

Studying Composition at the University of New Mexico

<http://music.unm.edu/areas/theory-composition/>

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)

FACULTY

Theory & Composition



David Bashwiner
Theory & Music Cognition



Peter Gilbert
Composition



José-Luis Hurtado
Theory & Composition



Richard Hermann
Theory & Composition



Patricia Repar
Composition & Arts-in-Medicine



Contact: pgilb@unm.edu

Why UNM?

The University of Mexico has a beautiful and architecturally unique campus at the center of which is a large and busy music department with over 50 faculty (30 full-time) and hundreds of students filling orchestras, wind symphonies, choruses and an opera program. And of course there is lots of contemporary music.



George Pearl Hall houses UNM's Fine Arts Library

Studio & Weekly Colloquium

With an invested, stylistically diverse composition faculty, students have a broad choice in teacher and have the option to rotate teachers to get fresh perspectives on their music. But the composition area is much more than a series of separate private studios. The UNM composition students are a collective, tight-knit group. Campus composers (graduate and undergraduate, majors and non-majors) all get together every Friday to work on collective projects, share ideas, or improvise together. The students present their work to each other at the end of each term in a group feedback session which includes personalized feedback from all the area faculty. And the composers also have a self-driven student organization with funded events and concerts.



UNM students and alums mixing with composers from all across the country at the 2019 SCI National Conference

Throughout the year we host talks and masterclasses with local and visiting composers and artists. Often we have workshops with visiting soloists and ensembles, such as members of the International Contemporary Ensemble or the New York based quartet Loadbang.

Many recent UNM Theory and Composition graduates have gone on to do graduate and doctoral work in top-level programs while others have jumped immediately

into successful freelance artistic careers both in Albuquerque and elsewhere.

Collaboration

Students interested in collaborating will find lots of opportunities at UNM. In recent years UNM composers have realized collaborative projects with colleagues in Film & Digital Arts, Theatre & Dance, Architecture, and Art. We have worked on cultivating relationships with creative faculty all across campus to be ready to help facilitate whatever collaborations you are dreaming of.

The John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium

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 and host of the SCI National Conference in 2019.

Recent guest composers have included Chen Yi, Augusta Read Thomas, Lei Liang, Vijay Iyer, Martin Bresnick, Betsy Jolas, Raven Chacon & Hilda Paredes.

The Symposium's guest performers are also a great resource, such as when the world-renowned Arditti Quartet recently premiered nine works by UNM student composers! Other recent visiting performers have included Ekmeles, Splinter Reeds, the Del Sol and Amernet String Quartets, Sound Icon (Boston), E-Mex Ensemble (Cologne), soprano Susan Narucki, guitarist Daniel Lippel, and pianist Emanuele Arciuli. Events include concerts, workshops, reading sessions and masterclasses for composers and performers alike.



The Arditti Quartet premiering nine UNM student works in Keller Hall



New Music New Mexico collaborates with the UNM Composers on contemporary music concerts

New Music New Mexico (NMNM)

NMNM is a group made up of graduate and undergraduate students who play challenging repertoire and student compositions. Repertoire has included works by Eve Beglarian, Elliot Carter, Pierre Boulez, Christopher Cerrone, George

Crumb, Julio Estrada, Michael Gordon, Lei Liang, Missy Mazzoli, Tristan Murail, Luigi Nono, Pauline Oliveros, Hilda Paredes, Steve Reich, Kaija Saariaho, Giacinto Scelsi, James Tenney, Augusta Read Thomas, Joan Tower and many many more. The UNM composers and NMNM put on joint concerts every term mixing repertoire and student works.



UNM Composers can also work with major ensembles

Large Ensembles

In addition to working with invited guest artists, NMNM, and fellow students, there are frequent reading sessions with UNM's large ensembles, including the Symphony Orchestra, the UNM Health Sciences Orchestra, the UNM Wind Symphony, and the UNM Choirs.

