

Jaylin Vinson, Composer

EDUCATION

B. of Mus. in Music Composition: Rice University, Shepherd School of Music, May 2025

principal teachers: Kurt Stallmann, Anthony Brandt, Karim Al-Zand, and Pierre Jalbert

BODY OF WORKS (Selected)

Dark Matter for flute and string orchestra (25') — *commissioned by Performing Arts Houston New/Now commission grant for innovative new music.*

Flute, Tyler Martin, string orchestra, KENETIC Ensemble, Houston, TX *upcoming March 20-21, 2026*

Hold these Truths for string quartet and spoken word (7') — *commissioned by Apollo Chamber Players, words by Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton.*

Apollo Chamber Players, Houston TX, *upcoming October 3rd, 2025*

The One Who Leaps for orchestra (5') — *commissioned by the Baylor University Symphony Orchestra*

Baylor University Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jeffery Grogan, Waco, TX, *upcoming November 2025*

Music for Foreign Bodies for string quartet (5') — *commissioned by the Houston Music Festival*

Asia Society, Houston, TX, *upcoming October 2025*

Future of Dream for opera (35') — *commissioned by John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts through the Cartography Project led by the Social Impact department of the Kennedy Center. Libretto by Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton.*

Washington National Opera, Kennedy Center, Washington DC, Jan 11th 2025

The Sonic Study of Self for piano quartet (15') — *commissioned by the New York Youth Symphony as the grand prize winner of the Jon Deak Commission Competition.*

New York City, Carnegie Hall, NY *May 1, 2025*

Interlochen, Interlochen Center of the Arts, *June 2025*

Carpe Diem for chamber orchestra (10') — *commissioned by the National Orchestra Institute and Festival, and awarded as a composition fellow for their 2024 season.*

University of Maryland, College Park, MD, *June 2024*

Rice University, Houston, TX, *October 2024*

Mami Wata for chamber opera (15') 2023 — *funded by Houston Arts Alliance Make Creativity Happen Grant and the Shepherd School of Music Richter Outreach Grant*

Shepherd School of Music, Houston, TX, *September 2023*

The Alta Arts, Houston, TX, *April 2023*

Scissor-Tailed for orchestra (9') 2023

Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ryan Haskins, Sioux City, IA, Feb. 8th, 2025
Houston Youth Philharmonic, conducted by Michael Isadore, Houston, TX, February 2024
Brevard Music Center Orchestra, conducted by Ken Lam, Brevard, NC, July 2023
Sewanee Cumberland Orchestra, conducted by Jeffery Grogan, Sewanee, TN, June 2023
Oklahoma Youth Orchestras, conducted by Jeffery Grogan, Carnegie Hall, New York City, NY, June 2023
Oklahoma Youth Orchestras, conducted by Jeffery Grogan, Oklahoma City, OK, June 2023
Oklahoma Youth Orchestras, conducted by Jeffery Grogan, Oklahoma City, OK, May 2023
Rice University Campanile Orchestra, conducted by Creston Herron, Houston, TX, April 2023
Columbia Civic Orchestra, conducted by Brian A. Silvey, Columbia, MS, April 2023

Vibrant Reflections for string quartet (2') 2023 — *commissioned by the Moody Center of the Arts*

Shepherd School of Music, Houston, TX, September 2023
Moody Center of the Arts, Houston, TX, April 2023
Moody Center of the Arts, Houston, TX, February 2023

Afrophilia for wind quintet (6') 2022

U.S. Navy Band Wind Quintet, National Museum of Afro-American History, Washington D.C. May 2023
Shepherd School of Music, Houston, TX, April 2023
Navy Band Wind Quintet, Howard University, Washington D.C, February 2023
Brevard Music Center, Brevard, NC, July 2022

Shimmer! for cello quartet (8') 2021

Shepherd School of Music, Houston, TX, October 2024
East Austin Cello Fest, Austin, TX, January 2024
DiMenna Center, New York City, NY, October 2022
James Turrell Skyspace, Houston, TX, September 2022
Heifetz Institute, Staunton, VA, June 2022
Shepherd School of Music, Houston, TX, February 2022
Shepherd School of Music, Houston, TX, November 2021
Moody Center of the Arts, Houston, TX, October 2021

AWARDS and RECOGNITION

Wagoner Pathway Fellow, Rice University, 2025

Conducted six weeks of fully funded ethnomusicological research on Black French popular music while continuing advanced French language study. Engaged in historical archival work, on-site ethnography at music venues, and one-on-one interviews to examine how memory, home, and identity are expressed through the Black Parisian musical landscape.

Composer of the Year, Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, 2024

Scissor-tailed for orchestra recognized for outstanding contribution to contemporary classical music. The award includes a cash prize, a premiere performance, press/media coverage, and community outreach opportunities.

Honorable Mention, The ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Award 2024

Awarded to composers of original, classical concert music, the Awards encourage developing music creators during the earliest stages of their careers (age 13 - 29).

First Place, Brevard New Work for Orchestra Competition 2023

Selected from five finalists of the 2022 Brevard Composition Institute to have their orchestra works by the Brevard Music Center Orchestra in the summer 2023 season.

Winner, Mizzou Composer Project 2023

Selected as one of five composers to have a large ensemble performance by the Columbia Civic Orchestra in Columbia Missouri.

Inaugural winner, Altus Adams prize for Emerging Composers 2022

Awarded to emerging composers by the US Navy Band in honor of the Navy Band's first Black bandmaster, Chief Musician Alton Augustus Adams Sr.

First Prize (division II), National Tribeca New Music Competition 2022

A national competition that awards a cash prize and professional performance of the winning composition "Shimmer" in New York City.

