

JUSTIN NAM DUONG | composer and acoustics researcher

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Award-winning composer and interdisciplinary musician and student at the University of Pennsylvania exploring the intersections between science and sound.

Education

University of Pennsylvania – B.A. Physics and Music (2027, expected)

Selected Compositions

Instrumental, Orchestral, and Chamber Works

- Cities in Motion for saxophone quartet, 2 violins (1 dbl. voice), and drum kit [~3']**.....2025
Premiered by PRISM quartet, Tyshawn Sorey, Carlos Santiago, and Justin Duong
- Flame scenes, for violin, flute and piano [3'36"]**..... 2024
Excerpt premier April 24, 2024 by Penn Chamber
- string quartet no 1: doomscrolling [10']**.....2024
Awarded the Hilda K. Nietzsche Prize by the University of Pennsylvania Music Dept.
Premiered in 2025 by the University City Chamber Collective
- HANDIWORK, for modified clarinet quintet (clarinet violin, viola, cello, contrabass) [4'12"]**.....2023
Commissioned by the Philadelphia Ballet for 2023 HS Fellowship Program
Premiered by the Philadelphia Ballet Orchestra
- The Pine Forests of Đà Lạt, for string quartet/quintet/piano quintet [2'22"]**..... 2022
- The Pasture Beneath the Ancient Tree, for symphony orchestra [1'30"]**..... 2022
Composed orchestral work Ryan Leach Composing Competition in July 2022
Received Honorable Mention

Film/TV Scores

- (independent) – Footprints in the Sand by Ejun Hong [~12']**..... 2025
- 1 of 15 Student Grants from the Sachs Program for Arts Innovation
 - Composed score and organized full recording process
- Studio Adore – The Changeling [3']**.....2025
- Guest piece for short film “Dreams of a Home Far Away”
- Pencilbite Studio – does a cut flower still live? [~2']**.....2025
- (independent) – Little Manly by Noah Gold [~12]**.....2025
- Pencilbite Studio – Thesis Defense [2'58"]**.....2024
- Asians in Animation – Bé Hồng [2'27"]**..... 2024
- AIA Production Program Summer 2024
 - Multi-award-winning Short Film

Other Experiences

Commissions

Philadelphia Ballet (commission for 2023 All-City Dance Festival, HS Fellowship).....2022-2023

- Mentorship from John B. Hedges to compose a 4-minute piece to accompany student-produced choreography.
- Composed and premiered *HANDIWORK*

Performance

Penn Chamber, Penn Symphony Orchestra (principal violist).....2023 - present

Symphony in C Section Violist..... 2024

Principal Pianist All-City Philadelphia Jazz Band..... 2023

Penn Singers, Keyboardist..... 2024 - present

- *Pippin* (Fall 2024)
- *Sunday in the Park with George* (Spring 2025)
- *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Fall 2025)

Awards and Grants

Hilda K. Nietzsche Music Prize.....2025

- Awarded by the University of Pennsylvania Music Department for outstanding work in music during the academic year 2025

Student Grant - Sachs Program for Arts Innovation.....2025

- 1 of 15 winners out of hundreds of applications

Skills

- **PreSonus Studio One** - 4 years
- **Logic Pro X** - ~1 year
- **Musescore** - 7 years
- **MIDI Orchestration**
 - Kontakt, Spitfire Audio
- **Programming**
 - Python, R, MATLAB ~ 2 years

Experience

Director of SPEC Sound.....2025 - present

Student-run organization dedicated to audiovisual assistance for student groups.

Generated ~\$1500 in revenue from managing production for major on-campus events.

Research

Acoustic Oceanography and Statistical Ecology (Hayden Summer Scholar)

University of Pennsylvania

Conducting research with Dr. John Spiesberger of the Earth and Environmental Science Department (EES)

Developed MATLAB software towards new research findings contributing to "[Slowing the speed of sound in a dispersionless environment and consequences regarding source location](#)" (JASA, 2025)