



## Kirk O'Riordan, composer

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Kirk O'Riordan's music has been referred to as "unapologetically beautiful" and is often praised for its uniquely "visual" qualities that depict a wide range of striking moods. His debut compact disk, *Strange Flowers*, was released by Ravello Records in November, 2013 and was praised by Audiophile Audition as "one of the most impressive and beautiful collections of chamber music I have heard in awhile....This is all just so lovely and invokes exactly the emotions that good music should be able to induce in all of us." Gramophone Magazine praised O'Riordan as "a composer for whom imagery is a defining inspiration....[he] is a deeply sensitive composer who savours going gently into the night." (April 2014). A recording of his *Twenty-Six Preludes for Solo Piano*—by pianist Holly Roadfeldt—will be released in November, 2016 by Parma Recordings.

O'Riordan (b. 1968) is an active composer, conductor, saxophonist, and teacher. He is the recipient of numerous awards as both a composer and a performer, including annual ASCAP Plus awards, a Composer's Assistance Program grant from the American Music Center, the 2001 Arizona State University Composition Competition, the 2000 Contemporary Music Society competition, and an ERM-Media Masterworks Prize. In addition, his Cadenza for Piano Trio was one of two works selected by audience members at the CMS Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Super-regional Conference for performance at the 2008 CMS National Conference.

Kirk recently completed his first opera: *The Masque of Edgar Allan Poe*, a one-act chamber opera based on Poe's "Masque of the Red Death" on a libretto by Lafayette

College colleague Lee Upton. The work will be premiered by the University of Delaware Opera Theater in November, 2016. O'Riordan has also collaborated with dancer/choreographers Carrie Rohman and Nandini Sikand as well as choreographer Ben Munisteri.

In 2009 Dr. O'Riordan joined the faculty of Lafayette College where he serves as Associate Professor of Music and Director of Bands, teaching courses in music theory, and composition. In addition, he teaches in the First-year Seminar program and conducts the Lafayette College Concert Band and Contemporary Music Ensemble. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Arizona State University (the first recipient of that degree from ASU); the Certificate of Performance in Saxophone from Northwestern University; and three Master of Music degrees (composition, saxophone performance, and conducting).

Kirk has studied composition with Rodney Rogers, Randall Shinn, James De Mars, Glenn Hackbarth, Jay Alan Yim, Burton Beerman, Marilyn Shrude, and Donald M. Wilson. He has studied saxophone with Frederick L. Hemke, John Sampen, Eugene Rousseau, and Iwan Roth.