

BIOGRAPHY (350 words)

Brian Baxter is a Chicago-based musician and orchestra manager who composes music inspired by family, place, and poetry. Lawrence A. Johnson of The Classical Review describes Brian's music as "smartly scored and makes effective impact with economy of means." He writes primarily chamber, orchestral, and vocal music. Brian has released two albums including **Roots Run Deep** featuring the Chicago Q Ensemble with Angela Tomasino in 2016 and **Book of Drum** featuring himself on drums in 2014. Brian's music has also been recorded by Access Contemporary Music's Palomar Ensemble on its Ten x Ten collaborative arts vinyl release (November, 2013) and by Gaudete Brass Quintet on their debut release with Cedille Records, *Chicago Moves* (November, 2012).

Having co-founded the **Chicago Composers Orchestra (CCO)** in 2010, a group dedicated to the performance of orchestral music by living composers, Brian serves as Artistic Director and Board of Directors President overseeing all aspects of the organization. Since its inception, he has led the development of this organization from incorporating as a recognized 501(c)(3) organization to producing seven consecutive seasons of dynamic and financially viable performances and events. Brian's passion for new music is equaled by his passion for music education and is put to work as Chief Operating Officer with the **Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras** where he oversees nearly 600 student musicians in more than ten different programs that perform across the Chicago area and around the world. During his tenure at CYSO, he has led three international tours; overseen the growth of CYSO's student body from 400 students to nearly 600 students over the last six seasons; created CYSO's *Double Double Workshop*, an annual day of master classes delivered by renowned oboists, bassoonists, and double bassists; and founded CYSO's innovative *Composition Seminar* for student composers.

Brian holds degrees in music composition from Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts (M.M.) and Illinois Wesleyan University (B.M.) where he also minored in Business Administration. He is a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP), the League of American Orchestras and is a Voting Member of the Recording Academy.

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