

Brief Biography of Composer Brian J. Nelson

Brian J. Nelson was born in Madison, Wisconsin in 1967 and began composing at age twelve. He received his Bachelor of Composition degree from the University of Michigan in 1990, where he studied with William Bolcom, William Albright and Nick Thorne. He completed a Master's degree in Composition at the University of Wisconsin in May 2000 and a D.M.A from the University of Kansas (2011) where he studied with James Barnes. He currently works as the Director of Sacred Liturgy and Music at the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center in Lawrence, KS.

A convert to the Catholic Faith in the year 2000, he is a prolific composer of sacred music as well as chamber and orchestral works. His growing catalogue includes his *Te Deum for Full Orchestra, Chorus and Soloists*; *Ballade for Violin and Piano*; *Mass of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne*; *Two Pieces for Orchestral Brass*; and *Responsorial Psalms for Advent and Christmas*, a collection of responsories based on the Catholic lectionary, *et al.*

To date, Brian's music is represented on two CD's: *Responsorial Psalms for Advent and Christmas* (November, 2009), featuring a sampling from the collection just mentioned; and *Vocalise – Instrumental & Vocal Music of Brian J. Nelson* which features a complete representation of Brian's output from instrumental to chamber to choral to sacred music. Brian's music is characterized by a strong melodic sense and an original tonality – his work is deeply engaging, and in each piece he clearly demonstrates his mastery of form, structure and powerful expression. He continues to compose both commissioned and non-commissioned works across a wide variety of genres and forms.

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Nelson Music

Nelson Music, founded in 2007, is the sole proprietorship of American composer Brian J. Nelson. Its motto: *bringing forth lasting musical beauty* touches on two essential and intertwining aspects of Brian's work. Namely, its participation in the transcendental of Beauty and—to the extent of that participation and the rootedness of his music in the classical and sacred music traditions—its enduring value. As such, and in light of a substantial body of supporting work, Nelson Music is ideally positioned to be of service to religious and secular organizations and individuals alike through the creation of new musical works of lasting value.

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