

PHILIP AGUSTIN GONZALES

Education

Bachelor of Music

Theory and Composition/1987
University of Minnesota Twin Cities MN

Studies in Creative Filmmaking

Stan Brakhage/1974-'75
The Art Institute of Chicago IL

Experience

Home Caregiver, son with disabilities

1998 – 2022

Composed music privately to enhance our relationship and aid with my son's development and quality of life. Served on the Mayo Clinic Children's Center Patient-Family Advisory Council (PFAC).

Edina Public Schools, Edina MN

Educational Associate, Special Education

2006 – 2022

Supported students with disabilities at Edina High School. Helped create Unified Theater productions. In Unified Theater we presented musicals in which every part is doubled; one neurotypical student alongside one neurodiverse student.

Composer/Producer

1975 – Present

Specialized in music and sound design for film, TV, theater, dance, recording, and performance. Consulted on technical advances in computer music. Partnered with other artists to assist them in the use of technology.

The following are highlights, citing a few examples of my work in each decade.

The 2000s

- *Brilliance!* – Wrote the script, composed the songs, and wrote lyrics for feature-length musical animation based on my experience caring for my vulnerable son and many of his classmates.
- *Quiet Room* – Wrote this song for a dear friend before she died of cancer. Random processes in this song express how vulnerable we all are.
- *Memory and Desire* – Created score and sound design for this multimedia theatrical performance. A man lives out his last week in the hospital; Humanity vs. Technology.
- *Merzemblage* – Compose and virtually perform in this ensemble that is the offshoot of Merz Pictures (see The 1970s, below). Merzemblage was formed during COVID as a nationwide virtual collaboration, inviting the original members of Merz Pictures and new members to submit compositions and perform in our virtual studio.

The 1990s

Married in 1990, our daughter born in 1992, I turned my attention to simpler projects.

- **IMP ORK** — Continued composing for, performing with, and conducting this ensemble.
- *Tour de France, Skating Gold, and others* — Composed and produced music and sound design for these and other media productions. The early days of electronic instruments and digital audio workstations made it possible to compose, arrange, and fully produce music at home.
- *1990* — Created this album project to challenge the expressive powers of computers, MIDI, and audio-sampled virtual instruments.
- **Music Tech, Minneapolis MN** — Taught composing and arranging. Created the Music Production Department, introducing students to the emerging music technologies: digital recording, MIDI, computer music workstations, and audio sampling.

The 1980s

Brought my musical aesthetics and ethics to the emerging world of computers in music.

- **Sound Genesis, Inc., Edina MN** — Co-founded this company and created technical innovations in audio sampling that could imitate acoustic instruments (“Virtual Instruments”) for Fairlight CMI, New England Digital Synclavier, and Korg. Among artists using our sounds were Prince, Stevie Wonder, Sting, Herbie Hancock, Robert John ‘Mutt’ Lange, Narada Michael Walden, Jan Hammer, Alan Silvestri, and Hans Zimmer.
- **IMP ORK** — Composed for, performed with, and conducted this 32-piece improvisational orchestra. Among our collaborators were Butch Morris, Don Cherry, Ernie Watts, Roscoe Mitchell, and Julius Hemphill.
- **Minneapolis Institute of Arts** — Created scores and sound design for numerous videos and multimedia productions. Reinforced my connections with visual art of all cultures.
- **KTCA-TV, St. Paul MN (now TPT)** — Composed scores created sound design for many documentaries and TV series’.

The 1970s

My career as a composer began in Streeterville Studios, Chicago IL just after high school.

- **Third Music Ensemble** — Formed this nine-piece ensemble in the late ‘70s to perform and record my compositions. Explored the Venn diagram of emotions between Jazz, Classical, and Experimental styles.
- **Merz Pictures** — Co-founded this ensemble in Chicago IL. Composed music and initiated innovative ways of performing and recording. Merz Pictures evolved into the virtual ensemble called “Merzemblage” during COVID.

From 1975 to 1980 I lived in San Francisco CA, working there and in Los Angeles on films.

- **Francis Ford Coppola** — Assisted with sound design on *Apocalypse Now*. Worked under Walter Murch and David Robinson creating synthesized tracks that reinforce the impact of recorded actuality. Walter Murch created the concept and practice of sound design, an approach to film sound that has since become universal. Being part of this innovative team served to bring me fully into the film industry, while reinforcing my inner sense that all sounds can be music.
- **Fantasy Films/Saul Zaentz** — Composed cues and conducted the orchestra on the scoring stage for the movie *Three Warriors*. This film was produced following Zaentz’s Oscar-winning production *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*.
- **Phillip Schuman** — Composed and produced the score for the movie *Randy* in a Jazz/Fusion style, while exploring the emotional power of the string orchestra within that genre.

Recognition

American Composers Forum/McKnight Foundation – 2023

Awarded the only Honorable Mention in the 2023 McKnight/ACF Composer Fellowship.

MN State Arts Board – 2023

Awarded a Creative Support for Individuals grant to finish *Brilliance!* a feature-length musical animation.

Independent Feature Project/North – 1994

Invited to deliver a two-day interactive workshop in composing for film, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul MN.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology – 1986

Invited to deliver a master class in composing music with graphic notation and extended techniques.

New York Film Festival and

Golden Hugo Award from the C.P.B. – 1986

Recognition of “The Crossing”, a Public Television production for which I composed a score based on recorded actuality of a freighter crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

Chicago Musicale Magazine – 1986

Featured cover article, “Pow Wow”, about the history and culture of the Ojibwe and Sioux wacipi, tied in with the courageous work of Frances Densmore, Library of Congress in the 19th century.