Dr. Ty Alan Emerson

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# Composer, Conductor, Non-Profit Leader

# Education

**DMA** The Peabody Institute May 1999

Defense Title: “Angels in America-Carl Ruggles and Dissonant Counterpoint”

Committee: Robert Sirota, Morris Cote, Eileen Soskin, Bruno Amato

**MM** Louisiana State University May 1996

Thesis: “The Tale of Harry—A Ballet on Henry V”

Advisor: Dinos Constantinides

**BM** Shenandoah University, Music Education May 1994

Graduated Summa Cum Laude

Composition studies with Thomas Albert

# Awards, Commissions, Festivals

**NEO Sonic New Music Festival, Cleveland** 2018

Performance of “Tripartite” by No Exit

**Commission by No Exit** 2016

Resulting in new work “Darkling, I Listen”

**New Music Festival at Marshall University** 2015

Featured work “Prospero on the Beach”

**Commission by ASSEMB3LY** 2015

Resulting in new work “Prospero on the Beach”

**Commission by Musical Theater Project** 2014

“Deconstructing Kurt Weil”

A two-act Cabaret with new, modern versions of his American oeuvre

**MTNA/OMTA Composer of the Year** 2014

Resulting in new work “Caliban” flute and piano version

**Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Award** 2013

**Commission by No Exit** 2011

Resulting in new work “Tripartite”

**Commission by Mary Kay Fink and Richard King** 2009

Resulting in new work “Rogue”

**Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Award** 2009

**Fortnightly Music Club of Cleveland**  2008

Resulting in new work “Piano Sonata”

**Argosy Foundation Grant** 2007

For the project “Metal Chamber”

**CMS/SCI National Conference, San Antonio** 2006

Featuring “Trombone Quartet”

**New Music Festival at Akron University** 2005

Featuring “In Us” for percussion sextet

**Music at the Forefront at** **Bowling Green State University** 2004

Featuring “Triptych” for saxophone and piano

**Residency at Interlochen Arts Academy** 2002

Featuring performance of “Iron and Aire”

**Commission by Gary Louie and Kirsten Taylor** 2001

Resulting in new work “5 Pieces” for saxophone, piano, and wind ensemble

Premiered by the Peabody Wind Ensemble, Harlan Parker, conductor

**MacDowell Colony Fellow** 2000

**Resolution 2000 New Music Festival at Indiana State University SE** 2000

Featuring “Dedications”

**Commission by Gary Louie and Kirsten Taylor** 1999

Resulting in new work “Iron and Aire

**Eleanor Searle McCullum Donor Award**  1999

From the Academy of Arts and Letters

Resulting in a performance at the Swedish Embassy

**ASCAP Morton Gould Prize**  1999

Award winning work “Dedications”

**Randolph Rothschild Award** 1999

Composition excellence award from Peabody Institute

**The Huddersfield New Music Festival** 1998

Huddersfield England

Featuring “Trombone Quartet”

**Commission by Kirsten Taylor** 1997

Resulting in new work “Dedications”

**Texas Shakespeare Festival, Kilgore Texas** 1996

Commissioned to compose original music for four plays performed in repertory

# Other Notable Performances

**WCLV Radio “Fresh Innovations” Mark Satola, host** 2003-present

Featured several times per year, most recently “Caliban Ascendant”

**The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra** 2021

Featuring “Waiting to Exhale”

**Inlet Dance Theatre and Cleveland Chamber Collective** 2019-2021

Featuring “Caliban Ascendant,” previewed at Arts Tremont. Premiered at Cain Park and later performed during Ground Works at Cleveland Public Theater.

**Cleveland Chamber Collective “Music of America”** 2020

Featured works “Cast Thy Nighted Colour Off” and “Love and Other Missed-Spellings”

Featuring saxophonist Gabriel Pique

**Cleveland International Film Festival** 2019

Arranged and co-produced the music for the Festival Trailer

This trailer showed before every film during CIFF 43

**Zeitgeist, Minnesota New Music Ensemble** 2018

Performance of “Homage to Lou” in Cleveland with No Exit

**The Musical Theater Project** 2016, 2018

Featuring arrangements for the following full-length cabarets:

* Silver Linings: The Songs of Jerome Kern
* Let’s Not Waste Another Moment: The Impact of Milk and Honey
* Almost Like Being in Love: The Songs of Lerner and Loewe
* Bernstein on Broadway

**Cleveland Chamber Collective** 2016

Featuring “Homage to Lou”

