

Tristan Wilson (he/him) | Composer, Violist, and Musicologist
Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- 2024 – 2026 **The New School: Mannes School of Music** (New York, NY)
M.M. in Composition (studios of Christopher Cerrone and David T. Little)
Thesis: *Cassation* (2025-6), a monodrama for soprano and small orchestra (22’)
- 2024 – 2026 **The New School: Schools of Public Engagement** (New York, NY)
Graduate minor in Language Studies (Japanese)
- 2020 – 2024 **Cleveland Institute of Music** (Cleveland, OH)
B.M. in Viola Performance (studio of Mark Jackobs)
Minor in Composition (studio of Keith Fitch)
Additional studies with Susan McClary (musicology/music history)
Awarded with Academic Honors (Cumulative GPA: 4.00)
- 2020 – 2024 **Case Western Reserve University** (Cleveland, OH)
Minor in Japanese language

FESTIVALS & RESIDENCIES

- 2026 **Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity: Summer Opera Program** (Banff, AB)
Composition Studies with TBD
- 2025 **June in Buffalo** (Amherst, NY)
Masterclasses with George Lewis, David Sanford, and Peter Gilbert
- 2023 **Mostly Modern Festival** (Saratoga Springs, NY)
Composition Studies with Samuel Adler, Mara Gibson, and Tarik O’Regan
- 2022 **Mostly Modern Festival** (Saratoga Springs, NY)
Composition Studies with Daron Hagen, Vivian Fung, and David Ludwig
- 2021 **Center Stage Strings** (Ann Arbor, MI)
Viola Studies with Michael van der Sloot
- 2020 **Boston University High School Composition Intensive** (Virtual)
Composition Studies with Victoria Cheah and Marc McAneny
- 2019 **Interlochen Arts Camp** (Interlochen, MI)
Viola Studies with Michael Ouzounian
Co-Principal Viola, World Youth Symphony Orchestra

SELECTED WORKS & PERFORMANCES

- sun-split* (2026), for string quartet (9’)
Read and workshopped by the JACK Quartet; April 2026 (New York, NY)
- Page of His* (2025), for marimba and harp (7’)
Jack Fischer, marimba; Honoka Shoji, harp; April 2026 (Toronto, ON)
- Bidings* (2025), for orchestra (6’)
Read and workshopped by the Mannes Orchestra; April 2025 (New York, NY)
- gilding cages* (2024), for Pierrot sextet (7’)
TEMPO Ensemble; Michael Powers, conductor; September 2024 (Northridge, CA)

SELECTED WORKS & PERFORMANCES (cont.)

Saint Agony (2024), a chamber opera in four scenes (16')

Libretto by Alex Calderwood

Cleveland Institute of Music Opera Theater and New Music Ensemble; Jake Taniguchi, conductor; April 2024 (Cleveland, OH)

Fragments in Irregular Time (2023), for piano trio (7')

Written for the Neave Trio at the 2023 Mostly Modern Festival

Slee Sinfonietta; June 2025 (Amherst, NY)

Cleveland Institute of Music New Music Ensemble; April 2024 (Cleveland, OH)

Neave Trio; June 2023 (Saratoga Springs, NY)

a year is a distance travelled in circles (2022), for English horn, viola, harp, and percussion (6')

Written for the American Modern Ensemble at the 2022 Mostly Modern Festival

American Modern Ensemble; William Cabison, conductor; June 2022 (Saratoga Springs, NY)

Five Songs (2021), for soprano, viola, and percussion (15')

Texts by Djuna Barnes

Alessia Jensen, soprano; Pablo Ronderos, viola; Jack Fischer, percussion; April 2024 (Cleveland, OH)

idem; January 2023 (Rocky River, OH)

idem; November 2022 (Cleveland, OH)

idem; November 2021 (Cleveland, OH)

[A full list of works and performances is available as a separate document.]

SELECTED PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Mostly Modern Festival Orchestra, viola (2023)

Worked with conductors including Aram Demirjian, JoAnn Falletta, and David Amado

Cleveland Institute of Music New Music Ensemble, viola (2022–2024)

Worked directly with composers including Joan Tower, Marcos Balter, Christopher Cerrone, and Tom Cipullo

Concerts presented at Mixon Hall (Cleveland Institute of Music) and Gartner Auditorium (Cleveland Museum of Art)

Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra, viola (2020–2024)

Worked with conductors including JoAnn Falletta, Anthony Parnter, and Jamie Laredo

Concerts presented at Kulas Hall (Cleveland Institute of Music) and Severance Music Center

World Youth Symphony Orchestra (Interlochen Arts Camp), co-principal viola (2019)

Worked with conductors including Cristian Măcelaru, Mei-Ann Chen, and Leslie Dunner

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026

American Musicological Society, Greater New York Chapter (New York, NY)

“Every Day We’re Grilled on an Iron Plate:” The Peculiar Success of “Oyoge! Taiyaki-kun”

Society for Ethnomusicology, Northeast Chapter (Waltham, MA)

“Every Day We’re Grilled on an Iron Plate:” The Peculiar Success of “Oyoge! Taiyaki-kun”

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025 – 2026

Mannes School of Music: Composers Concert Steering Committee, Production Director

Decided concert and soundcheck order, oversaw soundcheck, coordinated with venue technical staff and student volunteers.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (cont.)

2024 – 2026	Mannes School of Music: Research Assistant, Musicology Department Transcribed pop songs, translated and summarized Japanese research materials, proofread and edited documentary subtitles.
2021 –	Freelance Private Teaching (viola, violin, and composition) Taught viola, violin, and composition lessons to beginning and advanced students (mostly middle school aged and older).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP)

Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2026	ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Awards, Finalist
2024 – 2026	Mannes School of Music: Merit Scholarship
2024	TEMPO Ensemble Call for Scores, Winner ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Awards, Finalist
2023	Cleveland Composer's Guild Collegiate Composition Contest, First Prize
2020 – 2024	Cleveland Institute of Music: Emma Eels Crowell Achievement Scholarship
2020 – 2022	Royal Oak Musicale: Lillian C. Maschmeyer Memorial Scholarship

RESEARCH TOPICS OF INTEREST

Gender, sexuality, and class in Japanese popular music, 1950s–1980s (*enka*, *kayokyoku*, *mido kayō*)

The ends of Romanticism: late Mahler, early Schoenberg, post-World War II Strauss

The emergence of aleatoric music from total serialism

Intersections between music and critical theory

LANGUAGES

English: native speaker

Japanese: intermediate-advanced proficiency (JLPT N2 [CEFR B2] certification received December 2025)

Spanish, French, Italian, German: basic reading knowledge

SOFTWARE PROFICIENCIES

Music Engraving Softwares: proficient in MuseScore; conversant in Finale and Sibelius

Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs): proficient in Logic Pro; conversant in Digital Performer, Ableton, and Pro Tools

Other Softwares (Audio): proficient in Sonic Visualiser, Sonic Lineup, Vocaloid 5, and Audacity; conversant in Max/MSP

Other Softwares (General): proficient in Microsoft Office and Google Workspace; conversant in Adobe Creative Cloud