

Dr. Joseph Dangerfield

Address: 305 W Maple Ave, Fayetteville, WV 25840 • Phone: 304.640.6468 • Email: jdangerf@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Search Committee:

Please accept this letter, and supporting material, as my application for the advertised assistant – level position in Music Theory and Composition at the UCLA Department of Music.

Currently, I am a **Visiting Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Composition at the University of Florida**. As my Curriculum Vitae demonstrates, I have a strong record of teaching experience within a variety of course settings, including positions at large universities, small liberal arts colleges, and those of an international nature (e.g., a Fulbright). I was an Associate Professor at Coe College, where I revised the music theory and composition curriculum in order to better serve our diverse population of majors and non-majors in keeping with both the college's liberal arts mission, and the goals of the NASM accredited department. I am experienced at planning and implementing course material from the undergraduate to the graduate level. I believe that the success of junior-, senior-, and graduate-level seminars in music theory is dependent to a large extent upon our ability to establish the foundations for such upper-level courses beginning in year one of the theory track. Form and analysis; reductive principles; counterpoint; twentieth-century techniques—each of these must be introduced, either directly or subtly, as part of the core material within the first two years of study.

After completing a PhD in music composition with a minor in music theory pedagogy at the University of Iowa, I have maintained a high level of **activity as a composer**. My works have been programmed in, among others, Russia, Japan, Austria, the Czech Republic, Italy, and throughout the United States at such venues as New York's Carnegie Hall (Weill), the FSU Festival of New Music, Harvard University, the Eastman School of Music, the San Francisco Conservatory, and the Boston Conservatory. I was named the 2011 National Endowment for the Arts Resident at the Yaddo Artists' Colony. I was awarded the 2010 Aaron Copland Award, and my composition, *Two Vestiges* (2009-10), received the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra's 2010 Composition Prize. I am writing a work for cello and piano for the principal cellist of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London for a 2017 premiere, and a new work for clarinet ensemble.

I believe that a successful school of music is one that offers a wide variety of opportunities for its students and faculty, and is one that paints music with broad strokes. Possessing a well-developed and maintained composition program is a crucial component, and a balanced curriculum should include an ensemble that encourages and facilitates the development of new compositions (like the Contempo Flux Ensemble); that offers multiple performances of student and even faculty works through, at the least, an annual regional tour. Such an opportunity is vital to the young composer, and its presence in the surrounding communities engenders civic mindedness of students, as well as large-scale acceptance and respect of the university by the community.

As a conductor, I frequently program works from the canon and by living composers. I have conducted in such international venues as Carnegie Hall, the Vienna Konzerthaus, and am currently the conductor of the UF New Music Ensemble, a group that ceased to exist until I revived it last year. I am the conductor, co-founder, and co-artistic director of ensemble: *périphérie*, a group of music professionals dedicated to the performance of music written by living composers. We are currently planning our fifth season together. I also believe that continuing to participate in the creation of music as an **active pianist** is vital to my creative work as a composer and teacher. Performance keeps me grounded in the practical concerns of the musician, and is something I find enjoyable.

I find the prospect of joining the faculty of such a prestigious institution is exciting. Please contact me if you need any further information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Joseph A. Dangerfield