

# Nelson Walker

*Curriculum vitae*

they/them, b. 2000

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## Education and Training

### **Degrees**

- 2024\* M.M. in Music Composition; University of Michigan - Ann Arbor  
Principal Teachers: Evan Chambers, Kristin Kuster  
(\*anticipated)
- 2022 B.M. in Music Composition; University of Colorado at Boulder  
*Outstanding Graduating Senior*  
*Merit-Based Full-Tuition Scholarship*  
Principal Teachers: Carter Pann, Annika Socolofsky, Michael Theodore, John Drumheller, Nathan Hall

### **Other Training / Summer Programs / Masterclasses (Composition)**

- 2019 Chigiana Global Academic Programs; Siena, Italy
- 2016 Lamont Summer Academy; Denver, CO

### **Other Training / Summer Programs / Masterclasses (Cello)**

- 2016–2018 Private Cello Study with Dr. Charles Lee; Boulder, CO
- 2017–2018 Denver Young Artists Orchestra; Denver, CO
- 2017 Colorado All-State Orchestra; Fort Collins, CO  
*Principal Cellist*
- 2017 St. Vrain Valley Honor Orchestra; Longmont, CO  
*Principal Cellist*
- 2016–2017 Greater Boulder Youth Orchestra; Boulder, CO  
*Principal Cellist*
- 2016 Western States Honor Orchestra Festival; Greeley, CO  
*Masterclass with Dr. Gal Faganel*
- 2016 Lamont Summer Academy; Denver, CO  
*Masterclass with Silver Ainomäe*
- 2016 Colorado All-State Orchestra; Fort Collins, CO

## Grants, Awards and Commissions

- 2023 Commission by Lati2de and a consortium of 26 other saxophonists – *an unlikely flock*
- 2022 Undergraduate Composition Award, University of Colorado-Boulder College of Music – *Sonata for Cello and Piano*
- 2022 Outstanding Graduating Senior, University of Colorado-Boulder College of Music
- 2022 Runner-up: Resound Boulder Competition, Boulder Philharmonic
- 2021 Commission by the Colorado State Music Teachers Association – *A Baker's Dozen*

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|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2021       | Commission of a work for tenor saxophone and piano for Taylor Simpson – <i>Sonata Non Grata</i>                                                                                                               |
| 2021       | CU SPARK Award: Commission for a new electro-acoustic piece – <i>untitled [Wind]</i>                                                                                                                          |
| 2021       | Commission by Boulder Altitude Directive – <i>Vespers</i>                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2020       | Commission of an oboe sonata for Grace Stringfellow – <i>Sonata for Oboe and Piano (2020)</i>                                                                                                                 |
| 2020       | Commission of a short film score for artist Marco Corvo – <i>impermanence</i>                                                                                                                                 |
| 2020       | Work selected for performance by Denver Playground Ensemble for Colorado Composers Concert ( <i>cancelled due to Coronavirus pandemic</i> ) – <i>Shadows of Clouds</i>                                        |
| 2019/2020  | Awarded scholarship and invitation to re-attend Chigiana Global Academic Program in Siena, Italy ( <i>cancelled due to Coronavirus pandemic</i> )                                                             |
| 2019       | Received grant from Univ. of Colorado's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program to cover tuition at the Chigiana Global Academic Program in Siena, Italy                                                 |
| 2017, 2018 | Works selected for performance by Denver Playground Ensemble for Colorado Composers Concert (selected K12 composer) two consecutive years – <i>The Movement of Energy Through a System</i> and <i>Clarity</i> |

### Other Professional Experience

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|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023         | Beatmaking Club Mentor; Scarlett Middle School, Ann Arbor, MI                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2020–present | Musician; Motus Playback, Boulder, CO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 2020         | Composition Mentor; Platt Middle School, Boulder CO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2019–present | Musician; Impact! Playback, Boulder, CO<br>( <i>Improvisational theater form based around honoring audience members' stories</i> )<br>01/2020 – Invited by North Fork Valley Creative Coalition for 4-day residency in Paonia, CO to build community through performance and workshops<br>06/2021 – 2nd residency in Paonia, CO<br>05/2022 – 3rd residency in Paonia, CO<br>05/2023 – 4th residency in Paonia, CO |
| 2019         | Musician/Actor; <i>Once</i> , Miners Alley Playhouse, Golden, CO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2017–present | Musician; Playback Theater West, Boulder, CO<br>( <i>Improvisational theater form based around honoring audience members' stories</i> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

### Public Performances

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|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | <i>An Unlikely Flock</i> – Lati2de – Interlochen Arts Academy, Interlochen, MI – 7/19                                                                 |
| 2023 | <i>An Unlikely Flock</i> – Lati2de – M-Pulse Festival, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI – 7/5                                                    |
| 2023 | <i>Again, Always</i> – Cristina Gonzalez, Nelson Walker, Jason Zhang – Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor, MI – 4/2                                   |
| 2023 | <i>camellia daydreaming</i> – Caleb Frailey, Camille McLean, Alden Rohwer, and Jenny Xun – University of Michigan, Britton Hall, Ann Arbor, MI – 3/13 |
| 2022 | <i>A Baker's Dozen</i> – Cecilia Hiros – University of Michigan, Britton Hall, Ann Arbor, MI – 10/7                                                   |

