



**Christina S. Rusnak**  
**Composer / Explorer / Cultural Catalyst**  
Curriculum Vitae

2712 NE 13<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Portland, OR, 97212  
Website: <http://christinarusnak.com>

971-275-2534 C

[cusrusak27@gmail.com](mailto:cusrusak27@gmail.com)

### **Profile**

Passionate about composing about place and the human experience, composer **Christina Rusnak** works at the intersection of place, nature, culture, history and art to integrate context into her music from the world around her to convey something meaningful about the human experience. Ms. Rusnak composes for diverse instrumentations, including Chamber Ensemble, Orchestra, Wind Band, Choral, Jazz, Electro-acoustic Film and Solo works, with lyrical lines, and organic rhythms and textures.

### **Leadership & Board Service** (most recent)

**Board President**, International Alliance for Women in Music, 2020-2024; Treasurer 2016-2019  
**Director**, Composing in the Wilderness Seminar, Alaska, 2019  
**Interim Executive Director**, Orchestra 2001, 2010-2011

### **Awards and Grants** (most recent)

**American Prize 2025**, Finalist, Composition, Orchestra, *Time After All*  
**American Prize 2024**, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Award; Composition, Orchestra, *The South Pass*  
**American Prize 2024**, Finalist, Composition Chamber Ensemble, *FREE LAND*  
**Global Music Awards, Bronze Winner 2023**, Composer for *Voices of the Land* recording  
**Regional Arts and Culture Council Grant**, 2023 to record *Voices of the Land*  
**Regional Arts and Culture Council Grant**, 2022 to record *Pine Meadow*  
**Oregon Arts Commission Grant**, 2020 to travel to Visby for VICC residency

### **Education**

**Masters in Music Composition**; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, 2010; Summa Cum Laude  
**Graduate Certification, Arts Leadership**, University of North Texas, 2010; Summa Cum Laude  
**Graduate Certification, Cultural Planning**, University of British Columbia, 2017

### **Compositions** (abbreviated selection – see website for more)

<i>King Tides</i>	<i>Piano Trio</i>	<i>Fall 2025</i>
In the Water I See My Dreams.	SSA HS Choir	2025
Steppin' Up	Jazz Ensemble/Band	2025
Wide Open Spaces	Horn and Piano	2024
Life Across the Sea	Symphonic Wind Ensemble	2024
Time After All	Orchestra (Grade 5)	2023
Unbidden	Piano Solo	2022
SWELL	Percussion Solo with Electronics	2022
Respite	Clarinet Solo	2022

Pine Meadow	Percussion Quartet	2022
The Forest & the Architect	Flute, Clarinet, French Horn, Violin, Cello	2021
The South Pass	Chamber Orchestra	2021
Water and Stone	Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello & Percussion	2021
Call for Justice	Saxophone Quartet	2021
Fanfare for Justice	French Horn Quartet & Solo	2020
Hyas Tye Temwata	Adaptable Small Wind Ensemble	2020/2019
The Coast in Winter	Adaptable Small Wind Ensemble with Soloist	2020/2018
Dune	Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello	2020
Liberty's Light	Women's a' Capella Choir	2019
Passage	Wind Symphony	2019
Dusk	Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Marimba (piano 2008)	2019
Hyas Tye Temwata	Wind Band	2019
WYAM, Celilo Falls	Flute, Piccolo, Clarinet, Fr. Horn, Bass, & Percussion Quartet	2018
Oregon Trail (3 mvmts)	Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Percussion,	2018
A House Divided	Viola, Piano (for Kino Films)	2018
Querido Difunto	Women's Choir (Dearly Departed in Spanish)	2017 (orig Eng.2016)
Queridos Amados	Women's Choir (Dearly Beloved in Spanish)	2017 (orig Eng. 2011)
Glacier Blue	Cello Solo	2017
The Way Through	Violin, Cello, Clarinet, Marimba	2015
Canyon Voices	Flute, Clarinet/Bs Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Perc	2014
Coal Creek	2 violins, Bass Clarinet, Marimba	2013
FREE LAND	Percussion, Flute, Violin, Cello, Trumpet	2012

