

# Jesse J. Guessford

jesse@jesseguessford.com  
http://www.jesseguessford.com

## Education

- D.M.A., Music Composition, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1998 - 2004  
**Dissertation Advisor:** Sever Tipei  
**Secondary Area of Concentration:** Computer Science  
**Graduate Instructors:** Zack Browning, Sever Tipei, Eric Lund, Stan Link, David Patterson, William Brooks, Warren Burt  
**Doctoral Projects:**  
*Reconstruction: Recreating the Compositional Processes used by John Cage in First Construction (in Metal), Six Short Inventions, and Spontaneous Earth*  
An analysis of the rhythmic and motivic processes developed by Cage during the composition of these three works  
*A Framework for the Development of Computer-Assisted Composition*  
The development of a programming framework (in Smalltalk) for use in the creation of new composition software systems
- M.M., Music Composition, Crane School of Music, State University of New York at Potsdam 1996 - 1997  
**Awards:** Graduated with Distinction (GPA 4.0)  
**Composition Instructors:** Paul Steinberg, Andrew E. Simpson
- B.S., Music Education, West Chester University, West Chester, PA 1991 - 1995  
**Awards:** Graduated Cum Laude (GPA 3.4)  
**Composition Instructors:** Robert Maggio, Larry Nelson

## Current and Previous Employment

- Adjunct Instructor Department of Music, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.** 2006-Present  
Course Responsibilities:  
Harmony I  
Design and teach a class covering the first semester of the music theory curriculum.  
Develop lectures and study sessions to both present the concepts of music theory and to develop their skills through drill and practice of these concepts.
- Adjunct Instructor Department of Music, George Mason University, Fairfax Virginia** 2005 - Present  
Course Responsibilities:  
Introduction to Classical Music  
Design and teach a class covering music history, listening skills, and basic music theory to over 100 non-major students.  
Develop lectures that engage students within a large class environment.  
Motivate students to gain an understanding of art music by listening actively to recordings and attending concerts.

Music in Computer Technology

Design and teach a class covering basic computer use with a focus on music applications.

Design projects for the students to gain an understanding and experience with computer applications.

Motivate music students to learn how technology can enhance their chosen music careers.

**Adjunct Instructor, Department of Applied Information Technology, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia**

2005 - Present

Course Responsibilities:

Introduction to Computing

Teach a class covering the basics of computer usage, computer history, and computer architecture for students in a variety of majors.

Develop lectures that engage over 100 students in a large lecture hall.

Manage a small group of teaching assistants and undergraduate graders.

**Visiting Assistant Professor, Rochester Community and Technical College, Rochester, Minnesota**

2004 - 2005

Course Responsibilities:

Electronic Music Composition I & II

Designed and taught beginning electronic composition course to music technology majors and students in other fields.

Developed a reading packet, listening CDs, and a course web site to help students experience different elements of electronic music.

Planned, coached, and evaluated composition and performance projects.

Published a DVD of student works for distribution by the college.

Planned and implemented a concert of student works.

Audio Production I & II

Designed and taught a class focusing on music technology and audio production for both digital arts majors and students in other fields.

Oversaw student projects designed to utilize the students' audio production skills.

Music Fundamentals

Designed and taught a class of basic music reading and writing skills to non music majors.

Motivated students to further their knowledge of music and to explore the role of music in our society.

Digital Projects I & II

Managed several different group projects that ranged in focus from children's coloring books to music videos.

Helped students develop time lines and production schedules to complete professional-grade projects within a set time frame.

Additional Responsibilities:

Maintained six different studios used for audio production, mass media and electronic music.

Maintained a classroom of 28 Macintosh workstations designed for teaching music applications.

Advised students on curriculum and career decisions.

Participated in Digital Arts department decisions ranging from curriculum choices to scheduling course times and locations.

Faculty sponsor of the RCTC Hip-Hop Club.

**Instructor, Unit One, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

2001 – 2004

*Unit One is a living and learning community in Allen Hall at the University of Illinois. The community focuses on creating a small liberal arts environment within the larger university system.*

**Course Responsibilities:****Music Composition**

Designed and taught a music composition class for non music majors whose experience ranged from no music-reading ability to many years of private lessons.

Led a discussion oriented class through the music of the last century.

Planned, coached, and evaluated composition and performance projects.

Created a course reading packet and listening CDs.

Organized a concert showcasing student works.

**Electronic Composition**

Designed and taught an electronic music composition class for non-majors.

Planned, coached, and evaluated composition projects.

Organized and created a CD project showcasing student works.

**Theory of Popular Music**

Designed and taught a class on the theory and history of popular music for non music majors.

