

# Joseph M. Eidson

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The music of Joseph Eidson (b.1981) contains rhythmic drive, crisp harmonies, and a preference for lyrical melodies. His works have been performed throughout North America and abroad; recently his music has been heard at the International Clarinet Association ClarinetFest, Boston Metro Opera Contempo Festival, International Horn Society 44th Symposium, CBDNA Eastern Regional Conference reading session, New Voices at the Catholic University of America, Aries Festival for New Music, and several College Music Society regional conferences.

Although he enjoys writing for all mediums, composing for wind ensemble and for the voice occupy most of his recent output. Recent works include a song cycle using the poetry of Christian Morgenstern, three choral pieces, and a wind ensemble work inspired by a recent NASA mission to study a comet. While a majority of his output is for live performers, an ongoing project utilizes technology to create music using the sounds and methods of video game composers during the 1980s and early 1990s. These short pieces called *chiptunes* are varied in style and substance, each containing unique challenges limited only by imagination and software design. Many of the tracks are featured on the “Quirky Minecraft” web series from Sparhawk Gaming on YouTube. Two albums of his chip music are available via Bandcamp, and several new works combine live performers with Game Boy audio.

His music has received awards and recognition from the Missouri Civic Orchestra, Vox Novus, the Metropolitan Wind Symphony 40th Anniversary Competition, 2010 ASCAP Morton Gould Award (finalist), 2010 Opera Vista Festival (semifinalist), Aurora Borealis Duo Composition Contest, Dallas Wind Symphony fanfare competition, Music09 Competition (honorable mention), ASCAP / CBDNA Frederick Fennell award for concert band (honorable mention), the Penn State trombone choir composition competition, the George Lawner Award and a Thomas Presser scholarship both from the University of Kansas. Joseph Eidson holds degrees in composition from the University of Kansas (D.M.A., B.M.) and the University of Texas (M.M.), studying with Dan Welcher, James Barnes, Donald Grantham, and Forrest Pierce.

Active as a composer and educator, Dr. Eidson is a member of the music faculty of the Sunderman Conservatory at Gettysburg College, with previous teaching appointments at Bucknell University, the University of Kansas, and the University of Texas. Joseph and his lovely wife Julia live in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania with their feisty cats Gabs, Winston and Moose who enjoy sleeping on top of any available manuscript paper when not being fed. For more information please visit **www.josepheidson.com**.

### Short Bio

The music of Joseph Eidson (b.1981) contains rhythmic drive and a preference for lyrical melodies, and he enjoys writing for wind band as well as vocal works. He holds degrees in music theory and composition from the University of Kansas and the University of Texas, studying with Dan Welcher, James Barnes, Donald Grantham and Forrest Pierce. Currently Dr. Eidson is a member of the music faculty at the Sunderman Conservatory in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. For more information please visit **[www.josephheidson.com](http://www.josephheidson.com)**.