

Brief Biography of Composer Brian J. Nelson

Brian J. Nelson was born in Madison, Wisconsin in 1967 and began composing at age twelve. He received his Bachelor of Composition degree from the University of Michigan in 1990, where he studied with William Bolcom, William Albright and Nick Thorne. He completed a Masters degree in Composition at the University of Wisconsin in May 2000 and a D.M.A from the University of Kansas (2011) where he studied with James Barnes. He currently works as the Director of Sacred Music at the [St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center](#) in Lawrence, KS.

A devoted Catholic, he is a prolific composer of sacred music as well as chamber and orchestral works. His growing catalogue includes his Te Deum for Full Orchestra, Chorus and Soloists; [Ballade for Violin and Piano](#); [Mass of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne](#); Two Pieces for Orchestral Brass; and Responsorial Psalms for Advent and Christmas, a collection of responsories based on the Catholic lectionary, et al. His hymn [Praise God, the Lord of Space and Time](#) and [Mary, Crowned with Living Light](#), a harmonization of a tune by Josephine Plazzar, have become staples of the [ILP Music](#) catalogue along with his [Responsorial Psalm settings for the Ordinary form of the Mass](#).

To date, Brian's music is represented on two CD's: [Responsorial Psalms for Advent and Christmas](#) (November, 2009), featuring a sampling from the collection just mentioned; and [Vocalise – Instrumental & Vocal Music of Brian J. Nelson](#) which features a complete representation of Brian's output from instrumental to chamber to choral to sacred music. Brian's music is characterized by a strong melodic sense and an original tonality – his work is deeply engaging, and in each piece, he clearly demonstrates his mastery of form, structure and powerful expression. He continues to compose both commissioned and non-commissioned works across a wide variety of genres and forms.

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