

Mara Gibson

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Long version:

Composer **Mara Gibson** is originally from Charlottesville, VA, graduated from **Bennington College** and completed her Ph.D. at **SUNY Buffalo**. She also attended London College of Music as well as L'École des Beaux-Arts in Fontainebleau, France and the International Music Institute at Darmstadt, Germany. She has earned grants and honors from the American Composer's Forum; the Banff Center; Louisiana Division of the Arts; Arts KC; Meet the Composer; the Kansas Arts Commission National Endowment for the Arts; the International Bass Society; ASCAP, the John Hendrick Memorial Foundation; Virginia Center for the Arts; and Yale University. Recently, she enjoyed a residency at the MacDowell Colony and was awarded an ATLAS grant through the Louisiana Board of Regents for her bassoon concerto. Internationally renowned ensembles and soloists perform her music throughout the United States, Canada, South America, Australia, Asia, and Europe.

Gibson's music has been described as "shocking, gripping and thought-provoking... conjuring a flurry of emotions" (PARMA recordings). She is a regular cross-disciplinary collaborator, having worked with choreographers, visual artists, writers, film makers and musicians. In 2015, Gibson released her first compilation CD, *Artifacts*, with her second recording, *Sky-born*, following in November 2017 through Navona/Parma Recordings. The latest presents new works including "Blackbird," which features Cascade Quartet. The music draws inspiration from a variety of artistic mediums: "haunting and epic with visceral energy." Her piano preludes "Conundrums" are inspired by a series of paintings by Baltimore-based artist Jim Condron and performed by Holly Roadfedt. Pieces by long-time collaborators Michael Hall, UMKC colleagues and Megan Ihnen are also featured on the album in "Spark" and "One Voice."

As *Gramophone* magazine describes, "repertoire on this recording was mostly inspired by poetry and paintings. What binds these pieces are Gibson's concise handling of musical materials and her spectrum of sonic approaches." *Sky-born* displays a compelling contemporary voice with a restless imagination, able to morph other forms of artistic expression into daring, musical odysseys."

In August 2017, Gibson was the first-annual commissioned composer for the Baroque on Beaver Orchestra led by Robert Nordling. The ensemble showcased her piece, *Secret Sky*, music inspired by the bird migration patterns on the island. Collaboration is integral to Gibson's process; whether through her music, collaborations or teaching, she hopes to achieve a relationship between the macro and micro. In 2019, Gibson premiered four new works "*White Ash*, *The Clockmaker's Doll*, *Four Modes*" and "*Mirror, Mirror*" and traveled to Athens, Greece to record *Secret Sky* with the Athens Philharmonic Orchestra which will be included in a compilation CD released by Navona. Additionally, *Secret Sky* was included in the 10th annual season opener by the Chicago Composers Orchestra and a newly arranged version was included

by LSU Symphonic Winds. In 2020-21, Mara work will be dedicated to a large scale new bassoon concerto *Escher Keys*.

Dr. Gibson taught as an Associate Teaching Professor at the **UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance** for over ten years, where she was founder of the UMKC Composition Workshop and co-director/founder of ArtSounds. From 2015-2017, she coordinated undergraduate composition, managing to triple the Conservatory's undergraduate composition enrollment. Gibson has also contributed to New Music Box and in fall 2017, she joined **Louisiana State University** as a Visiting Assistant Professor; fall 2018, Gibson became Associate Professor of Composition at LSU.

Short Version:

Composer [Mara Gibson](#) is originally from Charlottesville, VA, graduated from Bennington College, and completed her Ph.D. at SUNY Buffalo. She has received grants and honors from the American Composer's Forum, the Banff Center, Louisiana Division of the Arts, ArtsKC, Meet the Composer, the Kansas Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the International Bass Society, ASCAP, and the John Hendrick Memorial Commission, Virginia Center for Creative Arts, the MacDowell Colony and Yale University. Internationally renowned ensembles and soloists perform her music throughout the United States, Canada, South America, Asia, and Europe. Dr. Gibson has taught at the [UMKC Conservatory](#) as Associate Professor where she was the founder of the UMKC Composition Workshop and co-director/founder of ArtSounds. In 2017-18, she accepted a Visiting Assistant Professor position at [Louisiana State University](#). In the fall of 2018, she continues at LSU as Associate Professor of Composition. Mara released her first compilation CD *Artifacts* May 2015, with her second CD *Skyborn* released in November 2017 close behind through [PARMA Recordings](#). Her third CD project is due to release summer 2020 featuring *Secret Sky* performed by the Athens Philharmonic Orchestra. Currently, she is composing a bassoon concerto funded through a Louisiana Board of Regents (ATLAS grant).