

## Biography



**BWG** BRIAN WILBUR GRUNDSTROM's compositions for film, orchestra, musical theater, chorus, piano, and chamber ensembles demonstrate an innovative use of harmony and melody, which although firmly rooted in the tonal tradition is entirely new. Audiences take to his compositions immediately, finding in his compositions traces of Aaron Copland, Kurt Weill and Samuel Barber.

Classically trained in piano as well as music theory from Gettysburg College, he continued orchestration and composition studies with John David Earnest. His awards include *Encore* from American Composers Forum, *Composers Assistance Program* from the American Music Center and *ASCAP PLUS* from ASCAP. He has received three fellowships from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and was a finalist for Emerging Artist in the 2010 and 2011 DC Mayor's Arts Awards. He received a Peer Award for *Sadie's Waltz* from Television, Internet & Video Association of DC (TIVA-DC) and an OutMusic nomination for *Pepe! The Mail Order Monkey Musical*, which sold out as part of the Capital Fringe Festival.

A member of ASCAP, Brian attended the ASCAP/NYU Buddy Baker Film Music Workshop. His features include *Nocturnal Agony*, *Arc of Light: A Portrait of Anna Campbell Bliss*, and *2 Minutes Later*, in addition to writing music for many short films. His studio includes the latest in technologies, including Vienna Symphonic Library, and he is able to render his orchestral compositions at high professional standards. His music has been performed by SONOS Chamber Orchestra, Shippensburg Festival Orchestra, Trinity Chamber Orchestra, George Washington University Orchestra, NIH Philharmonia, Holyoke Civic Symphony, The Queer Urban Orchestra, Symphony of Arlington, Colla Voce and The New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus, as well as on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage.

SONOS Chamber Orchestra Director Erik E. Ochsner writes "*Many audiences cringe at the thought of new music. We had such positive feedback from audiences on how much they enjoyed Grundstrom's work. It is modern, yet tonal.*"

He is represented by Jeffrey James Arts Consulting, and his compositions can be heard at [www.brianwilbur.com](http://www.brianwilbur.com).

### APPROACH TO TONALITY

*With so much of our collective musical experience being tonal, I believe it is important to use tonality in order to communicate effectively. However, because it is ever present there exists a challenge to maintain interest: as composers we must write within the confines of the possible yet not completely inside of the expected. Being creative with tonality is therefore essential in creating music that is not only understood, but also engaging.*