

Brian S. Wilson
Professor of Music
Sonoma State University
Sabbatical Report from Fall 2024

I visited the following countries in this order

Australia
Long Beach, California (USA)
Toronto, Canada
Tampa, Florida (USA)
Chile
Argentina
Falkland Islands
Uruguay
Italy

I guest conducted, performed and lectured at the following institutions

The Grainger Wind Symphony in Melbourne, Australia

- Conducted rehearsals and a concert with the Grainger Wind Symphony in three of my orchestrations of Grainger's music including a premiere of my "Lord Maxwell's Goodnight". The work is now published by G. Meredith Publications and distributed by SheetMusicPlus.
- Conducted research at the Percy Grainger Museum and received a VIP tour.
- Lectured to composition students at Monash University on my original compositions and my book and orchestrations on Grainger.
- Adjudicated band festival in Melbourne (attended)
- High School production of Wallace and Gromit movie (met with faculty)
- Visit and tour of Griffith University Queensland Conservatory in Brisbane, AU
- Attended and met with Jazz Trio on the Sunshine Coast

Jewish Community Center of Long Beach

- Lectured on the music of Ernest Bloch. Sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program at CSU Long Beach

York University, Toronto, Canada

- Presented and performed in an evening concert of my original compositions. Curated and Emceed the event.
- Lectured to the composition and orchestration students on my original compositions and my book and orchestrations on Grainger

University of Tampa, Florida

- Attended performance and rehearsals of my clarinet concerto; Klezmer Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra. Performed by The University of Tampa Symphony Orchestra with Joseph Beverly of the Florida Orchestra.

Western Jewish Studies Association

- Wrote paper on the Sacred Service of composer Darius Milhaud. Paper accepted and presented at conference in San Diego, CA.
- Subsequently elected to Executive Committee.

American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, ASCAP

- Was awarded an ASCAP Plus award for my original compositions

South America

- Met with musicians and dancers in Chile, Argentina and Uruguay

Monte Urano, Italy

- Conduct the Premiato Corpo Bandistico Monte Urano, Italy in a concert of my compositions "Orange Was Her Color" Grainger orchestration of "Lord Maxwell's Goodnight" and "Estonian Folk Song Suite". (postponed for June 2025)

I completed the following compositions

Klezmer 101	prepared European edition brass parts
Pomp and Circumstance	brass quintet orchestration
Gaudeamus Igitur	brass quintet orchestration
Cap and Gown	brass quintet
So Let Us Begin	brass quintet
Lord Maxwell's Goodnight	wind ensemble
Ancient Calls*	flute, horn and piano
The Fertile Land	2 clarinets
Modal Menagerie*	a suite of piano 7 pieces
	Dorian Zebra (Africa)
	Phrygian Sloth (South America)
	Lydian Penguin (Antarctica)
	Mixolydian Panda (Asia)
	Aeolian Kangaroo (Australia)
	Locrian Reindeer (Europe)
	Ionian Eagle (North America)

Symphony No. 4 - Ithaka*

Lyric Soprano, trumpet, bassoon, percussion and harp
Four movement setting of the poem Ithaka by C.P. Cavafy
I. As you set out
II. Summer mornings
III. Always in your mind
IV. Marvelous journey

Balaam

A full length opera (in progress) based on the Torah portion Balak – from Numbers 22:2 – 25:9. The aria "Ma Tov" for baritone and the Angel and Donkey scene completed.

All pieces are published by G. Meredith Publications and distributed by SheetMusicPlus.

Sonoma Musica Viva

A culmination of this was a concert of my music which took place on April 24, 2025 in Schroeder Hall on the last concert of the 10th Season of the Jewish Music Series at Sonoma State University. The pieces starred* above were on the program as well as my "Prayer for Peace" for Women's Chorus and String Orchestra.

As you can see, my sabbatical was extremely productive and invigorating. I got so much composing done, interacted and collaborated with a lot of musicians from around the world and have new international projects on the horizon. I am stimulated to enter back into to my role as Professor in the Department of Music. I am very grateful to the university for affording me this valuable opportunity.

Respectfully submitted, Brian S. Wilson