

# MENA WILLIAMS

COMPOSER, WRITER, &  
PIANIST

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



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## ABOUT ME

Mena Williams is an Afro-Caribbean American composer, writer, and classical pianist originally 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

### 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

- 2025-Present Freelance Writer
- 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 NFMC 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

BA Creative Writing

2022

Miami Dade College

No Degree

- 2025- Present: UAW 4123 Member

- 2025-Present: CSULB Composers Guild

- 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

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

## WORKSHOPS & FESTIVALS

**2026**

- Mostly Modern Festival

**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** Certificate of completion for the online class The Importance & Power of Music in our Society (**Coursera**)
- Boulanger Initiative Virtual Solo Composition Workshop for Cello
- WildFlower Composers Festival (formerly known as Young Women Composers Camp)
- Novelly Rising Voices Collective (formerly known as Novelly SPEAK! Writing Fellowship)
- **Duke University** Certificate of completion for the online class Music Biology: What We Like to Hear and Why (**Coursera**)

**2020**

- **NYU Tische Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music** Certificate of completion for the online class Music Industry Essentials (**Yellowbrick**)

**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

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## EXPERTISE & SKILLS

### Music Composition

- Sibelius
- Music Theory
- Score Editing
- Arranging
- Transcribing

### 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
- Creative Problem Solving
- Decision-Making

### Public Relations

- Advertising
- Management
- SEO

### Writing

- Fiction Writing
- Non-Fiction Writing
- Poetry
- Editing & Proofreading
- Journalism
- Blogging
- Copy Writing

### Education

- Working with Children
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## AWARDS

### 2025

- ASCAP Plus Award
- 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

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Medium | 2025-Present

#### 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: Fr: The Movie

#### Publication | The Anti-Hero (Self)

- Review: Project Hail Mary
- My Thought on Live-Action Moana
- Review: The Bride
- Review: The Amazing Nina Simone
- 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?

#### Not Published under a Publication

- A Guide to Applying for a Degree in the Arts

### Novelly | 2022

- Untold History: Sea of Freedom

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## COMMISSIONS

2026  
**...and the Kitchen Sink**  
by Mena Williams

Commissioned by Mostly Modern Festival | FAB5  
Instrumentation: String Quartet and Percussion

## COMMISSIONS

<b>2026</b> <b>Don't Make Me Start Over</b> by Kayla René Transcribed by Mena Williams	Commissioned by Kayla René Instrumentation: Guitar, Voice, Piano, Bass, Drums
<b>2025</b> <b>Cogitare</b> by Mena Williams	Commissioned by Sean MacCarthy-Grant Instrumentation: Marimba
<b>2024</b> <b>A Life had at Sea</b> by Mena Williams	Commissioned by Jehsica Castle Instrumentation: B-flat Clarinet & Piano
<b>2024</b> <b>A Boy and His Drum</b> by Mena Williams	Commissioned by The University of Redlands   Dr. Nicholle Andrew Instrumentation: Orchestra and SATB Choir
<b>2023-24</b> <b>An Abandoned Woman's Lament</b> by Mena Williams	Commissioned by the National Association of Teachers of Singing & the Cincinnati Song Initiative Instrumentation: Soprano Voice & Piano
<b>2023-24</b> <b>He Died in the Fog</b> by Mena Williams	Commissioned by The Mostly Modern Festival   Atlantic Brass Quintet Instrumentation: Brass Quintet
<b>2023</b> <b>Nostradamus</b> by Mena Williams	Commissioned by Christopher Figueroa Instrumentation: Wind Quintet
<b>2023</b> <b>When the Day has Gone</b> by Mena Williams	Commissioned by Jehsica Castle & Timothy Ruzon Instrumentation: B-flat Clarinet & Trombone
<b>2023</b> <b>Mist Over the River</b> by Mena Williams	Commissioned by Emily Davis Instrumentation: Unaccompanied Euphonium
<b>2022-23</b> <b>A Reoccurring Dream</b> by Mena Williams	Commissioned by Somerset Peede Instrumentation: Viola & Piano
<b>2021-22</b> <b>El Vaquero Misterioso</b> by Mena Williams	Commissioned by The Mostly Modern Festival   Neave Trio Instrumentation: Piano Trio

