

AMY SCURRIA

Composer • Educator • Community Organizer
amyscurria.composer@gmail.com • (919) 308-0301 • www.amyscurria.com

PROFILE

Award-winning composer and educator with four music degrees (including a PhD from Duke University) and a substantial background in litigation support as a paralegal. A lifelong advocate for youth education and community equity, with a 30-year record of building music programs, mentoring young artists, and organizing community initiatives. Published by Theodore Presser Company. Music performed at Carnegie Hall, the Kimmel Center, and by major orchestras nationwide.

EDUCATION

Duke University Durham, NC | 2007–2015

PhD in Music Composition

- Dissertation: Pearl, an opera based on Hawthorne's Scarlet Letter; libretto by Carol Gilligan and Jonathan Gilligan
- Evan Frankel Fellowship Recipient; Aleane Webb Dissertation Research Award; Summer Research Fellowship

Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University Baltimore, MD | 1996–1998

Master of Music Composition

Shepherd School of Music at Rice University Houston, TX | 1991–1995

Bachelor of Music Composition

La Schola Cantorum Paris, France | 1999

Aspen Music Festival Composition Program Aspen, CO | 1994

Westminster Choir College Composition Program Princeton, NJ | 1990

EDUCATION & YOUTH WORK

Music Educator – Independent 1996–Present

- Composition, theory, and piano instruction to students of all ages, primarily youth, for nearly 30 years
- Regular presenter and guest composer at local and regional schools throughout NC, PA, VA, and MN
- Mentored numerous emerging composers throughout career, providing guidance on craft, career development, and artistic identity

Settlement Music School Philadelphia, PA | 1999–2003

Music Education Partnership Coordinator

- Developed, administered, and grew a city-wide music outreach program integrating music instruction into Philadelphia public schools for children ages 7–13
- Built the program in partnership with the Education Department of the Philadelphia Orchestra, whose Director of Education served as mentor and collaborator
- Interviewed and hired music instructors; prepared financial reports; collated grant application materials for private and government funding
- Philadelphia Orchestra's Director of Education described Amy as "a natural educator"

NC Arts Council / LongLeaf Opera Commission

Chapel Hill, NC | 2009

Composer-in-Residence, Frank Porter Graham Elementary School

- Commissioned to create *Esperanza Rising*, a chamber opera developed in direct collaboration with elementary school students
- Led workshops, rehearsals, and the full production process with student participants; one of the most formative projects of her career

Philadelphia Orchestra – Community Outreach

Philadelphia, PA | 2002–2003

Guest Composer, We Are Met at Gettysburg

- Visited classrooms throughout Philadelphia to engage students with the work prior to its world premiere
- Produced a CD distributed to Philadelphia public school children; participated in post-concert Meet the Composer events

Confidence-Building Workshops for Youth

Houston, TX / VA / NC | 2000–2001

Volunteer Program Developer, Women’s Centers

- Designed and led workshops for young people exploring music, identity, and self-expression at Women’s Centers in multiple states

Co-President, Chapel Hill/Durham Homeschoolers

Chapel Hill, NC | 2017–2019

- Led a regional nonprofit community organization centered on collaborative, child-directed learning outside conventional school structures
- Organized co-ops, learning groups, community programs, and events; built partnerships with local educators and institutions

Girl Scout Troop Volunteer

NC | 2019–2022

- Supported troop programming and community-building activities for youth

Durham LGBTQ Center

Durham, NC | Ongoing

Volunteer

- Active volunteer and community advocate; home frequently serves as a gathering space and safe haven for trans youth

Santa Fe Opera Young Voices Program

Santa Fe, NM | 2025

- Tea Party Scene from *ALICE* performed as part of the Young Voices Program

Carnegie Hall – Youth Ensemble Premieres

New York, NY

- *The Music We Build Together* (2026) – performed by Aliso Niguel High School String Orchestra
- *What Lies Within Us* (2025) – performed by Santa Rosa High School Concert Band

