**Composition at Crane**

Our Composition program is a small and highly selective one, which provides our composition students with individualized attention and access to significant opportunities. Majors in Composition begin private study during their first year in the program. In addition to the weekly private lessons with our faculty composers, there are weekly opportunities for all of the composers at Crane – faculty and students together – to meet to discuss each other’s works, to work with guest composers, and to discuss other topics relevant to the art, craft and business of composition.

Although students may choose to focus on either electronic or non-electronic composition, the program requires at least two semesters of study in both areas. Additional coursework in the major includes orchestration/arranging, counterpoint, jazz/pop/world musics, and a selection of theory/history elective courses.

There are many opportunities for student composers to hear their works performed live in one of our two concert halls, or in our more intimate recital hall. Composition majors may also produce a complete recital of their works in collaboration with their colleagues in the performance area. Composition majors will compile a Capstone Portfolio of pieces, which can be used in preparation for either graduate studies or professional work opportunities.

For students who would like to study composition and are not necessarily interested in the major, Crane offers a **Minor in Composition** for qualified music majors. Composition study is also available as an elective in a class setting.

**Recent Guest Composers and Performers**

The Crane School of Music has a long history of fostering composers, supporting new music, and commissioning new works. In addition, each year, we welcome guest composers and performers specializing in new music to campus. Recently, The Crane School of Music was visited by composer/author/educators Gunther Schuller and Libby Larsen, both of whom were on campus for extended residencies. Among the activities surrounding their visits, they both conducted masterclasses with composition students.

As part of the Clarinet Summit, we welcomed bass clarinetist/composer Michael Lowenstern to campus for concerts and masterclasses.

During the campus-wide Lougheed Festival of the Arts, faculty composer Gregory Wanamaker presented a new multimedia work with renowned American multimedia artist Carrie Mae Weems, who joined us for the premiere.

The New York City-based janus trio also came to Crane and, during their visit, spent several hours reading through works composed for them by student composers (pictured below).
Composer Gunther Schuller talks with Crane students and faculty during his 2012 visit to Crane

Crane Composition Faculty

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- Dr. Jerod Sommerfeldt
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- Dr. Timothy Sullivan
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- Dr. Gregory Wanamaker
  wanamagr@potsdam.edu
  www.gregorywanamaker.com

Recent Composition Graduates

- Bill Ryan, professor of composition, Grand Valley State University, Grammy Award Winner
- Ronald G. Vigue, executive director of Orchestra 2001, Philadelphia
- Rob Smith, professor of composition, University of Houston
- Ryan Fraley, composer and arranger, Indianapolis
- John-Paul Brabant, doctoral program, University of Hawai‘i
- Lance Day, composer and independent producer, New York
- Michael Blostein, composer and educator, Albany
- Larisa Montanaro, performer, composer and educator, Austin
- Paul Riker, composer/audio engineer for the visualization lab at King Abdullah University of Science & Technology, Saudi Arabia

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