

MENA WILLIAMS

COMPOSER, WRITER, &
PIANIST

[HTTPS://WWW.MWILLIAMSCOMPOSITION.COM](https://www.mwilliamscomposition.com)



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CA, 90815

ABOUT ME

Mena Williams is an Afro-Caribbean American composer, writer, and classical pianist from Miami, Florida. Williams holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Composition and a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Redlands and is pursuing a Master's of Music in Music Composition at California State University, Long Beach.

Mena is currently composing for concert music; however, for the longest time, her primary goal as a composer has been to write for movies and TV shows, driven by her immense love of film. In addition, she hopes to write for video games and dance, as these are other forms of visual media that she is extremely passionate about.

WORK EXPERIENCE

California State University, Long Beach 2025

Instructional Student Assistant

Medium 2025

Freelance Writer

University of Redlands 2021-2025

- 2023-2025 Peer Writing Tutor
- 2023 Student Representative of the College Curriculum Committee
- 2021-2025 Library Clerk Specialist Technical Services

Self Employed 2021-Present

- 2021-Present Freelance Composer | The Unfinished Symphony
- 2022-2025 Classical Piano Teacher

Orlando Music Club 2024

Adjudicator for the OmniHarmoni Young Composers Competition

National Federation of Music Clubs 2024

Adjudicator for the NFMF Florida Junior Composers Contest

Arch Creek Animal Clinic 2020-21

Part-time Veterinary Technician

VOLUNTEER WORK

New World Symphony 2024-Present

Usher

Redlands Community Orchestra 2024

Played Percussion

Redlands Symphony Orchestra 2022-24

Usher

Novelly 2022-23

Creative Writing Coach for the Novelly Rising Voices Collective

University of Miami Frost School of Music Young Musicians Camp 2021

Counselor

EDUCATION

SCHOOL

2025-27

California State University | Long Beach

MM Music Composition

2021-25

University of Redlands

BM Music Composition (3.835)

BA Creative Writing (3.817)

2022

Miami Dade College

No Degree

- 2025- Present: UAW 4123 Member

- 2025-Present: CSULB Composers Guild

Cumulative GPA: 3.662

- 2023-2025: Co-Founder of UoR Chapter of

Hear Your Song

- 2023- Present: NSLS Member

- 2022- Present: Sigma Alpha Iota Member

- 2021-2025: UoR BSU Member

Cumulative GPA: 4.0

Received transfer credit for BA in Creative Writing

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2021
San Francisco Art Institute
No Degree

Independent study through the University of Redlands.
Studied with film director Christopher Coppola

WORKSHOP & FESTIVALS

2025

- Wild Flower Composers Virtual Mini Course Film & TV Scoring 101

2024

- Twisted Spruce Music Foundation Guitar & Composition Symposium Competition participant
- Mostly Modern Festival

2023

- National Association of Teachers of Singing Inc. Mentoring Program for Composers participant
- Atlantic Music Festival (2nd session)

2022

- NYU MPAP Video Game Scoring Summer Workshop (Auditor)
- Mostly Modern Festival

2021

Universiteit Leiden & University of the Arts the Hague (through Coursera)

- Certificate of completion for the online class The Importance & Power of Music in our Society
- Boulanger Initiative Virtual Solo Composition Workshop for Cello
- WildFlower Composers Festival (formerly known as Young Women Composers Camp)
- Novelty Rising Voices Collective (formerly known as SPEAK! Writing Fellowship)

Duke University (through Coursera)

- Certificate of completion for the online class Music Biology: What We Like to Hear and Why

2020

NYU Tische Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music (through Yellowbrick)

- Certificate of completion for the online class Music Industry Essentials

2019

- Walden School Young Musicians Camp

2009-18

- University of Miami Frost School of Music Young Musicians Camp

CERTIFICATIONS

2022

California Department of Social Services -- California Child Abuse Mandated Reporter
Online Training for Volunteers

EXPERTISE & SKILLS

Music Composition

- Sibelius
- Music Theory
- Score Editing
- Arranging

Music Production

- Logic Pro X
- Audio Recording
- Pro Tools
- Pure Data

Performing Arts

- Classical Piano
- Jazz Piano
- Choir
- Percussion

Collaborative

- Large Ensemble
- Communication
- Time Management
- Organization Skills
- Creative Problem Solving
- Decision-Making

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Public Relations

- Advertising
- Management

Writing

- Creative Writing
- Editing & Proofreading
- Journalism
- Copy Writing

Education

- Working with Children

AWARDS

2025

- 2024 Twisted Spruce Music Foundation Guitar & Composition Symposium Competition Collaboration Prize Winner
- Presser Scholar
- Creative Writing Departmental Honors
- ASCAP Foundation Bart Howard Fund Honorarium

