



Our Commissioned Composer

Our commissioned composer for the three-movement sonatina composed to celebrate the 25th Annual Sonatina Festival is **Mitch Grussing**.

Mickey tells: “While attending the 2025 MTNA National Conference in Minneapolis, I was introduced to Mitch Grussing by my friend and colleague Laura Harding. Laura’s student was going to be performing one of Mitch’s compositions at the elementary masterclass the next day. Mitch had a fun, lighthearted, kid-like spirit about him as we chatted about his composition titles that included grasshoppers and mosquitoes. It was then that I decided that I would love to commission a three-movement Sonatina to commemorate the 25th Annual Sonatina Festival and to support a young composer and fellow music educator. The piece will be a late intermediate level: sightreadable for the advanced players, something aspirable for the younger contestants, and a good fit for the ones in between. We are excited to announce that the piece will be premiered at the Winners Recital the evening of the festival and will also be available for purchase.”

Mitch Grussing is a piano teacher and managing partner at K&S Conservatory of Music in Woodbury, Minnesota. He primarily composes pedagogical music for the piano and has had pieces featured on Minnesota Music Teachers Association repertoire lists for both the MMTA solo piano contest and the MMTA Honors Concert. His most recent work for advanced pianists, *Minnesota Piano Tarot*, consists of 22 pieces and was commissioned and premiered by Ann DuHamel. In addition to composing, Mitch enjoys creating arrangements of pop songs for his students. He also creates piano adaptations of late-Medieval and early-Renaissance keyboard music.