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Self-Employed Composer

1994–Present

- Concert commissions from major orchestras, choral organizations, and ensembles nationally and internationally
- Founder and owner, Adamo Press (music publishing), 2000–present
- Music copyist for independent composers and major projects, 1994–present
- Music published by Theodore Presser Company and Adamo Press

Duke University

Durham, NC | 2007–2015

Professor, Teaching and Research Assistant

- Courses taught: Introduction to Music Theory, Theoretical Practice of Tonal Music, Composers of Influence, Music and Modernism, Jazz, Hip-Hop/Rap Music Appreciation, Music Sound and Style
- Teaching Assistant to Professor Anthony Kelley; Music Copyist

Richmond Piano Richmond, VA | 2005–2007

Education, Marketing, Advertising & Service Director

- Developed and administered education program; created and maintained company website
- Designed marketing and advertising materials; managed piano sales and service department

LeClair Ryan, P.C. Richmond, VA | 2004–2005

Tort Litigation Paralegal

- Medical malpractice defense; legal research, discovery, case file management

Swartz Campbell, LLC Philadelphia, PA | 2003–2004

Paralegal

- Workers' compensation, employment, and insurance defense litigation

Hildegard Publishing Company Havertown, PA | 1998–1999

Music Publisher Assistant to the President

SELECTED COMMISSIONS & PREMIERES

The Music We Build Together 2025

- World Premiere: April 2026, Carnegie Hall – Aliso Niguel High School String Orchestra, Jonathan Chen, Conductor

What Lies Within Us – Concert Band 2024

- World Premiere: April 2025, Carnegie Hall – Santa Rosa High School Concert Band, Timothy Decker, Conductor

Thou Who Art Over Us – SATB Choir and Organ 2002/2025

- Included in the Opening Ceremony of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag), 2025

Esperanza Rising – Chamber Opera 2009

- Commissioned by NC Arts Council and LongLeaf Opera; created in collaboration with students at Frank Porter Graham Elementary School, Chapel Hill, NC

We Are Met at Gettysburg – Full Orchestra 2003

- Co-composed with Steve Heitzeg; commissioned by the Philadelphia Orchestra & Minnesota Orchestra
- Premiere: January 4, 2003 – Philadelphia Orchestra, Giancarlo Guerrero, Conductor; Kimmel Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Nine subsequent performances by the Philadelphia and Minnesota Orchestras

What the Soul Remembers – Orchestra 2009

- Commissioned by Fort Wayne Philharmonic and Sigma Alpha Iota

Blessings of Liberty – Full Orchestra 2001

- Commissioned by Vermont Youth Orchestra

ALICE – Opera in Two Acts 2021–Present

- American Prize in Opera, Third Place (2024); American Prize in Opera Production, Finalist (2025); N.O.A. Production Award, Third Place (2025)

- Productions at Duke University, University of Utah, Lawrence University, University of Nevada, Santa Fe Opera Young Voices Program, and others

CURRENT PROJECTS

- ALICE, An Operatic Wonderland – ongoing revision and orchestration; NC Arts Council Artist Development Grant (2024); Dee Endowment Grant (2024)
- ADAMO PRESS - various publishing projects

HONORS & AWARDS

- American Prize in Opera, Third Place (2024)
- American Prize in Opera Production, Finalist (2025)
- N.O.A. Production Award, Third Place (2025)
- NC Arts Council Artist Development Grant (2024)
- Duke University Evan Frankel Fellowship
- Duke University Aleane Webb Dissertation Research Award
- Duke University Summer Research Fellowship
- Inducted as Sigma Alpha Iota Honorary Member
- ASCAPPlus Award Recipient, 1999–present
- Winner, Haddonfield Young Composers' Competition (1998)
- NPR highlights and interviews: Philadelphia, Richmond, New England Public Radio, Minneapolis, Fort Wayne, and others

PUBLICATIONS

- Published by Theodore Presser Company: A Prayer, And He Shall Be Like a Tree, Beyond All Walking
- Founder, Adamo Press – publisher of over 40 original works including operas, orchestral works, choral music, and chamber music (2000–present)
- Children's album Beyond A Lullaby – worldwide sales (2016)

www.amyscurria.com