

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Department of Music



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**COMPOSER AND PIANIST SARAH GIBSON JOINS UC SANTA BARBARA DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND COLLEGE OF CREATIVE STUDIES FACULTY**

*Gibson is known for her composition, performance, and teaching collaborations with the Tanglewood Music Center, HOCKET, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, and more*

Santa Barbara, CA (September 4, 2019)—The UC Santa Barbara Department of Music and College of Creative Studies have appointed Dr. Sarah Gibson as Teaching Professor in Composition beginning Fall of 2019. An accomplished composer and pianist, Dr. Gibson comes to UC Santa Barbara with extensive teaching experience as a Lecturer in Composition, Theory and Analysis at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music, through a partnership with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Nancy and Barry Sanders Composer Fellowship Program (2014-present), and at the Colburn School (2018-19), where she taught classes in music theory. As a composer and pianist, she has collaborated with organizations and ensembles such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, Eighth Blackbird, Tanglewood Music Center, and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and has been recognized by the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* as "a serious talent to watch."

Dr. Bruce Tiffney, Interim Dean of the UCSB College of Creative Studies, shared that "the College is delighted that Dr. Sarah Gibson will be joining our faculty. Her dedication to creating and championing new music, particularly through her co-leadership of HOCKET, will make her an outstanding role model for aspiring young composers. Further, her association with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and other institutions will introduce our students to the rich musical resources of Southern California, and she has a remarkable reputation as a teacher, guaranteeing that our students will grow in her care and tutelage."

"The Department of Music is thrilled to welcome Dr. Sarah Gibson to our faculty and we are truly excited by the innovative experience she will bring to this position," noted Robert Koenig, Chair of the Department of Music. "Her background and support of new musical compositions, along with her dedication to teaching young aspiring composers has already established her as a musical phenomenon in Southern California and beyond. As an active performer, she brings the highest level of commitment to our music

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programs at UCSB and our students are certain to flourish under her careful guidance."

In her new position at UC Santa Barbara, which will be split between both the Department of Music and the College of Creative Studies, Dr. Gibson will teach courses in composition, music theory, and orchestration, along with chamber music and various other performance related classes. "I'm elated to join the stellar UCSB faculty and teach Composition in the Music Department and the College of Creative Studies," said Dr. Gibson. "This unique position allows me to work closely with creatively energized students and faculty with passionate and inspiring ideas. UCSB has a long history of being at the forefront of modern music and I am thrilled and humbled to be a part of that legacy."

As a composer, Dr. Gibson has received commissions and performances from the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra, Tanglewood Music Center, Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, and Chamber Music America, among others. Her works have received honors and recognitions such as the Victor Herbert ASCAP Award, American Composers Orchestra Underwood New Music Readings, National Federation of Music Clubs Marion Richter American Music Composition Award, and first place in the Percussive Arts Society Composition Contest. Her Left-hand Piano Concerto was selected as a winner of the University of Southern California's New Music for Orchestra competition and was premiered with Dr. Gibson at the keyboard. Previously the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra's Sound Investment Composer, she currently serves as Associate Artistic Director of the HEAR NOW Music Festival of Los Angeles Composers. She also works alongside Artistic Director Andrew Norman as the Lead-Teaching Artist for the esteemed Nancy and Barry Sanders Los Angeles Philharmonic Composer Fellowship Program, which provides exceptional high school students the opportunity to train with renowned composition faculty and have their works performed by Los Angeles Philharmonic musicians.

In addition to her extensive composition career, Dr. Gibson maintains an active performance schedule. As co-founder of the new music piano duo HOCKET, she has performed with pianist Thomas Kotcheff across the US at festivals and venues such as the Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA, Music at the Anthology's (MATA) Festival in New York City, Center for New Music in San Francisco, Carlsbad Music Festival, Other Minds Festival, Eighth Blackbird Creative Lab, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Noon to Midnight festival. Hailed as "brilliant" by Mark Swed of the *LA Times* and as an "adventurous young ensemble" by *The New Yorker*, the duo has premiered over one hundred chamber and solo works and has collaborated with some of today's most prestigious new music ensembles such as Eighth Blackbird and the Bang on a Can All-Stars. HOCKET has held residencies at Avaloch Farm Music Institute and received grants from the Earle Brown Music Foundation and the Presser Foundation.

Dr. Gibson earned a Bachelor of Music with High Honors in Composition and Piano Performance from Indiana University (2008), as well as a master's degree in Composition (2010) and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition with minors in Music Theory, Instrumental Conducting, and Keyboard Collaborative Arts (2015) from the University of Southern California.

### **ABOUT THE UC SANTA BARBARA DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

From an institution that began life dedicated to training the next generation of music educators, to what is now a multi-faceted department with a fully established research and professional graduate program with degrees in composition, ethnomusicology, musicology, music theory, and performance, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music has produced many hundreds of graduates who have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally. Alumni have gone on to teach on faculties of major colleges and universities in the United States and abroad, or in outstanding secondary school positions. Many graduates of the program have published extensively and become widely renowned, prize-winning

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scholars, while others are award-winning and frequently performed composers writing for television and film. Alumni are also establishing fine reputations as conductors of orchestras, opera, and choruses. Graduates of the instrumental programs have gone on to solo and orchestral careers with leading orchestras, and graduates of the voice program can be heard in opera companies around the world.

With over 150 events presented annually, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music offers something for every music lover. The department boasts 26 unique performing ensembles, each with a quarterly concert calendar. Chamber music, large ensembles, opera, contemporary groups, world music, and jazz ensembles make up the department's rich performance calendar, along with lectures, master classes, and presentations from the ethnomusicology, musicology, theory, and composition programs. For a complete listing of performances and lectures for the quarter, please visit the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music website at [music.ucsb.edu](http://music.ucsb.edu).

### **ABOUT THE UC SANTA BARBARA COLLEGE OF CREATIVE STUDIES**

Since 1967, the College of Creative Studies (CCS) has offered a small intellectual community of committed undergraduate students and faculty driven to not simply learn, but to create anew in the arts, literature and sciences. Individual students work as junior colleagues with their faculty advisors to craft a curriculum of courses focused on advancing their skills as composers, artists, writers and researchers in the eight disciplines hosted by the College. The setting within a world class research university allows these students to find extraordinary resources across campus to address their curiosity, to explore, to take risks, and to develop their passion as they grow.

The CCS Music Composition Major prepares students for graduate school or for careers as professional composers. The program intensifies the undergraduate experience by means of one-on-one tutorials, small seminar courses unique in approach and creative in design, and individualized special projects. Students in the program are keenly focused on exploring a wide range of genres in the process of finding their voice and utilize the resources offered by both the College and the Department of Music. Whether it is producing creative work or conducting original research, CCS students are inspired and empowered to make significant contributions to their field by creating new knowledge.

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