

# Blake Cordell

B-cordell@outlook.com | (316) 992-4729 | blakecordell.com

## EDUCATION

---

**University of Iowa** May 2026 (anticipated)  
*Master of Art in Composition & Certificate in College Teaching* *Iowa City, IA*

**Kansas State University** Dec 2018  
*Bachelor of Music in Composition & Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, summa cum laude* *Manhattan, KS*

## COMPOSITIONS & PERFORMANCES

---

***Silicious Sinter*** | for string quartet | in-progress  
Upcoming premier: The University of Iowa - JACK Quartet Mar 11, 2026

***Prismatic Thermophiles*** | for chamber ensemble, dur. 5'25" | 2025  
World premiere: International Summer Academy of Music in Germany - Kliment Krylovskiy, clarinet; Umberto Pedraglio, cello; Dmytro Semyrkas, piano; Lucas Gérin, percussion Aug 7, 2025

***Dear Daedalus*** | duet for double bass and soprano, dur. 7'10" | 2025  
World premiere: The University of Iowa - LIGAMENT (Anika Kildegaard and Will Yager) May 3, 2025

***Seven-Legged Spider*** | duet for alto saxophone and Yamaha YDS-150, dur. 5'30" | 2025  
World premiere: The University of Iowa - Chris Hunley, Alto Sax; Blake Cordell, YDS-150 Feb 23, 2025

***Celestial Wings*** | for SATB choir, dur. 5'50" | 2025  
Workshop: The Crossing Choir, dir. Donald Nally Feb 11, 2025

***The Fortune Teller's Tent*** | for string quartet, dur. 17'10" | 2025  
World premiere: The University of Iowa - JACK Quartet Feb 6, 2025

***This Was a Story*** | duet for QWERTY Keyboard and Vibraphone, dur. 8'30" | 2024  
World premiere: The University of Iowa - Blake Cordell, Keyboard; Miles Bohlman, Vib. Oct 27, 2024

***Súile Foaroise*** | solo for flute, dur. 5'10" | 2024  
Performance: International Summer Academy of Music in Germany - Robert Strauss, flute Aug 1, 2025  
World premiere: The University of Iowa - Caleb Estrada-Valentin, flute Sep 28, 2024

***Lotus Clour*** | wind chamber (grade IV); commissioned by Bethel College, dur. 12'15" | 2024  
World premiere: Bethel College Wind Ensemble in North Newton, KS, dir. Christ Miertschin Apr 24, 2024

***A Year of Repetition*** | viola, piano, and media; commissioned by Elizabeth Tobald, dur 5'00" | 2021  
Digital performance: Elizabeth Tobald, Viola; Irena Radic, Viola Apr 14, 2021

***All That is Done*** | piano with spoken word; commissioned by KSU Foundation, dur. 11'05" | 2015  
Digital performance: Amanda Krieg, Piano; Rachel Hunt, spoken word Apr 5, 2016  
World premiere: KSU Foundation - Amanda Krieg, Piano; Rachel Hunt, spoken word Oct 9, 2015

## PLAYWRITING & PRODUCTIONS

---

<b>Only a Mask</b>   full-length musical for 6 actors (3m, 3f) with jazz combo   2025	World premier: The James Theater (dir. Michael C. Flores)	Oct 30-Nov 1, 2025
<b>Kill Grimm</b>   one-act audioplay for 1 actor   2020	World premier: Kansas Theatre Works (dir. Chuck Leonard)	Oct 29, 2020
<b>Inn-Dependent</b>   full-length musical for 10 actors (6m, 4f) with little big band   2018	Selected scenes: Kansas Theatre Works (dir. Jerry Jay Cranford)	Apr 9-11, 2021
	World premier: Kansas State University (dir. Trace Campbell)	Apr 12-15, 2018
	Concert reading: Temple Theatre in Des Moines, IA by MSU, Mankato (dir. Paul Hustoles)	Jan 25, 2017
	Development reading: Kansas State University (dir. Blake Cordell)	Feb 17-19, 2015
<b>Rover: a One-Man Show</b>   full-length musical for 1 actor with synth accompaniment   2017	World premier: Purple Masque Theatre in Manhattan, KS (dir. Blake Cordell)	Dec 2-3, 2017
<b>Ho Ho No!</b>   Compiled short scenes for 9-15 actors, cowritten with KSU Writer's Workshop   2016	Digital adaptation: Kansas Theatre Works (dir. Jerry Jay Cranford)	Dec 10, 2020
	World premier: Kansas State University (dir. Jerry Jay Cranford)	Dec 15, 2016

