

**Kurt B. Knecht, M.M.**

## **Curriculum Vitae**

---

### **Address**

3344 Dudley St.  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68503  
Phone: 402.560.6208  
E-mail: kurt@kurtknecht.com

---

### **Biographical Data**

Date of Birth: September 25, 1971  
Place of Birth: Tampa, Florida  
Citizenship: USA

---

### **Education**

**Masters of Music**, May 1995  
Southern Methodist University  
Specialization: Composition  
Magna Cum Laude  
GPA: 3.9

#### **Bachelor of Music**, May 1993

University of Tampa  
Concentration: Piano Performance and Music Theory  
Magna Cum Laude  
GPA: 3.9

---

---

## Publications and Commissions

*Shalom Aleikhem* for SSA chorus, clarinet and piano.

Premiered by the Tampa Bay Children's Chorus. December 2007. Walton Music Publications 2008.

*That thine eyes may be opened* for SATB chorus and organ.

Commissioned by St. Catherine of Alexandria Episcopal Church, Tampa, FL for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. April 22, 2007

*Suite for Organ (Tocatta – Pasacaglia – Chorale Prelude on Sine Nomine – Chorale Prelude on Melita – Fugue)* for organ solo.

Commissioned by Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, Tampa for the new Cassavant organ. Scheduled premiere, January 2007.

*Nocturne* for piano solo

Commissioned by Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, Tampa, FL. for the new Steinway. Premiered by David E. Matthews, November 6, 2005

*Without Warning* for SATB chorus and piano

Commissioned by the historic Coral Gables Community Church. Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe, director of music.

*Deus noster refugium* for SSAA chorus and piano

Commissioned by Melinda Doyle and the Blake High School of the Performing Arts Advanced Women's Chorus for the Florida ACDA Convention. Walton Music Publications 2006.

Performed by the Maryland All State Chorus during the 2007 festival.

*Michaelangelo's On Beauty* for SSAATTBB chorus

Walton Music Publications 2004

Recorded by the University of Miami Chorale on the album "What Dreams May Come."

Performed by the Georgia All State Chorus during the 2007 festival.

Performed by the Arizona All State Chorus during the 2007 festival.

Performed by the California All State Chorus during the 2005 festival.

Performed by the Iowa All State Chorus during the 2005 festival.

*Rock-a-my-soul in the bosom of Abraham* for SATB chorus (optional conga part).

Walton Music Publications, 2003

*Go Tell it on the Mountain* for SSAATTBB chorus (optional conga part).

Walton Music Publications, 2001.

Recorded by the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay on the album "Christmas with the Master Chorale and the Empire Brass."

Featured on concerts at the Kennedy Center by the Grammy Award winning Washington Chorale in 2007.

*Manly Men's Chorus Extravaganza* for TTBB chorus.

Walton Music Publications, 2001.

Performed by the New York All State Chorus during the 2001 festival.

Performed by the Louisiana All State Chorus during the 2002 festival.

Performed by the Tennessee All State Chorus during the 2003 festival.

Performed by the Kansas All State Chorus during the 2004 festival.

Performed by the Georgia All State Chorus during the 2006 festival.

Performed by the New Mexico All State Chorus during the 2006 festival.

*My beloved* for SSA chorus. Commissioned by the Florida State University Advanced Secondary Lab Choir. Premiere – Fall 2003.

*Cradle song* for SSA chorus and piano. Commissioned by David Matthews and the Tampa Bay Children's chorus. Premiere – Fall 2003.

*Book of Spirituals* for Jazz Band and singer.

Commissioned by the University of Tampa Jazz Band. Premiered by Belinda Womack and the UT Jazz Band on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Tampa, FL.

*Unbounding Faith*. 75th anniversary hymn commission from St. John's Lutheran Church in Weirsdale, FL, 1999.

---

## Honors and Awards

- Graduate Assistantship, 2006-2009 Hixson Lied School of the Fine and Performing Arts, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
  - Don Nobles Award for outstanding student in composition, 1995 Southern Methodist University
  - Pi Kappa Lambda, 1995, Music Honors Society Southern Methodist University
  - Artistic Merit Scholarship, 1993 - 1995 Meadows School of the Arts, Southern Methodist University
  - Graduate Assistantship, 1993 - 1995 Meadows School of the Arts, Southern Methodist University
  - Sid Guber Memorial Award for Most Promising Young Artist, 1993 American Women in Radio and Television
  - Alpha Chi National Honors Society, 1993 University of Tampa
  - Florida Orchestra Young Artist Competition, First Prize, 1992 Florida Orchestra
  - Artistic Merit Scholarship, 1989-1993, University of Tampa
  - Academic Scholarship, 1989-1993, University of Tampa
-

---

## Compositions

### Solo Piano

*Nocturne* for solo piano. Premiered by David E. Matthews, Nov. 6, 2005. Tampa, FL.

*Sitz im Leben* – premiered by Kurt Knecht, Nov. 22, 1992. Tampa, FL.

