

# ERIC BACKUS

## COMPOSER AND SOUND DESIGNER

eric@ericbackus.com

www.ericbackus.com

480 - 748 - 7323

### SUMMARY

A fun and creative sonic artist with over 15 years professional experience as a composer, sound designer, and audio engineer. Enthusiastic collaborator and story teller, providing exceptional sound for a variety of mediums including live performances, podcasts, and videos. Freelancer and sole proprietor of Eric Backus Sound + Music since 2006. Pronouns: He/him.

### COMPOSITION

Collaborate with theatre directors, podcast producers, and video producers. Present examples of music research and facilitate conversations about musical style, aesthetic, period, and emotion. Create unique, genre-blending original music for plays, podcasts, acting reels, and promotional videos.

Composed and arranged more than 50 unique scores for theatrical productions to date - inspired by a wide range of musical genres including jazz, Western classical, pop, and ambient/electronic.

Carefully program software instruments to create nuanced, lifelike performances with MIDI recordings. Utilize Logic Pro X to mix and master cues for playback and publication.

### DESIGN AND ENGINEERING

Work Off-Broadway, regionally, and throughout Chicago, designing sound on more than 140 theatrical productions to date. Versatilely design in a variety of spaces ranging from 50 seat storefronts to 1,000 seat auditoriums to 4,000 seat amphitheaters.

Create compelling soundscapes and dramatically appropriate sound effects that compliment the overarching narrative and engage the audience.

Mix a variety of live performances including plays, musicals, concerts, and dance. Mix recorded audio for musical tracks, streaming videos, and podcasts.

### RECORDING AND EDITING

Record voiceovers on location or in project studios using field-recorders and/or professional grade microphones. Process low quality recordings and clean up unwanted environmental noise using iZotope RX.

Edit voiceovers, sound effects, and music.

Record music for song tracks, post-production audio, and streaming video.

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Independently manage time to work on multiple projects simultaneously, completing projects to meet deadlines.

Manage and catalogue a personal library of digital audio assets including sound effects, recording files, and software instruments.

Create and organize digital and physical design paperwork including cue-sheets, speaker plots, and signal flow/patch diagrams.

Supervise and coordinate production teams locally and remotely to execute physical installation of sound equipment.

Find creative solutions that fit budgetary constraints and utilize existing resources.

Serve a variety of clients, including commercial and non-for-profit theatres, public and private educational institutions, and individuals.

## RECOGNITION

**2023 Non-Equity Jeff Award - Sound Design**

*Solaris*, Griffin Theatre

**2023 Non-Equity Jeff Award Nomination - Original Music in a Play**

*Solaris*, Griffin Theatre

**2019 Jeff Award Nomination - Sound Design, Midsize**

*Wolf Play*, The Gift Theater

**2019 Jeff Award Nomination - Sound Design, Midsize**

*The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey*, American Blues Theater

**2019 Syracuse Area Live Theatre (SALT) Award Nomination -**

**Sound Design of a Musical**

*Murder for Two*, Merry Go Round Playhouse, NY

**2023 Non-Equity Jeff Award Nomination - Sound Design**

*A Wrinkle in Time*, Lifeline Theatre

**2010 AriZoni Award - Best Sound Design for a Musical**

*The Rocky Show*, Arizona State University Lyric Opera Theatre

**2010 AriZoni Award Nomination - Best Sound Design for a Musical**

*La Cenerentola*, Arizona State University Lyric Opera Theatre

## SKILLS

Music composition  
Sound mixing/editing  
Music and voiceover recording  
Theatrical storytelling  
Mentoring and teaching  
ProTools, Logic Pro, QLab, Kontakt, iZotope RX, misc. audio plugins;  
Adobe Design Suite, Vectorworks, MS Office, Zendesk  
Team leadership  
Time management  
Collaboration  
Customer service  
Zamboni driving

## EDUCATION

BA in Theatre  
*Arizona State University - Tempe, AZ*  
*May 2010*  
Focus on Theatre Design & Production and Music  
Graduated Cum Laude