

# LESLEE V. WOOD

MUSICOLOGIST - COMPOSER - PERFORMER

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## EDUCATION TEACHING, DIRECTORSHIPS, & RESIDENCIES

**Ph.D. coursework (musicology)**  
University of Kansas 2017-2018

**Master of Music (musicology)**  
University of Kansas, 2017  
*In Love and War: Troubadour Song as Propaganda, Protest, and Politics in the Albigensian Crusade* (thesis)

**Bachelor of Arts  
(music major - theatre minor)**  
University of Utah, 2003

**University of Kansas - Instructor of Record/GTA**  
(Lawrence, KS 2017-19)

Courses taught: *Masterworks of Music, Music and World Cultures, Music History II: Renaissance & Baroque, Music History III: Classical & Romantic, History of Rock & Roll*

**Ignea Strata - Artistic Director**  
(2016-present)

Professional vocal ensemble specializing in medieval, renaissance, and contemporary music. Researched and planned programs including transcribing and editing from primary sources, adapting and arranging works to suit the ensemble, composing new works, and collaborating with other composers in the performance of their works. Directed the ensemble, including coaching historically-informed performance techniques, period languages and pronunciation, and all other general artistic matters.

**KC VITAs New Music Ensemble - Composer in Residence**  
(2016-present)

KC VITAs is a group of professional singers with the mission to promote the continued creation and performance of "contemporary-classical" vocal music. The choir is committed to performing new music, benefitting composers and performers alike.

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church - Music Director**  
(Kansas City, MO - 2013-16)

**Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception - Cantor/Section Leader**  
(Kansas City, MO - 2014-16)

**Private voice teacher** - (2006-2010)

## ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP & PROFESSIONAL WORK

**J & J Lubrano Music Antiquarians - Antiquarian Music Cataloguer**  
(October 2019 - January 2021)

One of two staff musicologists tasked with researching and cataloguing items of musical interest for antiquarian firm whose clients included important archives, libraries, universities, and private collectors.

**Ruckus Music Publishing - co-founder & editor**  
(2019-present)

Dedicated to producing practical, beautiful editions of music that has been unavailable or difficult to obtain. With a primary focus on out-of-print works, historical music not previously published in accessible performance editions, and new music by living composers, particularly works by composers from under-represented and marginalized groups. Our goal is to provide increased access to previously unavailable music in editions that are well-researched, carefully edited, and designed for practical performance use.

## AWARDS & SERVICE

**National Endowment for the Humanities Grant** *Courtly Lyric in the Medieval French Tradition, Poetry as Performance* - Summer Seminar (2018)

**International Alliance for Women in Music** Annual Concert Composition Prizewinner (2016)

**Graduate Research Award** University of Kansas Research Competition (2017)

**Graduate Teaching Assistantship** University of Kansas, Lawrence KS (2017-2018)

**Midwest Music Research Collective** Board Treasurer (2017-18)

**KC VITAs New Music Ensemble** Working Board Member (2015-present)

## PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

**Mid-America Medieval Association Annual Conference** University of Kansas (2018)  
"Singing a Lost Song: la cantilène de Sainte Eulalie and modern performance"

**Society for Composers Inc. National Student Conference** Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University (2018) "Four Poems by Emily Dickinson" SATB choral setting

**Historical Performance Institute Annual Conference** Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University (2018) "Minding the Gaps: Reconstructing Medieval Lacunae for Modern Performance"

**Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies** St. Louis University (2018)  
"Stories, Songs, and Resistance: Troubadours and the Albigensian Crusade"

**KU Graduate Research Conference** University of Kansas (2018)  
"Trash or Treasure: Sharing the Drastic Performance of an American Popstar's Crisis of Identity"

**Newberry Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference** Newberry Library (2017)  
"Love and War: Troubadours and the Albigensian Crusade"

**KU Graduate Research Conference** University of Kansas (2017)  
"Peire Vidal and Cathar Patronage: a close reading of *Mos cor s'alegre s'esjau*"

## COMPOSITIONS

**Daughter of Zion**; ballet (select sections) violin, piano  
premiere upcoming (October 2, 2021 at Zion National Park, UT) collaboration with Municipal Ballet Company, Salt Lake City, UT

**Unloaded**; song (excerpt from *Fish*) tenor, piano; text by Kyle Hunter  
premiered January 31, 2021 via livestream by KC VITAs: Patrick Graham, tenor and Charles Dickinson, piano.