**Panaramicos, Cleveland Composers’ Guild concert** 2014

Featuring “Miranda” which would later become “Ariel” in “Caliban Ascendant”

**Cleveland Chamber Collective at 78th St Studios** 2011

Featuring “Rage&Love&Ashes”

**Cleveland Duo with James Umble** 2008

Premiere of “Tattoos” with performances in Cleveland and Youngstown

**VERB Ballets** 2008

Featuring selections from “Metal Chamber”

Performed during Ground Works at Cleveland Public Theater

**Quorum New Music Ensemble** 2002

Featuring performance of “Iron and Aire”

# Conductor

**Inlet Dance Theatre and Cleveland Chamber Collective** 2021

Premiere of “Caliban Ascendant” in partnership with Inlet Dance Theatre and Cain Park

**The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra** 2021

Featuring Emerson’s “Waiting to Exhale”

**Cleveland Chamber Collective** 2020

Premiere of Emerson’s “Cast Thy Nighted Colour Off”

**Cleveland Chamber Collective** 2020

Premiere of Geoffrey Peterson’s “Drones”

**Cleveland Chamber Collective** 2019

Performance of Morris Moshe Cotel’s “Night of the Murdered Poets”

**Cleveland Chamber Collective** 2018

Leonard Bernstein Centennial Celebration

Including Emerson’s arrangements: Selections from “MASS,” “Halil,” “Overture to Candide,” “Slava!”

**No Exit** 2017

Premiere of Emerson’s “Darkling, I Listen”

**“Remember the Pines” at Arts Collinwood** 2015

Premiere of two-act musical by Nicholas Underhill

**Musical Theater Project and No Exit** 2014

Premiere of Emerson’s “Deconstructing Kurt Weil”

**Cleveland Chamber Collective** 2012

Premiere of Emerson’s “Music for the Play Elephant Man” and Lou Harrison’s “Rhymes with Silver”

**Cleveland Chamber Collective** 2011

Premiere of Emerson’s “Rage&Love&Ashes”

**Cleveland Chamber Collective** 2008

Metal Chamber Project. Music by:

* Ty Alan Emerson
* Nicholas Underhill
* Garrett Byrnes
* Kurt Doles
* Gary Philo

**Cleveland Chamber Collective** 2005

Premiere of Emerson’s “Doors”

**Cleveland Chamber Collective** 2004

Premiere of Emerson’s “Shadow Boxes”

# Non-profit Leadership

**Cleveland Chamber Collective 2007-Present**

Executive Director, Conductor

## Mission

## The Cleveland Chamber Collective is committed to the idea that great music can have a great impact. Leonard Bernstein said, “Art cannot change events. But it can affect people so that they are changed…enriched, ennobled, encouraged.” Our mission is to enrich, ennoble, and encourage the diverse people of our community by providing exceptional artistic experiences to all. We continue to seek out new and innovative ways to engage our community, challenging the normal performance paradigms. We further seek out similarly motivated partners in the hopes that our shared resources will have a greater impact than our work separately.

Responsible for all grant writing and reporting. Secured grants from:

* Argosy Foundation
* Cleveland Foundation
* Bascolm Little Fund
* Ohio Arts Council-ArtStart
* Ohio Arts Council-Artists on Tour
* Cuyahoga Arts and Culture-Project Support I
* Cuyahoga Arts and Culture-Project Support II

Organize and present virtual and in-person programs at multiple venues including:

* Cain Park
* The Pivot Center
* City Church
* Disciple's Church
* Chamber Music Society at Lyndhurst Presbyterian Church
* 78th St. Studios
* Cleveland Public Theater
* The Bop Stop
* Cleveland State University
* John Carroll University
* Kent State University-Stark Campus
* Church of the Redeemer

Design and implement new web-based elements:

* Website
* Sound Cloud
* You Tube
* Face Book

Design, organize, and execute all aspects of projects/concerts. Notable examples include:

**Caliban Ascendant** 2021

Collaboration with Inlet Dance to create and present a new ballet by Emerson at Cain Park. Also partnered with videographer to create a multi-camera recording of the piece, now available on the Collective’s website and You Tube channel.

**Music of America** 2020-22

An ongoing project which highlights American voices not typically heard. The programs are carefully curated and researched to ensure broad inclusivity. Videos from the livestream are available on the Collective’s website and You Tube channel.

