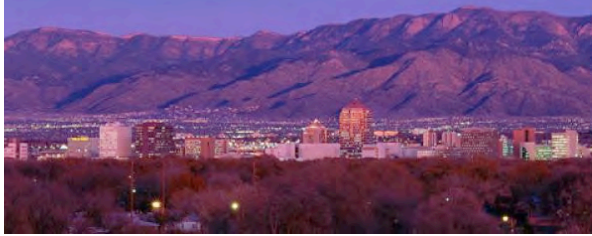
The lobby of the UNM Center for the Arts



The analogue synthesizer in the M.A.S.T. music technology lab



## WHY ALBUQUERQUE?



For as big as it is, Albuquerque has, in many ways, the comfortable feeling of a small-town. It's easy to get around, affordable to live, and you'll feel at home with the people and places right away. The cuisine is amazing and the mixture of cultures makes for a rich and diverse scene for art and culture.

But the thing you'll never forget here in New Mexico is gorgeous landscape. It's a hikers paradise and artists have been always been drawn here by the incredible sensation of light and color here and now New Mexico is one of the most important hubs for visual arts in the world. There is lots of theater and dance both at UNM and out in the community but the community is relatively small and friendly so people looking to get into collaboration will find their way quickly! The classical music tradition is upheld well by the New Mexico Philharmonic, Opera Southwest and of course the world-famous Santa Fe Opera, which does a significant new opera every season.



Contemporary music in Albuquerque is an interesting world and one that is open for opportunity as well. Chatter is a weekly concert series which routinely sells-out performances in a warehouse gallery space, very often including remarkable new repertoire. A group of recent UNM graduates have formed a group called the New Mexico Contemporary Ensemble which does summer festivals and concerts and works closely with young composers.

There are several nice off-campus locations for concerts that can be taken advantage of. Galleries downtown are open to working with contemporary music and UNM's College of Fine Arts also has its own small gallery downtown, which is curated by a UNM graduate student. Our student composers have done their own self-initiated concerts there as it is relatively easy to work out. We're also working on a relationship with a very cool new place downtown called Dialogue Brewing that is a very hip and artistic space with a crazy 18-speaker array built into metal "trees" in the beer-garden. The Albuquerque Railyards is a pretty rugged space with an awesome atmosphere that is used for Art and community markets and every once in a while for weird, adventurous experimental music! There are several museums in Santa Fe which have housed alternative new music concerts which we've been a part of as well.

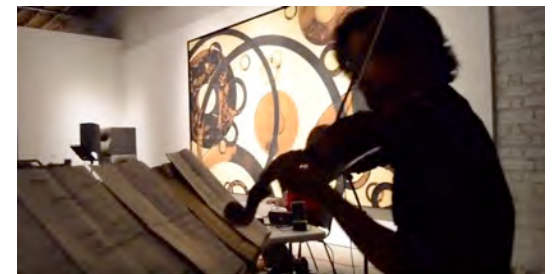
Albuquerque is a wonderful place to live, full of sights and sounds and above all wonderful, laid-back but hard-working people who value individuality and creativity. Come find out why so many people fall deeply in love with New Mexico!



*The Shift Dance Festival happens every fall in ABQ*



*A crowd getting ready for a Chatter concert at Las Puertas*



*NMCE at the Center for Contemporary Art (Santa Fe)*