**Isolation Meditation**; song SATB choir; untexted  
commissioned by The Pembroke School; Kansas City, MO  
premiere upcoming (May 2021)

**On the Back of the Black**; oratorio (2019)  
mezzo-soprano, tenor, SATB choir, and Pierrat ensemble; text by Tierza Askren; collaboration with KC VITAs; Kansas City, MO. Premiere upcoming (August 2021)

**Dumbfounded** (2019) SATB choir, harp; text by Ruth Williams  
premiered April 7, 2019 by KC VITAs, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art; Kansas City, MO

**We Must Like It** (2018) SSAA quartet; text by Tierza Askren  
premiered March 29, 2019 by Ignea Strata, St. John's United Methodist Church; Kansas City, MO

**The Safest Space** (2018) multimedia with live percussion  
premiered March 12, 2018 University of Kansas Percussion Ensemble, Swarthout Recital Hall; Lawrence, KS

## COMPOSITIONS CONTINUED

- Blind** (2018) SSAATTBB chorus; text by Megan Bryde  
premiered April 8, 2018 by KC VITAs, St. Mary's Episcopal Church; Kansas City, MO
- Choral Evensong** (2018) SSAATTBB chorus and antiphonal SATB soloists  
premiered April 8, 2018 by KC VITAs, St. Mary's Episcopal Church; Kansas City, MO
- Song of Anna** (2017) SSAATB chorus  
premiered December 7, 2017 by KC VITAs, The Simpson House; Kansas City, MO
- Tiga Puisi Chairil Anwar**; song cycle (2017) mezzo soprano, tenor, harp;  
mezzo soprano, tenor, piano (2018 revision); text by Chairil Anwar  
premiered October 15, 2017 by Midwest Chamber Ensemble, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection; Prairie Village, KS
- Sonnets from the Portuguese**; song cycle (2017) SSAA quartet; text by Elizabeth Barrett Browning  
premiered May 19, 2017 by Ignea Strata, KC United Church of Christ; Kansas City, MO
- Suite for Chignik Bay**; miniatures (2016) flute and clarinet  
premiered May 14, 2017 by The Violetta Duo, St. Mary's Episcopal Church; Kansas City, MO
- Song: Go and Catch a Falling Star** (2017), TTBB chorus; SATB chorus with tuned waterglasses (2018 revision); text by John Donne  
premiered April 1, 2017 by University of Kansas Men's Glee Club, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts; Kansas City, MO
- Morning Psalm** (2016) SSA trio; anonymous 8th c. text  
premiered July 24, 2016 by KC VITAs, St. Mary's Episcopal Church; Kansas City, MO
- Summer Sang in Me** (2016) SATB chorus; text by Edna St. Vincent Millay  
premiered August 5, 2016 by KC VITAs, Old Mission United Methodist Church; Prairie Village, KS
- Straight on Through** (2016) SATB chorus; text by Willa Cather  
premiered October 11, 2018 at KU School of Music Swarthout Recital Hall; Lawrence, KS
- Three Meditations for Maundy Thursday** (2016) handbell choir  
premiered May 1, 2016 by Bellissimo!, St. Paul's United Methodist Church; Lenexa, KS
- Expectation** (2016) handbell choir  
premiered May 1, 2016 by Bellissimo!, St. Paul's United Methodist Church; Lenexa, KS
- Dicite pusillanimes** (2015) SATB chorus  
premiered November 2015 by Schola Cantorum, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; KC MO
- The Whole Bright World Rejoices** (2015) SSA trio  
premiered December 10, 2017 by Ignea Strata, Catholic Church of the Nativity; Leawood, KS
- Peace** (2015) Cantata SATB choir with soloists  
premiered November 18, 2019 by American Guild of Organists Schola Cantorum, Cathedral of Saint Peter; Kansas City, MO
- Prayers from the Ark** (2015) SATB choir; text by Carmen Bernos de Gasztold in an English translation by Rumer Godden
- Four Poems by Emily Dickinson**; song cycle (2015) SATB chorus; text by Emily Dickinson  
premiered August 2, 2015 by KC VITAs Chamber Choir, St. John's United Methodist Church; KC MO
- Senex Puerum** (2014) SSA trio  
premiered January 2015 by St. George Choristers, St. Mary's Episcopal Church; Kansas City, MO
- The Flower among the Weeds** (2014) SSA trio  
premiered April 2014 by St. George Choristers, St. Mary's Episcopal Church; Kansas City, MO
- Anselm's Song** (2014) SAB trio  
premiered May 2013 by L. Wood, H. Draper, and J. Draper in Olathe, KS