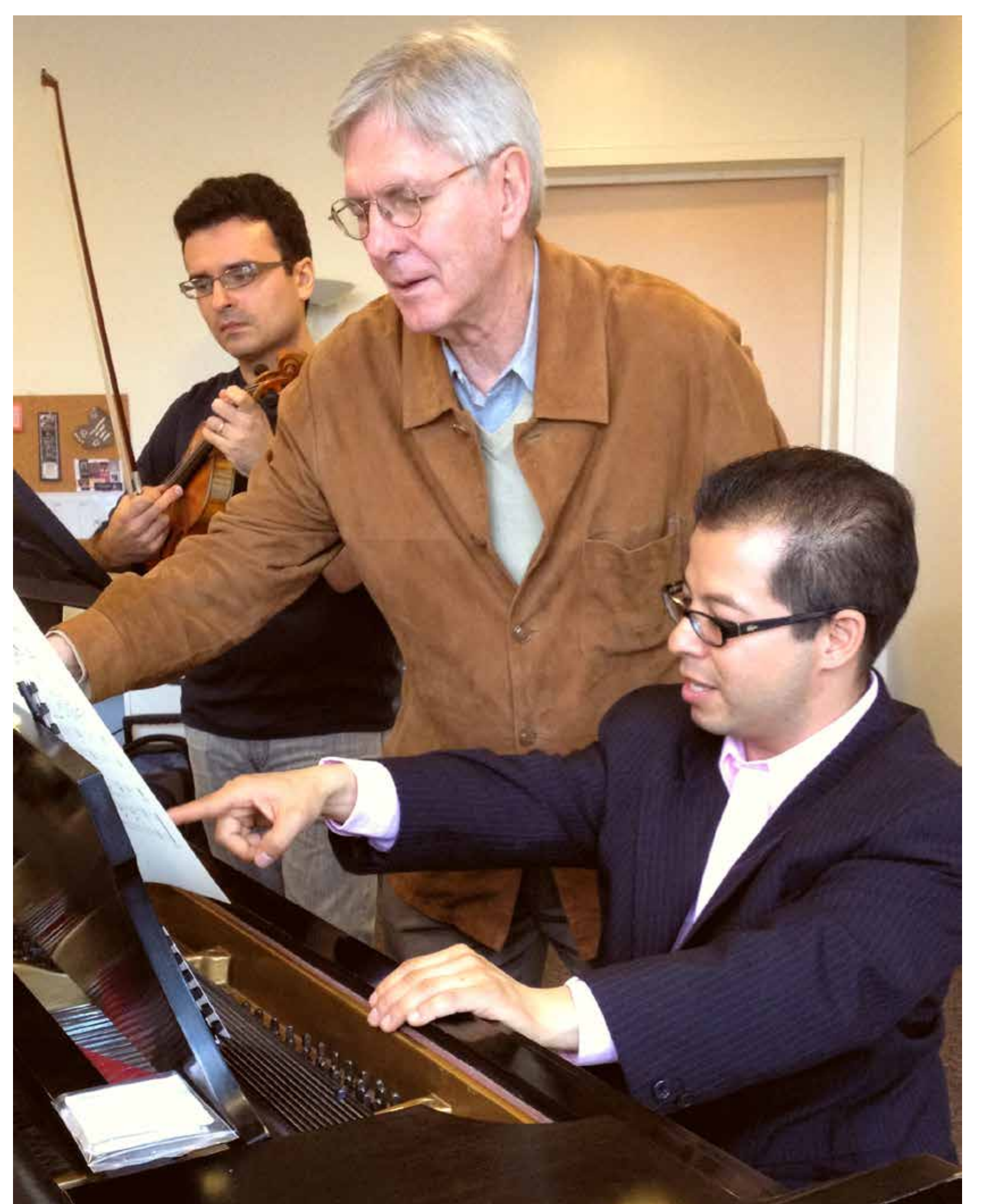
Multiple Areas of Study

The UNM Theory and Composition program gives you a versatile degree that can flexibly meet your needs and situates you well for a competitive field where a broad skill set is an important asset. And for students who have other abilities and interests, it is very easy to put together a double concentration within music (such as Musicology or Performance) or a double major with another field. Of course minors are available to undergraduates as well, including our Arts Leadership and Business minor. UNM also has a Bachelors degree in Interdisciplinary Arts for artists who want to construct their own program that combines two or even three distinct disciplines.

