



Graduate Student Spotlight



Christopher Gainey

PhD - Music - Composition

BM, MM, Composition - Peabody Conservatory

BM, MM, Guitar - Peabody Conservatory

MM, Music Theory Pedagogy - Peabody Conservatory

Winner of 2nd Place in the Fine & Performing Arts Division at the 2007 James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference

Please describe your thesis project in a short sentence.

I am investigating the use of spectral techniques in acoustic music for dissertation paper and large ensemble piece.

How did you decide to go to graduate school?

I have wanted to a college professor as long as I can remember. I always knew graduate school was necessary to get there.

What made you decide to go to graduate school at Iowa?

I had a few professors recommend the school to me. I also heard a recording of some of Dr. Gompper's music and I was very impressed.

What are your long-term goals beyond your graduate degree?

Academia . . . Tenure . . . hopefully somewhere pleasant.

How has being a graduate student at Iowa prepared you to achieve those goals?

I have had the opportunity to teach an undergraduate Aural Skills section as part of an assistantship in Music Theory.

You are a winner of one of the top awards at the Jakobsen Conference in a previous year. What did you enjoy most about the Jakobsen Conference experience?

I enjoyed the opportunity to present my work to people who weren't, for the most part, musicians.

What are some of your interests outside of school?

Hiking, camping, tennis, walking my dog.

Are there any particular challenges you've faced as a graduate student at Iowa?

I guess finding funding would top that list.

Do you have a particular mentor who has played an important role in the development of your thesis or your career trajectory?

I have had many over the years, but at Iowa I have to acknowledge David Gompper who has really come through for me.

Please note any significant honors you've received .

1st prize 2006 Virginia Carty Delillo composition competition, 2006 Masterworks prize from ERM Media, music recorded by Kiev Philharmonic, 2 publications of music in Germany and the US, Pelzer Fellowship, Gustav Klemm prize in composition