

**Zane Zalis PhD**  
Composer/Writer/Producer/Director  
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## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy – Education (Curriculum/Teaching/Learning) and Music Composition (Words & Music) University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba: Research-Cognition (Creativity/Knowledge generation/Understanding of otherness) as a collision at the intersection of Emotion/Reason, Feeling/Thinking; through a communion of Art and Science in the creation of the oratorio *Nostos: A Journey of Others*

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

- 2024 Canada Council for the Arts grant- Research/Creation  
composer/lyricist/librettist
- 2023 Canada Council for the Arts grant- Research/Creation  
composer/lyricist/librettist
- 2022 National PhD Distinguished Dissertation Award Winner – Canadian  
Society for Studies in Education (CSSE – ARTS SIG)
- 2021 Nominated – University of Manitoba Governor General's Gold Medal -  
PhD (awarded for outstanding achievement at the graduate level)
- 2019 Opus Klassik (music industry award, Germany) – 6 nominations for *I  
Believe*: Composer of the Year, Concert Play, Classic without Limits,  
Symphonic Playing, Choir Play of the Year, and Innovative Concert of the  
Year
- 2018 Canada Council for the Arts – Travel Grant
- 2017 Canon of Culture Prize-2<sup>nd</sup> place in best event classical music category – *I  
Believe* (Oratorio for Humanity-comp. Zane Zalis) Opera House  
performance – Days of Remembrance
- 2017 University of Manitoba Graduate Student Association Award
- 2012 Prime Ministers Award for Teaching Excellence  
(music/creativity/education)

- 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal  
(composing/education/community/humanitarian)
- 2011 The Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding
- 2011 Canadian Interfaith Leadership Award
- 2008 Jewish Foundation of Manitoba-composing grant recipient
- 2002 Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal  
(composing/education/community/humanitarian)
- 1994 Invited to become a member (composer) of the prestigious BMI Musical Theatre Workshops, New York

### **SELECTED PERFORMANCES**

- 2025 *Fallen Angel* – song excerpt from *Nostos* re: human /child trafficking. Available on Spotify, Apple, and more.
- 2025 *I Have a Name* – song excerpt from *I Believe*. Available on Spotify, Apple, and more.
- 2019 *I Believe*-Leverkusen/Wuppertal, Germany, Bayer Philharmoniker. Recorded for Ars Produktion: 6 Opus Klassik Nominations. Available on Spotify, Apple, and more.
- 2018 *Nostos: A Journey of Others*-Murau, Austria, Murau International Music Festival
- 2018 *Nostos: A Journey of Others* –Stuttgart, Germany, Solitude Chor, University of Hohenheim Orchestra. World Premiere
- 2017 *I Believe*-Lodz, Poland, Grand Theatre, Opera Orchestra
- 2014 *I Believe*-New York, Lincoln Center
- 2013 *I Believe*-Stuttgart, Germany, European Premiere
- 2012 *I Believe* Excerpts-Freedom Day, Toronto
- 2011 *I Believe*-Toronto, Roy Thomson Hall

- 2009            *I Believe*-Winnipeg, Centennial Concert Hall, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, World Premiere. Recorded – available on Spotify
- 2002            *Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Concert*: Music Director/Composer, national broadcast, Canada. Winnipeg

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Presently creating an Opera (composer/librettist/lyricist): *Taras: The Art of Freedom*
- Recording demo sessions for *Taras: The Art of Freedom* (members from the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, pianist, and singers)
- Artistic Director/Composer/Arranger/Conductor for the Murau International Music Festival, Austria (2006-2018)
- Conducted – Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra – excerpts from my original work, *I Believe*
- Choral contractor/director for the North American Live to Projection debut of Fellowship of the Ring, with the score performed live by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
- Juno Awards Junofest- Arranger, for award-winning, Nathan (music band). Live performance with Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.
- First call composer for CBC commercial division (radio/television)
- Choral contractor/director for Jann Arden Christmas concerts with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
- Choral contractor/director for “Queen” tribute show with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.
- Composed and recorded at Abbey Road Studios with Miles Macdonell Collegiate
- Choral contractor/director for Sarah Brightman concert, Winnipeg.
- Composed for the CBC Jazz Orchestra and vocal ensemble
- Arranged for the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra and vocal ensemble
- Nelvana – short-listed composer for animation series
- Executive producer, producer and arranger for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary D-day national recording project entitled *REMEMBER* including: Denzal Sinclair-

Juno nominee, Terry Kelly 6 time ECMA winner, Matt Andersen ECMA nominee- recorded in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Halifax, Montreal, and Summerside

- Music Director for Rainbow Stage <https://www.rainbowstage.ca/about-us/rainbow-stage/> – Crazy for You, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Singin’ in the Rain, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, and BIG
- Music Producer and Studio Performance – over 200 recording studio sessions (national/international)
- Music Director/Performer/Conductor approx. 800+ performances