Students doing the Masters of Music Theory-Composition concentration at UNM can choose to do a MM Thesis in either theory or composition. Students choosing an MM theory thesis do high-level self-directed research leading to paper writing that is extensively mentored by the theory faculty. Students doing an MM thesis in composition put together a portfolio of diverse works that show the breadth of their abilities and interests.

Music from the Americas

The Music from the Americas Concert Series presents cutting edge contemporary music from the US, Mexico and South America throughout the year. Guest artists (such as MacArthur grant-winner



Music from the Americas brings new music figures like Mario Lavista to campus.

Claire Chase) and composers (such as Federico Ibarra and Mario Lavista) complement and enrich the musical and cultural vision of our community by offering concerts, lectures, workshops, masterclasses, and reading sessions as well as performances of UNM student compositions. The series is a collaboration between UNM, the Mexican Consulate in Albuquerque, the Secretary of Culture of Mexico, and numerous local and International Institutions.

**Music and Sound
Technology Lab (M.A.S.T)**

The Mac-based technology lab has up-to-date workstations on height-adjustable desks. Our analogue synth (which directly parallels the original Moog we have on campus) makes the lab a fun and lively musical space and allows students to get hands-on analogue experience to compliment their digital work in DAWs and Max/MSP. Students new to technology use course work in recording and interactive programming as



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

gateways into fixed media and live-electronic pieces.



Cutting edge technology-based research happens at the ARTSLab

ARTSLab
ARTSLab is a transdisciplinary research facility and exhibition space serving that serves as a hub for experimental research in arts and technology. Composers participate in interdisciplinary workshops

and collaborative meet-ups in addition to benefitting from the wide variety of cutting-edge presentations and programs that take place there. Active research at ARTSLab includes VR, studio production, immersive projection, and 3D scanning and printing.

In 2026, the ARTSLab will be moving into the new Center for Collaborative Arts and Technology alongside a brand new performance hall.

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 (especially now that all Albuquerque busses are free), it's affordable, 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 that makes New Mexico unforgettable is the gorgeous landscape—a hiker and nature lover's paradise. Artists have always been drawn here by



the incredible sensation of light and color, making New Mexico one of the most important hubs in the world for visual arts and now one of the fastest growing centers for television and film. Theater and dance is strong locally and at UNM with a friendly and supportive community ripe for composers looking for collaboration. The classical music tradition is upheld by the New Mexico Philharmonic, high-level chamber music concerts, Opera Southwest and of course the world-famous Santa Fe Opera, which does a significant opera premiere every season.

