



**For Immediate Release**

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**Classical Music Indy Launches CMI City Sounds**

*This series of music videos lets people discover classical music  
in new places throughout Indianapolis*

INDIANAPOLIS- CMI City Sounds provides free, site-specific music video performances at ten iconic Circle City locations that anyone can access via QR code. Classical Music Indy will launch the first three of its CMI City Sounds installations on Saturday, October 16 at the Harrison Center, Eagle Creek Park, and the Indianapolis Canal Walk, managed by The Indianapolis Cultural Trail. CMI City Sounds was created to make classical music more accessible to audiences by expanding the spaces and places the genre can be explored spontaneously – and on the viewer’s terms.

Each CMI City Sounds project is a short music video produced in collaboration with a film director, multi-camera production crew, editors, and local musicians. Four of the music videos included a commission for a new, site-specific work by a local composer. The initiative was supported by the Indy Arts and Culture Restart & Resilience Fund: An Arts Council of Indianapolis program made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc.

**“This new content represents how Classical Music Indy transformed its programs for artists and audiences during the pandemic,”** said Jenny Burch, President & CEO. **“The generous funding from the Indy Arts and Culture Restart & Resilience Fund inspired us to rethink how audiences could experience classical music, expand our artist and partner networks, and commission more new works.”**

CMI City Sounds will be featured in intimate neighborhood settings, as well as major cultural tourist sites to showcase Indianapolis’ amazing music talent to both local residents and leisure travelers. The initiative even boasts an Atlas Obscura location, the City Market Catacombs.

**“CMI City Sounds helps contribute to Indianapolis becoming known as a music city,”** said Eric Salazar, Director of Community Engagement and Artist Services. **“The performers and composers that Classical Music Indy engaged in this project are amazing and I can’t wait to share their incredible talent with residents and tourists visiting our partner sites. Instead of a performance being scheduled for one date and time – something temporary that you could miss – now thousands can be introduced to our city’s local independent artists, because the musical experience never goes away.”**

### **CMI City Sounds Launch Dates and Partner Sites:**

October 16: Eagle Creek Park, Harrison Center, Downtown Canal

October 30: City Market Catacombs

November 12: Richard G Lugar Plaza

November 20: Garfield Park

November 27: Circle City Industrial Complex

December 4: Tomlinson Tap

December 10: Indianapolis International Airport

December 17: Central Library of the Indianapolis Public Library

The four composers selected for CMI City Sounds projects include Eliza Brown, Frank Felice, Jared Thompson, and Eric Salazar.

[See Full List of Sites, Artists, and Composers Here](#)

### **ABOUT CLASSICAL MUSIC INDY**

Classical Music Indy is Central Indiana’s premier syndicator of Peabody-award winning classical music radio programs, producer of 24/7 classical music streaming, music videos and award-winning podcasts, provider of community outreach programs, publisher of NOTE magazine, and advocate for classical music and classical music-makers. To listen, watch, or learn more, visit [www.classicalmusicindy.org](http://www.classicalmusicindy.org).

### **ABOUT THE COMPOSERS**

#### **Eliza Brown**

Eliza Brown's music is motivated by sound and its potential for meaning, an engagement with the broader arts and humanities, and fundamental questions about the nature of human existence, social relationships and responsibilities, and sensory experience. Eliza’s compositions have been performed by leading interpreters of new music, including Ensemble Dal Niente, Spektral Quartet, ensemble recherche, International Contemporary Ensemble, Network for New Music, Ensemble SurPlus, Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, and Wild Rumpus New Music Collective. Her works have been heard on stages throughout the USA and

in Mexico, Colombia, Germany, Hungary, Spain, Canada, and the UAE, and have been recorded on multiple labels.

Eliza's work is frequently interdisciplinary, with a particular focus on music-theater and opera. Recent projects include *The Body of the State* (2017), a music-theater work about the life of Juana of Castile written in collaboration with six women who were at the time of writing incarcerated at Indiana Women's Prison. Commissioned and premiered by Ensemble Dal Niente, this work incorporates the instrumentalists into its staging as a representation of the oppressive, hierarchical family and society that shaped Juana's life. *Prospect and Refuge* (2015), for four female voices, explores how public spaces shape social experience and was created in collaboration with architect Hannah Marzynski, Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, and stage director Emmi Hilger. The piece is designed to be re-staged at each new performance site, with reference to the social history of that particular space.

Eliza is a dedicated teacher who enjoys helping students strengthen their creative voices and engage complex ideas with rigor and enthusiasm. She is currently Assistant Professor of Music at DePauw University, where she teaches composition and music theory. Eliza holds a B.Mus. summa cum laude in composition from the University of Michigan and a D.M.A. in composition from Northwestern University.

[Eliza Brown - Composer](#)

## **Frank Felice**

Frank Felice is an eclectic composer who writes with a postmodern mischievousness: each piece speaks in its own language, and they can be by turns comedic/ironic, simple/complex, subtle/startling or humble/reverent. Recent projects of Felice's have taken a turn towards the sweeter side, exploring a consonant diatonicism.

His music has been performed extensively in the U.S. as well as garnering performances in Brazil, Argentina, Japan, Greece, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, China, Austria, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Australia, the Czech Republic and Hungary. His commissions have included funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Omaha Symphony, the Indiana Arts Commission, The Indiana Repertory Theatre, Dance Kaleidoscope, Music Teachers National Association, the Wyoming State Arts Board, the Indianapolis Youth Symphony, Kappa Kappa Psi/Tau Beta Sigma as well as many private commissions and consortia.

