Ernie Bird (Ernest Oleksiiovych Deriabin)

Portfolio: https://imerniebird.com/

October 27, 2024 ernest.deriabin@gmail.com

Education and Academic Employment

Columbia University New York, NY Guest Lecturer Sep 2021 - Dec 2023
- Invited Composer for School of the Arts, M.F.A Playwriting
 Provided original music and feedback for Deborah Brevoort's Lyric Writing students
BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop New York, NY Composer/Lyricist
Private Lessons and Mentorship
The American Opera Project/New York University New York, NY Post-M.F.A Composer
 AOP-NYU/Tisch Opera Lab co-directed by Randall Eng and Sam Helfrich Short Operas Commissioned by NYU, AOP and the Hudson Guild
New York University
 The only composer in class to write a second thesis Advisers: Rachel Sheinkin, Mel Marvin, Fred Carl
 Thesis I: Return to Grace, a full-length musical; Thesis II: Soroka, a full-length musical Instruction: Randall Eng, Steven Lutvak, Michael John LaChiusa, William Finn, Sarah Schlessinger, Mindi Dickstein, Deborah Brevoort, Kirsten Childs
Berklee College of Music
- Capstone Engineering Project: Optimizing Audio Recording, Production, and Editing for Minimally Rehearsed Theatre Orchestras in Rapid-Turnaround Environments
 Adviser: Dr. Susan Rogers Directed Study in Theatre Writing: <i>Dotted Line</i>, a new musical based on Ukraine's history
Reinhold Glière Institute of MusicKyiv, UkrainePre-College2007 - 2012
 Music Theory, Ear Training, Contemporary Voice

Awards, Grants, Honours and Residencies

Johnny Mercer Foundation Songwriters Project Residency
Jonathan Larson Grant Finalist (The American Theatre Wing)
EB1-A Extraordinary Ability "Einstein" Green Card (USCIS) 2022
Tisch Departmental Fellow (New York University)
Full Competitive Scholarship (New York University)
SOUND BITES Short Musical Festival Finalist – Kaufman Music Center 2020 (2022)
Academic Achievement Grant — every semester (Berklee College of Music) 2012-2017
Merit Scholarship (Berklee College of Music)
Curtain Up Musical Theatre Songwriting Competition Winner (Berklee) 2017 & 2021
Honorary title: Merited Artist of Ukraine (Ukrainian Variety Artists Association) 2017
Audio Engineering Society Student Recording Competition – Berklee Nomination 2016
International Folk Festival Finalist (Berklee Performance Center)
Junior Eurovision National Selection Finalist & Top-5 Songwriter (1st TV Channel Ukraine) 2013
International Songwriting Competition Semi-Finalist (Nashville, TN) 2013, 2014 & 2017
International Songwriting Competition Winner (Nashville, TN)
Eurovision Song Contest, National Selection Semi-Finalist (1st TV Channel Ukraine) 2012
Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine Honours for Contribution to Culture 2010
Performed for President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine at the "Step to the Stars" Gala \dots 2008
Junior Eurovision Song Contest, National Selection Finalist (1st TV Channel Ukraine) 2007 & 2008

Select Works

The Foreign States of America Full-length musical Started as a song cycle at New York University Excerpt(Johnny Mercer Songwriters Project): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0iyRFaIHCs												
The Ukrainian War Diary												
 Reading with orchestra at the National Opera Center, February 24, 2023 Link: https://youtu.be/zyVza0YtQ0A?si=JctZ1xg9d59Fwl&t=1 												
Sunday BrunchComposer, BookwingFull-length musical2022 - Present												
Full-length musical												
- Excerpt: https://on.soundcloud.com/GJ9PJt4p7UD7Zq6	Q7											
Muckrakers	Guild Theatre											

RISE
 Finalist of the Theatre Now 7th SOUND BITES Musical Competition, 2020 Workshop at NYU Tisch, NYU; April 2019 Off-Broadway debut: Kaufman Music Center, NYC; May 2022 Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVgJ4zlhP-o
What Will She Do Next?
 NYT, Chicago Sun-Times, and Daily Herald-featured theatre-formatted audio show highlighting historical women with over 77,800 downloads. Featured in the Kids & Family category of Apple Podcasts; regular top 200. Endorsed by Common Sense Media, the leading organization for safe entertainment. Guest stars include Matt Lucas (<i>The Great British Bake-Off, Little Britain</i>), and Kara Lindsay (<i>Wicked</i>). Member of the Kids Listen organization for high-quality audio content for kids. Select songs: https://on.soundcloud.com/Mqi8jiAVANdA32b58 Show: https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/what-will-she-do-next/id1526765602
Ren Faire! The Musical
Return to Grace
Soroka
Dotted Line — A New Musical
A Collection of Music for Piano
- Excerpts: https://on.soundcloud.com/1VHsxgW7S7dmVCq37 For Christopher
He & He

