***Joshua Shank – bios for concert programs (medium, short, and very short)***

***Medium bio (400 words)***

The works of Boston-based composer, Joshua Shank (b. 1980), have been widely performed by educational and professional ensembles alike. His works often feature the human voice, and focus on social justice or the amplification of marginalized communities. His work, *capable of anything*, celebrated the passage of marriage equality in the United States, and his oratorio, *Magnificat for the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo*, tells the story of the movement of Argentine mothers who campaigned for their children who had been “disappeared” by the military junta that formally governed the nation. His work, *Primavera en silencio*, is based on American conservationist Rachel Carson’s landmark writing on climate change, and his *alleluia (from quarantine)* was commissioned by a consortium of ensembles from around the United States in order to raise money for gigging musicians whose livelihoods have been decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He has been commissioned by ensembles such as The Choral Project, Conspirare, the Lorelei Ensemble, and the Young New Yorkers’ Chorus. From 2004 to 2014 he served as Composer-In-Residence for the Minneapolis-based professional choir, The Singers—Minnesota Choral Artists, where he collaborated annually to expand and invigorate the repertoire for professional-caliber ensembles through innovative programming as well as new works written specifically for the choir. In 2002, he became the youngest composer ever awarded the prestigious Raymond W. Brock Composition Award by the American Choral Directors Association. The winning piece, *Musica animam tangens* (“Music touches the soul”), was premiered in Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center and has since been performed and recorded from Los Angeles to South Africa. His music was featured in a documentary about the extensive choral tradition in the Upper Midwest, *Never Stop Singing*, and his published works have sold over 150,000 copies worldwide.

Joshua received his undergraduate degree in Music Education from Luther College, and his doctorate in Composition at the University of Texas at Austin where he studied with the late opera composer, Daniel Catán. A native of Minnesota, he currently lives in the Boston area with his husband, Robert W. Ressler, a sociologist who focuses on child, youth, and family policy in education, and their cat, Obergefell. Joshua is an avid cyclist and is always attempting to be a better cook.

Lear more at [www.joshuashank.com](http://www.joshuashank.com/)

***Short bio (300 words)***

The music of Boston-based composer, Joshua Shank (b. 1980), has been called “jubilant…ethereal” (*Santa Barbara News-Press*), “evocative and atmospheric” (*Gramophone*), and “emotionally charged” (*Boston Classical Review*). He has been commissioned by organizations such as the Lorelei Ensemble, the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, the Choral Project, the American Choral Directors Association, and the Association for Music in International Schools. From 2004 to 2014, he served alongside fellow Composers-In-Residence Jocelyn Hagen and Abbie Betinis for the Minneapolis-based professional choir, The Singers, where he collaborated annually to expand and invigorate the repertoire for professional-caliber ensembles through innovative programming as well as new works written specifically for the ensemble. In 2002, he became the youngest recipient ever of the Raymond W. Brock Composition Award from the American Choral Directors Association. The winning piece, *Musica animam tangens*, was premiered in Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center, and has since been performed and recorded from Los Angeles to South Africa. A native of Minnesota, his music was recently featured in a documentary about the extensive choral tradition in the upper Midwest, *Never Stop Singing*, and his published works have sold over 150,000 copies worldwide.

Joshua received his undergraduate degree in Music Education from Luther College where he studied conducting with Weston Noble. He has also earned master’s and doctoral degrees in Musicology and Composition, respectively, from the University of Texas at Austin where he studied with Charles Carson, Yevgeniy Sharlat, Donald Grantham, and the late opera composer Daniel Catán. A fierce advocate for students’ access to music education, he was a public-school teacher in Minneapolis/St. Paul for many years before going on to teach at Gonzaga University, Valley City State University, and Eastern Washington University. When he’s not writing music, you can probably find him biking, studying vegetarian cooking, or watching hilariously bad movies with his husband, sociologist Robert Ressler.

Learn more at [www.joshuashank.com](http://www.joshuashank.com)

***Very short bio (120 words)***

The works of Boston-based composer, Joshua Shank (b. 1980), have been widely performed by educational and professional ensembles alike. In 2002, he became the youngest recipient ever of the Raymond W. Brock Composition Award by the American Choral Directors Association and, from 2004 to 2014, he served as Composer-In-Residence for the Minneapolis-based professional choir, The Singers. His compositions have sold over 150,000 worldwide. Joshua earned master's and doctoral degrees in both musicology and composition, respectively, from the University of Texas at Austin where he studied with Yevgeniy Sharlat, Charles Carson, Russell Pinkston, Donald Grantham, and the late opera composer Daniel Catán. A native of Minnesota, he has taught at Gonzaga University, Valley City State University, and Eastern Washington University.

Learn more at [www.joshuashank.com](http://www.joshuashank.com)