- 2022 *A Baker's Dozen* – Shelby Roberts – University of Colorado, Recital Hall, Boulder, CO – 6/3
- 2022 *Andromeda* – Nelson Walker, Veda Hingert-McDonald – University of Colorado, Grusin Hall, Boulder, CO – 4/27
- 2021 *Vespers* – Boulder Altitude Directive – University of Colorado, Grusin Hall; Boulder, CO – 10/28
- 2021 *Shadows of Clouds* – Carpe Diem String Quartet – Johnstone Fund for New Music – 10/10 (*pre-recorded broadcast*)
- 2021 *This Compost* – Nelson Walker, Ivalas Quartet – University of Colorado, Recital Hall; Boulder, CO – 4/18 (*pre-recorded broadcast*)
- 2020 *Sonata for Oboe and Piano* – Grace Stringfellow and Er-Hsuan Li – University of Colorado, Grusin Hall; Boulder, CO – 11/8
- 2020 *Sonata for Oboe and Piano* – Grace Stringfellow and Er-Hsuan Li – University of Colorado, Grusin Hall; Boulder, CO – 10/28 (*pre-recorded broadcast*)
- 2020 *Shadows of Clouds* – Carpe Diem String Quartet – Pizzuti Collection; Columbus Museum of Art – 05/08 (*cancelled due to Coronavirus pandemic, see 10/10/2021*)
- 2020 *Shadows of Clouds* – Denver Playground Ensemble – King Center; Denver, CO – 04/18 (*cancelled due to Coronavirus pandemic*)
- 2020 *Sonata for Cello and Piano* – Gabriel Ramos and Er-Hsuan Li – University of Colorado, Grusin Hall; Boulder, CO – 04/08 (*cancelled due to Coronavirus pandemic*)
- 2020 *Over Citrus Skies* – Claire McCahan and Er-Hsuan Li – University of Colorado, Grusin Hall; Boulder, CO – 03/11
- 2020 *Adam and the Serpent* – ~Nois Saxophone Quartet – University of Colorado, Grusin Hall; Boulder, CO – 01/29
- 2019 *Shadows of Clouds* – Carpe Diem String Quartet – Fondazione Accademia Chigiana; Siena, Italy – 06/28
- 2019 *Embark* – Grace Stringfellow and Barbie Noyes – University of Colorado, Grusin Hall; Boulder, CO – 01/30
- 2018 *Day of Black Sun* – Er-Hsuan Li – University of Colorado, Grusin Hall; Boulder, CO – 10/31
- 2018 *Cello Concerto* – Nelson Walker, Paul Trapkus, Silver Creek High School Orchestra – Silver Creek High School Auditorium; Longmont, CO – 05/17
- 2018 *Clarity* – Denver Playground Ensemble – King Center; Denver, CO – 04/14
- 2017 *The Movement of Energy Through a System* – Denver Playground Ensemble – King Center; Denver, CO – 04/23
- 2016 *The Movement of Energy Through a System* – Nelson Walker, Artur Korotin – Lamont School of Music; Denver, CO – 06/29

## Recordings

- 2022 *Holloway and Walker: Four Sonatas* – (self-published)  
Recorded in Grusin Hall at the University of Colorado by Galle Studios  
Edited by Nelson Walker and Jonathan Galle  
Mastered by Brad Smalling at Evergroove Studios

## Complete Catalogue of Works

- 2023 *an unlikely flock* – sop. sax, alto sax [15 minutes] – *Commissioned by Lati2de and a consortium of 26 additional members*
- 2023 *prelude and daydream* – bassoon, accordion [5 minutes] – *Rain Michael's 24-hour composition challenge*
- 2023 *summersongs* – vln, vc/mandolin, tuba, pc, electronics [3 minutes] – *For the Plein Air Sound Collective's inaugural project, "Weathering Steel", recorded at the Tank Center for Sonic Arts in Rangely, CO on May 23rd, 2023.*
- 2023 *Again, Always* – mid-high voice, cello, piano [5 minutes] – *a setting of the poem of the same name by A. Shaikh*
- 2023 *camellia daydreaming* – string quartet [8 minutes]
- 2022 *Sonata Non Grata* – tenor sax, piano [13 minutes] – *Commissioned by Taylor Simpson*
- 2022 *A Baker's Dozen* – harp [21 minutes] – *Jointly commissioned by the Colorado State Music Teachers Association and the Music Teachers National Association*
- 2022 *untitled [wind]* – electronics (SuperCollider) [9 minutes] – *SPARK Award - University of Colorado-Boulder*
- 2021 *Vespers* – fl, cl, vln, vc, pno, pc [11 minutes] – *Commissioned by the Boulder Altitude Directive*
- 2020-2021 *Sonata for Cello and Piano* – cello, piano [28 minutes]
- 2021 *Two Serial Scenes* – piano [2 minutes]
- 2021 *This Compost* – voice, mandolin, string quartet [19 minutes]
- 2020 *The Empty Box* – piano (four hands) [1 minute]
- 2020 *Sonata for Oboe and Piano* – oboe, piano [20 minutes] – *Commissioned by Grace Stringfellow*
- 2020 *impermanence* (film score) – cello, electronics [12 minutes] – *Commissioned by Marco Corvo*
- 2020 *Over Citrus Skies* – mezzo-soprano, piano [4 minutes]
- 2019 *Adam and the Serpent* – saxophone quartet [9 minutes]
- 2019 *Shadows of Clouds* – string quartet [12 minutes]
- 2019 *Embark* – oboe, piano [9 minutes]
- 2018 *Day of Black Sun* – piano [5 minutes]
- 2018 *Cello Concerto* – solo cello, chamber string orchestra, piano [9 minutes]
- 2016 *Ursidaic Wanderings* – string orchestra [4 minutes]
- 2016 *The Movement of Energy Through a System* – violin, cello [3 minutes]
- 2015 *Clarity* – string quartet [11 minutes]