

David Gaines

Composer-Musician

davidrgaines@gmail.com

Summary

Musician with over thirty-five years of experience as a classically-trained composer, arranger, performer, karaoke DJ, and music journalist. Also a volunteer animal welfare activist for over fifteen years specializing in ferret, chinchilla, and small mammal advocacy, rescue, and husbandry.

Professional musical collaborations and performances include: Embassy of Afghanistan in Washington, Afghan pop music legend Ehsan Aman, Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra (Slovakia), Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra (Czech Republic), PJ Veyvanovsky Symphony Orchestra (Czech Republic), Orchestra of the Podlasie Opera & Philharmonic (Poland), Stamford Young Artists Philharmonic (Connecticut), Bulgarian Esperanto Choir, Master Singers of Virginia, and the Peabody Wind Ensemble (Baltimore, Md.); conductors Pawel Kotla, Kirk Trevor, Harlan Parker, Viktor Kozanek, Salvatore Princiotti, and Vit Micka; performers Mark Cox (professor of tuba, Central Michigan University), Elizabeth Sadilek-Labenski (former professor of flute, Iowa State University; flutist, Cedar Rapids Symphony and Boulder Philharmonic), Eileen Meyer Russell (professor of trombone, Southwestern University), Robert Kozanek (principal trombone, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra), James DeJoie (Seattle area baritone saxophonist), Darel Stark (assoc. principal 2nd violin, Honolulu Symphony Orchestra), and Double Play (the world's only fulltime professional flute & tuba duo).

Orchestral, concert band, and chamber music recordings are available on the Navona Records, MMC Recordings, and Verda Stelo Music labels in both compact disc and digital download formats.

Computer-based studio with an array of hardware and software musical instruments and production tools. Windows 7 64-bit environment running Finale, Cakewalk Sonar, Audacity, Vienna Symphonic Library, TapSPACE Virtual Drumline, and Garrigan's Personal Orchestra, Concert & Marching Band, Jazz & Big Band, and World Instruments libraries

Experience

Composer at Verda Stelo Music

1983 - Present (34 years)

I write music. Most of it could be described as contemporary classical music but I also write music more along the lines of new age, classical crossover, electronic, world music, and frequently a blend of all of the above.

Karaoke DJ & System Rentals at Dave The Karaoke Guy

August 2009 - Present (7 years 8 months)

Karaoke DJ ("KJ") and karaoke system rentals for private parties, receptions, and other events around the Washington, D.C./Baltimore area

Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs (volunteer position) at American Ferret Association

May 2008 - December 2015 (7 years 8 months)

See description below under "Volunteer Experience & Causes"

Keyboardist at Surrender Friday

January 2009 - November 2009 (11 months)

Former keyboardist and founding member of a Washington, D.C. area classic/modern rock cover band

www.surrenderfriday.com

Adjunct Associate Professor at University of Maryland University College

2004 - 2006 (2 years)

Taught traditional, in-person introductory classes in ethnomusicology and the history of jazz. Assisted in the development of a non-traditional, online, distance education course based on the history of jazz class.

Adjunct Instructor at Connected Education, Inc./New School University

1994 - 1996 (2 years)

Developed, maintained, and taught an online, distance education course in the history of electronic music technology (the first of its kind - this was prior to the invention of the Worldwide Web).

Assistant Director of Music at Appel Farm Arts Camp

1993 - 1993 (less than a year)

Assisted in managing the music division of an alternative summer arts camp for children and teenagers in southern New Jersey. Arranged teacher schedules, taught electronic music and low brass, supervised music instruction, and performed with other faculty members & staff.

Publications

Free Air for trombone and organ

Verda Stelo Music May 2014

Authors: David Gaines

A major recital piece for trombone and organ commissioned by Eileen Meyer Russell (former associate professor of music, Southwestern University Sarofim School of the Arts) with funding provided by the Southwestern University Sam Taylor Fellowship Fund. World premiere: October 9, 2014 at Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas.

