

Micah Ballard, Game Designer and Composer

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[Portfolio Site](#)
[Musecore.com](#)

Education

Aug 2015 – May 2021

Walnut Hills High School

3250 Victory Pkwy, Cincinnati, OH 45207
Degree Senior

4.86 GPA. Has taken 13 AP Classes: APUSH, Latin, US Government, Computer Science A, Calculus BC, English language and composition, Physics 1, Physics 2, English literature, Micro and Macroeconomics, Music Theory, and psychology.

Aug 2021 – May 2025

Miami University

501 E High St, Oxford, OH 45056

Has currently taken 163 credit hours, double majoring in Music Composition and Game Design.

Music/Artistic Achievement

February 2021 – May 2021

Studied with CCM Professor Ellen R. Harrison

Grade 12
2 Hrs/Week
Total Hours: 24

Studying under Prof. Harrison, I learned how to further hone the skills taught to me by the Interlochen Online Composition program by composing a 9 minute string quartet for the Artswave Truth and Reconciliation project for Black and Brown Artists.

Aug 2019 – Aug 2021

Studied with CSO Principal Bassoonist Christopher Sales

Grade 12
1 Hrs/Week
Total Hours: 112

Studying under Christopher Sales, I was able to improve my skills both as a bassoonist, a musician, and a composer. Through his teachings and experience at CSYO and CSO performances, I was able to audition and be accepted into Miami University with a scholarship for Music Composition.

**Jun 2020 – Jul 2020
Jul 2021 – Aug 2021**

Interlochen Composition Program

Grade 12
30 Hrs/Week
Total Hours: 90

The Interlochen composition program allowed me to study many aspects of music composition and theory that dramatically improved my understanding of music. I received a scholarship to attend the

Interlochen program from the CSYO Nouveau program, and I am very thankful for them allowing me to experience the program. In the composition program, we were assigned to do a composition a week for 3 weeks for piano, clarinet and flute duet, and string quartet. Every day we would take five 70 minute classes, each studying different aspects of music such as theory, orchestration, computer music, score preparation, and musician artistry. We also got to meet many musicians and composers such as Ray Chen, Jennifer Higdon, and Wynton Marsalis who discussed topics such as drawing up compositional ideas, performance anxiety, technique, and who they learned from.

Jun 2020 – Jul 2020 Project 440
Grade 12
3 Hrs/Week
Total Hours: 18

Project 440 is an organization that helps students, particularly musician students, on becoming entrepreneurs and tips on applying to college. The program allowed me to get a better grasp on the college system, scholarships, and application process for colleges. We also got to meet entrepreneurs and social media influencers like Drew Forde (That Viola Kid), Mike O'Bryan, and Hilary Hahn!

Aug 2019 – May 2021 Cincinnati Symphony Youth Philharmonic Orchestra
Grade 11, 12
15 Hrs/Week
Total Hours: 1000

I auditioned as a bassoonist for the CSYO in July 2019. I ended up joining their Concert Orchestra. I had also been accepted into a side program of the CSYO called Nouveau, which gave us free tickets to all CSO concerts in order for us to pick and study them. Sadly in early 2020, due to COVID-19, the last few concerts were canceled. We continue to do CSYO online, however, where I was accepted into the Philharmonic Orchestra, the top orchestra of the CSYO.

Aug 2017 – Oct 2019 Walnut Hills Marching Band
Grade 9, 10, 11
45 Hrs/Week
Total Hours: 1275

I lead a new section of the Marching Band, named the Visual Ensemble. We handled the props and equipment on the field, such as stages and color guard props, and sometimes had to make quick on-the-fly decisions for issues the band faced, like microphones not working. I particularly handled the live mixing of the music, that being setting up the cords and muting or modifying the gain of mics. I learned a lot about working not only with a team, but working between other teams and groups within the band, being a sort of mediator.

July 2023 – Oct 2023 Walnut Hills Marching Band

Miami University 3rd Year

8 Hrs/Week

Total Hours: ~104

I Co-Directed and arranged video game music for my bassoon professor's, Dr. Aaron Pergram, annual Halloween Concert titled "Level Up".

May 2023 – Aug 2023 Undergraduate Summer Scholars 2023

Worked over the summer on independent research for my game, Instruments of War, which involved learned how to code first person movement mechanics, level design, 3D modeling, as well as working in Maya for character rigging, animation, composing music, and studying other FPS games.

Compositions and Projects

Jun 2020 – Jul 2020 Interlochen Compositions

Oboe and Clarinet Duet

Piano Composition

String Quartet

Feb 2021 – Jul 2021 String Quartet "Let America Be America Again"

This piece was commissioned by Erin Fung for the ArtsWave Truth and Reconciliation project, and performed by the Queen City String Quartet at Memorial Hall

Jan 2023 – Apr 2023 Forest Fantasie

A piece for Flute, Bb and Bass Clarinet, Percussion, Guitar, and Piano, performed by Dal Niente.

Present

Other works

My other projects and music can be found on my Portfolio site or my Musescore