DON BRYN

COMPOSER • PIANIST • EDUCATOR • AUTHOR

Biography | 450 words

Don Bryn is a composer whose work brings together concert music, film scoring, performance, and education through a spirit of exploration and discovery. Whether writing for the concert hall or the screen, he approaches every project by uncovering the unique musical world it inhabits, believing that each composition reveals its own character, its own relationships, and ultimately its own internal physics.

He is Music Program Manager and Director of Music Theory and Keyboard Studies at the State College of Florida, where he teaches composition, music theory, piano, and music appreciation. Beyond the college, he is Music Director for the Unitarian Universalists of Sarasota and is the singing coach for the Florida State University Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training, where he works with some of the nation's most promising graduate acting students. He is also the author of Now Hear This, an online music appreciation textbook designed to make music engaging, insightful, and accessible to listeners of every musical background.

Although composition has always been at the heart of his work, Bryn's career has taken him in many directions. For fourteen years he worked internationally as a pianist, conductor, music director, and arranger throughout the cruise and entertainment industry. He conducted mainstage productions, supervised musicians, managed scheduling and performance reviews, and performed more than 300 shows each year while traveling to more than 130 countries and territories. Those experiences shaped not only his musicianship but also his lifelong fascination with culture, language, and the many ways people connect through music.

His work includes commissioned concert music, orchestral film scores, large-scale symphonic pops arrangements, and educational publications. Recent highlights include commissioned compositions for Via Nova Chorale, film scores developed during his graduate diploma in Film and Game Scoring, arrangements for Czech crossover artist Lenka Graf and the Czech National Orchestra, and Iconic Songs of the '70s, a symphonic pops production that has toured with major orchestras throughout North America.

As a performer, Bryn approaches the piano from the perspective of a composer. Rather than treating performance as an exhibition of virtuosity, he enjoys inviting audiences into the music itself through thoughtful interpretation, conversation, and the relaxed atmosphere of salon-style concerts. Whether performing chamber music, collaborating with other artists, or presenting solo recitals, his goal is always to help listeners discover the remarkable worlds composers create.

Bryn divides his time between Sarasota, Florida, and Heredia, Costa Rica. He speaks English and Spanish, enjoys exploring languages and cultures, cooking, hiking, and traveling, and finds that many of his best musical ideas begin far from the piano. Those experiences continue to shape the curiosity that lies at the center of both his music and his teaching.

Hear and see more of Don's work at donbryn.com