

**AMY ANNE WURTZ**

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**EDUCATION:**

- 2015-present Independent piano study with Mary Sauer, Illinois, USA  
2004-05 Independent piano study with Inés Gómez-Carrillo, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
2002-03 Independent piano study with Beatrice Ohanessian, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, USA  
1999-2001 *University of Minnesota* in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA  
**Master of Arts:** Composition (Judith Lang Zaimont, professor)  
**Master of Music:** Piano Performance (Alexander Braginsky)  
1994-98 *University of Redlands* in Redlands, California, USA  
**Bachelor of Music:** Piano Performance, *summa cum laude*  
Alexandra Pierce (composition), Louanne Long (piano),  
and Graciela Beretervide (piano), principal teachers  
**Bachelor of Arts:** English—Creative Writing, *summa cum laude*

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- 2020 Livestream monthly concerts, self-produced via YouTube  
2019 *Cello Dances at Night*, a second self-produced CD from the Wurtz-Berger Duo, containing original compositions and works from other Chicago composers.  
2018-present President of New Music Chicago, a membership organization serving performers and creators of new music in Chicago. Board member since 2008.  
2018-2019 *Impromptu Fest 2018* and *2019*, a two-week new music festival in Chicago. I served as curator and artistic director for the festival, contracting ensembles, overseeing marketing, programming, advertising, ticketing, and performing.  
2014-present Co-curator for *New Music at the Green Mill*, tri-annual concert series in Illinois, USA  
2011 *Amy Wurtz String Quartets*, a self-produced CD. I worked in collaboration with the Chicago Q Ensemble on fundraising, promotion, recording, marketing and mastering the CD.  
2009-present Pianist with *Palomar* ensemble/ACM, Illinois, USA  
2008 *Chicago Chamber Musicians* Internship. Duties: score preparation, research and acquisition, maintenance of music library, concert production, proofreading/editing.  
2004-07 *Message from the Soul*. I composed this 70-minute choral/orchestral work and served as Artistic and Music Director in Düsseldorf, Germany. Other duties: fundraising, advertising, and production of multiple performances in Germany, England and Sweden.  
1996-present Freelance Composer and Pianist in Germany, Argentina, and USA

## COMMISSIONS AND RECENT PERFORMANCES:

- 2020 New Music Chicago 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bash—Co-producer and performer
- 2020 Performed at *Thirsty Ears Festival*, also in 2016-2019
- 2020 *Blue* (15') commissioned by ACM, premiere delayed by Covid, for Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Piano, Percussion
- 2020 *I Can't Breathe* (6'), inspired by George Floyd's murder, for piano solo, premiered on my YouTube concerts, for solo piano
- 2020 *Johnny Appleseed* (8') commissioned for a tour by the Payton HS Choir, tour and premiere delayed/cancelled by Covid
- 2019 *String Quartet No. 3* (25 min) commissioned by American Music Project, premiere delayed by Covid
- 2019 *Hall of Fishes* (9') score written for the Sound of Silent Film Festival to accompany film by Jennifer Boles, for Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Piano, Percussion
- 2016 *Songs and Dances*, for violoncello and piano, commissioned by the Ear Taxi Festival. Premiered in October 2016, at the festival.
- 2014 *Piano Quintet*, for string quartet and piano, commissioned by American Music Project. Premiered October 2014
- 2013 *Passage*, for Orchestra, commissioned by Chicago Composers Orchestra, premiered in 2013, Chicago, IL
- 2012 *Childish Music*, for alto saxophone and piano, commissioned by Amos Gillespie, premiered in 2012, Chicago, IL
- 2011 *The Mermaid*, for chamber ensemble, commissioned by Access Contemporary Music, premiered in 2011, Chicago, IL with repeat performances in 2013 and 2014 in NYC and TX
- 2004 *Ekhlas*, for chamber ensemble, commissioned by Zeitgeist, premiered in 2004, St. Paul, MN with repeat performances in 2012 in Chicago, IL
- 2001 *Nirvan*, piano solo, commissioned by Jeri-Mae Astolfi, premiered in 2001, Minneapolis, MN

## HONORS, AWARDS, PRIZES:

- 2020 Awarded Arts for Illinois Relief Fund Grant
- 2020 New Music Solidarity Fund grant awarded from NMUSA
- 2011 Illinois Arts Council Community Arts Assistance Program (CAAP) Grant Recipient
- 2002 First Place in the "National Federation of Music Clubs Emil and Ruth Beyer Composition Competition"
- 1999 Finalist, "Redlands Bowl Young Artists Competition" (Piano Solo)
- 1998 Winner, "University of Redlands Solo and Concerto Competition"
- 1998 Sigma Alpha Iota "Composer's Award," *University of Redlands*
- 1996 "Most Outstanding Sophomore Music Major" Award, *U of Redlands*
- 1995 "Most Outstanding Freshman Music Major" Award, *U of Redlands*