



# ALEX BERKO composer/pianist

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## LONG BIO (469 words)

Fascinated by the art of story telling, Alex Berko often writes music that combines cinematic elements with a unique and widely influenced harmonic pallet, containing a strong emotional narrative. Berko (b. 1995) is an American composer, pianist, and arranger from Cleveland, Ohio whose music has been performed in Asia, Canada, and throughout the United States.

Berko's music has been performed and recorded by members of the New York Philharmonic and Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Del Sol String Quartet, The Crossing Choir, NOTUS Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, and Indiana University's Vocal Jazz Ensemble I, among many others. He has been named the winner of the SCI/ASCAP Commission Competition, the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Brock Composition Prize, the Carl E. Baldassarre Composer/Performer competition at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM), and the Webster University Composition Competition, among others. Additionally, he is a three-time ASCAP Morton Gould Finalist and has received additional recognition from BMI (Student Composer Awards Finalist) and the Minnesota Orchestra Composer's Institute (Honorable Mention). For piano performance, Berko was a finalist in the CIM Concerto Competition and a semifinalist in the Dubois Piano Competition at Bowling Green State University (BGSU).

Berko's music has been heard at the Green Music Center, the ACDA Central Division Conference, the Jazz Education Network (JEN) Conference, RED NOTE New Music Festival, BGSU New Music Festival, NYU/ASCAP Film Scoring Institute, Atlantic Music Festival, California Summer Music Festival, and Interlochen Arts Camp, as well as on Cleveland (OH) and Bloomington (IN) Public Radio. At the age of 13, Berko collaborated and performed a piece with Verb Ballet, a Cleveland-based contemporary dance company. Beyond concert music, he has gone on to score several independent films and arrange many pieces for various choirs, ensembles, and solo artists.

Upcoming projects include a collaboration with Grammy-nominated vocalist, Kate McGarry and the Cape Cod Symphony Orchestra for December 2017, a new work commissioned for the Heartland Marimba Quartet to be performed at the 2018 SCI National Conference in March, a commission from Donald Nally for the Cathedral Choral Society in Washington D.C., and a new 15-minute work commissioned by the Monterey Symphony for their season opening concert in October 2018.

Berko currently attends Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, pursuing a BM in composition with an outside concentration in piano and entrepreneurship. In addition, he is a member of NOTUS Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, has sung in the leading Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and accompanies the Singing Hoosiers. In his early years, Berko received extensive training in composition, piano, and theory at the Cleveland Institute of Music pre-college division. Primary teachers for composition include Claude Baker, Keith Fitch, Aaron Travers, Don Freund, and Stephen Stanziano. For piano, he has studied with Edmund Battersby and Sandra Shapiro. He currently studies composition with David Dzubay and piano with Jean-Louis Haguenaer. Berko is a member of ASCAP.

## SHORT BIO (266 words)

Fascinated by the art of story telling, Alex Berko often writes music that combines cinematic elements with a uniquely and widely influenced harmonic pallet, containing a strong emotional narrative. Berko (b. 1995) is an American composer, pianist, and arranger whose music has been performed in Asia, Canada and throughout the United States.

Berko's music has been performed and recorded by members of the New York Philharmonic and Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Del Sol String Quartet, The Crossing Choir, NOTUS Contemporary Ensemble, and Indiana University's Vocal Jazz Ensemble I, among many others. His music has been heard at the Green Music Center, the American Choral Directors Association Central Division Conference, the Jazz Education Network Conference, Atlantic Music Festival, RED NOTE New Music Festival, BGSU New Music Festival, NYU/ASCAP Film Scoring Institute, California Summer Music

Festival, and Interlochen Arts Camp as well as on Cleveland (OH) and Bloomington (IN) Public Radio. He has received recognition from ASCAP/SCI (Three-time ASCAP Morton Gould Finalist; SCI Commission Competition Award), BMI (Finalist), the American Choral Directors Association (Brock Memorial Award), the Cleveland Institute of Music (Carl E. Baldassarre Award), and the Minnesota Orchestra Composer's Institute (Honorable Mention), among others.

Berko currently attends Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music pursuing a BM in composition with an outside concentration in piano and entrepreneurship. He received extensive training at the Cleveland Institute of Music pre-college division with Keith Fitch (composition) and Sandra Shapiro (piano). Primary teachers at Indiana include David Dzubay, Claude Baker, Aaron Travers, Don Freund (composition) and Jean-Louis Haguenuer and Edmund Battersby (piano). Berko is a member of ASCAP. For more information, visit [alexberko.com](http://alexberko.com).

### **SHORTER BIO (201 WORDS)**

Alex Berko (b. 1995) is an American composer, pianist, and arranger whose music has been performed in Asia, Canada, and throughout the United States. Berko has received performances by members of the New York Philharmonic and Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Del Sol String Quartet, The Crossing Choir, NOTUS Contemporary Ensemble, Indiana University's Vocal Jazz Ensemble I, and many others. His music has been heard at the Green Music Center, the American Choral Directors Association Central Division Conference, the Jazz Education Network Conference, RED NOTE New Music Festival, BGSU New Music Festival, Atlantic Music Festival, and the NYU/ASCAP Film Scoring Institute. In addition, he has received recognition from ASCAP/SCI (Three-time ASCAP Morton Gould Finalist; SCI Commission Competition Award), BMI (Finalist), the American Choral Directors Association (Brock Memorial Award), the Cleveland Institute of Music (Carl E. Baldassarre Award), and the Minnesota Orchestra Composer's Institute (Honorable Mention), among others. Berko currently attends Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, pursuing a BM in composition with an outside concentration in piano and entrepreneurship. Primary teachers include David Dzubay, Claude Baker, Keith Fitch, Aaron Travers, Don Freund (composition) and Jean-Louis Haguenuer, Edmund Battersby, and Sandra Shapiro (piano). Berko is a member of ASCAP. For more information, visit [alexberko.com](http://alexberko.com).