

# Samuel Stokes

Saying Samuel Stokes has enjoyed a varied career in music would be an understatement. He has created pieces for everything ranging from a children's musical, to orchestral groups and even the Doctor Demento radio show.

A 1998 graduate of Smith-Cotton High School, Samuel was involved in several musical ensembles, including marching band, symphonic band, jazz band, orchestra, A Cappella Choir, men's glee, and played drumset for the New Score Singers and Cabaret show choirs. In his senior year, he was the drumline captain for the marching band, percussion section leader for the symphonic band, and the bass section leader and vice president of the A Cappella Choir.

Samuel qualified for the Missouri All-State Band his junior and senior years and was first chair mallet percussionist his senior year. He composed original pieces that were performed at S-C, including "Bohemothan Thunder" and "Morning Star" by the drumline, "Calm Before the Storm" by the percussion ensemble, and "The Lamb" by the New Score Singers. He also was involved in several theater productions at Smith-Cotton and for the Liberty Center.

Samuel earned a bachelor's degree in 2002 and a master's degree in 2005 from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. While at UCM, he was involved in many musical ensembles and composed several pieces, including "Solus" by the marching band, "Telepathy" and "Trike" by the University Jazz Ensemble, and several solo piano pieces. He composed, performed, and directed music for numerous shows in the theater department, and composed his first two musicals: "Bird Millman," which was premiered by the Fremont Civic Theatre in Cañon City, Colorado, and "Dracula," which was premiered by the Central Missouri Repertory Company. He earned a master's degree in 2006 from Florida State University, where he composed and arranged music used in theatrical productions and wrote the children's musical "A Tale of Two Heroes," which won the Playwriting for Young Audiences competition at UCM. He earned his doctorate in 2013 from Louisiana State University, where he premiered several new works including Symphony No. 1, "Eustace the Monk," which was performed by the LSU Symphony Orchestra.

During this time, he also wrote several humorous songs that were featured on The Dr. Demento Show. Stokes's love of musical humor inspired his dissertation "Compositional Techniques Used to Elicit Musical Humor."

Since completing his Ph.D., Samuel has had a number of new works premiered by a variety of artists, and his musical "Ebenezer" was premiered by the Music Studio of Warrensburg. He is an audio curator for HitRECORD, an artistic collaboration platform created by Joseph Gordon-Levitt. His HitRECORD projects include a national television commercial for LG and two seasons of the YouTube Originals program "Create Together," which received an Emmy award.

Samuel Stokes currently teaches music for the Natchitoches Parish Schools in Louisiana and is the music composition and arranging instructor for Northwestern State University of Louisiana. He began the website SamuelStokesMusic.com where he publishes music through several outlets including Sheet Music Plus, Sheet Music Direct, and J.W. Pepper, and sold more than 9,000 sheet music and MP3 products last year.

***Inducted in Smith-Cotton Activities Hall of Fame, 2022***