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND CREATIVE WORKS

- Zalis, Z. (2025) A performative autoethnography of the oratorios *I Believe* and *Nostos: Composing music, words, and worlds*. In P. Gouzouasis & C. Wiley (Eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Music, Autoethnography and Reflexivity*. Routledge [https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Companion-to-Music-Autoethnography-and-Reflexivity/Gouzouasis-Wiley/p/book/9780367351472?srsId=AfmBOor\\_zgpX3hXfR2NeFYElT1YjojNZyEtVQhAqNHXqSLI17OPJhS7E](https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Companion-to-Music-Autoethnography-and-Reflexivity/Gouzouasis-Wiley/p/book/9780367351472?srsId=AfmBOor_zgpX3hXfR2NeFYElT1YjojNZyEtVQhAqNHXqSLI17OPJhS7E)
- Zalis, Z. (2024) *Nostos: A journey of others* [Musical Score]. Calgary: Palliser Music Publishing.
- Zalis, Z. (2024). *Fallen Angel* – excerpted from *Nostos* [Musical Score]. Calgary: Palliser Music Publishing.
- Zalis, Z. (2024). *Have You Ever Seen the Rain: Arrangement* [Musical Score]. Calgary: Palliser Music Publishing.
- Zalis, Z. (2021). *Music composition as arts-based educational research & performative inquiry in the creation of Nostos: A journey of others* [Doctoral dissertation, University of Manitoba]. MSpace. <https://mspace.lib.umanitoba.ca/xmlui/handle/1993/35392>
- Zalis, Z. (2020). *Wonderland* [song/choral commission]. Winnipeg Youth Chorus.
- Zalis, Z. (2019). *I believe: An oratorio for humanity* [Musical Score]. Calgary: Palliser Music Publishing. <https://www.pallisermusic.com>
- Zalis, Z. (2019). *I believe: An oratorio for humanity* [Album]. Bayer-Philharmoniker, Ars Produktion/Germany. [http://www.ars-produktion.de/Zane\\_Zalis\\_I\\_Believe/topic/Neuheiten/shop\\_art\\_id/641/tpl/shop\\_article\\_d](http://www.ars-produktion.de/Zane_Zalis_I_Believe/topic/Neuheiten/shop_art_id/641/tpl/shop_article_d)

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<https://open.spotify.com/album/77YJgJB2gJTaK7hkljqkfQ?si=Y2MU3clCRESoG2IPpsn3gQ>

Zalis, Z. (2015). *A retrospective/prospective arts based educational research study of i believe: A modern oratorio for empathic learning* [Master's thesis, University of Manitoba].  
<https://mspace.lib.umanitoba.ca/xmlui/handle/1993/30798>

Zalis, Z. (2009). *I believe: A Holocaust oratorio for today-world premiere* [Album].  
Composer/Co-Producer. Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Mesa Music Company.  
<https://open.spotify.com/album/5mMqzcVXkwrCej6dZEUrmk?si=aKNe4odTTNevDmUNdKDhww>

Zalis, Z. (2005). *Remember* [Album]. Producer/Arranger, national commemorative project with various Canadian performing artists, Veterans Affairs Canada/Mesa Music

Zalis, Z. (2003). *Rainbow Stage Special Performances* [Album]. Producer/arranger-musical theatre, Rainbow Stage. Winnipeg.

Zalis, Z. (2000). *Noel* [Album]. Producer/Composer/Arranger. Miles Macdonell Collegiate, Winnipeg.

Zalis, Z. (1998). *One Voice One World* [Album]. Producer/Composer/Arranger. Miles Macdonell Collegiate, Winnipeg.

## INTERVIEWS/SELECTED MEDIA/PRESENTATIONS

Zalis, Z. (2023, December 6). Thinking Spaces: “Head in the Clouds – Feet on the Ground | Improvising and Creating: A Way of Becoming and Being”, presented at International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation, Guelph, Ontario.

Zalis, Z. (2022, March 29). How to teach for possibilities of transformative change toward ethical understandings of otherness, difference, and tolerance. Guest speaker and workshop leader- York School District, Toronto, Ontario.

Zalis, Z. (2020, January 26). 75 years after largest Nazi death camp liberated, stories live on through music. (N. Kidwai, Interviewer). *CBC Weekend Morning Show*. Retrieved from:  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/holocaust-remember-survivor-composer-music-1.5441063>

Zalis, Z. (2020, October 6). *I Believe An Oratorio for Humanity – Zane Zalis*. (S. Pieper, Interviewer). *Merker Online: The International Cultural Platform*. Retrieved from:

<https://onlinemerker.com/der-kanadische-komponist-zane-zalis-zu-sehen-und-das-beste-geben-ist-besser-als-blind-zu-sein/>

