

**Jessica Stearns**  
 Jessica.Stearns@tamuc.edu

## EDUCATION

- 2022            PhD in Music, College of Music, University of North Texas (Denton, TX)  
                   Concentration: Musicology  
                   Minor Field: Art History  
                   Dissertation: “Performing Translations: Rethinking Christian Wolff’s  
                   Alternative Notation (1960-1968) in the Context of His Creative  
                   Communities”
- 2012            MM in Saxophone Performance, School of Music, Stephen F. Austin State  
                   University (Nacogdoches, TX)
- 2009            BME, School of Music, Stetson University (DeLand, FL)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2023            “Game Play and Gestalt: Analysing Christian Wolff’s Alternative Notation from  
                   the Performers’ Perspectives.” *Contemporary Music Review* 42, no. 1:  
                   114-130.
- 2021            “Between Site-Specific and Sound Installation: The Multisensory Experience of  
                   Andrew May’s *Unset*.” *Chigiana, Journal of Musicological Studies* 51:  
                   95-107.

### Review

- In Progress    “*Chamber Music of William Horne, Vol. III*. Blue Griffin Recording, 2024.”  
                   *Journal of the Society for American Music*.

### Liner Notes

- In Progress    *Christian Wolff’s Indeterminate Music*. Texas A&M University-Commerce Music  
                   Faculty.
- 2020            *Tollan: Mexican Works for Oboe*. Jonathan Thompson, oboe. Equilibrium  
                   Recordings.

## PRESENTATIONS

- 2024            “*I Ching* and Chance: Compositional Process in Christian Wolff’s Early Works,”  
                   Biennial International Conference on Music Since 1900, University of  
                   Leuven (Leuven, Belgium)

- 2024 “Creating Indeterminate Works in the Music History Classroom,” Teaching Music History Conference, Columbus State University (Columbus, Georgia)
- 2024 “Beyond *Music of Changes*: Christian Wolff’s Use of the *I Ching* as Compositional Process,” Society for American Music Conference (Detroit, MI)
- 2024 “Approaching Indeterminate Music: Interpretation and Performance Techniques for Saxophonists,” North American Saxophone Alliance Conference, Oklahoma State University (Stillwater, OK)
- 2023 “Beyond *Music of Changes*: Christian Wolff’s Use of the *I Ching* as Compositional Process,” American Musicological Society SW Chapter Meeting, University of Arkansas (Fayetteville, AR)
- 2021 “Analyzing Christian Wolff’s Indeterminate Music through the Process of Performance,” Dialogues: Analysis and Performance, University of Toronto (Toronto, ON)
- 2020 “Merging the Visual and Sonic: The Multisensory Experience of Andrew May’s *Unset*,” Re-envisaging Music: Listening in the Visual Age (Siena, ITA)
- 2017 “Confounding the Roles and Expectations of Performer and Audience: Andrew May’s *Unset*,” Sounding Out the Space: An International Conference on the Spatiality of Sound, Dublin School of Creative Arts (Dublin, IRL)
- 2017 “Notating a Community: Christian Wolff’s Coordination Neumes,” Performing Indeterminacy: An International Conference, University of Leeds (Leeds, UK)
- 2016 “Analyzing Christian Wolff’s Alternatively Notated Scores,” Improvisation Interest Group, Society for Music Theory Annual Meeting (Vancouver, BC)
- 2016 “Opera, Architecture, and Place: The Regional Experience of the Santa Fe Opera Festival,” Locations and Dislocations: An Ecomusicological Conversation, Westminster Choir College (Princeton, NJ)
- 2016 “Notating a Community: Christian Wolff’s Coordination Neumes,” American Musicological Society SW Chapter Meeting, Trinity University (San Antonio, TX)
- 2015 “Un-Visual Music: Christian Wolff’s *For 1, 2, or 3 People*,” Louisiana State University Biennial Music Colloquium (Baton Rouge, LA)

- 2015 “Soundscape and Landscape: The Denton Arts and Jazz Festival in Quakertown Park,” Society for Ethnomusicology SW Chapter Meeting, Colorado State University (Ft. Collins, CO)
- 2014 “Reactionary Improvisation and the Anti-Gestalt in Christian Wolff’s *For 1, 2, or 3 People*,” American Musicological Society SW Chapter Meeting, University of Texas at Austin (Austin, TX)
- 2011 “Swing State: The Use of Jazz and Saxophone by Shostakovich and Prokofiev in Soviet Music,” American Musicological Society SW Chapter Meeting, Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, TX)

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

### External

- 2020 Short-Term Research Fellowship, New York Public Library
- 2016 Dena Epstein Award for Archival and Library Research in American Music, Music Library Association

### Internal

- 2024 Faculty Development Grant, Texas A&M University-Commerce
- 2020-2021 Graduate Research Award, Toulouse Graduate School, University of North Texas
- 2017-2018 International Travel Grant, University of North Texas International
- 2017 Travel Grant, Toulouse Graduate School, University of North Texas
- 2016 Travel Grant, Toulouse Graduate School, University of North Texas
- 2015 Monteverdi Research Scholarship, Music History Area, University of North Texas