## MULTIMEDIA COMPOSITIONS

---

<b>Petrichor</b>   created a full score and soundscape for Grace Potratz's award-winning short film   2024
<b>Singin' in the Scenes</b>   wrote intro, closing, and transition music for Harper Leander's podcast   2022
<b>Carl &amp; Doug</b>   composed a full score for Tiny Siren Animation's Amazon Prime cartoon animation   2018
<b>Gate Seekers</b>   wrote title music for the pilot of Story Sight Production's animated web series   2017
<b>Leo and Lia</b>   provided a full score for the pilot episode to Story Sight Productions's animated web series   2017
<b>Pistola</b>   composed and synthesized level and battle themes for Specter Work's proof-of-concept game   2016
<b>Chateau Quest</b>   created introduction and level themes for Specter Work's indie video game demo   2016
<b>Strange Conundrums</b>   wrote character themes for Specter Works Studios as part of a 48-hour game jam   2015
<b>Histoire de Lune</b>   provided title, menu, and level themes for Suits & Sandals Studio's video game   2015
<b>Fading Soul</b>   wrote title, menu, and level music for Toby Allen's proof-of-concept game   2015
<b>Toast: Pyro Girl</b>   created a full score for Cal Arts student animator Kiernan Sjursen-Lien's short film   2015
<b>Mica Apoptosis</b>   created a full score, ambient soundscape, and sound effects for Kirroha's indie game   2014

## WORK EXPERIENCE

---

### Music Theory Teaching Assistant

*The University of Iowa*

2024 – Present

*Iowa City, IA*

- Creating lesson plans for one-hour undergraduate classes training auralization and dictation
- Providing one-on-one ad hoc music theory tutoring
- Teaching four students in separate weekly composition/music theory lessons

### Freelance Composer

2018 – Present

- Contracted as a composer and resident artist with both colleges and high schools
- Streamed composition sessions and lessons on Twitch TV during the 2020 pandemic
- Collaborated on numerous video game, animation, live theatre, and other multimedia contracts that have been released on Amazon Video, YouTube, Spotify, itch.io, and RPGMaker.net
- Theatrical arrangements and original full-length musicals performed in Kansas, Iowa, and New York

### Freelance Sound Designer

2019 – Present

- Over 30 contracts with 20+ theatre companies in Chicago, New York City, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming
- Created integrative theatrical soundscapes and curated engaging pre-show and post-show playlists
- Engineered integrative speaker and microphone setups and utilized live recording to enhance designs

### Director of Sound and Audio Engineering

Aug 2021 – Aug 2022

*The Den Theatre*

*Chicago, IL*

- Managed and live-mixed for over 30 touring comedians including Dave Attell, Ron Funches, Neal Brennan, Nick Kroll, Michelle Wolf, Maria Bamford, and Todd Barry
- Served as live audio engineer for *Sam Morril: Same Time Tomorrow* Netflix special and live tapings of Joe Bartnick and Todd Barry's 2022 comedy specials
- Coordinated the technical needs across five different rental spaces with diverse renters including dance companies, theatre companies, music groups, and other variety content
- Supervised the technical department to maintain all lights, sound, and IT needs for the three-floor venue

## AWARDS

---

### 2025 University of Iowa Performing Arts Summer Research Award

for *Prismatic Thermophiles*

### 2025 University of Iowa Graduate College Research Grant in Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

for *Only a Mask*

### 2025 International Joseph Dorfman Memorial Composition Competition, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

for *Prismatic Thermophiles*

### 2016 KCACTF Sound Design Excellence Award

for composition and design work in *Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, dir. Jennifer Vellenga

### 2015 Kennedy Center American Collegiate Theatre Festival Region V Best New Play Award

for *Inn-Dependent*

### 2015 National Partners of the American Theatre Playwriting Award Finalist

for *Inn-Dependent*