Trombone Concerto

Verda Stelo Music September 2009

Authors: David Gaines

Commissioned for the 60th anniversary of the PJ Vejvanovský Conservatory & trombonist Robert Kozánek (principal trombone, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra)

Instrumentation: 4-0-0-0; 0-0-3-0; perc; strings; solo trombone

Duration: ca. 15'

World premiere: 9/25/2009, PJ Vejvanovský Conservatory Orchestra/Robert Kozánek (trombone & euphonium)/Viktor Kozánek (conductor), Assembly Hall, Archbishop's Castle, Kroměříž, Czech Republic
...and dispel the miseries of the world for baritone saxophone and chamber orchestra

Verda Stelo Music May 2008

Authors: David Gaines

Commissioned for saxophonist James DeJoie

Instrumentation: 2-0-0-bcl; 0-1-1 (bs tbn)-0; perc; strings; solo bari sax

Duration: ca. 15'

"I really enjoyed listening to your baritone saxophone concerto....In particular, I enjoyed the orchestration of your second movement and the lyricism that you accentuated with the baritone saxophone. As you mentioned in the liner notes, this is a side of the instrument that isn't explored frequently."

— Noah Getz, concert saxophonist, musician-in-residence at American University, Washington, D.C.

The Lion Of Panjshir (Symphony No. 2) for optional narrator and symphonic band

Verda Stelo Music February 2004

Authors: David Gaines

Composed in memory of Afghanistan's national hero, Ahmad Shah Massoud, and dedicated to the people of Afghanistan

Instrumentation: picc-2-2-ehn-2; eflat cl-3-bcl-cbcl; 2-1-1; 3-4-3-euph-1; str bass; timp; perc; narrator (optional)

Duration: ca. 25'

World premiere: 2/11/2004, Peabody Wind Ensemble/Harlan Parker, conductor/Haron Amin, narrator, Friedberg Concert Hall/Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

“I cannot imagine a more powerful mix of words, images, and music than The Lion of Panjshir. People who know nothing of Massoud or Afghanistan will be stunned by the sheer power of the composition, and people who are familiar with these topics will be reduced to tears. It is a tremendous piece of work.” — author/journalist Sebastian Junger

"Gaines has achieved a milestone in the canon of symphonic band literature with a substantial work that transcends cultural barriers." — Washington Post

Symphony No. 1 ("Esperanto") for mezzo-soprano and orchestra

Verda Stelo Music May 1998

Authors: David Gaines

My doctoral dissertation at the Peabody Conservatory of Music. The first symphonic composition ever written using the international language Esperanto.

Instrumentation: 2(afl)-2(eh)-2-bcl-asax-tsax-2(cb); 4-2(flugel)-3-euph-1; timp; perc; strings; solo mezzo

Duration: ca. 30'

World premiere: 10/6/2000, Moravian Philharmonic/Vit Micka, conductor/Kimball Wheeler, mezzo-soprano, Reduta Hall, Olomouc, Czech Republic

“A major work which can hold its own against any modern symphony.” — EsperantoUSA

“Thank you for writing such beautiful music for the voice.” — Mezzo-soprano Kimball Wheeler

Euphonium Concerto

Verda Stelo Music May 1987

Authors: David Gaines

My master's thesis at the Dept. of Performing Arts, American University

Instrumentation: 2-2-eh-2-tsax-2; 4-2-3-1; timp; perc (6 players); strings; solo euph

Duration: ca. 18'

“A substantial work for the euphonium.....logical and well-proportioned writing in the solo lines.....The writing matches the euphonium’s skills well.” — Adam Frey, Guide to the Euphonium Repertoire (2007)

Volunteer Experience

Director, Legal and Legislative Affairs at American Ferret Association

May 2008 - December 2015

As a part-time volunteer, I chaired the AFA's Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee and responded, on a volunteer basis, to inquiries directed to the AFA regarding the legal status of ferrets in various jurisdictions, both in the USA and in other countries. This would include ownership & possession, importing, quarantine, licensing, vaccination requirements, etc. I also answered questions from reporters and the media when ferret-related issues hit the news, and also prepared & represented the AFA's positions when input was needed by the federal government, state legislatures, or regulatory agencies such as the US Dept. of Agriculture.

Skills & Expertise

Music Education

Composition

Music

Orchestral Music

Finale

Band

Orchestration

Classical

Singing

Chamber Music

Contemporary Music

Recording

Musicians

Electronic Music

Music Theory

Music History

Musical Theatre

Music Licensing

Performing Arts

Cakewalk Sonar

Teaching

Film Scoring

Concerts

Karaoke

DJ

Languages

Esperanto

Spanish

Portuguese

Education

Peabody Conservatory of Music/Johns Hopkins University

Doctor of Musical Arts, Composition, 1992 - 1998

Activities and Societies: Pi Kappa Lambda (music honorary society - equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa)