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2017-2018 Outstanding Teaching Fellow in Music History, Division of Music History, Theory, and Ethnomusicology
- 2017-2018 Senator of the Year, Graduate Student Council, University of North Texas
- 2014-2017 Graduate Assistant Tuition Scholarship, Toulouse Graduate School, University of North Texas
- 2014-2015 Outstanding Graduate Student in Music History, Division of Music History, Theory, and Ethnomusicology, University of North Texas

2012-2014 Academic Achievement Scholarship, Toulouse Graduate School, University of North Texas

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2023-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Texas A&M University-Commerce (Commerce, TX)

2022-2023 Ad Interim Instructor, Department of Music, Texas A&M University-Commerce (Commerce, TX)

2022 Adjunct Lecturer, Division of Music, Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX)

2018-2022 Adjunct Faculty, Department of Music, Collin College (Frisco and Wylie, TX)

2018-2020 Adjunct Faculty, Department of Music, Dallas College Mountain View Campus (Dallas, TX)

2015-2020 Teaching Fellow, Music History Area, University of North Texas (Denton, TX)

2012-2015 Teaching Assistant, Music History Area, University of North Texas (Denton, TX)

2011-2012 Saxophone Instructor, Music Preparatory Division, Stephen F. Austin State University (Nacogdoches, TX)

2011-2012 Graduate Assistant, Department of Elementary Education, Stephen F. Austin State University (Nacogdoches, TX)

2009-2010 Teaching Assistant, Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance, Morehead State University (Morehead, KY)

2007-2015 Faculty, Florida Flute Workshop (DeLand, FL)

2006-2016 Faculty, Stetson Saxophone Workshop (DeLand, FL)

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Texas A&M University-Commerce**

Introduction to Music Literature (Non-Majors)

World Music (Majors)

World Music (Non-Majors)

History of Rock and Roll (Non-Majors)

Music History I (Majors)

Music History II (Majors)

Introduction to Graduate Music (Graduate)

Research Literature and Techniques (Graduate)

Music of the Baroque Era (Graduate)

Music of the Classic Era (Graduate)

Music of the Romantic Era (Graduate)

Music of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (Graduate)

### **Southern Methodist University**

Introduction to Music in History and Culture (Majors and Non-Majors)

### **Collin College**

Music Appreciation (Non-Majors)

American Music (Non-Majors)

### **Dallas College**

Music Appreciation (Non-Majors)

Music Theory II (Majors)

Applied Saxophone (Majors)

### **University of North Texas**

Music as Communication (Majors)

Music as Communication (Non-Majors)

Nineteenth-Century Music (Minors and Non-Majors)

Twentieth-Century Music (Minors and Non-Majors)

## **WORKSHOPS TAUGHT**

### **Stetson Saxophone Workshop (middle and high school students)**

Individual Lessons

Chamber Coaching

Technique Classes

### **Florida Flute Workshop (middle and high school students)**

Chamber Coaching

Music Theory

## **PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

### **Selected Performances**

2024            Performance with Sounds Modern (Denton, TX)

2024            Performance with Sounds Modern, Modern Art Museum (Fort Worth, TX)

2023            Performance with Sonoren (Dallas, TX)

- 2021 Chamber Performance, Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (Virtual)
- 2019 Performance with Sonoren, Nebulae Improvisation Showcase (Denton, TX)
- 2018 Performance with Sounds Modern, Modern Art Museum (Fort Worth, TX)
- 2015 Chamber Performance, International Computer Music Conference (Denton, TX)
- 2015 Performance with Sounds Modern, Chinati Foundation (Marfa, TX)
- 2013 Guest Artist Recital, East Texas Baptist University (Marshall, TX)
- 2013 Chamber Performance, North American Saxophone Alliance Regional Conference, Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, TX)
- 2012 Masterclass with Debra Richtmeyer, University of North Texas (Denton, TX)
- 2012 Masterclass with Jean-Michel Goury, Stephen F. Austin State University (Nacogdoches, TX)
- 2011 Solo Performance, North American Saxophone Alliance Regional Conference, Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, TX)
- Album**
- In Progress *Christian Wolff's Indeterminate Music*. Texas A&M University-Commerce Music Faculty.
- 2023 *Charm the Winds*. Sonoren. Incongruent Records.

### Works Premiered

- 2021 Mark Vaughn, *Alma Ma*
- 2020 Pete Stollery, *social d[ist]ancing* (US premiere)
- 2017 Clay Davidson, *Double Bind*
- 2016 Louise Fristensky, *That Shines and Burns*
- 2015 Andrew May, *Unset*

### Selected Ensembles

- 2019-present Sonoren, Improvisation trio, founding member
- 2013-2021 Nova Ensemble, University of North Texas
- 2012-2015 Verdigris Saxophone Quartet

### SERVICE

- 2023-2024 Member, Graduate Curriculum Committee, Department of Music, Texas A&M University-Commerce

2023-2024 Member, Applied Voice (Tenure Track) Search Committee, Department of Music, Texas A&M University-Commerce

2023-2024 Member, Applied Voice (Professional Track) Search Committee, Department of Music, Texas A&M University-Commerce

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Musicological Society

Society for American Music

North American Saxophone Alliance

Pi Kappa Lambda