

Curriculum Vitae  
**Beth Ratay**

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**Education:**

Doctor of Musical Arts, World Music Composition (December 2013)

University of California, Santa Cruz, CA

Thesis: *Zrcadlit Se (To Be Reflected) Spiegeln*

Committee Chair: David Evan Jones

Teachers: David Evan Jones, Paul Nauert, David Cope, Ben Carson, Hi Kyung Kim

Master of Music, Music Composition (May 2007)

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Thesis: *Sapphire and Gold*

Committee Chair: James R. DeMars

Teachers: James R. DeMars, Jody Rockmaker, Rodney Rogers

Bachelor of Music, Music Composition with Honors (May 2005)

Minor: Germanic Studies

University of Colorado, Boulder, Boulder, CO

Thesis: *Die Sonette an Orpheus* Advisor: Michael Theodore

Teachers: Michael Theodore, John Drumheller, Richard Toensing

**Commissions:**

*“Homecoming”* from Expatria an aria for soprano and piano, libretto by Basil Considine

- Commissioned by: Bree Nichols and Really Spicy Opera

*In the House of Serenity* for three sopranos and one mezzo-soprano and piano, libretto by Laura Fuentes (2021)

- Commissioned by: the Boston Opera Collaborative
- Premiere scheduled for January 2021

*BUGS* music for young dancers for piano and voice (2020)

- Commissioned by: Adagio Dance Studio Grand Junction, CO

*The Total Spiritual* for three sopranos, flute, clarinet, percussion, violins (2), viola, and cello (2020), libretto by Rich Orloff,

- Commissioned by: the Boston Opera Collaborative
- First Performance (version for two sopranos, violin and piano): September 19, 2020 by Alter Ego Chamber Opera
- Performances are being scheduled by the Boston Opera Collaborative and Hartford Opera Theater

### **Commissions (continued):**

***Miniatures*** for Piccolo, Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet and Percussion (2018)

- Commissioned by the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Forum
- Premiere: July 2018 by the Oregon Bach Festival Composers

***A Womb with a View*** for four sopranos, one actor, flute, clarinet, percussion, violins (2), viola, and cello (2017) libretto by Rich Orloff

- Commissioned by: The Boston Opera Collaborative and the Boston New Music Initiative
- Premiere: November 10-12, 2017 in Cambridge, MA by Boston Opera Collaborative and the Boston New Music Initiative, Tian Hui Ng, conducting, Patricia Weinmann, stage director
- Additional Performances by:  
Opera Fayetteville (May 2018) and Hartford Opera Theater (November 2019)

***Mystery and Miracle*** for women's chorus (SSA), narrator violin, and piano (2017)

- Commissioned by: the Third International Convocation of Unitarian\*Universalist Women and People of Progressive Faith
- Premiere: February 19, 2017 in Monterey, CA

***CrashBang*** for clarinet, bass trombone and percussion (2006)

- Commissioned by: Kyle Forsthoff, Josh Gardner and Seth Vatt
- Premiere: January 28, 2006 in Tempe, AZ

***Background Noise*** for percussion solo (2002)

- Commissioned by: Kyle Forsthoff
- Premiere: January 2004 in Lexington, KY

***Czech Folk Song Suite*** Grade 3 piece for band (2002)

- Commissioned by: Summit Ridge Middle School
- Premiere: May 2002 in Littleton, CO
- Published by T.U.X People's Music

### **Other Works and Performances:**

***"Four Walls"*** from *Some Imagined Opera* an aria for soprano and piano, libretto by Marianna Mott Newirth

***"These Are SVR"*** from *An Inconvenient Flame* an aria for soprano and piano, libretto by Basil Considine

***Morpheus Quartet*** a one-act opera for two sopranos, countertenor, and baritone accompanied by string quartet, libretto by John Glore (2022)  
***Loure*** Grade 1 piece for band (2021)

- Published by T.U.X People's Music

***March of the Jackalopes*** Grade 1 piece for band (2021)

- Published by T.U.X People's Music

**Other Works and Performances (continued):**

*Meanwhile, upstairs...* A micro-opera for mezzo-soprano, bass-baritone and piano based on an internet meme (2020) <https://youtu.be/9ae49jpVqUc>

