

James Kimo Williams- Medium Bio

James Kimo Williams is a Vietnam veteran and American composer whose work stands at the intersection of the symphonic tradition, chamber music, and contemporary cultural narrative. His music—performed by leading orchestras and ensembles across the United States, Europe, and Asia—engages themes of history, memory, service, and civic identity, using the concert hall as a space for public reflection and dialogue.

Williams earned his Bachelor of Music in Composition from Berklee College of Music and completed advanced private studies in counterpoint and composition in Boston, along with graduate coursework in composition at Pacific Lutheran University. He later earned a Master of Arts in Management and Human Relations from Webster University. His catalog includes major works for orchestra, chamber ensemble, and solo piano, including the widely performed **Fanfare for Life** and **Symphony for Vietnam Veterans**, featured on NPR's **Performance Today**.

A Fulbright Specialist, former associate professor at Columbia College Chicago, and former U.S. Army Bandmaster, Williams brings a deep sense of civic purpose to his creative and educational work. Now based in West Virginia, he continues to compose in both classical and progressive-rock genres while collaborating with visual artist Carol Williams on interdisciplinary projects that unite music, history, and social commentary.