

JONATHAN RUSSELL – SHORT PRESS BIO

Jonathan Russell is a composer, clarinetist, conductor, writer, and educator, known for his versatility, creativity, and passion. His wide-ranging and eclectic compositions build on influences from all over the musical map, unified by their directness of expression, emotional power, and visceral musicality. His works have been commissioned and performed by orchestras, chamber ensembles, and choirs around the world. Jonathan approaches performing with the same intensity, directness, and omnivorous appetite as composing. Trained growing up as a classical clarinetist, he also plays klezmer music, freely improvises, and is especially known for his unique and innovative bass clarinet playing. He is a member of the heavy metal-inspired Edmund Welles bass clarinet quartet and the Sqwonk bass clarinet duo, and is a co-founder of San Francisco's Switchboard Music Festival. Jonathan frequently conducts his own compositions, as well as premieres of works by student and emerging composers. He has served on the Music Theory Faculty at San Francisco Conservatory and on the Composition Faculty at the Conservatory's Adult Extension and Preparatory Divisions. He has also written concert reviews for the San Francisco Classical Voice and Bachtrack. He has a B.A. in Music from Harvard University and an M.M. in Music Composition from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He is currently a PhD Candidate in the composition program at Princeton University and lives in London, UK.