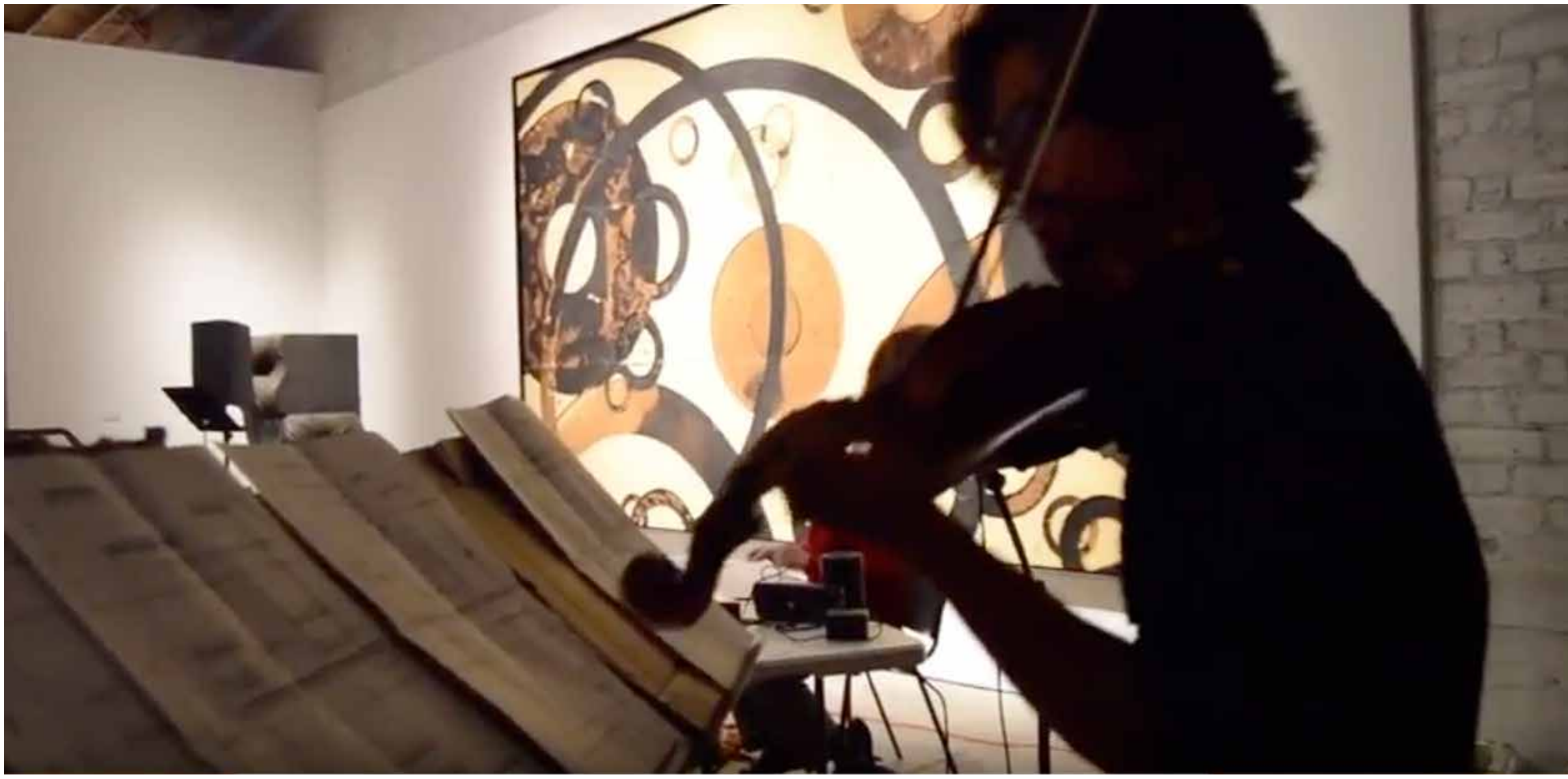
Contemporary music in Albuquerque is an interesting world and full of opportunity as well. Chatter is a weekly concert series which routinely



Chatter performs to sold out crowds every week and frequently does exciting contemporary repertoire.

presents remarkable new repertoire to sold out performances in a downtown gallery space. Chatter also frequently collaborates with the composition area and the Symposium.

A group of recent UNM graduates have formed a group called the New Mexico Contemporary Ensemble



New Mexico Contemporary Ensemble (NMCE) performing at The Center for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe

(NMCE), which does summer festivals and concerts and works closely with young composers as well as doing concerts at UNM.