Outreach and Service

Writers Panel and Workshop
Industry Panelist and Adviser
- Advised Berklee students on composition for theatre, and having a career in theatre writing
 Together with Charlie Rosen and Rona Siddiqui, provided detailed critique to select student works
Theatre Now SOUND BITES Short Musical Festival Kaufman Music Center Adjudicator and Judge
 Adjudicated for USA's preeminent festival of short musicals
 Provided emerging writers with an opportunity to have their work produced and debuted Off-Broadway
#GivingTuesdaySpark
 Partnered with GivingTuesday through collaboration between #GivingTuesdaySpark and What Will She Do Next? audiodrama
 Introduced a new series of monthly episodes called #GivingTuesdaySpark: Ladies Who Lead! Each month, the podcast highlighted the incredible journey of one young woman who is currently creating positive change in her community. Co-produced with Gabrielle Mirabella.
Audio Engineering Society
 Organized educational events and workshops in one of the largest AES chapters in the world Supported women in STEM/audio through outreach initiatives and panels
Mix Critique Panel Berklee College of Music Founder and Host 2017
 Invited award-winning audio engineers and producers to critique student audio mixes and overall productions
- Created a safe space for audio students to work on their curricular and extracurricular projects
Various Departments
 Volunteered to record and mix for the Vocal Department's ensembles
 Lead engineered and mixed large theatre orchestras in highly complex back-to-back sessions for Contemporary Writing and Theatre departments
City Music Boston Berklee College of Music Instructor 2014
 Gave music lessons to public middle and high school students
 Berklee innitiative enabling youth from underserved communities to develop musically and academically.

Research in Composition

- Emphasizing the importance of empathy, honesty, and self-awareness in composition, encouraging composers to relate to their characters and avoid judgment or bias in their music
- Dynamic Musical Objects (DMOs) are introduced as musical abstractions representing characters or elements of a story. These musical sequences can evolve, attach to characters, and exist semi-independently from the composer's inner "I".
- Providing composers with tools to deepen their understanding of character-driven composition through thought experiments, music theory exercises, and philosophical insight

Select Acting

Voiceover (Ukrainian)
A Goofy Movie, Lead (Max)
Bad Teacher, Supporting
Hercules, Supporting
New York Theatre
The 25th Spelling Bee, Chip Tolentino Peoples Improv Theatre
Pompeii Rising, Lead (Crepitus) Judson Memorial Church
Academic Theatre
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Flute/Thisbe
Legally Blonde, Ensemble
Cabaret, Ensemble
Comedy Training
Improv 101 and 201
Rick Crom's Comedy Class

Memberships

The Dramatists Guild	2020 - Present
Audio Engineering Society	2015 - Present
Kids Listen	2020 - 2023
The Players	2021 - 2022

Industry Employment

Theatrical Right	ts	V	Vo	rle	$d\mathbf{w}$	id	e	(T	\mathbf{R}	W)										Nev	v Y	ork	, N	YC
Director, Music																				Fe	b 20)23	- F	res	eni

- Content Manager of a portfolio of over 100 prime Broadway and West End titles, including The Addams Family, The Prom, Spamalot, Grease, Jersey Boys, On Your Feet
- Product Developer behind titles like Ernest Shackleton Loves Me, Imaginary Young@Part® Edition
- Leading a talented team of copyists, transcribers, proofreaders, orchestrators, and audio engineers, delivering high-quality projects on time and within budget
- Key Liaison for roster authors and international sublicensing companies, collaborating closely
 with industry professionals, stakeholders, and vendors to oversee seamless title creation,
 development, and public release
- Active Contributor to title acquisition decisions and strategic planning
- Developed an easy-to-use audio transposition software in Python, reducing turnaround from 1 week to 3 minutes.

Previous Work Experience

- Senior Audio Engineer (FOH) at 54 Below, Tony Award-winning Broadway supper club, NYC. Responsible for all aspects of audio for 2-3 shows per day, including soundcheck (2 years)
- Lead Audio Technician at NYU Gallatin, Jerry H. Labowitz Theatre for the Performing Arts (2 years)
- Lead Audio Systems Engineer (A1) at the Off-Broadway-sized Gural Theatre, NYC. Designed, installed, programmed, and operated all audio systems for Theatre Now company productions. Seasonal
- Technical Director at Don't Tell Mama, NYC's premier cabaret venue (2 years)
- AV Field Engineer at VideoSonic Systems. Installed acoustic systems in over a hundred rooms at Columbia and New York Universities, and designed audio and video infrastructure
- Exhibit Installer at RedBox Workshop. Installed interactive playscapes at Staten Island Children's Museum, Niantic Children's Museum, and New Jersey Liberty Science Center
- PA at Alicia Keys' Jungle City/Oven Studios. Provided client services for Meek Mill, Travis Scott, Lil Uzi Vert, and A Boogie wit da Hoodie, NYC. Worked overnight shifts
- FOH Engineer at Shrine and Silvana, NYC. Set up audio equipment for 6 back-to-back shows daily
- Staff Engineer at Berklee Studio Operations, the world's largest recording facility. (2 years)
- PA at Notable Productions for Dan Cantor (Aerosmith), Boston

Skills

- Creative
 - Expert: Music Composition, Songwriting, Bookwriting, Arranging, Orchestration, Music Production, Stage Performance
 - Intermediate: Lyric Writing, TV Scriptwriting
- Music Software
 - Expert: Dorico, Sibelius, MuseScore, Logic, Pro Tools, Reason, Cubase, Nuendo, Sonar
 - Intermediate: Finale
- General
 - Teaching, Business Administration, Arts Administration, Project Management
- Audio Engineering
 - Expert: Recording, Live Sound, Field Engineering, Mixing
 - Intermediate: Infrastructure Design, Systems Engineering, Console Programming
- Languages
 - Native: English, Ukrainian, Russian
 - Intermediate: German, Polish
- Other
 - Python Programming, Lua script, HTML, CSS, I₄TFX