

## Michael T Roberts

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Michael T Roberts is a composer, guitarist, and teacher who specializes in writing music for voice: choral music, song, and theater.

Recent choral highlights include Mike's 2020-21 residency with International Orange Chorale of San Francisco, which included world premieres of 'Zoom' (for virtual choir) and 'Come to Us in Water.' In 2019, the Oakland Symphony Chorus commissioned the five-movement 'Mass for Freedom' for chorus and chamber orchestra, based on spirituals that became anthems of the Civil Rights movement. An avid educator, Mike has been commissioned multiple times by the Albany (CA) High School choirs and Sunset High School choirs in Portland, OR.

Born and raised in Connecticut, Mike earned his B.A. in Music from Dartmouth College, where he premiered his full-length opera, *Lotus Blooming in a Sea of Fire*, and toured the Northeast with his progressive soul band, Stand Up Eight. Following the band's move to the San Francisco Bay Area, Mike was commissioned by UC Berkeley to compose music for the play *Tooth and Nail* and a new adaptation of Isabel Allende's *Cuentos de Eva Luna*. The *Eva Luna* songs were a seed that sprouted into Mike's most recent project, a new ensemble featuring Persian-American singer Adrienne Shamszad that combines literature and poetry with new music rooted in World and American traditions.

Mike is a veteran performer on both classical and electric guitar. His compositions have been featured in *Soundboard*, the journal of the Guitar Foundation of America. With Duo Symphonious he released a recording of *The Portable Nutcracker*, an original two-guitar arrangement of Tchaikovsky's classic. In addition to two award-winning albums with Stand Up Eight, his electric guitar playing can be heard on the video game *Grand Theft Auto V*.

Mike holds a Master of Music degree in Composition from the San Francisco Conservatory, where he studied with David Garner and David Conte. He has taught guitar, bass, ukulele, and composition for over twenty years, both privately and in the classroom. He especially loves teaching children, and is an avid practitioner of the Orff-Schulwerk method and its principles of creative play.

Mike lives in Berkeley, CA with his wife, two kids, and approximately forty-seven instruments.

*List of Selected Works on following page*



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### Selected Works

**Come to Us in Water** 2021 | *SATB a cappella*, words by the composer  
Commissioned by International Orange Chorale

**Leoht Eastan Com** 2020 | *SATB a cappella*, words from *Beowulf*  
Commissioned by the Sunset High School choir, Portland, OR

**Zoom** 2020 | *SATB a cappella*, words by the composer  
Commissioned by International Orange Chorale

**Mass for Freedom** 2019 | Mass in five movements, *SATB with chamber orchestra*  
Based on traditional spirituals, with additional text from the Mass Ordinary and by the composer  
Commissioned by Lynne Morrow and the Oakland Symphony Chorus

**New England Song** 2019 | *SSAA a cappella*, words by the composer  
Commissioned by Accord Treble Choir

**O Child** 2018 | *SATB or SSA a cappella*, words by the composer  
Premiered by International Orange Chorale (SATB version) and Accord Treble Choir (SSA version)

**Our Names** 2018 | *SATB a cappella*, poem by Harpreet Kaur  
Commissioned by Albany (CA) High School choir

**The Gift to Sing** 2018 | *SATB with piano*, poem by James Weldon Johnson  
Commissioned by Albany (CA) High School choir

**Voices from the Freedom March** 2018 | *SATB/SATB a cappella*, based on traditional spirituals  
Commissioned by the Sunset High School choir, Portland, OR

**To Soar in Freedom and in Fullness of Power** 2017 | *SSA a cappella*, poem by Walt Whitman  
Commissioned by Accord Treble Choir

**Hymns from a Meadow** 2015 | four movements, *SATB a cappella*, poems by Robert Frost  
I. **Rose Pogonias**, premiered by Pacific Edge Voices  
II. **In Hardwood Groves**, premiered by Pacific Edge Voices  
III. **Stars**, premiered by Full Circle Singers  
IV. **A Prayer in Spring**, premiered by Choral Chameleon

**Reluctance** 2015 | *for SSA chorus and harp (or piano)*, poem by Robert Frost

**The Portable Nutcracker** 2012 | *for guitar duo*, arrangement of selections from *The Nutcracker*

**The Wonders of the Invisible World** 2012 | *for SATB chorus*, text adapted from Cotton Mather (1692)  
Commissioned by Pacific Edge Voices, Berkeley, CA

**Put This Tune in a Tiny Basket Made of Roots and Grass** 2010 | *for guitar duo*

**Neoflights for Guitar** 2009—ongoing | *for solo guitar* (graded for beginner and intermediate players)

**The Lemon Tree and the Blue-Eyed Boy** 2008 | *for flute and guitar*

**Cast Thy Bread Upon the Waters** 2008 | *for SATB chorus*, on a passage from Ecclesiastes

**The Mad Farmer Revolution** 2007 | *for voice and piano; or voice and guitar; or voice and jazz trio*  
Art song on a poem by Wendell Berry

**I Will Sing of Your Love, When Will You Come to Me?** 2006  
*for soprano, woodwind quintet, bass, and percussion; or soprano and 6 guitars*, from Psalms 101, 102

**Cervantes Suite** 2004—2007 | *seven movements for solo guitar*

**Cuentos de Eva Luna** 2005 | *play with songs and underscoring*  
Composed four songs and performed on guitar for a new adaptation of three Isabel Allende short stories, using passages of Allende's Spanish prose.  
*Scored for soprano, classical guitar, cello, and percussion*. Premiered in March 2005 at UC Berkeley

**Tooth and Nail** 2004 | *semi-operatic play*

Composed eleven songs and provided guitar and keyboard accompaniment for the U.S. premiere, which opened in UC Berkeley's Durham Studio Theater in November 2004, directed by Laura Levin.

*Scored for mezzo-soprano, tenor, tenor falsetto, classical guitar, and harpsichord*

**Lotus Blooming in a Sea of Fire** 2000 (revised 2003, 2009) | *opera in three acts*

Composed the book, music and lyrics

*Scored for seven voices plus chorus, acoustic and electric guitar, electric bass, piano, B-3 organ, drum kit, percussion, flute, and strings*

**Passion Play** 2000 | *one-act musical*

Wrote new music, lyrics, and book material for existing script; served as assistant to the director and musical director; played guitar, and sang in workshop production in New Providence, NJ, October 2000