There are several compelling off-campus

locations for concerts in Albuquerque. Galleries downtown are open to working with contemporary music and students and alumni have found getting off campus to be rewarding, though of course UNM has it's own galleries and museums on campus which have been fruitful collaborators for our composers as well. The Albuquerque Railyards is a rugged space with terrific atmosphere that is used for art, community markets and every once in a while for adventurous experimental music. And there are several museums in Santa Fe, an hour north of ABQ, 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, hard-working, laid-back people who value individuality and creativity. Come find out why so many people fall so deeply in love with New Mexico!



UNM composition students and alums have worked with local dance companies and festivals





Tuition and Scholarships

UNM is very affordable and has especially low tuition for in-state students. For out of state students there are a number of options to get the in-state tuition rate and 80% of non-residents pay a discounted rate. For example, new non-resident freshmen with a 3.0 GPA and a test score of 22 ACT or 1100 SAT who apply for admission before December 1 will pay the tuition and fee rate of New Mexico residents. Graduate students can also pay in-state tuition after a year of in-residence study at UNM.

There are also numerous scholarship, assistantship, and fellowship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. For international students there are lots of ways to make coming to UNM a realizable and affordable possibility like the International Amigo Scholarship which helps many music students or the Beca Mexico scholarship which is an attractive options for Mexican students.

Undergraduate Scholarships in Music:

<https://music.unm.edu/auditions-scholarships/undergraduate/>

Graduate Scholarships in Music:

<https://music.unm.edu/auditions-scholarships/graduate/>

The International Amigo Scholarship:

<https://international.unm.edu/>

Beca Mexico:

https://mexico.unm.edu/becas/beca_mexico.html

Assistantships

MM applicants may apply for a large number of music department assistantships including those in the theory-composition area: Theory teaching fellowships, the MAST Lab Assistantship, and the Robb Trust Assistantship which involves working on the Robb Symposium as well as the Center for Southwest Research.

BM CURRICULUM

Theory-Composition Concentration Required Courses

MUS 150, 152, 250, 252: Music Theory I-IV + Aural Lab I-IV

MUSC 2140: Introduction to Composition

MUS 305 & 306: Composition I & II

APMS 119/120, 319/320: Studio Lessons in Composition

MUS 309: Form and Analysis

MUS 311 or MUSC 2790 : Fundamentals of Music Technology or
Digital Music Production I

MUS 325: Post-tonal Theory

MUS 405 or 406: 16th c. Counterpoint or 18th c. Counterpoint

MUS 412: Fundamentals of Audio Technology

MUS 453: Orchestration

MUS 491: Senior Recital

5 hours in the principal applied instrument

Upper-division Theory-Composition Electives

MUS 380: Digital Music Production II

MUS 407: Advanced Topics in Music Composition

MUS 419/420: Studio Lessons in Composition

MUS 421: Introduction to Max/MSP Programming

MUS 439: Advanced Topics in Music Theory

MUS 481: Digital Music Production III

MUS 482: Digital Music Production IV

FDMA 491: Topics in Film and Digital Media

MM CURRICULUM

Program of Study

APMS 501: Individual lessons in Composition

MUS 507: Advanced Topics in Music Composition

MUS 511, 512, or 521: Fundamentals of Music/Audio Technology
or Introduction to Max/MSP Programming

