

Jonathan Russell (b. 1979) creates music by turns tender and fierce, playful and profound, raw and refined, propulsive and still. In his work, he seeks to embody and express the full range of human experience in a way that speaks directly to people's hearts, minds, and bodies. The extraordinary sound and spirit of the bass clarinet is a driving force behind much of Jonathan's compositional work. His numerous compositions for bass clarinet(s) include solo works, sonatas, concertos, duets, trios, quartets, chamber works, and large bass clarinet ensembles. He was a longtime member of the Edmund Welles bass clarinet quartet, is a current member of the Sqwonk bass clarinet duo, and is founder and leader of Improbable Beasts, a professional 15-member bass clarinet ensemble in the Boston area. Many of Jonathan's most meaningful projects have involved collaborations with or responses to other artists. He has composed music to accompany street art, stained glass, wood-carving, dance, and film. As a performer, Jonathan appears frequently as a bass clarinet soloist, and as a classical and klezmer clarinetist. He is also a sought-after guest clinician in composition, clarinet/bass clarinet, and creative/unusual musical career paths. A card-carrying music theory nerd, Jonathan's doctoral dissertation is a 400+ page harmonic analysis of the entire *Rite of Spring*. He lives in Cambridge, MA, with his wife and 5-year-old son.