Composers included:

* Andrea Clearfield
* Saad Haddad
* Rena Esmail
* Yaz Alexander
* Sarah Gibson
* Jessie Montgomery

**Leonard Bernstein Centennial Celebration**  2018

A curated program featuring new arrangements for the ensemble by Emerson

**Lou Harrison Centennial Celebration** 2017

Including seminal works such as “String Quartet Set” and “Varied Trio”

**Metal Chamber** 2008

Created an evening's length program inspired by Heavy Metal and Pop music. The intention was to generate enthusiasm for Classical Music by meeting young audiences where they are comfortable musically.  Record/video rehearsals and performances to create a series of MTV-style videos. This program was then made available on-line through a special portal designed for the program before You Tube became popular. The project included a performance at 78th St Studios just as they were beginning to build, giving us a distressed, industrial-like grit for a backdrop for the performance.

World Premiere and Notable performances of music by local composers including:

* Chris Auerbach-Brown
* Sebastian Birch
* Timothy Beyer
* Eric Charnofsky
* Kurt Doles
* Ty Alan Emerson
* Keith Fitch
* Margi Griebling-Haigh
* Monica Houghton
* Ned McGowan
* Jeffrey Rathbun
* Nicholas Underhill

**Cleveland Composers’ Guild** 2001-06

President, 2003-06

Responsible for all grant writing and reporting. Nearly tripled the Guild’s income through successful grant writing, raising over $85,000 during my tenure

Secured funds from:

* Murphy Foundation
* Cleveland Foundation
* Bascolm Little Fund
* Ohio Arts Council

In addition to arranging and curating concerts, booked named ensembles to increase quality of performances including

* Cleveland Duo with James Umble
* Cleveland Chamber Collective
* Gramercy Trio

Established connections with area schools of music and created programs that focused on specific studios. Organized multiple performances with them and whole days of master classes and clinics

* 2004, Saxophone studios from BGSU, YSU, BW, with performances at each campus. Performances by instructors and students. masterclasses at each venue.
* 2005, Low Brass studios at UA, CSU, BGSU. Performance at the University of Akron New Music Festival and a full day of masterclasses and clinics.
* 2006, Percussion studios from Oberlin, YSU, CSU. masterclasses at CSU throughout the day, with a final performance in Waetjen Hall.

Published an article on writing for the saxophone and the *Sax Night* project. Published in Saxophone Journal, V.29, No.1, 2004

Vice President, 2001-03

Responsible for all Communications and Financials

Oversaw the official securing of the Guild's 501 (c) 3 status

Helped with the launch of the Guild's CD release "Telling Tales"

Assisted and participated in a residency program at Interlochen, featuring the work "Iron and Aire"

Membership Committee Member (occasional)

Review prospective members work to assess craft and maturity of work

Programming Committee Member (occasional)

Review submitted material and design a program that is interesting to attend and also supports as many members as possible while staying in budget.

# Commercial Recordings

**Taking Charge** released 2017

Albany Records: Albany, NY

ASSEMBL3Y

Featuring Emerson’s “Prospero on the Beach”

**Telling Tales: Cleveland Composers’ Guild** released 2004

Capstone Records: Brooklyn, NY

Various performers

Featuring Emerson’s “Birch Whispers”

# Quotes and Reviews

**Mark Satola, Radio Personality and Music Critic**

**Bill Wade, Inlet Dance Theatre, Executive and Artistic Director**

“The sonic world of Ty’s “Caliban Ascendant” is lush, rich in both Western and Eastern citations of tone and rhythm, and clear regarding character development. It is full of detail.

The large audience at the premiere immediately jumped to their feet with a rousing standing ovation that was unusually loud and long lasting. It was clear they appreciated the quality of the music, choreography, and performance. The social statement in the work was also clearly received and appreciated by the multigenerational and multi-ethnic audience. I’ve received numerous emails and direct messages regarding the impact of Ty’s music combined with Inlet’s artistry.

Ty is an utmost professional with a very high skill set and he is very deserving of accolades and awards for his mature artistry and willingness to lean into our society’s pressing unresolved inequities.”

**Peter Feher, Cleveland Classical Music Critic**

“Ty Alan Emerson—who composed the score, adapted the story…and conducted Sunday’s premiere—didn’t skimp on the musical demands.

The work calls for a battery of percussion and a group of chamber musicians willing to play outside of the box, from passages for prepared piano to extended technique after extended technique. The Collective, some of whom are members of The Cleveland Orchestra, gave a clean, confident reading of the piece, at a level you’ll only hear from established ensemble players.”

**Daniel Hathaway, Cleveland Classical Music Critic**

“Ty Alan Emerson led a tight performance by the live musicians. *Drones*made a strong initial impression, suggesting more details would be revealed in a second hearing.”