### Performances (abbreviated selection)

Wide Open Spaces	Eugene Oregon & Seattle WA	January/July 2025
Unbidden	Eugene Oregon & Seattle WA	January/July 2025
Le Jardin Perdu	Various, Oregon & Washington (9 perf.)	March-June 2024
Pine Meadow	Thomas Jefferson HS Richmond, VA	November 2023
The Forest & the Architect	Juventas New Music Ensemble, Boston Mass	November 2023
Canyon Voices	Juventas New Music Ensemble, Boston Mass	September 2023
The Forest & the Architect	Frederick Law Olmsted Nat'l Historic Site	July 2023
Kyripo	Teatro di San Lorenzo, Italy	May, 2023
SWELL	Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon	August 2022
Respite	Leach Botanical Gardens, Portland OR	August 2022
The Forest & the Architect	Six performances: Boston (2), NYC (2), Rochester NY, Houghton, Michigan	March-October 2022
Fear: Unspoken Geography	IAWM International Conference, Corvallis OR	June 2022
Dusk Quartet	Lincoln Hall, Portland Oregon	February 2020
Glacier Blue	Weill Hall, Carnegie Hall, New York	February 2020
Oregon Trail Suite	FeNAM, Sacramento CA,	November 2019
Kyripo	Women's Music Festival, Velos, Greece	September 2019
The Coast in Winter	Winona State University, Minnesota	April 2019
The Mountain Within	Beaverton Symphony Orchestra	November 2018
Coal Creek	Portland, OR	May 2017

### Recordings / Films (abbreviated selection)

**Voices of the Land**, Six Chamber works; Juventas New Music Ensemble, Navona Records: 2023  
**Unbidden**, Contemporary Eclectic Music for the Piano #23, Jeffrey Jacobs, Ariel Records; 2022  
**Dusk**, Jazz and Meditations, Jeffrey Jacobs # 16, Ariel Records: 2020  
**Glacier Blue**, Moto Celeste, Ovidiu Marinescu, Navona Records / Parma Recordings: 2019  
**Dearly Departed & Dearly Beloved**, Intersections, Performed by Vocal Luna, Ansonica Records / Parma Recordings: 2016

## Commissions, & Residencies (abbreviated selection)

- 2024 **Commission: *Wide Open Spaces***, The Grapefruits  
2023 **Commission: *Life Across the Sea***, Winona State University, Minnesota  
2022 **Residency**, Visby International Centre for Composers, Visby, Sweden  
2021 **Commission and Residency, *Pine Meadow***, Pine Meadow Ranch, RoundHouse Foundation; September  
2021 **Commission: *The Forest and the Architect***, American Wild Ensemble + Consortium  
2021 **Commission: *Rosalie en Haar Trouwe Meubels, and Un ravalement précipité***, Piano (Silent Films) by Carlton University, Ottawa, CA  
2020 **Commission: *Fanfare for Justice*** for Low Horn Solo and for Horn Quartet by Mark Olsen  
2019 **Commission: *Oregon Trail***, Landscape Music; performed by Citywater at the Festival of New American Music, Sacramento, CA  
2017 **Commission: *Glacier Blue*** for solo cello by Third Angle New Music Ensemble  
2016 **Commission: *Dearly Departed*** by Vocal Luna Ensemble  
2014 **Commission: *The Way Through*** for North Cascades National Park  
2013 **Commission: *Canyon Voices*** by Oregon State Parks: Composer in Residence for Cottonwood Canyon State Park  
2012 **Commission: *Free Land*** by Homestead National Monument  
2010 **Commission: *Rapartee*** by Bottom Line Duo  
2009-10 **Commission: *161 Glass*** by Dallas Contemporary Museum for the new Art Space

## Published Essays, Articles and Interviews. (abbreviated selection)

- Voices of the Land*, October 2023 Navona Records  
<https://www.navonarecords.com/news/inside-story-christina-rusnak-voices-of-the-land/>  
*Widening Inclusion & Visibility*, July 5, 2018, New Music Box  
<https://nmbx.newmusicusa.org/widening-inclusion-visibility/>  
*Commissioning Landscape Music*, June 2017, Landscape Music.org  
<http://landscapemusic.org/essays/commissioning-landscape-music/>  
*New Music and Place: Creating Community*, April 25, 2016, New Music Box,  
<http://www.newmusicbox.org/articles/new-music-and-place-creating-community/>  
*Composing Advocacy: Social Voices*, April 19, 2016, New Music Box,  
<http://www.newmusicbox.org/articles/composing-advocacy-social-voices/>  
*Money, Support and the Voice of New Music*, April 13, 2016, New Music Box,  
<http://www.newmusicbox.org/articles/money-support-and-the-voice-of-new-music/>  
*New Music as Advocacy for Place*, April 4, 2016, New Music Box,  
<http://www.newmusicbox.org/articles/new-music-as-advocacy-for-place/>

## References

- Andrea Reinkemeyer, Director of Composition, George Mason University,  
[andrea@andreareinkemeyer.com](mailto:andrea@andreareinkemeyer.com) Phone 503-883-2571  
Oliver Caplan, Artistic Director, Juventas New Music Ensemble, [oliver.caplan@juventasmusic.org](mailto:oliver.caplan@juventasmusic.org)  
Phone 617-894-0359  
Libby Meyer, Professor, Director of Composition, Michigan Tech University, [ecmeyer@mtu.edu](mailto:ecmeyer@mtu.edu)  
Phone 906-487-3015  
Stephen Lias, Stephen F. Austin, Professor, Composition, [slias@sfasu.edu](mailto:slias@sfasu.edu) Phone: 936-468-4056