
BENJAMIN SCHMALZ M.Mus., MA

105 MacEwan Glen Place, Calgary, AB, T3K 2C7, 403 437 8267 benpaulsmusic@gmail.com

SUMMARY

Well-rounded musician with expertise in performing, educating, composition/arranging, and leadership with other musicians. Trained and interested in all fundamental aspects of musicianship including performance, composition/arrangements, theory/harmony, history, and accompanying.

GOALS

Gain more experience instructing music theory along with classical, pop, and jazz piano performance. Examine music theory and piano students through RCM. Gain more experience performing various genres as a soloist and with other performers in small and large ensembles. Publish arrangements and original music for solo instruments, electronics, and ensembles along with scores for film, video games, and TV series.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Music Theory - University of Western Ontario (2022 - 2023)

- Studied with project director Dr. Catherine Nolan, composer Dr. Troy Ducharme, music theorist Dr. Kevin Mooney and educator Dr. Katherine Walshaw

Master of Music in Piano Performance and Literature - University of Western Ontario (2020 - 2022)

- Studied with pianists Stéphan Sylvestre (M.Mus), James Hibbard, Dr. Leslie Kinton and Marianna Chibotar-Rutkevich (M.Mus)

Piano Performance, Ensemble and Composition Studies - Cremona, Italy International Music Academy and Festival (July 2019)

- Studied with pianists Dr. Sandy Herbert, Dr. Irena Kofman, Dr. Svetlana Krasnova, Mana Tokuno and composer Whitman Brown

Private Piano Performance Studies - Calgary, AB (2018 - 2020)

- With Derek Chui (M.Mus) Performer, Adjudicator, lecturer, Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) examiner and Alberta Regional Representative for the RCM

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Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance - University of Regina (2014 - 2018)

- Studied with Dr. Christine Vanderkooy, David L. McIntyre (M.Mus) and Dr. Katherine Dowling

RCM ARCT in Piano Performance (2013)

- Studied with Julia Haager (M.Mus) at Mount Royal University in Calgary, AB

RCM Grade 8 Cello exam (2013)

- Studied with Kirill Kalmykov (M.Mus) at Mount Royal University

Various Summer Piano Intensives (2009 – 2013)

- With Dr. Jamie Syer, Dr. Terry Dawson, Marcel and Elizabeth Bergmann, Dr. David Moroz, Dr. Dale Wheeler, Glen Montgomery, Kathy Dornian (M.Mus) and Marilyn Engel (MScM)

WORK HISTORY

Dundas Conservatory of Music (Fall 2023 – Spring 2025)

- Instructs piano and music theory to students of all levels and ages
- Piano accompanist for Dundas Children's Choir

Ben Paul's Music (2020 – present)

- Performs live music at events
- Collaborates with singers and instrumentalists

Ben Paul's Music Studio (2014 – present)

- Instructs piano, experienced up to ARCT level, children to seniors
- Music theory teacher, experienced with all levels of RCM rudiments
- Harmony teacher, experienced up to level 10 harmony
- Music History teacher
- Leads master classes for other piano instructors

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- Accompanies various instrumentalist and vocalists
- Led two-week long composition program for intermediate/advanced level students (summer 2018)

Kelsey Raine Music - Calgary and Okotoks, AB (2020 – present)

- Pianist for two-person ensemble
- Performances with Kelsey at various venues including vintage car show, rock concerts, wine bars and private events
- Recording piano and cello parts in studio for originals and covers

Music Makers School - Calgary, AB (2018-2020)

- Instructs students on the principles and techniques of piano, cello (experienced up to level 6) and music theory

Roxanne Young Music Studio - Calgary, AB (2019-2020)

- Accompanies violin students, intermediate level

Harmony Music School - Calgary, AB (May 2018-2020)

- Subbing position - Instructs students on principles and techniques of piano
- Accompanies string instrumentalists

Choir accompanist (2016-2017)

- University of Regina Chamber Singers – rehearsals and performances (approximately 35 members)

SCHOLARSHIPS and AWARDS

- Western Graduate Research Scholarship for M. Mus and MA in Music Theory 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023
- Don Wright Graduate Entrance Scholarship 2022
- Dean's Graduate Music Scholarship 2022
- Cremona Italy Academy of Music Competition - Third Place Winner and Awarded Scholarship 2019

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- Calgary Performing Arts Festival Scholarships (thrice) 2019
- Calgary Performing Arts Festival First Place winner (twice) - open class 2019
- Marion Kennedy Music Scholarship 2017
- Oswell Robinson Assiniboia Sherwood Masonic Scholarship in Music 2016
- G. Murray and Edna Forbes Foundation Scholarships in Music Performance 2015
- Academic Silver Scholarship University of Regina 2015
- Dr. James McConica Entrance Scholarship in Music 2014
- Fine Arts Entrance Award in Music University of Regina 2014
- Silver Place award for Creative Music Writing Competition - Alberta Piano Teachers Association 2012
- Silver Medal recipient of 2010 for receiving highest RCM Cello Examination in Alberta
- Calgary Performing Arts Festival (formerly known as Kiwanis Festival) class winner – various years

COMPOSITIONS

Solo piano/keyboard compositions:

