

Travis Alford (b. 1983) is a composer, trumpet player, and improviser in the Boston area. Growing up in Spring Hope, NC, he began playing the trumpet at the age of 11 in school concert and jazz bands, community groups, and in church. In college he discovered he was much better at composing than playing the trumpet (though he still tries). This background continues to be an influence in his music, as noted by Allan Kozinn of the NY Times, who wrote of Travis's *Transitions*, "...his work's spirit is in the way jazz and a mild modernist thorniness move in and out of focus." Other interests, including the autobiographical nature of creating art, the relationship between art and spirituality, and the effects of commercialism and "sound-bite" media on society, also tend to find their way into his compositions.

Travis's music has been performed at venues across the United States and beyond including the June in Buffalo Festival, Symphony Space in NY, the Composers Conference at Wellesley College, the Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice, the International Trumpet Seminar in Kalavrita, Greece, the NewMusic@ECU Festival, Jordan Hall in Boston, Slosberg Hall at Brandeis University, and Taplin Auditorium at Princeton, by groups such as the Meridian Arts Ensemble, the Lydian String Quartet, Wild Rumpus New Music Collective, Benjamin Herrington's "Little/ Big Project", the New York Virtuoso Singers, ECCE, L'Arsenale, Second Instrumental Unit, and members of the New York New Music Ensemble. He was recently awarded a 2010 ASCAP Young Composers Award for his work, *Breathing Room*.

As a performer, Travis remains active as a freelance musician and is committed to the promotion of new music, playing regularly for concerts and premieres of his colleagues. He is currently co-director of the New Music Brandeis Concert Series, and is director of the Park Street Brass, based at Park Street Church in Boston.

Travis is currently Adjunct Instructor at Gordon College and an Affiliated Artist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He holds degrees from the New England Conservatory (MM, Music Composition 2008) and East Carolina University (BM, Music Theory/Composition 2005), and is working toward a PhD. in composition at Brandeis University. His principle composition teachers have included Eric Chasalow, David Rakowski, Lee Hyla, Edward Jacobs, Mark Richardson, and Melinda Wagner. He has studied trumpet formally with Trent Austin and Britton Theurer, and informally with Brian McWhorter and Jon Nelson. He has also studied Contemporary Improvisation with Tanya Kalmanovitch.

Travis resides in West Newton, MA with his lovely wife, Lauren and their dog, Toby.