*Winging It* for solo bass clarinet, inspired by the art of Wassily Kandinsky (2020)  
Premiere by Stephanie Clark, January 2021

*Who did so tousele your dark hair?* for solo clarinet, inspired by a poem by Antonín Sova (2020)  
Premiere by: Yhasmin Valenzuela-Blanchard, clarinet, November 2020

*Evensong* for solo soprano, poem by Vítězslav Hálek  
Recorded by: Stephanie Lamprea, soprano, June 2020

*Paysage Triste* for countertenor, violin and crotales (2019), a setting of poems by Paul Verlaine  
• Premiere: April 7, 2019 in Boston, MA by the Boston New Music Initiative

*Three Czech Songs* for SSATBB chorus unaccompanied (2018), a setting of poems by Karel Toman and Irma Geislova  
• Premiere of “Sundial”: May 19 & 20, 2018 in Boston, MA, Raymond Fahrner conducting the Cambridge Chamber Singers

*Medicus Mortem* for baritone, tenor, soprano, flute, clarinet, piano, violin, viola, cello, and bass (2017), libretto by Andrew Rechnitz  
• Premiere: January 18 & 19, 2019 in San Francisco, CA, West Edge Opera and Earplay

*Three Windows* for mixed chorus, women’s chorus, alto flute and narrator (2015)  
• Premiere: May 21, 2016 in Boston and Lexington, MA, Raymond Fahrner conducting the Cambridge Chamber Singers

*Helical Bricks* for marimba and multi-percussion (2014)  
• Premiere: March 31, 2017 in Kalamazoo, MI at the Society of Composers, Inc. National Conference, by Coalescence Percussion Duo

*Zrcadlit Se (To Be Reflected) Spiegeln* for soprano and baritone soloists with flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, horn, violin, cello and percussion (2013)  
• Poets: Rainer Maria Rilke, Jiří Karásek ze Lvovic, Otokar Březina, František Hrubín  
• Premiere: March 13, 2014 in Santa Cruz, CA, Nathaniel Berman conducting, Vanessa Langer, soprano, Elliott Nguyen, baritone  
• Second Performance: April 25, 2014 in Oakland, CA Nathaniel Berman conducting, Vanessa Langer, soprano, Sergey Khalikulov, baritone  
• Premiere of “Jednou po západu slunce”: April 3, 2011 in Santa Cruz, CA  
• Second Performance of “Jednou po západu slunce”: January 29, 2012 in Santa Cruz, CA by Mosaic, Camille Chitwood conducting  
• Performance of “Die Gazelle”: March 28, 2018 in Boston, MA by Yoo Sun Na and Joshua Ziemann

**Other Works and Performances (continued):**

*Cat Songs* for mezzo-soprano soloist, two clarinets, violin, cello and marimba (2011)

- Poets: Rainer Maria Rilke, Beth Ratay, Pablo Neruda
- Premiere: April 3, 2011 in Santa Cruz, CA

*Czech Dances* for flute/piccolo, clarinet/bass clarinet and marimba (two players) (2010)

- Premiere: April 3, 2011 in Santa Cruz, CA
- Second Performance: April 23, 2018 in Washington, DC by Third Millennium Ensemble

*Painting for Strings* for string quartet (2010)

three movements inspired by paintings from the Phoenix Art Museum

- Premiere of “Strings in the Pool”: April 20, 2011 in Santa Cruz, CA for the April in Santa Cruz Contemporary Music Festival

*Chorale and Flourish* for two trumpets and two trombones (2010)

- Premiere: April 3, 2011 in Santa Cruz, CA

*Song Without Words* for solo piano (2010)

- Premiere: July 24, 2010 in Littleton, CO
- Performance: April 3, 2011 in Santa Cruz, CA
- Performance: March 6-9, 2015 in Hartford, CT for the Women Composers Festival of Hartford
- Recording forthcoming from Nous Records

*Prelude* for flute, clarinet and cello (2009)

- Premiere: April 3, 2011 in Santa Cruz, CA

*Sapphire and Gold* a concertino for solo clarinet and wind ensemble (2007)