Professional and Leadership Experience

Undergraduate Student Instructor, Rice University *spring 2025*

- Designed, developed, and proposed the syllabus and course materials for a 1-credit hour undergraduate course at Rice University titled *Sounding Blackness: Music and Black Identity*.
- delivered weekly 50-minute lectures as the primary instructor, exploring the sociocultural contexts of Black recorded music in the United States.

New Music Concert Series Coordinator *spring 2022 – May 2025*

- Coordinate the biannual *New Art/New Music* concert series, a collaboration between the Moody Center for the Arts and the Shepherd School of Music.
- Organize concert programs, rehearsal schedules, and promotional strategies, ensuring seamless communication between composers, musicians, and Moody Center staff.
- Facilitate the integration of original works by Rice composers with the artistic themes of new exhibitions.

Orchestra Intern, Houston Youth Symphony *August 2022 – May 2023*

- Provided administrative support for seven youth ensembles, serving as a liaison between students, administrators, and faculty.
- Scheduled and managed sectional rehearsals, ensuring optimal preparation for performances.
- Directed weekly operations involving 800+ students, delivering announcements and organizing logistics to ensure smooth orchestral management.

Orientation Week Coordinator, Rice University *January 2024 – December 2024*

- Designed and executed a seven-day Orientation Week program for 128 new students to facilitate their transition to university life.
- Secured sponsorships through partnerships with local businesses, enhancing the quality of programming.
- Led the recruitment, training, and mentorship of 52 Orientation Advisors, designing a comprehensive five-day training program to prepare advisors to support new students effectively.

Training and Evaluation Lead, Rice University Tour Guides *spring 2023 – May 2025*

- Developed and presented training materials for the Tour Guide program, which supports over 40,000 campus visitors annually.
- Collaborated with campus partners to deliver tailored training sessions focused on effective ambassadorial duties.
- Evaluated and mentored 30–40 new Tour Guides each year, overseeing their preparation and integration into the program.
- Participated in the hiring process, including application reviews and interviews, to select new Owl Guides.

BROADCASTS and MEDIA COVERAGE (Selected)

DC Theater Arts review — “Future of Dreams,” opera by Vinson & Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton; commissioned for Cartography Project premiere at Kennedy Center, Jan. 2025

NPR Morning Edition (via KNKX syndication) — story “Two new operas focus on the Black female experience,” featuring *Future of Dreams* (Jaylin Vinson, composer), aired Jan. 14, 2025

Kennedy Center press release — Future of Dreams world premiere as part of The Cartography Project: Black Futures, in Studio K at The REACH, Jan 10, 2025

Kennedy Center blog feature — “Meet the Cartography artists: Behind the scenes,” artist profile with Jaylin Vinson selected as a composer mapping Black Joy, Oct./Nov. 2024

Rice University News article — “Moody’s ‘*In Process*’ comes alive through Shepherd School student compositions,” Nov 13, 2024

“Concert of original compositions with visual art directed by senior Jaylin Vinson—including Cosmic Time-Machines at Moody Center for the Arts’ fall exhibition.”

Heifetz on Air broadcast — *Shimmer!* featured in “Strum, Shimmer, and Shine” June 2023 Good

Morning Washington, broadcast — *Afrophilia* featured in February 9th broadcast 2023

Tribeca New Music, Youtube Interview — “Inviews: Jaylin Vinson - Composer - Winner YCC 2022 (Division 2)” October 2022

Rice University, Youtube feature — “Composition student Jaylin Vinson creates dynamic cello quartet performed by fellow freshmen” January 2022

Heifetz Institute, article — “Video of the Week: Shimmer!” July 2023

“Jaylin Vinson’s unique approach and insatiable curiosity are evident, as the performers explore a dizzying variety of sonic textures, from the inquisitive harmonics of the opening, to the energetic polyrhythms of the pizzicato section. And in the middle a wildly joyful dance that makes you want to “Shimmer” and shout!”

Live Music Project, article — “Hidden No More-Outstanding Classical Vocal Artists You Need to Know” May 2023

“In 2022, the inaugural award was presented to Jaylin Vinson of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for his chamber work *Afrophia* which will be played by the United States Navy Band's Woodwind Quintet.”

Zebra, article — “‘Afrophia’: U.S. Navy Band Premiering Award-Winning Composition At Howard University Feb. 9” February 2023

“Composer Jaylin [Vinson] was awarded the Navy Band’s inaugural Alton Augustus Adams Sr. Award for Emerging Composers for this original work, and honors the Navy Band’s first Black bandmaster, Chief Musician Alton August Adams Sr.”

Los Angeles Sentinel, article — “Vinson Wins Navy Band’s Inaugural Composition Award” 2023 “The United States Navy Band awarded the inaugural Alton Augustus Adams Sr. Award for Emerging Composers to Jaylin Vinson of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for his chamber work “*Afrophia*.”

Rice News, article — “Shepherd School sophomore composer receives inaugural award from US Navy Band” (2023)

“Sophomore Jaylin Vinson’s ‘Afrophia’ earned him the inaugural Alton Augustus Adams Sr. Award for Emerging Composers, named in honor of the Navy Band’s first Black bandmaster, who led what was then an all-Black band at the height of racial segregation in the United States, including in all branches of the military. ”

Rice News, article — “A musical talent that shimmers” (2022)

“....just a few months after matriculating at Rice, freshman composition student Jaylin Vinson had already created “Shimmer!,” a dynamic cello quartet that debuted publicly as part of Moody Center for the Arts' New Art/New Music fall 2021 concert.” -