

Craig Peaslee is an award winning composer, arranger, and guitarist whose music explores the hybridization of jazz and other art music traditions.

A disabled veteran, Craig's works frequently focus on representing the struggles veterans encounter with assimilation and alienation while returning to civilian life and the experience of serving active duty. Another recurring theme found in his music are topics that directly confront the socio-political issues of our time, conveying the subjects in musical terms in order for the listener to think more critically regarding their community, culture, and society. With a clear personal musical identity, Craig's harmonic, rhythmic, and technical explorations sear a sonic imprint into the audience through the fusion of disparate genres into the liminal space between idioms and cultures.

In 2023, Craig received an Emerging Composer Commissioning Grant from the ARTZcenter and was selected by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players for a 2024 world premiere (*Her Dress Waves* for chamber orchestra). In 2022, Craig won the American Prize in Chamber Music Composition (*Fragile* for brass quintet) following a 2021 First Place finish in the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra (ICO) Composition Contest, *Second City Strut*, which debuted at the Indiana State University Contemporary Music Festival by the ICO. Other accolades include receiving the 2023 University of Miami Presser Foundation Graduate Music Award, a grant which is providing funding for his debut album that will feature *Fragile*.

Growing up in a rural village, Craig is passionate about presenting new music to small communities and areas that do not normally get the opportunity to attend concerts featuring new music. A dedicated educator, Craig keeps an active studio of music students and works with his local public school districts in multifaceted roles. For these reasons, Craig enjoys writing music that is accessible while also sounding new and invigorating.

Craig Peaslee is a composer, arranger, and guitarist whose music explores the hybridization of American Jazz and Western Classical (as well as Non Western) music traditions. With a clear personal musical identity, Craig's harmonic, rhythmic, and technical explorations sear a sonic imprint into the audience through the fusion of disparate genres into the liminal space between idioms and cultures.

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Craig Peaslee's music continually finds him searching for new ways to incorporate jazz elements into works for the concert stage. Recent awards from the American Prize and Presser Foundation are proof that such a hybridization is still relevant.

Craig's compositions are multi-faceted, genre-bending, incorporate traditional methods in new innovating ways, and commonly confront present socio-political issues in a direct manner bringing attention to the challenges facing the world we live in, Craig is passionate about creating new music that is accessible while simultaneously sounding new and invigorating.

Craig is currently pursuing a DMA in Composition at the University of Miami.