*Conservation of Mass* for solo vibraphone (2006)

- Premiere: November 2007 in Lexington, KY

*Einmal* for mixed chorus (2006)

- Premiere: May 3, 2008 in Phoenix, AZ by: The Phoenix Symphony Chorus, Dr. Gregory Gentry, conducting

*Personality Flaws* for solo euphonium (or trombone) and three flutes (2006)

- Premiere: September 11, 2006 in Tempe, AZ
- Second Performance: April 27, 2012 in Santa Cruz, CA for the April in Santa Cruz music festival

*Die Sonette an Orpheus* for soprano soloist, flute, clarinet, bassoon, violin, cello and percussion (2005)

- Poet: Rainer Maria Rilke
- Premiere: April 9, 2005 in Boulder, CO
- Second Performance: April 2006 in Tempe, AZ

*Caricatures* for solo bass (2003)

- Premiere: April 9, 2005 in Boulder, CO
- Second Performance: February 3, 2012 in Santa Cruz, CA

**Other Works and Performances (continued):**

*Sketches* for flutes (2003)

- Premiere: April 9, 2005 in Boulder, CO

*Furiant* for concert band (2001)

- Premiere: April 2007 in Tempe, AZ

*Rest* for tenor, clarinet and bassoon (2001)

- Premiere: April 2002 in Boulder, CO

*Concertino* for solo flute and wind ensemble (2000)

- Premiere: February 2002 in Boulder, CO by The University of Colorado Wind Ensemble, directed by Allan McMurray, Javier Montilla, flute
- Performed in November 2021 by Sarah Jane Young with UNF Bands

**Teaching and Professional Experience:**

Adjunct Instructor, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM (August 2022 - present)

- Instructor for Ear Training Labs for all levels of Theory

Teaching Artist, Santa Fe Opera Active Learning Through Opera program, Santa Fe, New Mexico (August 2022 - present)

- Teaching after school program in Rio Rancho where students develop and compose their own opera as part of a once weekly after school program
- Develop and teach residencies and workshops which combine the creation of music with the learning of core curriculum

Adjunct Instructor, Roxbury Community College, Boston, Massachusetts (September - December 2019)

- Primary instructor for 3 credit, 16 week semester courses. Class size approximately 20 students per section. Coach and teach on vocal and choral performance
  - HUM 101 - Choral Music I

Adjunct Instructor, Bunker Hill Community College, Boston, Massachusetts (January 2017 - May 2020)

- Primary instructor for 3 credit, 16 week semester courses. Class size approximately 20 students per section. Gave lectures, held office hours, wrote and graded assignments, quizzes and exams, consulted on establishment of new music curriculum, and the assessment of Student Learn Outcomes.
  - MUS 101 - Music Fundamentals
  - MUS 132 - Piano II
  - MUS 144 - World Music
  - MUS 147 - Music in the US

*(Continued on the next page)*

### **Teaching and Professional Experience (continued):**

Artistic Director, Boston New Music Initiative, Boston, Massachusetts (January 2015 - present)

- Responsible for concert series planning and logistics, 2-5 concerts per year.
- Responsible for artistic planning and development, including hosting four 4 calls for scores each year, and coordinating artistic collaborations with other organizations
- Worked as Assistant Director of Concert Series from January 2015 - January 2016
- Worked as Director of Concert Series from January 2016 - May 2017
- Appointed as Artistic Director in May 2017

President, Ratajova Publishing, LLC, Somerville, Massachusetts (July 2015 - present)

- Publishing company that specializes in providing music for college and community musical groups
- Responsibilities include engraving, editing, publicity, website design and maintenance fiscal planning

Adjunct Instructor, Hartnell College, Salinas, California (September 2012 - July 2014)

