

Blake Cordell

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EDUCATION

University of Iowa

Master of Art in Composition & Certificate in College Teaching

May 2026 (anticipated)

Iowa City, IA

Kansas State University

Bachelor of Music in Composition & Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, summa cum laude

Dec 2018

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

- Only a Mask*** | 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
- Kill Grimm*** | one-act audioplay for 1 actor | 2020
World premier: Kansas Theatre Works (dir. Chuck Leonard) Oct 29, 2020
- Inn-Dependent*** | 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
- Rover: a One-Man Show*** | 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
- Ho Ho No!*** | 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

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

WORK EXPERIENCE

Music Theory Teaching Assistant

2024 – Present

The University of Iowa

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, 3rd 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*