

M. Jerome Bell

Music Theorist | Conductor | Composer

mjeromebell.com

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Education

Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester Ph.D. Pre-Candidate in Music Theory Expected Dissertation: “Applying Analytical Approaches to Black Gospel Music: Linear Analysis, Schemata, and Modal Fluidity in the Works of Millennial Gospel Artists” Advisor: Matthew Brown	Expected 2025
Houghton University M.M. with a Dual Concentration in Composition and Conducting	2018
Houghton University B.Mus. in Music Composition	2015

Awards and Honors

Provost Fellow University of Rochester	2021 – Present
Professional Development Committee Grant Eastman School of Music	November 2023
Travel Grant Award Society for Music Theory	September 2023
Arthur J. Komar Award Music Theory Midwest	May 2023
Teaching Assistant Prize Eastman School of Music	April 2022
Full Graduate Scholarship Houghton University	2015 –2018
Concerto Competition Winner (composition) Houghton University	February 2016
Ethan Boyce Music Scholarship Houghton University	2014 – 2015
Carolyn Campbell Scholarship Houghton University	2011 – 2015
Charles Finney Scholarship Houghton University	2013 – 2014
Commissioning Composition Award University Presbyterian Church, Buffalo	2013 – 2014

Research

Conference Presentations

Bell, M. Jerome. 2023. “Modal Fluidity in Millennial Gospel” Society for Music Theory – Denver, CO	November 2023
West Coast Conference of Music Theory and Analysis – Eugene, OR	April 2023
Indiana University 29 th Annual Graduate Symposium – Bloomington, IN	March 2023
Bell, M. Jerome. 2023. “Analyzing Gospel: Modal Fluidity in the Works of Tye Tribbett and Richard Smallwood” Music Theory Midwest – Winnipeg, MB (Arthur J. Komar Award Winner)	May 2023

Invited Presentations and Guest Lectures

- Bell, M. Jerome. 2023. “Why We Worship: Exploration of (In)effective Worship Leading”**
Houghton University Roundtable Discussion September 2023
- Bell, M. Jerome. 2023. “On Earth as It Is in Heaven: The Gospel Song and Its Testimony”**
Guest Lecture at Houghton University’s Chapel Service February 2023
- Bell, M. Jerome. 2021. “What Is Music Theory”**
Series of Guest Lectures at School of the Arts in Rochester, NY October 2021
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Teaching Experience

Music Theory

Eastman School of Music
Teaching Assistant 2021 – Present

Aural Skills I–IV
Tutor, written theory
Tutor, aural skills (*experience working with a blind student)

Eastman Community Music School
Music Theory Intern 2022 – 2023

Aural Skills II, instructor of record
Music Theory II, instructor of record
Developed curriculum and course materials for Aural Skills II. Taught middle school, high school, and adult students.

Houghton University
Graduate Assistant 2015 – 2018

Coordinator, Music Theory Tutoring
Aural Skills I, Instructor of Record
Fundamentals I & II, Instructor of Record

Choral Conducting

Northstar Christian Academy
Director of Choirs and General Music Teacher (Pre-K–12) 2018 – 2020

High School, Middle School, and Elementary School Choirs
Music Education (Pre-K–8)
Revamped the general music curriculum.
Applied Clarinet
Worked with the High School and Middle School Bands.
Audio/Visual Technical Engineer

Houghton Academy
Director of Choral Activities 2017 – 2018

Middle and High School Choirs
Bell Choir
Middle School Music Appreciation Course
Redesigned the school’s music curriculum, which is still being implemented today.

Houghton University
Graduate Assistant **2015 – 2018**
 Assistant Director of the University Choir, Wind Ensemble, and Philharmonic Orchestra
 Conducted at least one piece in each ensemble's concert.
 Regularly planned and organized rehearsals.
 Served as the Tour Logistics Coordinator for the Houghton University 2018 Choir Tour.

Piano

Private Piano Instructor **2013 – 2021**
 Taught a studio of up to 16 students of varying abilities, ages 3–18.

Conducting Positions

Eastman Gospel Choir
Director and Founder **2023 – Present**
 In the process of launching a Gospel Choir at the Eastman School of Music. Will debut in February 2024.

Perinton Presbyterian Church
Director of Music Ministry **2022 – Present**
 Director for the Adult and Children's Choirs

Houghton Alumni Gospel Choir
Director **2020**
 Produced two virtual choir projects, "Doxology" and "Revelation 19:1."

Houghton Gospel Choir
Director **2012 – 2018**
 Directed and conducted the choir from the podium and piano.
 Regularly led music in Houghton's Chapel Services and performed annual concerts.

Vision Quest Community Orchestra
Conductor **2012 – 2017**
 Conducted a church-based community ensemble of 18 musicians. Performed annually.

Houghton Pops Orchestra
Assistant Conductor **2015 – 2016**
 Assisted the Director and facilitated rehearsals.