## CURRENT PROJECTS

**Pando / The Quaking Giant** - ballet open-instrumentation; collaboration with Municipal Ballet Company; Salt Lake City, UT. Premiere date pending (projected July 2022)

**Fish** - song cycle for medium voice and piano; based on the poem cycle by Kyle Hunter

**Play Me** - miniatures for double-bass, bassoon, & soprano

**Daily Haiku** - piano cycle with multimedia animation. Premiere pending (likely April 2022)

**Messier** - long-form suite with flexible instrumentation, duration, and endpoints.

## MEDIA & PUBLICITY

**May 11, 2021 - KCUR 91.9 Classical KC Kansas City Local Feature** Interview: "Modern Vibrations with KC VITAs" Listen Here: <https://www.kcur.org/show/kansas-city-local-feature/2021-05-11/modern-vibrations-with-kc-vitas>

**June 1, 2019 - RuthWilliams.com** Post by poet Ruth Williams about our collaboration on "Dumbfounded", premiered by KC VITAs at the Kemper Museum of Modern Art.

**May 8, 2018 - KC Metropolis** Review: "Love and war during the Crusades"  
*"The group's true power comes with their sublime execution of a blended, cohesive sound. ...[Ignea Strata] offers a unique musical and intellectual challenge for their audiences and this program particularly opens a window into little-heard but beautiful music"* Sarah Young

**December 11, 2017 - KKFI Community Radio** Interview for upcoming performance of Ignea Strata's "Noel Noel"

**December 8, 2017 - Johnson County Library** Local Artist Recommendation and Spotlight: Interview [read here: https://www.jocolibrary.org/we-recommend/local-music/leslee-wood](https://www.jocolibrary.org/we-recommend/local-music/leslee-wood)

**October 11, 2017 - KPR Kansas Public Radio** Performance & Interview: "Pictures, Puzzles, & Prophecies" live performance by Ignea Strata with interview about the programming and pieces. [listen here: https://kansaspublishradio.org/live-performance/ignea-strata-kansas-public-radio-november-11-2017](https://kansaspublishradio.org/live-performance/ignea-strata-kansas-public-radio-november-11-2017)

**January 10, 2017 - KC Metropolis** Review: "Bright Beginnings"  
*"Ignea Strata fills a niche vacant in the Kansas City arts scene. With such fine performers, ingenious programming, and thoughtful planning, this group has real potential."* Lee Hartman

**October 11, 2016 - KRVS Radio Acadie** *Après Midi Classics*: interview for IAWM Annual Concert discussing the challenges and opportunities for women in music. [listen here: https://www.krvs.org/post/apres-midi-afternoon-classics-october-20-2016-intl-alliance-women-music-and-oktoberfest](https://www.krvs.org/post/apres-midi-afternoon-classics-october-20-2016-intl-alliance-women-music-and-oktoberfest)

**September 27, 2016 - KC Metropolis** Review: "Bite: a new music experience with teeth"

**August 9, 2016 - KC Metropolis** Review "New season of new vocal works"

**August 3, 2016 - KPR Kansas Public Radio** Interview for new music ensemble KC VITAs discussing upcoming concert world premiere performance of works, including the broadcast of one of my compositions (*Four Poems by Emily Dickinson*) performed by the ensemble.

**July 31, 2016 - Kansas City Star** Article: "Just two years old, KC VITAs Chamber Choir is Going Strong"

**August 5, 2015 - Standard Examiner** Review: "KC VITAs sails a successful maiden voyage"

**August 4, 2015 - KC Metropolis** Review: "New choir on the scene"  
*"The newly formed KC VITAs chamber choir's inaugural concert was auspicious enough to warrant future engagements. ...L.V. Wood's Four Poems of Emily Dickinson was the strongest piece on the program with some lovely layered rolling rhythms and fitting text stting."* Lee Hartman