## VISUAL MEDIA COLLABORATIONS

### FILM

**2026**  
**Hugh Mann's Last Day on Earth**  
Director: Oliver Perez & Thaly  
Music: Mena Williams

**2025**  
**Killer**  
Director: Evan Makarov  
Music: Mena Williams

**2023-24**  
**I [Redacted] You**  
Director: Brooke Scott  
Music: Mena Williams

### THEATER

**2025-26**  
**Writer's Block**  
Playwright: Emilio Perez  
Music: Mena Williams & Alexander Reams

### DANCE

**2025-26**  
**Say No More**  
Choreographer: Amy Ernst  
Music: Mena Williams

## CONCERT MUSIC

### PREMIERES & PERFORMANCES

...and the Kitchen Sink  
by Mena Williams

To be Premiered June 2026  
by the FAB5| Victoria Paterson & Erica Dicker (violin), Benjamin VonGuzeit (viola), Dave Eggar (cello), & Diego Alphonso Jimenez (percussion) at the 7th season of the Mostly Modern Festival

## PREMIERES & PERFORMANCES

### **To Show Them (2022/ rev.2025))**

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

### **A Life had at Sea (2024)**

by Mena Williams

#### **Premiered March 2025**

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

### **Modern Prelude & Minuet (2020)**

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** by Chelsea Randall (piano) at The Next Generation: Young Women Composers hosted by American Mavericks Project

### **A Boy and His Drum (2024)**

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 (2024)**

by Mena Williams

#### **Premiered June 2024**

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

#### **Other Performances**

- **Performed September 2024** by Sonja Krenek (soprano) & Lara Urrutia (piano) at the University of Redlands

### **He Died in the Fog (2024)**

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 1 Performed April 2025** by David Scott & Mike Zonshine (trumpet), Luke Hilland (f-horn), Phil Keen (trombone), & Scott Sutherland (tuba) at the Redlands Symphony Orchestra Recital Series: An Evening with RSO Brass
- **Movement 1 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 1 Premiered November 2024** by Angel & Ivan Rivas (trumpet), Ryan Vickrey (f-horn), Jase Gooden (trombone), & Vincent Garavito (tuba) at the University of Redlands Green Orange Composition Recital

## PREMIERES & PERFORMANCES

**Nostradamus (2024)**  
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 (comp. 1936)**  
by Florence B. Price  
**arranged for 2 Pianos (2023)**  
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 (2023)**  
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

**A Reoccurring Dream (2023)**  
by Mena Williams

**Internationally Premiered August 2023**

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

**Under the Red Sky (2023)**  
by Mena Williams

**Premiered July 2023**

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

**Mist Over the River (2023)**  
by Mena Williams

**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 Composition Recital
- **Performed April 2023** at Davis' BM Music Education Senior Recital at the University of Redlands

**El Vaquero Misterioso (2022)**  
by Mena Williams

**Premiered June 2022**

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

**The Rising Tide (2021/rev. 2024)**  
by Mena Williams

**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

**A Semita in Umbra (2021)**  
by Mena Williams

**Premiered November 2021**

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

**Little Bird of Song  
(Avicula Cantus) (2021)**  
by Mena Williams

**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

**Echoing off the Ricochet (2021)**  
by Mena Williams

**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)

## PREMIERES & PERFORMANCES

**Insignificant Flaw (2019)**  
by Mena Williams

**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

**Enlightenment of the Cruel (2019)**  
by Mena Williams

**Premiered July 2019**

International Contemporary Ensemble | Isabel Lapanto Gleicher (bass flute) & Dennis Sullivan (book & spoken words) at the Walden School Young Musicians Camp Composers Forum IV

**Tale of the Gypsy (2018)**  
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 Composers Forum I