### Solo Voice

*Three Poems of Gerald Manley Hopkins* for soprano solo and piano. Premiered by Eugenia Garrity and Kurt Knecht at the 2005 Southern Regional Conference of the College Music Society at the University of Florida.

*Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird* for soprano solo and piano. Text: Wallace Stevens.

*5 poems by Carl Sandburg* for soprano solo and piano.

### Choral

*Sero Te Amavi* for SSAATTBB chorus. Premiered November 2007 by the University of Nebraska Chamber Singers, Therese Hibbard, conductor

*That thine eyes* for SATB chorus and organ. Premiere – Temple Terrace, Florida. 2007.

*Without Warning* for SATB chorus and piano. Premiere – Temple Terrace, Florida 2006.

*Deus Noster Refugium* for SSAA chorus and piano. Premiered by the Blake High School Advanced Women's chorus at the 2004 Florida ACDA conference.

*On Beauty* for SSAATTBB chorus. Premiered May 2003 by the University of Miami Chorale, James Bass, conductor.

*Shalom Aleikhem* for SATB chorus, piano, and clarinet. Premiered February 2003 by the University of Tampa Collegiate Chorale, Kurt Knecht, conductor.

*A Cradle Song* for SSA chorus and piano. Premiered December 2003 by the Tampa Bay Children's Chorus. Averill Summer, conductor.

*My Beloved* for SSA chorus. Premiered Spring 2004 by the Florida State University Advanced Secondary Lab Choir. Cynthia Gaitanis conductor.

*Sanctus* for SATB chorus and organ. Premiered in 2001 by St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, Tampa FL. Kurt Knecht, organist and conductor.

*Rock-a-my-soul* SATB choral arrangement. Premiered November 2000 by the University of South Florida Chamber Singers. John Richmond, conductor.

*Manly Men's Chorus Extravaganza* for TTBB chorus. Premiered November 2000 by the University of South Florida Men's Glee Club. Sid Haden, conductor.

*Go Tell it on the Mountain* SSAATTBB choral arrangement. Premiered November 2000 by the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay. Jo-Michael Scheibe, conductor.

## Chamber

*The Ten Plagues* for woodwind octet. Premiered by Campo Aperto, Leonardo Lebas, conductor. Lincoln, Nebraska, 2007.

*Meditation and Ecstasy* for clarinet and piano, premiered Lincoln, Nebraska 2004.

*El Café Irradiacente* for violincello and piano, 2003.

*Jazz Sweet* for saxophone quartet. Premiered by the Bay Area Saxophone Quartet. Tampa, Florida, October 2000.

*Hymns for the Rhythm Children* for string quartet, 1995.

*Paroxysm* for soprano saxophone and piano. Premiered by the Meadows Contemporary Ensemble. Dallas, Texas, 1993

*Meditation* for violin, cello, and piano. Premiered by Spectrum Contemporary Ensemble. Tampa, Florida, 1992

## Large Ensemble

*Prismwhirl* for orchestra, 2005.

*Book of Spirituals* for Jazz Band and singer. Premiered by Belinda Womack and the University of Tampa Jazz band, April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

---

---

## Recordings

*Christmas with the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay & Empire Brass.* This limited distribution CD features joint and separate performances by The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay and the Empire Brass. *Go Tell it on the Mountain* is a featured piece.

*What Dreams May Come – The University of Miami Chorale.* Albany Records. This recent release of new American choral music features *Michelangelo's On Beauty*.

*The Vibes: On the Rise.* This recording by a small a cappella men's group features the *Manly Men's Chorus*.

---

## Significant Performances

### Performances as soloist

Ravel: *Concerto for Piano in G Major* Third Movement. The Florida Orchestra. Tampa, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Florida, 1991.

Grieg: *Concerto for Piano in A Minor* First Movement. The Mostly Pops Orchestra of Tampa. Tampa, Riverview, Florida, 1992.

### Performances as accompanist

Piano and organ accompanist for recitals with such notable choral conductors as Eph Ehly, Doreen Rao, Jo-Micheal Scheibe, Jerry McCoy, Kevin Fenton, Robert Summer, John Richmond, and David Clark Isele.

Organist and pianist for the Tampa Bay Children's Chorus tour of England and Scotland, Summer 2000. Performances included St. Seplechure's, London, Coventry Cathedral, Coventry. The tour concluded with a performance in Holy Trinity Church, St. Andrews as part of the Doreen Rao Choral Music Experience Institute.

Organist and pianist for the Howard W. Blake High School for the Performing Arts. 2002-2006. In addition to regular concerts during the season, the choirs took tours to New York which included performances at the Riverside Church and Washington, D.C. where the choir performed at the historic Christ Church in Alexandria.