2024

- Joan Miller Scholarship
- SAI Composer's Award

2023

- SAI Composer's Award

2022

- James Miles Musical Innovation Grant
- Deans List for Spring 22 semester

2021

- Kerdyk Family Music Scholarship
- Honorable Mention from NFMC Junior Composers Contest

2020

- 2nd Place recipient for La Plume Writers Contest High School Division
- Lift Music Fund

2019

- 3rd Place recipient for La Plume Writers Contest High School Division
- Honorable Mention from NFMC Junior Composers Contest

PUBLICATIONS

2025 Medium

Publication | The Early Years

- A Little Knowledge on Robert Schumann

Publication | It's Only A Movie

- Review: The Long Walk
- The "Long Walk" Challenge
- Review: War of the Worlds (2025)
- A Summer of Hitchcock
- Review: F1: The Movie

Publication | The Anti-Hero (Self)

- Review: Predator Killer of Killers
- Review: From the World of John Wick: Ballerina
- Review: The Patient
- Review: Big Mouth
- I Didn't Know You Were Real
- Who Are You Hearing Now?

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Not Published under a Publication

- A Guide to Applying for a Degree in the Arts

2022 Novelty

- Untold History: Sea of Freedom

COMMISSIONS

2025

Cogitare

by Mena Williams

Commissioned by Sean MacCarthy-Grant

Instrumentation: Marimba

2024

A Life had at Sea

by Mena Williams

Commissioned by Jehsica Castle

Instrumentation: B-flat Clarinet & Piano

2024

An Abandoned Woman's

Lament

by Mena Williams

Commissioned by National Association of Teachers of Singing & Cincinnati Song Initiative

Instrumentation: Soprano Voice & Piano

2023

Nostradamus

by Mena Williams

Commissioned by Christopher Figueroa

Instrumentation: Wind Quintet

2023

When the Day has Gone

by Mena Williams

Commissioned by Jehsica Castle & Timothy Ruzon

Instrumentation: B-flat Clarinet & Trombone

2023

A Reoccurring Dream

by Mena Williams

Commissioned by Somerset Peede

Instrumentation: Viola & Piano

2023

Mist Over the River

by Mena Williams

Commissioned by Emily Davis

Instrumentation: Unaccompanied Euphonium

FILMS

2025

Killer

Director: Evan Makarov

Music: Mena Williams

2023-24

I [Redacted] You

Director: Brooke Scott

Music: Mena Williams

PREMIERES & PERFORMANCES

To Show Them

by Mena Williams

Premiered April 2025

Jehsica Castle & Demarqis Frazier (b-flat clarinet), Emma Boyd (alto saxophone), Anyssa Peñaloza (tenor saxophone), Ja'Lena Harris (bass clarinet), & JD Topliff (baritone saxophone), Mena Williams (conductor) at the University of Redlands Green

Orange Composition Recital

Other Performances

- Performed April 2025 by Jehsica Castle & Demarqis Frazier (b-flat clarinet), Emma Boyd (alto saxophone), Anyssa Peñaloza (tenor saxophone), Ja'Lena Harris (bass clarinet), & JD Topliff (baritone saxophone), Mena Williams (conductor) at the University of Redlands Woodwind Chamber Concert

Premiered March 2025

Jehsica Castle (b-flat clarinet) & Joseph Candelaria (piano) at Castle's BM Music Performance Senior Recital at the University of Redlands

A Life had at Sea

by Mena Williams

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PREMIERES & PERFORMANCES

Modern Prelude & Minuet
by Mena Williams

Premiered February 2025

Chelsea Randall (piano) at the American Mavericks Project
Contemporary Black Composers Lecture & Recital at the
Newark School of the Arts

Other Performances

- Performed March 2025 at The Next Generation: Young Women Composers hosted by American Mavericks Project

A Boy and His Drum
by Mena Williams

Premiered December 2024

University of Redlands Orchestra & Choir conducted by Co Boi Nguyen at the 77th annual Feast of Lights production at the University of Redlands

An Abandoned Woman's Lament
by Mena Williams

Premiered June 2024

Olivia Knutsen (soprano) & Mary Elizabeth Nerren (piano) hosted by NATS & CSI

Other Performances

- Performed September 2024 at the University of Redlands. Sonja Krennek (soprano) & Lara Urrutia (piano)

He Died in the Fog
by Mena Williams

Premiered June 2024

Movement 2 & 3 Premiered by the Atlantic Brass Quintet | Tim Leopold & Miki Sasaki (trumpet), Seth Orgel (f-horn), John Faieta (trombone), & John Manning (tuba) at the 5th season of the Mostly Modern Festival