American University

Master of Arts, Music (composition), 1985 - 1987

Northwestern University

Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Arts, Theory & Composition (BMus)/Philosophy (BA), 1979 - 1984

Activities and Societies: Lambda Chi Alpha, freeform radio host at WNUR-FM

Rippowam High School

1975 - 1979

Activities and Societies: Top 10%, National Honor Society, concert band, marching band, varsity track, JV soccer

Interests

Music, Classical music, Contemporary classical music, Progressive rock music, Film scoring, Teaching, Music journalism, Karaoke, Blogging, Ferret rescue

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9 people have recommended David

"I have had the pleasure of working with David Gaines in a musical capacity since 2005, and his compositional creativity and artistic ingenuity is matched only by his personal warmth and collaborative nature. David's music is accomplished, accessible, and engaging, and I strongly recommend him for any and all opportunities that require a high level of talent and integrity."

— **Bob Lord**, worked directly with David at Verda Stelo Music

"David Gaines has both left- and right-brain talents. His music is creative, appealing, and challenging in wonderful ways. He is building an audience that is global, and I hope to hear his work performed more widely in the US. He does exacting research for commissioned works, and I recommend him as a composer with many gifts. Karen C. Adams, PhD Associate Director Fellowships Office Georgia Institute of Technology"

— **Karen Adams**, was with another company when working with David at Verda Stelo Music

"I attended Peabody with David, and even then I was amazed by his ability to forge fresh and creative compositions by taking a new look at traditional materials. While creative and even innovative, David is a disciplined professional: with the craft of composition well in hand, he can tailor his music to the special attributes of individual musicians and the specifications of recordings and performances."

— **Paul Mathews**, worked with David at Verda Stelo Music

"David Gaines is one of the most important composers before the public today. He has brought his unique voice and firm compositional command to works of every scale imaginable--from compositions for symphony orchestra and voice (Symphony No. 1) and symphonic band and narrator (Symphony No. 2); to concertos for euphonium and trombone; to smaller scale works for a variety of wind, string, and percussion instruments. While Gaines' works have been heard in a number of important venues, from Peabody Conservatory (where Gaines earned his doctoral degree in composition) to concert halls overseas, the public has not had nearly enough opportunities to experience his work live. Fortunately, some of Gaines' works are available on CD and by download, although not nearly enough of them. I encourage anyone with a

serious interest in good music to get any Gaines work that is commercially available and to do whatever else they can to support this artist."

— **Jeff Shaw**, was David's client

"David is a prolific composer of excellent music!"

— **Russ Cooper**, worked with David at Verda Stelo Music

"During my time as Volunteer Coordinator for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, I was fortunate enough to have David apply to volunteer, especially with our ferret population. Upon our first meeting, I knew I had someone special. David worked tirelessly for our ferrets, especially older and terminal ones, to either find forever homes or live comfortably in a foster situation. David is very knowledgeable and achieved a lot while I worked for the shelter. Any organization should consider themselves lucky to be able to work with him!"

— **Ellen Kamilakis**, was David's client

"David is a valuable advocate for ferrets, teaching many people--including shelter employees--how to care for them and screen for suitable homes. Every time I talk to him about ferrets I learn something new about these amazing and delightful companions. His advocacy extends to our animal world in general, giving voices to those that have none. His compassion, talent, and conviction inspires me in my own quest to educate the public about companion animals, especially in our niche of the uncommon critters such as ferrets, rabbits, chinchillas, mice, and rats."

— **Leesa Hanagan**, worked directly with David at American Ferret Association

"January 2, 2012 My name is Vickie McKimney and I have known David Gaines for several years. He has volunteered as the Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs for The American Ferret Association, Inc. (AFA). I am one of the Governing Board Members as well as the Director of Shows and Special Events for the organization and have held these positions for the past 16 years. In all my years of experience, some individuals stand out for their great qualities and David is one of those people. He is well known for his positive attitude, teamwork mentality, and diligence to always get the job done. He is well respected throughout the ferret community for providing the information requested by those in need. Throughout the time I've know him, he has shown time and again that he is a positive, motivated volunteer. It was a loss to the organization when David stepped down as the Director for the L&L committee, but he continues to work with the committee as time allows."

— **Vickie McKimney**, worked directly with David at American Ferret Association

"David is an outstanding contemporary composer with the high level of knowledge and skills necessary to be competitive in his field. He is an excellent pianist as well, and great to work with."

— **Michelle Young**, worked directly with David at Surrender Friday

[Contact David on LinkedIn](#)