### **Premieres of Works by Other Composers**

David Clark Isele: *Tocatta* for organ solo. Organist, Tampa, Florida, 1999

Kevin Hanlon: *The Lark of Avignon* for piano and wind band. Pianist, Dallas, Texas 1998

Peeter Tamearu: *Antiphon* for piano solo. Pianist, Dallas, Texas, 1995

Elliot Schwartz: *Chamber Concerto V for Bassoon* for Bassoon, String Quartet and Piano. Pianist, Tampa, Florida, 1992

### **Other**

Choral Director for Choral Evensong Workshop for the Southwest Diocese of the Episcopal Church. St. Peter's Cathedral 2005.

Organist for Choral Evensong Workshop for the Southwest Diocese of the Episcopal Church. St. Peter's Cathedral 2004.

Final Organist for the American Guild of Organist-Tampa Chapter's "Bach Bash" 2004.

Smokey Robinson. Featured soloist. Industrial Show. Naples, Florida, 1998. Featured soloist.

### **Rehearsal accompanist**

Beethoven: *Missa Solemnis* Tampa, Florida, 1999. The Florida Orchestra with the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, the University of South Florida Chamber Singers, and the University of Miami Chamber Singers. Men's sectional rehearsal accompanist.

Mendelssohn: *Elijah* Tampa, Florida, 1998. The Florida Orchestra with the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay and the University of South Florida Chamber Singers. Rehearsal accompanist for the Chamber Singers.

Berlioz: *Requiem* Tampa, Florida, 2001. The Florida Orchestra with the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay.

---

## **Work Experience**

### **Music Director**

St. Mark's on the Campus, Lincoln, Nebraska

Organist and Choir Master

Responsibilities include preparing adult and children's choirs, providing instrumental music for services, and coordinating the music program of the parish.

### **Adjunct Professor**

#### **University of Tampa**

1999 - 2004

Courses taught at University of Tampa:

Collegiate Chorale

Women's Glee Club

Camerata

Theory II

Musicianship Skills II

Theory IV

Musicianship Skills IV

Orchestration

Romantic and 20<sup>th</sup> Century History

Applied Composition

Applied Piano

Music Appreciation

**Florida Southern College**

Fall 2000

Courses taught at Florida Southern College:

Applied Jazz Piano

Applied Composition

**Graduate Assistant**

**University of Nebraska – Lincoln**

Fall 2006 – Present

Freshman and Sophomore Aural Skills

**Southern Methodist University**

Fall 1993 – Spring 1995

Sophomore Aural Skills

Electronic Music

**Staff Accompanist**

University of South Florida

1996 - 2004

Piano and organ accompaniment for rehearsals, concerts, and recordings of USF ensembles and classes including: USF Chamber Singers, Women's Chorale, and vocal studio classes, flute studio classes.

Florida Southern College

Fall 2000

Piano accompaniment for vocal soloists.

## Other Related Work Experience

St. Catherine's Episcopal Church. 2004-2006

Organist and Choir Master.

Responsibilities include preparing adult and children's choirs, providing instrumental music for services, and coordinating the music program of the parish.

First Christian Church. 2001 - 2004

Responsibilities include directing the adult and youth choirs. Providing organ music for the worship services. Arranging for the contemporary service.

St. Catherine's Episcopal Church. 2000 – 2001

Organist and Choir Master

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church 1995 - 1999

Responsibilities included: composing and arranging for a ten piece band, providing organ music and accompaniment for services, conducting the adult choir, children's music, coordinating concert series, working with soloists, developing new talent, two major choral works performed per year, scheduling and coordinating rehearsals for choirs, soloists, and instrumentalists.

- Interim Assistant Professor, University of Tampa, Spring 1996
- Interim Choral Director, Seminole Presbyterian School, Spring 1996
- Organist, Arrapaho United Methodist Church, 1994-1995
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Southern Methodist University, 1993-1995
- Assistant Music Director, Broadway Theatre Project of Tampa, 1991-1995
- Music Director, Bye, Bye, Birdie, H.B. Plant High School, 1992
- Choir Master and Organist, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1990-1992
- Music Director, Annie, Performance Preparatory Children's Theatre, 1990
- Organist, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1989

---

## Computer Proficiency

- Finale
- Freestyle
- Digital Performer
- MS Word
- Excel
- Powerpoint
- Macintosh/IBM platforms

---

## Professional References

### Dr. John Richmond

Professor & Director of the School of Music  
University of Nebraska  
School of Music  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0100  
Phone: (402) 472-5775  
E-mail: [jrichmond2@unl.edu](mailto:jrichmond2@unl.edu)

### Dr. Terry Mohn

Chair of Music  
University of Tampa  
401 West Kennedy Boulevard  
Tampa, FL 33606-1490  
Telephone: (813) 253-6212  
E-mail: [tmohn@ut.edu](mailto:tmohn@ut.edu)

### Rev. Dr. Jerold Thompson

Rector  
St. Mark's on the Campus Episcopal Church  
1309 R St.  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Telephone: (402) 474-1979  
E-mail: [smoc.rector@stmarks-episcopal.org](mailto:smoc.rector@stmarks-episcopal.org)