Designed assignments and projects that allowed students to learn about popular music through composition and analysis.

Taught basic music reading skills to students with no music background.

**Private Saxophone Lessons**

Provided instruction for a small studio of non-major saxophonists.

**Additional Responsibilities:****Core Staff Member**

Participated in weekly staff meetings through which we designed future Unit One events and established program policies.

Planned and participated in orientation weekend for incoming freshmen.

Aided students in the creation of programs to be presented to Unit One and to the entire campus community.

Maintained and updated an electronic music studio containing several

Macintosh computers, synthesizers, and digital recording equipment.

Participated in committees for hiring resident directors, student planners, and additional Unit One staff.

**Teaching Assistant, School of Music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

2000 – 2001

**Music Theory 1 & 3 (Music 101 & 103)**

Lectured class of approximately 100 students.

Provided one-on-one tutoring.

Held discussion section of 10-20 students once a week.

Created, graded, and evaluated homework.

**Aural Skills 1 & 3 (Music 111 & 113)**

Held a discussion section of 10-20 students twice a week.

Provided one-on-one instruction.

Prepared and administered sight-singing and dictation tests.

- System Administrator, Computer Music Project, Experimental Music Studios, School of Music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** 1999 – 2000  
 Maintained UNIX Network containing three separate operating systems (NeXT, SGI, and Linux) and Macintosh computers.  
 Updated and maintained web pages for both the Computer Music Project and the Experimental Music Studios.  
 Created and maintained user accounts for all classes held within the Computer Music Project.  
 Provided one-on-one instruction to users on the operation of UNIX.  
 Provided assistance to researchers working on various projects within the Computer Music Project.
- Local Area Network Administrator and Business Systems Analyst, American International Group (Wilmington, DE)** 1997 – 1998  
 Maintained a network of computers running Windows NT, Windows 95, and Windows 3.1.  
 Created and documented procedures for new and current software.  
 Created new database and administrative software for use by staff.  
 Provided one-on-one computer assistance and support to approximately 100 users.
- Sound Engineer, Crane School of Music, State University of New York at Potsdam** 1996 – 1997  
 Recorded and edited sound materials for musical and non-musical events.  
 Operated and transported audio mixers and various recording equipment within a concert environment.

### Invited Talks

- “George Gershwin and Tin Pan Alley,” Pre-Concert Lecture during the “Arts by George” Gala, Center for the Arts, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia September 2006  
 “How To Listen to 20th Century Music: The Music of Charles Ives,” Muldoon Endowment Fund Donors Reception, Annandale, VA June 2006

### Publications

- Jesse Guessford, Hans Kaper, and Sever Tipei, “Loudness Scaling in a Digital Synthesis Library,” in *Proceedings of the 2004 International Computer Music Conference held at the University of Miami, Miami, Florida, October 2004.* October 2004

### Performances (complete list of works included)

- Distance Between Bullet and Target*, performed at the Choreography Showcase as a collaboration with choreographer Joy DiLillo, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia November 2006  
*Debatable*, performed as part of *Circuits and Skins*, Rochester Community and Technical College, Rochester, Minnesota May 2005  
*Mutegen*, performed as part of *Circuits and Skins*, Rochester Community and Technical College, Rochester, Minnesota December 2004  
*Candidates, George I -vs.- the Very Bad Man From the East, and Bushisms* performed as part of *Op-Rock Explosion*, Allen Hall, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. December 2003  
*Subtraction with MD* performed at the MAVrick Festival 2003, School of Music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. July 2003  
*ENVolve.1.22.03.01, Anatomically Speaking, and Lavender Mist* performed during the Computer Fear Movie Festival, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. April 2003

