



JOEL STYZENS • Composer, Sound-designer, Multi-instrumentalist
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FILM / COMMERCIAL / SOUND-DESIGN / MUSIC PLACEMENT (2006-2022)

Short-film – “Devil's Work” – Political-thriller (Music score, sound-design)

- 'Official Selection' Los Angeles Film Festival
- Shortlisted for an Academy-Award nomination
- 'Top Honors' in 'Film of the year' – Columbia University Film Festival, New York

Feature Documentary – “I am a Visitor in Your World” (Music score)

- 1st place winner for feature documentary – Athens Film Festival
- 'Official Selection' – Woodstock Film Festival, NY

Short-film – “Bicycle Notes” – Animation (Music score, sound-design)

- Official Selection, Sound of Silent Film Festival – Chicago, IL, U.S.
- Official Selection, Festival de cine de Madrid - Spain
- Official Selection, High Desert International Film Festival, Nevada, U.S.
- Official Selection, Lakino Kids Festival – Berlin, Germany
- Official Selection, Bang Awards Film Festival, Portugal
- Official Selection, Festival del Cinema Veramente indipendente Trevi, Roma
- Second Place at the Bikefest, Bogotá, Colombia Film Festival

Short-film – “Baking Is Hard” – Comedy (Music score, Sound-design)

- 'Official Selection' ROMA Film Festival 2021

Short-film (web series) – “Through The Looking Glass” – Switzerland-based Dance & Music

Short-film (web series) – “In a State” – San Francisco-based Dance and Music project

Short-film (web series) – “Bike Again” – social justice/music/dance (composer)

Commercial – Check, Please! TV (Composer. Appeared on NBC & checkplease.tv)

Commercial – Hallmark company – The Elf and the Ornament (composer, sound-design)

Promotional marketing short – www.COMETRY.org (composer, sound-design)

MUSIC PLACEMENT

- NPR (National Public Radio) Music feature, 2012 & 2014 – Various music from “Relax Your Ears”
- Best of the Best: 2012 Third Coast Festival Broadcast (Joel Styzens. "A-Sharp" - Relax Your Ears.)
- Chicago O'Hare International Airport 2011 Music Selection (“Relax Your Ears” album)
- RE: Sound [from the Third Coast Audio Festival], episode #138 (“Viv” - Relax Your Ears)
- RE: Sound [Third Coast Audio], episode #138 (“For You” - Relax Your Ears) www.thirdcoastfestival.org
- National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* – (2008 Percussion piece feature)

MUSIC AWARDS & SELECTIONS

- Officially selected for the *Chicago Band Roster*-- featured Chicago pianist, creating new works, 2021
- “Official selection” on Pandora Radio – “Relax Your Ears”
- CD Baby's Editor's Pick & 5/5 Stars for “Relax Your Ears” (album) by Joel Styzens
- “Relax Your Ears” (album) named *Best Classical Pick & Top Seller* by CD Baby
- ESS (Experimental Sound Studios) Artist in Residence winner
- Chicago O'Hare International Airport 2011 Music Winner (“Relax Your Ears” album)

- Second place in the Indie International Songwriters Contest for “A-Sharp”
- Relax Your Ears selected by the American Tinnitus Association
- Talent Seekers International 2010 Award recipient
- Roger Shuller Jazz Award (Millikin University)

SELECTED RADIO FEATURES & PUBLICATIONS

- Dulcimer Players News Magazine feature: cover feature and interview, February 2022
- NPR (National Public Radio) Interview/Music feature, 2012 & 2014 – “Joel Styzens: A-Sharp”
- Soundtracking "Bicycle Notes," an animated digital short: Chicago Artist Resource feature 2014
- Featured on Chicago's premiere classical radio station WFMT / 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
- Chicago Tribune: "Sounding the call for tinnitus sufferers" / Jan 12, 2011
- Time Out Chicago, 2010 "A Classic Year", Featured artist, Jan 2, 2011
- Time Out Chicago Magazine: "Tinnitus soldier" (Jun 12, 2010)
- ATA International Journal: A Music Teacher's Battle with Tinnitus and Hyperacusis / Apr 18, 2010
- National Music Examiner: "The Avatar: Joel Styzens turns painful noise into music" / Apr 2, 2010
- UK Hearing Times: "Music to your ears" / Feb 5, 2010

SELECT PERFORMANCES

- Thirsty Ears Classical Music Festival, (Piano/cello duo), Aug. 2020
- Beethoven Music Festival (solo pianist), Preston Bradley Hall, Chicago Cultural Center, Dec. 16 2019
- Beethoven Music Festival (piano & dance duo), Hairpin Arts Center, Chicago, IL
- Hyde Park Music & Arts Salon Series (piano & dance duo), Nov. 2019
- Chicago Botanic Gardens, Music on the Esplanade (piano/hammered dulcimer, soloist/trio. 500+ in attendance.), Aug. 2019
- Thirsty Ears Classical Music Festival, (solo pianist), Aug. 2019
- International Performances, France— various: Paris, Bandol, Marseille, Nice, 2019
- International Performances, Bogota, Colombia— various (solo pianist), 2018
- ESS: experimental sound studios Artist showcase (piano, cello, saxophone trio), 2016/2017
- CIMMfest, live music and film score event (performed my original film score live with film), 2016
- International performances: Switzerland: Lucerne, Bern, Zurich — Berlin, Germany: various, 2015
- WGN-TV Live Midday News performance, 2010
- Old Town School, Maurer Hall (Sold out show, capacity; 400+ people), Chicago, IL, 2010
- WBEZ Chicago Public Radio, Eight-Forty-Eight live performance and interview, 2010
- International Dominican Republic Tour: La Ramana, Santo Domingo— 2003/2004

PRESS QUOTES

“Music that you feel down in your soul.”

- **National Music Examiner**

“An exquisite album.”

- **Time Out**

“Joel Styzens is a true master of sound.”

- **Serge Kozlovsky, music critic** (Minsk, Belarus)

“Best of Classical”

- **CDBaby**

“From the moment I tuned into 'A-Sharp,' I haven't been able to shake the haunting, floating, and ethereal melodies. . . . [Styzens creates] simply beautiful, emotionally fragile, and diverse music that sinks in through the conscious into the subconscious and stay inside your soul.”

• **National Jazz Examiner**

“...a unique combination of sweet moments of guitar and piano and soaring cello lines spiced up with complex rhythms and harmonies. Styzens is clearly a skilled musician and an inventive composer.”

• **Victory Review** (Seattle)

“5/5 Stars.”

• **CDBaby**