Other Performances

- Movement I Performed April 2025 by David Scott & Mike Zonshine (trumpet), Luke Hilland (f-horn), Phil Keen (trombone), Scott Sutherland (tuba) at the Redlands Recital Series titled An Evening with RSO Brass
- Movement I Performed November 2024 by Angel & Ivan Rivas (trumpet), Ryan Vickrey (f-horn), Jase Gooden (trombone), & Vincent Garavito (tuba) at the Brass Chamber Ensemble Concert
- Movement I Premiered November 2024 by Angel & Ivan Rivas (trumpet), Ryan Vickrey (f-horn), Jase Gooden (trombone), & Vincent Garavito (tuba) at University of Redlands Green Orange Composition Recital

Nostradamus
by Mena Williams

Premiered April 2024

Christopher Figueroa (flute), Kayla DeGuzman (oboe), Derrick Williams (b-flat clarinet), Ryan Vickrey (f-horn), & Jonathan Stehney (bassoon) at the University of Redlands Green Orange Composition Recital

Quintet in A minor for Piano & Strings
by Florence B. Price
arranged for 2 Pianos
arr. by Mena Williams

Premiered March 2024

Movement 2 Premiered by Mena Williams & Thandiwe Sukuta (piano) at Williams' BM Music Composition Junior Recital at the University of Redlands

When the Day has Gone
by Mena Williams

Premiered November 2023

Jehsica Castle (b-flat clarinet) & Timothy Ruzon (trombone) at the University of Redlands Green Orange Composition Recital

Other Performances

- Performed February 2024 at Castle & Ruzon's joint BM Music Performance Junior Recital at the University of Redlands

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PREMIERES & PERFORMANCES

A Reoccurring Dream
by Mena Williams

Under the Red Sky
by Mena Williams

Mist Over the River
by Mena Williams

El Vaquero Misterioso
by Mena Williams

The Rising Tide
by Mena Williams

A Semita in Umbra

Little Bird of Song
by Mena Williams

Echoing off the Ricochet
by Mena Williams

Insignificant Flaw
by Mena Williams

Enlightenment of the Cruel
by Mena Williams

Internationally Premiered August 2023

Somerset Peede (viola) & Stephan Christie (piano) on Youtube Livestream

Premiered July 2023

AMF Contemporary Ensemble | Nava Pandayeh (flute), Jaroslave Škuta (bass clarinet), Sean MacCarthy-Grant (bass drum), Alyssa Soriano (piano), Dan Qiao (violin), & Jameson Platte (cello) at the Atlantic Music Festival

Premiered March 2023

Emily Davis (euphonium) at the University of Redlands LGBTQ+ Showcase

Other Performances

- Performed April 2023 at the university of Redlands Green Orange Recital
- Performed April 2023 at Davis' BM Music Education Senior Recital at the University of Redlands

Premiered June 2022

Neave Trio | Anna Williams (violin), Mikhail Veselov (cello), & Eri Nakamura (piano) at the 3rd season of the Mostly Modern Festival

Premiered April 2022

Sophia "Sol" Huang & Emma Sandbothe (violin), Vincent Francis (viola), Abigail Rodriguez (cello), Fatima Baeza (double bass) at the University of Redlands Green Orange Composition Recital

Premiered November 2021

MSgt. Christine Lightner (cello) at the Boulanger Initiative Virtual Workshop

Premiered November 2021

Christian Hillis (flute) at the University of Redlands Green Orange Composition Recital

Other Performances

- Performed March 2023 by Christopher Figueroa at the University of Redlands LGBTQ+ Showcase

Premiered August 2021

AndPlay Duo | Maya Bennardo (violin) & Hannah Levinson (viola) at the WildFlower Composers Festival (formerly known as the Young Women's Composers Camp)

Premiered July 2019

Walden School Players | Lara Cocks (flute), Katherine Schoepflin Jimoh (b-flat clarinet), Dana Jessen (bassoon), & Bonnie Whiting (percussion) at the Walden School Young Musicians Camp Festival Composers Forum I

Premiered July 2019

International Contemporary Ensemble | Isabel Lapanto Gleicher (bass flute) & Dennis Sullivan (book (pages w/ a mic) & spoken words) at the Walden School Young Musicians Camp Composer Forum IV

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Tale of the Gypsy
by Mena Williams

Premiered July 2018

Chris Renaud & Alyssa Benedict (piano), & Yuri Harper Rosenberg (viola) at the University of Miami Frost School of Music Young Musicians Camp Advanced Honors Composition Concert

Other Performances

- Performed July 2019 by Michael Kropf & Marco Roberts (piano), & Luke Schroeder (viola) at the Walden School Young Musicians Camp Compers Forum I