- Chief organizer for the yearly Music Department Extravaganza, a concert/fundraiser in which all music ensembles at Hartnell participate, and is attended by over 100 community members
- Primary instructor for 3 credit, 18 week semester courses. Class size approximately 40 students per section. Gave lectures, held office hours, wrote and graded assignments, quizzes and exams.
- Created the Music 8 (American Popular Music) course and have helped to shape and develop curriculum in the other courses. Additionally, I helped to design and make purchase decisions for the for the music computer lab and recording studio.
  - MUS 2 - Music Fundamentals
  - MUS 5 - Ethnic Music in the U.S.
  - MUS 8 - American Popular Music
  - MUS 42/43 - Digital Recording/MIDI Sequencing

Adjunct Instructor, Gavilan College, Gilroy, California (August 2013 - May 2014)

- Primary instructor for 3 credit (plus 1 credit for musicianship lab), 16 week semester courses. Class size approximately 10 students per section. Gave lectures, held office hours, wrote and graded assignments, quizzes and exams, ran lab sections.
- Helped to develop appropriate curriculum for the Harmony/Theory/Musicianship series.
  - MUS 3A - Harmony/Theory/Musicianship I
  - MUS 3B - Harmony/Theory/Musicianship II
  - MUS 7 - Songwriting and Composition

Lecturer, Music Department, University of California, Santa Cruz (April 2013 - June 2013)

- Primary instructor for 5 credit, 10 week quarter course. Class size approximately 20 students per section. Gave lectures, held office hours, wrote and graded assignments, quizzes and exams, oversaw one teaching assistant who ran keyboard and musicianship labs.
  - MUSC 15 - Preparatory Musicianship

### **Teaching and Professional Experience (continued):**

Graduate Teaching Assistant, History Department, University of California, Santa Cruz  
(January 2013 - March 2013)

- Responsible for running weekly discussion sections, grading weekly film responses and essays.
- HIST 172C - Postwar German Film

Graduate Research Assistant, Music Department, University of California, Santa Cruz  
(September 2012 - December 2013)

- Assisted with layout and editing of musical examples for Anatole Leiken's book on Chopin's Preludes

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Music Department, University of California, Santa Cruz  
(September 2009 - June 2012)

- Responsible for planning and teaching lab sections (keyboard and sight-singing), providing aural skills practice and grading weekly assignments, midterms and finals. Sections of 5 students per quarter.
  - MUSC 30A, B and C - Theory, Literature and Musicianship
- Responsible for running review sessions, grading essays, guiding online discussions, writing exams and classrooms setup. Class contained 400 students per quarter.
  - MUSC 80H - Hollywood Musicals
  - MUSC 80V - Music of the Beatles
  - MUSC 11C - American Popular Music

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Arizona State University (August 2005 - May 2007)

- Responsible for planning and teaching aural skills sections and grading written theory assignments, one section of 20 students per semester.
  - MTC 125 - Basic Music Theory
  - MTC 221 - 18th Century Music Theory

Midwest District Secretary/Treasurer, Kappa Kappa Psi (March 2004 - March 2005)

- responsible for budget, fundraising and minute keeping for the Midwest District
- assisted in planning yearly convention

Librarian and Band Manager, University of Colorado, Boulder (August 2004 - May 2005)

- Responsible for rehearsal setup and distribution of music.

Private Flute, Clarinet and Piano Instructor (August 1996 - August 2005)

- Taught beginning to intermediate students from 8 years old to 16 years old.

Vice President of Public Relations, Kappa Kappa Psi, Alpha Iota Chapter (August 2003 - May 2004)

- responsible for marketing, recruiting and composition contest for the fraternity

**Performing Experience:**

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/ProfessorBethRatay>  
Chorus Member, New Mexico Symphonic Chorus (August 2021 - present)  
Chorus Member, Back Bay Chorale (September 2014 - December 2018)  
Chorus Member, Cambridge Chamber Singers (September 2014 - May 2020)  
Chorus Member, Harvard Summer Chorus (June 2015 - August 2016)  
Member, Junction 68 A Cappella Group (January 2014 - July 2014)  
Principal Flutist, University of California, Santa Cruz Orchestra (January 2010 - June 2012)  
Flutist, University of California, Santa Cruz Woodwind Quintet (August 2009 - June 2012)  
Guest Performer (Flute), April in Santa Cruz New Music Festival (April 2011 & 2012)  
Extra Chorister, San Francisco Symphony Chorus (Fall 2009)  
Chorus Member, Phoenix Symphony Chorus (August 2007 - June 2008)  
Flutist, Arizona State University Wind Ensemble (August 2005 - May 2007)  
Chorister, Arizona State University Symphonic Chorale (August 2005 - May 2007)  
Clarinetist, Arizona State University Concert Band (August 2005 - May 2007)  
Clarinetist, University of Colorado, Boulder Symphonic Band (August 2003 - May 2005)  
Chorister, University of Colorado, Boulder University Choir (August 2002 - May 2005)  
Flutist and Clarinetist, University of Colorado, Boulder Concert Band (August 2000 - May 2005)

