

## **Jonathan Kolm**

DMA, Composition, The University of Texas at Austin (2007)  
MM, Composition, Virginia Commonwealth University (2000)  
BM, Piano performance, Virginia Commonwealth University (1999)

### **Lesson Information**

I teach piano and composition/theory in the northern Pittsburgh area. For further details, please send an email to:  
[contact@jonathankolm.com](mailto:contact@jonathankolm.com)

### **Philosophy of Teaching**

#### **Composition**

For my private composition students, I stress three things. First is the intense study of scores both past and present, particularly pieces of instrumentation similar to current projects. Second, I encourage students and work with them to refine and hone their own individual compositional technique, sometimes suggesting new ways of working and trying new compositional devices to help them find their voice. Third, I ask big picture questions: What is the motivation behind a given piece? What they are trying to accomplish with a given piece? How do they see themselves as contributing to and taking part in the greater dialogue of music composition?

#### **Piano**

In teaching piano, I tailor lessons to the individual student while keeping a consistent overall approach. I spend the majority of lesson time with their repertoire, helping them at each stage of learning and perfecting a piece. I think it important to discuss in some detail exactly how they spend their practice time. It's not enough just to emphasize that they spend sufficient time in practice, but to make sure they are making the most of every minute with proper practicing methods. I also stress technique, and, depending on the particular student, study and analysis of the music that they are learning.