For His Praise Youth Choir
Director **2008 – 2011**
 Led and directed the Youth Music Ministry at North Buffalo Community Church.

Other Professional Experience

Pianist
Sonder Jazz Trio **2019 – 2022**
Vanguard Percussion Ensemble **2016 – 2018**

Buffalo City Mission
Director of Music Education and Camp Counselor **2011 – 2015 (Summers)**
 Created and implemented a music curriculum for ages 5-12.

Professional Service

Program Committee Member, Music Theory Midwest	2024
Web Editor, <i>Intégral</i>	2023 – Present
Member, Eastman Theory Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee	2022 – Present
Graduate Co-Chair, Faculty Search Committee, Eastman School of Music	2021
Member, COVID-19 and Online Learning Committee, Northstar Christian Academy	2020
Board Member, National Association for Music Education (Chapter 150)	2017 –2018

Creative Activity

List of Recent Conducting Performances

Houghton Alumni Gospel Choir – Rochester, New York (Virtual Choir)

Houghton Alumni Homecoming Concert	October 2020
Virtual Choir Showcase: Revelation 19:1	May 2020
Virtual Choir Showcase: The Doxology	April 2020

Northstar Christian Academy – Rochester, New York

Grade School Virtual Choir Showcase	May 2020
Annual Spring Concert	May 2019
Music Fest at Six Flags: Darien Lake Competition (3 rd place)	May 2019
Senior Choir records “Teach Me” and “The Payment” for the C.D., <i>Restored</i>	March 2019
Annual Winter Concert	January 2019
Annual Talent Showcase	December 2018

Houghton Academy – Houghton, New York

Annual Spring Concert	May 2018
<i>Hello, Dolly!</i> (Vocal Coach, Chorus Director, and Lighting and Sound Engineer)	April 2018
Annual Winter Concert	December 2017
Senior Citizen’s Concert	December 2017

Greatbatch School of Music, Houghton University – Houghton, New York

Mid-Atlantic Tour (University Choir)	February-March 2018
Houghton Wesleyan Church Service (University Choir)	February 2018
Christmas Prism (University Choir and Gospel Choir)	December 2017
Koinonia Concert (Gospel Choir)	November 2017
Homecoming Concert (Gospel Choir)	October 2017
Premiere Performance of <i>Iditarod</i> by the Houghton Wind Ensemble	April 2017
“We Give Thanks” Concert (Gospel Choir)	March 2017
Grainger, <i>Lincolnshire Posy</i> (Houghton Wind Ensemble)	February 2017
Browncroft Community Church Service (Gospel Choir)	February 2017
Christmas Prism (Gospel Choir)	December 2016
Fall Choral Fest Concert (Gospel Choir)	November 2016
Annual Homecoming Concert (Gospel Choir)	October 2016
“Praise His Holy Name” Concert (Gospel Choir)	April 2016
Bell, <i>Seventy-Six</i> (Houghton Symphony Orchestra)	April 2016
Beethoven, <i>Prometheus Overture</i> (Houghton Symphony Orchestra)	October 2015

Recent Performances and Commissions of Original Composition

<i>Soundscapes of Dance</i> , to be performed by Chnattalle Falconer	June 2024
<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i> , performed by the Perinton Presbyterian Choir	February 2023
<i>Day of the Lord</i> , performed by the Webster Bible Church Worship Choir	May 2022
<i>Emmanuel On High</i> , performed by the Houghton Wind Ensemble	December 2019
Arrangement of <i>It Is Well</i> , performed by M. Jerome Bell, piano	September 2019
<i>Day of the Lord</i> , a choral piece commissioned by the St. James Episcopal Church	May 2019
<i>Drum Shed: Uncertainty of Two Pianists</i> , performed by Hannah Messerschmidt and Chantalle Falconer.	October 2018
<i>Processional</i> , debuted by the Houghton Academy Ringers	December 2017
<i>Opening</i> , debuted by the Vanguard Percussion Trio	July 2017
<i>Drum Shed</i> , debuted in M.M. degree Composition Recital	April 2017
<i>Drum Shed: Sax 'n' Beats</i> , debuted by Dillon Hirsch (Presser Scholar)	April 2017
<i>Drum Shed: When the Clarinet Is Alone</i> , performed by M. Jerome Bell	April 2017
<i>Drum Shed: The Uncertainly of Two Pianists</i> , performed by M. Jerome Bell	April 2017

Professional Affiliations

American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)	2017 – Present
American Musicological Association (AMS)	2023 – Present
Music Theory Midwest (MTMW)	2023 – Present
Music Theory Society of New York State (MTSNYS)	2022 – Present
National Association for Music Education (NAfME)	2015 – Present
Pi Kappa Lambda – National Music Honor Society (Inducted in April 2018)	2016 – Present
Society for Music Theory (SMT)	2021 – Present

Skills

Audio and Visual Technician
 Music Notation (Sibelius, Musescore, and Finale)
 High Aptitude for Computer software and hardware
 Languages: French (reading knowledge)