MUS 513,514,515,516,537, or 538: Choice of Musicology elective

MUS 525: Post-Tonal Theory

MUS 527: Theory Pedagogy

MUS 531: Bibliography and Research

MUS 599: Master's Thesis

8 hours of music electives



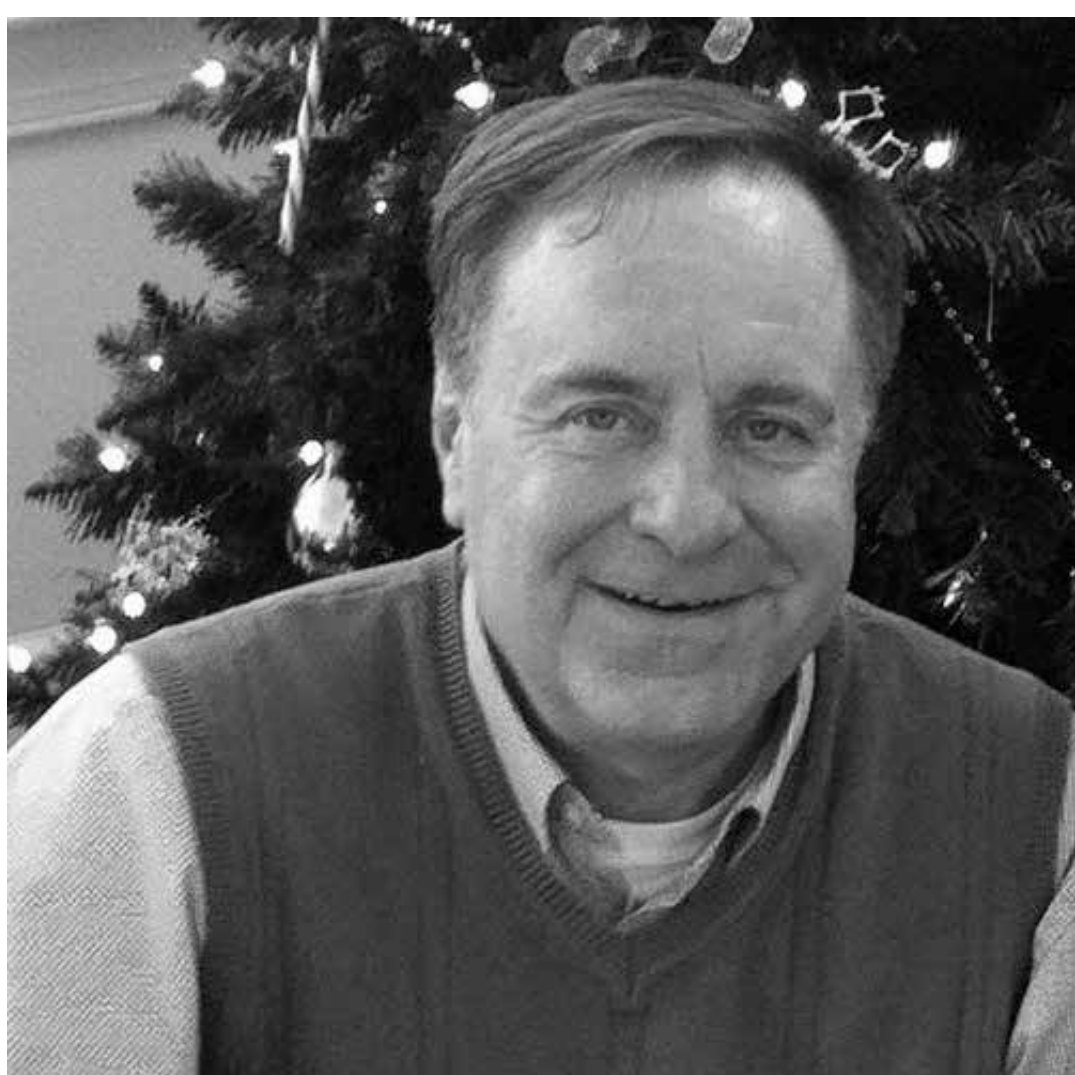
Faculty Biographies



David Bashwiner is an assistant professor of music theory at the University of New Mexico. He holds a doctorate in the history and theory of music from the University of Chicago, a master's degree in music composition from the University of Illinois and a bachelor's degree in biopsychology from Cornell University. His doctoral dissertation, "Musical Emotion: Toward a Biologically Grounded Theory," explored the biological foundations of emotional responses to music. His recent work has extended these explorations to the realms of multimedia and creativity. He publishes on music as it relates to emotion, neuroscience and multimedia. As a composer, he writes music for films and songs for his band, Cactus Tractor.



