

With an “ability to get under the skin of [the music’s] core material” (*The Scotsman*), Dr. Douglas Buchanan brings his “sense of creative imperative” (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*) to the classroom as well as the concert hall, utilizing innovative techniques to actively engage students and hone their understanding of material. He teaches as part of the music theory and musicology faculty at the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University and as composition faculty at Dickinson College, and serves as Artistic Director of the Maryland Choral Society and Choirmaster and Organist of St. David’s Episcopal Church.

An ardent educator, Buchanan has taught and lectured at institutions ranging from liberal arts colleges to state universities and conservatories. At Peabody, he was the first faculty member to implement a game-fied music theory classroom, creating interactive and team-building games which developed theoretical skills, inspired creativity, and encouraged social interaction among the students. His work in game design in the theory classroom has been presented at the 2018 and 2016 College Music Society National Conferences and at the 2019 Pedagogy into Practice conference of Music Theory Online. Other research interests include music perception and cognition, music and animal rights, music and evolution, music and meaning, and special topics in music theory (including spectralism, *topoi*, and rhetoric). Notable presentations and performances regarding these subjects have been at the 2015 College Music Society International Conference, a paper and a lecture-recital at the Ecomusicologies 2014 conference, the 2013 American Musicological Society Capital Chapter Meeting where he received the 2013 Lowens Award for Outstanding Graduate Research, and serving as summer faculty at the Chautauqua Institute. Prior to teaching at Peabody and Dickinson, he taught at Towson University, where he co-founded the Towson University Young Composers Orchestral Readings. He has lectured at Johns Hopkins University, the University of Baltimore, SUNY Fredonia, and the Shenandoah Conservatory. Also a visual artist and poet, Buchanan has illustrated and co-authored books with Continuum Publishing and Lantern Books.

Recognized as a composer of “clear, personal music” that is “filled with terrific orchestral color and weight, not to mention feeling” (*The Baltimore Sun*), Buchanan has been the recipient of the Sackler Prize in Music Composition, grants from New Music USA for his residency with the LUNAR ensemble and from TACA for his residency with the Dallas Chamber Symphony, an ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composers Award, and a Symphony in C Young Composers Award. As a choral conductor and music director, Buchanan brings his devotion to new music to the choral stage, eliciting “assured, nuanced singing” from the ensembles he leads, inspiring a “keen sense of mood, dynamics, and pacing” (*The Baltimore Sun*). Through his programming he particularly supports emerging composers, and advocates for an increasingly diverse body of repertoire through commissioning and recording.

Dedicated to helping all people, regardless of background, realize their own musical potential, Buchanan co-founded *Voices Rise: A Baltimore Choir of Hope* with his brother, Benjamin, and with the assistance of a grant from the Peabody Conservatory. Voices Rise partners with Paul’s Place, an outreach agency in south Baltimore, and particularly invites those experiencing homelessness and financial distress to make music in a safe and inviting environment. Recently, he served as music director for a Johns Hopkins study focusing on the positive impact on patients with dementia rehearsing and performing music with their caretakers. He has worked closely

with the Dallas Street Choir, and is a founding member of the National Alliance for Music in Vulnerable Communities.

He is fortunate to have many opportunities to sing with and accompany his wife, Kelly, a mezzo-soprano, and also enjoys microtonal interspecies improvisation with his black lab, Grover.