**Awards and Scholarships:**

Featured Composition, Society of Composers, Inc National Conference (March 2017)  
Invited Composer, Women Composer's Festival of Hartford (March 2015)  
University of California, Santa Cruz Graduate Division Fellowship (September 2009 - June 2010)  
Grammy Award for Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance, National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (2010) for *Mahler: Symphony No. 8; Adagio From Symphony No. 10* (chorus member)  
Herberger College of Arts Music Composition Award, Arizona State University (August 2005 - May 2006)  
Flute/Piccolo player, Kappa Kappa Psi National Intercollegiate Honor Band (July 2005)  
Dean's List, University of Colorado, Boulder (August 2000 - May 2005)  
Delta Phi Alpha, National German Honor Society, Beta Delta chapter (inducted May 2004)  
Nancy and Ted Anderson Composition Scholarship (August 2002 - May 2004)  
Pi Kappa Lambda, National Music Honor Society, Alpha Tau chapter (inducted May 2003)  
Kappa Kappa Psi, National Honorary Band Fraternity, Alpha Iota chapter (inducted April 2002)  
James M. Grossi Composition Fellowship, University of Colorado, Boulder (August 2000 - May 2001)



**Publications:**

- “Pitch-Focus and Line in Harrison Birtwistle’s ‘Todtnauberg’”  
• Published as part of dissertation, December 2013

**Course Highlights:**

Leoš Janáček’s Operatic Text-Setting Practices (Music History)  
Northrop Frye, Friedrich Nietzsche and the Faust operas of Gounod and Busoni (Critical Theory)  
Music of Harrison Birtwistle (Music Theory)  
World Music Composition  
Music of Central Asia  
Algorithmic Composition (Electronic Music)  
Romantic Music (Music Theory)  
Mussorgsky (Music History)  
20th Century Counterpoint  
Orchestration  
History of Opera  
18th Century Counterpoint  
16th Century Counterpoint  
Introduction to Music Technology (Pro-Tools, Finale, Sibelius, Audacity)  
Post-Tonal Analysis (Music Theory)  
Women Composers (Music History)  
Tonal Analysis (Music Theory)  
Musician’s Acoustics (Physics)  
Balinese Gamelan

**Language Competencies:**

English, German (conversational spoken, and fluent written) and Czech (written only).

**References:**

Anatole Leiken, Professor of Music Theory, University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC)  
E-mail: asl@ucsc.edu Phone: 831-459-2804  
Supervising Professor for MUSC 30B and C, Winter - Spring 2011, and GSR Fall 2012 -  
Spring 2013

Mark Popeney, Chair of the Performing Arts Department, Bunker Hill Community College  
E-mail: mpopeney@bhcc.mass.edu Phone: 617-228-2219  
Department Chair, Spring 2017

Steve Ettinger, Department Chair, Music Department, Hartnell College  
E-mail: settinger@hartnell.edu Phone: 831-755-6906  
Department Chair, Fall 2012 - Summer 2014

David Evan Jones, Professor of Music Composition and Theory, University of California,  
Santa Cruz  
E-mail: dej@ucsc.edu Phone: 831-459-3700  
Dissertation Advisor, Fall 2012 - December 2013

Ben Carson, Associate Professor of Music Composition and Theory, University of  
California, Santa Cruz  
E-mail: blc@ucsc.edu Phone: 831-459-5581  
Supervising Professor for MUSC 30A, Fall 2010 and MUSC 11C, Fall 2009  
Member of Qualifying Exam and Dissertation Committees