<i>George I –vs.- the Very Bad Man From the East</i> performed as an installation during a MAVrick Ensemble concert, Ukrainian Museum of Modern Art, Chicago, Illinois.	February 2003
<i>George I –vs.- the Very Bad Man From the East</i> performed as an installation, School of Music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.	December 2002
<i>ENVolve.2.*</i> and <i>George I –vs.- the Very Bad Man from the East</i> performed as part of <i>A Night in the Cornfield</i> , Allen Hall, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.	December 2002
<i>Ann Street</i> and <i>Bushisms and Other Things</i> performed during the MAVrick Festival 2002, Urbana, Illinois.	June 2002
<i>ENVolve.2.*</i> performed as an installation at the 2002 SEAMUS Conference, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa	April 2002
<i>Ann Street</i> performed during the <i>New Music of the Twenty-first Century Festival</i> , School of Music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.	February 2002
<i>ENVolve.1.*</i> , <i>Dance of the Forever Encircling Politicians</i> , <i>Lavender Mist</i> performed during Art Fantastic, Allen Hall, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.	November 2001
<i>ENVolve.1.22.03.01</i> included on the CD <i>Origins</i> from the Experimental Music Studio, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.	August 2001
<i>ENVolve.1.*</i> included in an installation of Manifold Art at the University of Massachusetts Art Gallery, University of Massachusetts.	August 2001
<i>Anatomically Speaking</i> , <i>Dance of the Forever Encircling Politicians</i> , and <i>ENVolve.1.*</i> performed during the <i>7-11 Festival of New Music</i> , School of Music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.	June 2001
<i>Subconscious Persuasion</i> performed during <i>Interactronic</i> , an evening of interactive electronic works, Canopy Club, Urbana, Illinois.	April 2001
<i>Journeys I – “Illinois”</i> performed during the <i>New Music of the Twenty-first Century Festival</i> , School of Music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.	February 2001
<i>Journeys I – “Illinois”</i> performed during a salon held by Peter Tambroni., Chicago, Illinois.	February 2001
<i>ODB4</i> , performed during 2000 Midwest Composers Symposium, School of Music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign by University of Illinois Percussion Ensemble.	November 2000
<i>Journeys I - “Illinois”</i> performed during the Masters Recital of Peter Tambroni on double bass, School of Music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.	April 2000
<i>Solo for 5</i> , a collaboration with choreographer Jessica Swoper, performed at <i>An Evening of Collaborations</i> , Department of Dance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.	April 2000
<i>Trio Square</i> performed during the <i>Early Music of the Twenty-First Century Festival</i> , School of Music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign by University of Illinois New Music Ensemble.	March 2000
<i>Trio Square</i> performed during 1999 Midwest Composers Symposium, School of Music, University of Michigan by the University of Michigan New Music Ensemble.	October 1999
Masters Recital, an hour of performances of music written at the Crane School of Music, State University of New York at Potsdam, works included: <i>achieving the Togethercoloured instant</i> , <i>Anatomically Speaking</i> , <i>Filtra</i> , <i>Four Short Pieces for Clarinet</i> , <i>Lavender Mist</i> , <i>Le petit tourbillon d’eau</i> , <i>Two Opposing Forces</i> , <i>Simset</i> .	April 1997
<i>Choose Your Own Adventure</i> co-written with Jon Doyle, performed during a composition recital of the music of Jon Doyle, Crane School of Music, State University of New York at Potsdam.	March 1997
<i>Le petit tourbillon d’eau</i> performed during a <i>Concert of Student Works</i> , Crane School of Music, State University of New York at Potsdam.	November 1996
<i>Songs for Winds no. 2</i> performed during a recital by Kim Guessford, Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.	March 1996
<i>Songs for Winds no. 1</i> performed during West Chester Senior Recital, Swope Hall, West Chester University, West Chester, Pennsylvania.	August 1995
<i>Gabriel’s Message</i> performed by the St. Marks Lutheran Church Choir, Wilmington, Delaware.	December 1993

## Performing Experience

Promoted, organized, and directed <i>Circuits and Skins</i> , a concert of ethnic drumming and electronic music, Rochester Community and Technical College, Rochester, Minnesota	May 2005
Promoted, organized, and directed <i>Circuits and Skins</i> , a concert of ethnic drumming and electronic music, Rochester Community and Technical College, Rochester, Minnesota	December 2004
Promoted and organized <i>Op-Rock Explosion</i> , a "happening" at Allen Hall, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, containing student works from the Music 145 class and others.	December 2003
Promoted and organized <i>A Night in the Cornfield</i> , a "happening" at Allen Hall, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, containing student works from the Music 145 class and others.	December 2002
<i>Variations I</i> – by John Cage (electronic realization). MAVrick Ensemble, Ukrainian Museum of Modern Art, Chicago, Illinois.	December 2002
Promoted and organized <i>Art Fantastic</i> , a "happening" at Allen Hall, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, containing student works from the Music 145 class and others.	November 2001
<i>Solo for 5</i> (saxophone). Performed at <i>An Evening of Collaborations</i> , Department of Dance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.	April 2000
<i>Speech</i> (radio 2), by John Cage, performed during <i>The Changing Sound Worlds of John Cage</i> , Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.	November 1999
Arranged, organized, and promoted an hour recital of own compositions.	April 1997
<i>Choose Your Own Adventure</i> (saxophone) and <i>An Essay on John Cage</i> (Speech and Movements). by Jon Doyle, performed during the composition recital of Jon Doyle, Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam.	March 1997
Senior Recital (saxophone). Performed an hour long solo recital containing several works including my own work, <i>Songs for Winds no. 1</i> for Soprano Saxophone and Piano.	August 1995
Performed in various ensembles at West Chester University including West Chester University Concert Band, Symphonic Band, New Music Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Statesmen Jazz Band, and Masterworks Chorus (oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, percussion, and voice).	1991-1995
Freelance Jazz Ensemble (saxophone): Organized, rehearsed, and promoted a Jazz Combo playing in the Wilmington, DE area.	1992-1995
<i>Take Me Along</i> (clarinet and saxophone). Pit Orchestra, Kennet Square High School (Kennet Square, PA).	December 1994
<i>Music Man</i> (bass guitar). Pit Orchestra, Mount Pleasant High School (Wilmington, DE).	April 1993
<i>Bye, Bye, Birdie</i> (electric guitar). Pit Orchestra, Brandywine Community Theater (Wilmington, DE).	March 1993

