

## **Biography**

Born in Minnesota in 1977, **Christopher Brakel** has received commissions by the Hanson Institute for American Music and the RochesterInk Festival, awards from ASCAP, the Eastman School of Music (Howard Hanson Large Ensemble Prize), and the University of Iowa (Henry and Parker Pelzer Prize in Composition), and scholarships from the Internationale Musikinstitut Darmstadt and the Eastman School of Music (Paul Sacher Scholarship).

His music has been performed across the United States, in Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and the Czech Republic at prominent international and national festivals, conferences, and concerts, including the Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik (Darmstadt, Germany), the SEAMUS and SCI National Conferences, the FSU Festival of New Music, June in Buffalo, and the Czech-American Summer Music Institute. His prize-winning collaborative multimedia works with animator Keum-Taek Jung have been selected for dozens of festival performances around the world.

He holds advanced degrees in composition from the Eastman School of Music (Ph.D.) and the University of Iowa (M.A.), and a B.A. in Music from the University of Minnesota. Additionally, he is a member of the Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society.

Dr. Brakel is currently on the faculty at Chapman University's Conservatory of Music, where he teaches in the music theory and composition department. He has held previous teaching positions at the Eastman School of Music and the University of Iowa. His current research interests include musical semiotics, the composer Allan Pettersson (1911-1980), and the relationship(s) between music and poetry, with special emphasis on the poet Paul Celan.