- *Frigid Frights* (2024)
- *Soulful Sun* (2023-2024)
- *Nightingale Blues* (2023)
- *Adrift* (2020)
- *Lunar Tides* (2019-2020)
- *Stargazing* (2017)
- *Redemption* (2016-2017)

Instrumental Tune (2023 – present)

- *Soulful Sun* for virtual clavichord, bass guitar, and drums (In progress)

Electronic Music:

- *AstroJam* (2025)
- In progress: *Soulful Sun* (2023 - present)
- Arrangement of *Lunar Tides* (2023)
- Arrangement of *Dance of the Cosmos* (2019)

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- Medley and arrangements of *The Legend of Zelda* musical compositions (2016)

Musical Poem premiered by composers and recorded in studio (2021)

- *Cup of Tea* for solo piano and voice; music by Schmalz, poetry by Kelsey Raine

Piano Trio (2019)

- *Pentagonal Prisms* arranged for piano, violin and clarinet

Duet premiered by Cremona Academy performers (2019)

- *Pentagonal Prism* arranged for violin and clarinet

Solo piano compositions reviewed by Canadian composer David L. McIntyre (2018-2019)

- *Dance of the Cosmos* (2018)
- *Pier of Peace* (2018)
- *The Darkness Duology* (2017): I. “Catacombs” II. “The Abyss”

Chamber and Electro-Acoustic works premiered by University of Regina New Music Ensemble (2015)

- Chamber: *Midnight Sapphire* arranged for strings and woodwinds ensemble
- Electro-Acoustic work: *Aerodynamics* for piano, strings, brass and electronics

Work for Creative Music Writing Competition of Alberta (2012)

- *Midnight Sapphire* for solo piano

Published works in Timber Timbre piano book (2009) - performed for RCM Prep A and level 8 examinations

- *Goblin Dance*
- *Scary Weather*

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PERFORMANCES

SOLO CONCERTS

- Springtime Serenade at St. Paul's United Church, in association with Dundas Conservatory of Music (featuring soprano Michaela Chiste) – Hamilton, ON 2025
- HEXENLIED: Tunes of Terror at St. Paul's United Church, in association with Dundas Conservatory of Music (featuring soprano Michaela Chiste) – Hamilton, ON 2024
- Past and Present: A Piano Concert in association with Dundas Conservatory of Music at St. Paul's United Church - Hamilton, ON 2024
- Piano Concert at St. James Anglican Church - Calgary, AB 2023
- Private Piano Concert at Wedgwood Manor - Crawford Bay, BC 2023
- Final M. Mus Piano Recital at Western University - London, ON 2022
- Wedding musician - London, ON 2021
- Background pianist at Grad Club of Western University - London, ON 2021
- First year M. Mus Recital at Western University - London, ON 2021
- Fundraiser for ARF (Animal Rescue Foundation) Steinway Recital Hall – Calgary, AB 2019
- Private Wine & Cheese Soiree - Calgary, AB 2019
- Senior Recital - University of Regina 2018
- Private Party, *Field of Yoga* - Calgary, AB 2018
- Junior Recital - University of Regina 2017
- Retirement Party, A Bear & Bison Country Inn - Canmore, AB 2015
- Background musician for University of Regina art shows 2015, 2018
- Mount Royal University - Calgary, AB 2014
- St. Thomas United Church - Calgary, AB 2012

ENSEMBLES

Dundas Children's Choir performances at St. Pauls Church, Dundas (2023 – present)

Various performances at festivals, weddings, cocktail lounges, and other venues with singer Kelsey Raine (2020 – present)

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Piano Duo - Schmalz and Lianna Grace at University of Western Ontario (2021-2022)

K. Goldmark Piano Quintet op. 30 no. 1 at Cremona Music Academy (2019)

Tchaikovsky - Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy piano duet at Cremona Music Academy (2019)

Suk - Piano Trio Op. 2 at Cremona Music Academy (2019)

Founder of Piano Trio - Schmalz, Toncheva and Green (2019)

University of Regina Faculty Concert (2016) - Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op. 52 (Nos. 1, 10, 11, 12 and 15)

- with David L. McIntyre, Dr. Dominic Gregorio, Dr. Helen Pridmore

VOLUNTEERING

- Concert – Portion of proceeds donated to ARF (Animal Rescue Foundation) (2023)
- Chinook Care Centre - Piano performance and hymn sing for residents (2019)
- Benefit Concert – All proceeds donated to ARF (2019)
- RCM Gold Medalists Award Ceremony at Central Library of Calgary – Attendant (Nov. 9, 2019)
- Father Lacombe Care Centre – Piano performance for residents (2018)

OTHER INTERESTS

Visual Artist

Pet owner and enthusiast

Exercising: hiking, skateboarding, kayaking, biking, skiing

Watching Films

Video Gaming/Playing Board Games

Choir participation

- Calgary Cool Choir (2018-2020) Director Jamie Serafi
- University of Regina Choir (2014-2018) Director Dominic Gregorio

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REFERENCES

Stéphan Sylvestre - Piano Professor at UWO

(519) 661-2111 x 85376, ssylves4@uwo.ca

London, ON

Dr. Catherine Nolan - Music Theory Professor and Project Director at UWO

(519) 661-2111 x82043, cnolan@uwo.ca

London, ON

Derek Chiu – Former Piano Teacher and Associate

(403) 667-1753, derek@derekchiomusicstudio.ca

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