## Honors and Activities

<i>List of Teaching Assistants Rated as Outstanding by their Students</i>	Spring 2004
Ranked in the top ten percent of all teaching assistants throughout the University of Illinois for Music 101, 103, 111, 113, 145 B and 145 C.	Fall 2003
	Spring 2003
	Fall 2001
	Fall 2000
Member of the School of Music Computer Advisory Committee, University of Illinois. Participated in monthly meetings in which technology decisions were made for all music buildings on the Urbana-Champaign campus.	2003 – 2004
Treasurer, Group for New Music Student Organization	2002 – 2003
Inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda, Zeta Mu Chapter, Music Honors Fraternity, Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam.	1997

## Preliminary References

James Gardner

Chair, Department of Music  
George Mason University  
703-993-1380  
jgviolin@gmu.edu

Andrew Simpson

Division Chair, Composition and Theory Department  
Music Department  
Catholic University of America  
202-319-5564  
simpson@cua.edu

Sever Tipei

Professor, Composition - Theory Department  
Director, Computer Music Project  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
217-333-6689  
s-tipei@uiuc.edu

Linda Malec

Coordinator, Digital Arts Department  
Rochester Community and Technical College, Rochester, Minnesota  
509-280-5031  
linda.malec@roch.edu

Howard Schein

Director of Unit One, Allen Hall  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
217-333-7881  
hschein@uiuc.edu

Kevin Dobbe

Music & Digital Arts Department  
Rochester Community and Technical College, Rochester, Minnesota  
509-273-9495  
kevin.dobbe@roch.edu

## List of Works

<b>Name</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Instrumentation</b>
Space Between Bullet and Target	2006	Vibraphone, Violin, Double Bass
Debatable	2005	Electronic Tape (5.1)
Mutagen	2004	Electronic Tape (5.1)
Candidates	2003	Four Politicos, Signs, and Referee
Channel Music	2003	Wind Ensemble
George I – vs. – The Very Bad Man From the East	2002	Video and Sound Installation
Bushisms and Other Things	2002	Video and Sound Installation
ENVolve.2	2002	Electronic Tape
Journeys III – “Wedding Day”	2002	Viola and Double Bass
Subtraction for MD	2002	Piano
Ann Street Revisited	2001	B <sup>b</sup> Soprano Clarinet
Subconscious Persuasion	2001	Politician and MAX/MSP
birds(	2000	3 Female Voices, Cello, and Percussion
Dance of the Encircling Politicians	2000	Electronic Tape
ENVolve.1	2000	Electronic Tape
Pakilawa	2000	12 Instruments (mixed variety)
Solo	2000	5 Unnamed Instruments
Journeys II - "Kim's Wedding"	1999	Cello
Journeys I - "Illinois"	1999	Double Bass
odb4	1999	Percussion Quartet
Trio Square	1999	Flute, Clarinet, and Bassoon
Coffee Talk	1998	Found Percussion
Evening Song	1998	String Quartet
4 Short Pieces for Clarinet	1997	B <sup>b</sup> Clarinet and Effects Processor
Anatomically Speaking	1997	Electronic Tape
Insurrection of the Mind	1997	Wind Ensemble
Two Opposing Forces	1997	Electronic Tape
achieving the Togethercoloured instant	1996	Baritone (Voice) and Piano
Filtra	1996	2 Percussionists and Electronic Tape
Le petit tourbillon d'eau	1996	Flute
Lavender Mist	1996	Electronic Tape
SIMSET	1996	B <sup>b</sup> Clarinet and Bass Clarinet
Contend, O Lord	1993	Voice and Piano
Soldier	1993	2 Trumpets, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion
Gabriel's Message	1992	SATB Choir
Songs for Winds No.1	1992	Soprano Sax and Piano
Songs for Winds No.2	1992	French Horn and Piano