Frank's interest in composition began through participation with a number of rock bands, one of which, Graffiti, toured the western United States and the Far East in 1986-1987. He attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, the University of Colorado, and Butler University, studying with Michael Schelle, Daniel Breedon, Luiz Gonzalez, and James Day. Most recently he has studied with Dominick Argento, Alex Lubet, Lloyd Ultan, and Judith Lang Zaimont at the

University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, where he completed his Ph.D. in 1998. Frank currently teaches as an associate professor of composition, theory, and electronic music in the School of Music, Jordan College of Arts at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In addition to musical interests, he pursues his creative muse through painting, poetry, cooking, home brewing, paleontology, theology, philosophy, and model railroading. He is very fortunate to be married to mezzo-soprano, Mitzi Westra.

[FRANK FELICE, composer \(frank-felice.com\)](http://frank-felice.com)

### **Eric Salazar**

Salazar holds a B.M. in Clarinet Performance from Ball State University and an M.M. in Clarinet Performance from Bowling Green State University. He currently serves as Director of Community Engagement for Classical Music Indy where he manages, books, and promotes over a hundred and fifty performance events a year in Central Indiana. Eric also mentors and hires 30-40 independent classical musicians annually. With their combined efforts this group brings music to over 100,000 Indiana residents a year, with a focus on people who would not otherwise have access to live music performance.

Salazar pioneers the new classical genre. He takes his classical training and fuses together modern electronics with classical instruments, blending ancient styles with present musical trends. Salazar's connective approach to performing wins the hearts of audiences as he guides them through explorations of raw emotion. Eric Salazar is a Pereira 3D Artist. He plays on a Pereira 3D printed barrel and bell, and 3D printed ligature.

He has performed as a soloist and group musician in 8 states of the US and overseas in Belgium. Salazar resides in the Indianapolis, IN area. Here, Salazar teaches, performs, composes, records, leads workshops, and presents lectures. Salazar was also a guest contributor to the International Clarinet Association, BuzzReed!

Eric actively writes, commissions, and premieres new works for himself and classical chamber ensembles. He is always on the lookout for talented musicians to engage in collaborative performance projects. His other professional interests include: conducting, social entrepreneurship, social media management, pedagogy, music psychology, marketing, graphic design, and project management.

[Eric Salazar \(ericosalazarclarinet.com\)](http://ericosalazarclarinet.com)

### **Jared Thompson**

An Indy native, Jared Thompson is a saxophonist, composer, and arranger. He began piano at the age of 5 and began studying saxophone at the age of 10. The North Central High School and Denison University alum formed his own jazz quartet Premium Blend in 2007. A mainstay and fan favorite in the Indy area, Thompson performs regularly at The Chatterbox, The Jazz

Kitchen and a myriad of venues in the city. Premium Blend has been featured in two national award-winning documentaries “Go Get Your Horn”, and “Chatterbox: A Love Letter.” They have also released four albums “S.O.A.P.(Sum Of All Parts) and “The Road,” and released their third album “Vices” in June of 2019. Premium Blend’s fourth studio album, “38th & Postmodernism,” was a featured commission by the Indianapolis Jazz Foundation for Indy Jazz Fest 2020, and is the soundtrack for the docu-concert “38th & Postmodernism”(a featured Indy Short for the 2021 Heartland Film Festival) that addressed the myriad of social tensions that were at the forefront of America’s mind throughout 2020. Thompson also performs and writes for the hip-hop band Clint Breeze and The Groove, and has made it his mission to bridge the gap between the traditions of the jazz genre of the 50s-90s with the language and aesthetic of a 21st-century listening audience.

[Gallery — PREMIUM BLEND \(premiumblendindy.com\)](https://www.premiumblendindy.com)

## **ABOUT THE DIRECTORS**

### **Katelyn Calhoun, Tear Drop Pictures**

Teardrop Pictures is a documentary production company scripting the human journey. Driven by visual storytelling, Teardrop recently wrapped a short documentary about the bats of the Hoosier National Forest, *Snag in the Plan*. Currently in pre-production on another short nature documentary titled *Hellbender*, the story is about the community in Indiana working towards improving river health for the two-foot long eastern hellbender salamander.

As an Indianapolis-based documentary filmmaker and owner of Teardrop Pictures, Katelyn highlights moments that spark empathy in others. Her work tells outdoor, adventure, and conservation stories. She wrapped on her third and latest short film *Hellbender* in the Blue earlier this month about the statewide hellbender salamander conservation effort. *Hellbender* is set to tour with the Indiana Humanities Waterways Films early next year and take on the film festival scene late 2022.

Website: <https://www.teardrop.pictures/>

### **Kevin Smith**

An avid reader of Calvin and Hobbes growing up, Smith often displayed an aptitude for mischief and adventure. This – matched with his affinity for artistic expression – led to studies at Central Michigan University’s School of Broadcast and Cinematic Arts (BCA), where he ultimately earned a Masters in Electronic Media Production.

While pursuing his degree, Smith explored the diverse world of multimedia production, both in practice and through instruction, cutting his teeth on several segments and shorts for BCA’s

MHTV before producing an award-winning travel show à la Anthony Bourdain's No Reservations. His MA thesis project was producing a feature-length film and accompanying documentary. Smith has managed digital content at Michigan State University for the department of Residence Education and Housing Services, and currently teaches video production courses at Fenton High in Michigan.

Website: <https://kevinneilsmith.myportfolio.com/about>

### **Ben Poenisch, Rewind Documentaries**

A constant adventurer, with a background in photography and documentary filmmaking, traveling fuels his creativity. Ben loves capturing spontaneous moments on camera. He's always down to geek out about cameras and gear.

When not filming, Ben kicks back by playing board games or drinking whiskey. He enjoys staying active and being outside. Laughing is one of his favorite things to do, which is perfect since it's one of the things he does best.

Website: <http://www.rewinddocumentaries.com/>

**[Access the CMI City Sounds Media Tool Kit Here](#)**

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