Peter Gilbert's music combines acoustic and live-electronic sensibilities in works for multi-media theatre, film, installation and the concert hall. His second portrait album "Burned Into the Orange" was named "Best of 2021" by Sequenza21. Accolades, commissions and residencies have come from the Barlow Foundation, NRW Fonds Neues Musiktheater, the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation, Kennedy Center Education, New Music USA, ZKM | Institut für Akustik und Musik, the Aaron Copland House, Akademie Schloss Solitude, La Mortella, Tage Aktueller Musik Nürnberg, the Look & Listen Festival, the Russolo Foundation, Theater Bonn, the Third Practice Festival, IMEB Bourges, and the Washington International Composers Competition. He holds degrees from Illinois Wesleyan University, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and a PhD from Harvard University. His work as a composer, performer and producer can be heard on New Focus Recordings, Innova, GM Recordings, Sono Luminus, Centaur, and a forthcoming album with Neuma as well as <http://petergilbert.net>.



Richard Hermann, professor of music at UNM, holds degrees from Eastman School of Music, Yale University, the New England Conservatory and Drake University in music theory, composition and music education. A theorist specializing in 20th- and 21st-century music and compositional processes through the ages, he is a frequent speaker at scholarly conferences, and his essays and reviews are published by Music Theory Online, Music Theory Spectrum, Perspectives of New Music, Sonus, Theoria, and Theory and Practice. As a composer, he studied composition with Earle Brown,

Jacob Druckman, Donald Martino, and Robert Morris. His compositions have been recorded by National Public Radio and performed in Beijing, Boston, Madrid and New York and performed by the Boston Musica Viva, members of the Boston Symphony, Tadeu Coelho, the Del Sol Quartet, the Duo Alterno (Italy), Joan Heller, David Jolley, and Gordon Stout among others.



Composer José-Luis Hurtado's music has been performed across continents by performers such as Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Jack Quartet, International Contemporary Ensemble, Talea, Quatuor Molinari, Tony Arnold, Garth Knox, Le Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, and the Arditti Quartet among others. He has been the recipient of many important international composition prizes in Mexico, the United States, Canada, Austria, Romania, France, and Italy. In addition to his compositional career, he is highly active as a pianist and music advocate. He is the pianist of Low Frequency Trio (Contemporary Bass clarinet, double bass, and piano ensemble) and founder and curator of La Mansion de la Cantante Muda (a contemporary interdisciplinary festival of music, film, and story telling). Hurtado holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University where he studied under Mario Davidovsky, Chaya Czernowin, Magnus Lindberg, Brian Ferneyhough and Helmut Lachenmann. More information at <https://www.joseluishurtado.net/>.



Patricia Repar's work as a composer includes the writing of contemporary chamber music, intermedia works, and electronic soundscapes; the making of short films; the design of original instruments and installations in medical environments; and the exploration of health and healing through the arts. Dr. Repar has been featured as a guest composer, performer, and educator in various parts of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, South America, Eastern Europe, Africa, and Australia. In 2002 she founded and currently directs Arts-in-Medicine: Healing and the Humanities, an internationally recognized program designed to enhance healing and healthcare through arts-based clinical service, education, research, community outreach, and international exchange. Repar is director of the Healing Arts Certificate Program at UNM and is a professor in both the departments of music and internal medicine. Since 2007 she has been working with various communities and organizations in southern Africa to promote health and healing through the arts. <https://finearts.unm.edu/arts-in-medicine/>

CONTACT

Peter Gilbert, composition

pgilb@unm.edu

Ashley Kelly, undergraduate recruitment

akelly01@unm.edu

Valerie Potter, graduate coordinator

flutes@unm.edu

APPLY

Undergraduate Application

<https://music.unm.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/>

Graduate Application

<https://music.unm.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/>



MUSIC

The University of New Mexico
College of Fine Arts
Department of Music
MSC04 2570

1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Phone: (505) 277-2126

Fax: (505) 277-2127

Email: music@unm.edu