- Zalis, Z. (2019, March 6). "I Believe" by Zane Zalis - A Musical Voice for the Victims of the Holocaust. (C. Sturm, Interviewer). *Bayer -Bay News*. Retrieved from: <https://media.bayer.de/baynews/baynews.nsf/id/i-believe-von-Zane-Zalis-Eine-musikalische-Stimme-fuer-die-Opfer-des-Holocaust>
- Zalis, Z. (2019, March 6). Phenomenology of creation and content as lyricist and composer [concert guest speaker session]. I Believe performance, Wuppertal/Leverkusen, Germany.
- Zalis, Z. (2018, February 22). 'Scrambled egg' approach pays off: Miles Mac students benefit from unique music program. (S. Birnie, Interviewer). *Winnipeg Free Press*. Retrieved from: <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/our-communities/herald/Scrambled-egg-approach-pays-off-474862633.html>
- Zalis, Z. (2018, March 3). Music composition and entangled cognition [conference session]. 2018 Faculty of Education Graduate Symposium University of Manitoba. Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Zalis, Z. (2018, September 11). Creating Creativity. Guest speaker: Lieutenant-Governor's Conversations and Celebrations Event- Government House. <https://www.manitobalg.ca/lieutenant-governors-next-conversations-and-celebrations-event-creating-creativity-with-zane-zalis/>
- Zalis, Z. (2017, February). Learning and teaching at the intersection of reason and feeling: The I Believe project a modern oratorio for humanity [conference session]. 2017 Provoking the Curriculum Conference, McGill University
- Zalis, Z. (2017, March 3). Arts based educational research [conference session]. 2017 Faculty of Education Graduate Symposium University of Manitoba. Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Zalis, Z. (2017, May). Arts based research: Music, words, and concert hall—research tools for developing empathy [conference session]. 2017 Canadian Society for the Study of Education, Ryerson University
- Zalis, Z. (2017, August). Creative development [workshop session]. 2017 Murau International Music Festival.
- Zalis, Z. (2016, January). Creative Development [festival session]. 2016 Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra New Music Festival. Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Zalis, Z. (2015, July). Creative thesis presentation-I Believe and Nostos development stage [conference session]. 2015 Canadian Music Educators Association National Conference, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

- Zalis, Z. (2012, December 19). Music teacher mixes business and creativity. (D. Falloon, Interviewer). *Winnipeg Free Press*. Retrieved from: <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/our-communities/herald/Music-teacher-mixes-business-and-creativity-183945591.html>
- Zalis, Z. (2011, October, 21). New oratorio finds hope beyond the Holocaust. (M. Knelman, Interviewer). *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from: [https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/2011/10/21/new\\_oratorio\\_finds\\_hope\\_beyond\\_the\\_holocaust.html](https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/2011/10/21/new_oratorio_finds_hope_beyond_the_holocaust.html)
- Zalis, Z. (2011, October 20). Musician Zane Zalis 'made a promise to the survivors'. (A. Medrek, Interviewer). *National Post*. Retrieved from <https://nationalpost.com/entertainment/musician-zane-zalis-made-a-promise-to-the-survivors>
- Zalis, Z. (2010, June 11). Stories become music. (R. Kuropatwa). *Jewish Independent*. Retrieved from: <https://www.jewishindependent.ca/oldsite/archives/june10/archives10june11-03.html>
- Zalis, Z. (2009, May 17). Believe in the power of music: Why is a Canadian Catholic composer so focused on the Holocaust and how has he managed to touch so many people with his work? (E. Gliner, Interviewer). *Jerusalem Post*. Retrieved from: <https://www.jpost.com/arts-and-culture/music/believe-in-the-power-of-music>
- Zalis, Z. (2005). Creativity and the language of music/composing [workshop session]. 2005 Juno Awards. Winnipeg, Manitoba

## TEACHING

### Booth University College

2024 Course designer and Sessional Instructor – Project Based Learning

### University of Manitoba

2022 Graduate Course designer and sessional Instructor (S22) EDUB 5220/7142  
*Creative Development as Artistic Performative Inquiry*

2021 Sessional Instructor for EDUB 7570 *Contemporary Perspectives and Practices in Music Education* (remote learning).

2021 Coaching student composers – Faculty of Music, University of Manitoba

### Austria

2006-18 Artistic Director/Creative Development workshops-Murau International Music Festival, Austria

**Canadian Mennonite University**

2000-03 Sessional - Director and Founder – Jazz Ensemble

**Concord College**

1997-2000 Sessional - Founder/Director - Contemporary Instrumental Ensemble

**Miles Macdonell Collegiate**

1980-2022 Founder and developer of internationally recognized music program including: creative development; developing a culture of creativity; performance-vocal/instrumental; pioneered digital/technology in music education; curriculum development; arts-based inquiry; developed new approaches to music composition/creative writing; professional vocal training; and approaches to improvisation. Numerous performances nationally (CBC, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Jazz Festival and more) and internationally (Germany, Austria, Scotland, USA, Mexico)

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Composer laureate: St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba
- Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN)
- Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) 2022-23
- CMC Canadian Music Centre – acceptance/invitation for associate composer