**Nicholas Stevens, Cleveland Classical Music Critic**

“Darkling, I Listen… resembled a single painted brushstroke on an otherwise blank canvas. Variable in thickness, color, and height, drawn against silence and always threatening to run out...”

**Eric Kisch, Cleveland WCLV Radio Personality and Music Critic**

“This is a young man with a great future ahead of him.  I look forward to many musical experiences from his pen.”

**Andrew Adler, Louisville Courier-Journal Music Critic**

regarding the performance of “Dedications” at the Resolution 2000 Music Festival

[it] “possessed surprising emotional resonance and was quite expertly wrought.”

# Complete works list

#### **Chamber**

#### ​Pan Songs

Steelpan or collection of indefinite pitch percussion arranged like a steelpan

A Day at the Faire

Flute/Piccolo (Fife), Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Harpsichord, Harp, Percussionist

#### [Lorraine](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/lorraine)

#### Viola, Cello, Piano (In Memory of My Mother)

#### 

#### Shelter-In-Place

#### Flute, Violin, Viola, Cello, Piano, Percussion

#### 

#### Book of Trios

#### Violin, Viola, Cello

#### (An ever-growing collection of short pieces)

#### 

Waiting to Exhale

Jazz Octet

#### [Love and Other Missed-Spellings](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/sets/love-and-other-missed-spellings)

#### Saxophones (1 Player), Vibes, Piano, Drum Set

#### (a set of 6 mvts. selections can be played separately)

#### Overtures

#### Beautiful Stranger

#### Wrapped Up In You

#### Mary-Go-Round

#### Waiting to Exhale

#### Nostalgia

#### [Cast Thy Nighted Colour Off](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/cast-thy-nighted-colour-off)

#### B-Flat Clarinet/Bass Clarinet, Piano, 2 Percussionists

#### (also available for Soprano/Baritone Saxophone, Piano, 2 Percussionists)

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#### [Homage to Lou](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/sets/homage-to-lou-harrison)

#### Violin, Piano, Percussionist

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#### [Darkling, I Listen](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/darkling-i-listen)

#### Flute, Violin, Viola, Cello, Piano, Percussionist

#### 

#### [Caliban Ascendant](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/sets/caliban-ascendant)

#### Flute, Violin, Viola, Cello, Piano, 2 Percussionists

#### (a set of 4 mvts. selections can be played separately)

#### Prospero on the Beach (also available for flute, piano, perc)

#### Ariel

#### Caliban (also available for flute and piano)

#### Prospero Exiled

#### [Tripartite](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/sets/tripartite)

#### Violin, Viola, Cello

#### 

#### [Music from the Play Elephant Man](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/sets/music-for-the-play-elephant-man)

#### Flute, Violin I+II, Viola, Cello, Piano

#### 

#### [Rage&Love&Ashes](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/sets/rage-and-love-and-ashes)

#### Flute, Violin I+II, Viola, Cello, Piano

#### 

#### Rogue

#### Flute, Horn in F, Piano

#### 

#### [Metal Chamber](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/sets/metal-chamber-1)

#### Flute, Violin I+II, Viola, Cello, Piano

#### (a set of 4 mvts. selections can be played separately)

#### Overtures

#### Mary-Go-Round

#### Blood and Oil

#### Maiden Glass

#### 

#### [Tattoos](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/tattoos)

#### Violin, Alto Saxophone, Piano

#### 

#### [Piano Sonata](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/sets/piano-sonata)

#### 

#### [Doors](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/sets/doors)

#### Flute, Violin I+II, Viola, Cello, Piano

#### 

#### [Tryptich](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/sets/triptych)

#### Alto Saxophone, Piano

#### 

#### [Iron And Aire](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/iron-and-aire)

#### Violin, Alto Saxophone, Piano

Trombone Quartet

#### 

#### [Dedications](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/sets/dedications)

#### Violin, Cello, Piano

#### 

#### [In Us](https://soundcloud.com/user-536763688/in-us)

#### Percussion sextet

**Large Ensemble**

Shelter-in-Place

Chamber Orchestra

2020 Meditation

String Orchestra and Percussion

Darkling I Listen

Orchestra

Chihuly Sketch

Orchestra

After All Is Said and Done

Wind Ensemble

After Vietnam

Wind Ensemble

Fear in a Handful of Dust

Wind Ensemble

Kansas Town When the Sun Goes Down

Wind Ensemble

5 Pieces

Concerto for Alto Saxophone, Piano, and Wind Ensemble

Concerto for Harp

With Wind Ensemble