

Marc Irwin  
Composer • Pianist



Press Kit



[marcirwin.com](http://marcirwin.com)

# Biography

Marc Irwin is a pianist, composer, arranger, and recording artist, who uses his diverse talents as a musician within the fields of modern classical, jazz, theater and popular music. Marc Irwin was born in Brooklyn, New York and began his piano studies at six. While still in high school, Marc honed his skills accompanying chorus' and arranging music for small ensembles, often as part of theatre productions. It was during these early years that Marc composed his first melody, *Sisters*, for his two sisters. Marc worked with club date bands at this time, for weddings and social events, often with players many years older, and when Marc was fifteen he began working at resorts during the summers in the Catskill Mountains, developing skills in conducting, sight-reading and transposition. While attending the Manhattan School of Music (BM 1975) for undergraduate studies in music theory and piano, his interest in composition began. During his studies with Ludmilla Ulehla, he composed for small ensembles, his first work being *Theme and Variations for Brass Sextet*. Marc began combining jazz and classical music performance practices at this time, with *Octopus Suite*, *Moments After*, *In A Very Sad Way*, *Song In Three*, *Ballade*, and *Sweet Joe*. In 1971, Marc traveled with a USA tour of *A Happy Time*, a production of Sesame Street cast members, Susan Long and Bob McGrath, and began working off- Broadway theatre and cabaret in New York. During these years, Marc composed, *Not In the Mood and Why*, for jazz octet, and *Stagnation*, for wind/string octet, as well as *Prothalamium*, for flugel horn, horn, trombone and keyboard and *Trilogy for Chamber Orchestra*, a three movement work where his first use of Serialism is heard in the first movement, *Cereal Movement*.

Marc Irwin played and conducted on Broadway from the late 1970s until the early 1990s, including productions of *The Rink*, *Cats*, *Romance, Romance*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *City of Angels*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Jerome Robbins' Broadway* and *Crazy for You*. Marc was an assistant conductor for the International Company of *A Chorus Line* in 1979 and was nominated for a Carbonell Best Musical Director award for *Romance, Romance* in South Florida in 1988. Marc was Musical Director for *Miss Atlantic City*, Julie Miller, in the mid 1980s, with travels in the USA and Europe, and for singer/composer Jack Eric Williams, focused on through-composed musical cabaret along with incorporating elements of Williams' operetta, *Mrs Farmer's Daughter*. In 1983, Marc Irwin was a Musical Director of this work's first production, directed by Tom O'Horgan at the Pepsico Summerfare, in Purchase, NY. Marc Irwin was a Sound Designer and a keyboardist for Harry Belafonte from 1983-1988, with travels in Europe, Asia, Africa and the USA. Marc recorded two of Mr. Belafonte's albums, including *Paradise In Gazakulu*.

In the 1980s Marc Irwin teamed up with guitarist Dan Carillo to form *Crossings* and released *Crossings of the Spirit* in 1986 and *Child's Play* in 1988 with Iris Records. This original music focused on organic improvisation, developing melodic ideas from each work's original melody. As well, there was an emphasis on combining the written page with improvisation. Marc's compositions for *Crossings*, were *Settings*, *Reflections*, *Departing*, *Crossings*, *Natural Tendencies* and *A Ray Of Hope*. A *Child's Play* personnel included Tom Harrell on trumpet, Steve Thornton on percussion and Morris Goldberg on Alto Saxophone. In the early 2000s Marc formed the piano trio, *Urbnergy*, with drummer Don Mulvany and bassist Marty Confurius. This jazz trio released a self-titled album in 2008 and *Three of A Kind* in 2011. The latter is a compositional collaboration, with music in the traditional Bill Evans' trio style combined with more dissonant elements. Marc's compositions included *A for F fort*, *A Long Way Home*, *Fresh Bop*, and *Unnatural Tendencies*. Marc's studies continued with composer Thea Musgrave at The Aaron Copland Conservatory, at Queens College, CUNY, where he received his Masters in Composition. During this period, Marc composed *Stagnation*, for wind/string ensemble and *String Quartet No 1*. Dr. Marc Irwin received a DMA in Composition from the Peabody Conservatory, Johns Hopkins University in 2000, studying with composer Robert Hall Lewis and Morris Cotel, and music theory with Vern Falby. It was at this time, that Marc was introduced to Schenkerian analysis and incorporated these elements into his music, along with improvisational and idiomatic aspects of jazz. Marc's graduate portfolio included his *Explorations for Alto Saxophone and Four Percussion* and his *Textural Variations For Orchestra*.

From 1993 to 2003, Marc Irwin performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. as an Assistant Conductor and pianist, including *Words and Music*, in 1998, concert readings that included *Where's Charlie*, *Purlie*, and *Bell's Are Ringing* and in 2002 with *The Sondheim Celebration*, on *Merrily We Roll Along*. At the Kennedy Center, Marc Irwin was a pianist for musicals including *Dreamgirls*, *Damn Yankees*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Showboat*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *By Jeeves*. During this time period, Marc was an accompanist, composer and arranger for the Peabody Children's Chorus, composing over fifty choral arrangements, with performances in the USA and Europe. Marc Irwin was a pianist with the political satire theatre ensemble, The Capitol Steps, from 1999–2017, with travels across the fifty states.

In 2010, Marc Irwin released *Handmade Music*, with guitarist Barry Heimowitz. This acoustic duo album of improvisation included Marc's compositions *In A Sad Way*, *Latino* and *Sweet Joe*. Marc released a solo piano EP in 2013 with Arabesque Recordings, *A Few Moments More*, with performances of his compositions, *Evening Song*, *Ballade*, and *Serioso*. Marc Irwin composed *Woodwind Quartet* in 2014, *Woodwind Quintet* in 2016 and *String Quartet No 2* in 2020. Marc composed music for the Baltimore based Vagabond Players productions of Art by Yasmina Reza in 2014 and David Kramer's *The Normal Heart* in 2016. In 2017 Marc Irwin began his affiliation with The Classic Theatre of Maryland, composing music for original productions of *The Glass Menagerie*, *Treasure Island*, *Our Town*, *A Comedy of Errors*, *Twelfth Night* and *Pride and Prejudice*. In 2014 Marc formed his current ensemble, *MIQ*, the Marc Irwin Quintet. The NYC based ensemble includes: Vinnie Della Rocca – flute, alto flute and tenor saxophone; Bud Burrige – trumpet and flugel horn; Dick Sarpola – double bass; and Warren Odze – drums and percussion. The ensemble focuses on musical extemporaneous dialogue with an emphasis on classical music performance practice. The group's first self-titled release was in 2019. Marc's compositions include *Contemplation*, *Sad But True* and *Double Down* as well as original arrangements of *Baubles, Bangles and Beads*, *How Long Has This Been Going On*, and *Bernie's Tune*. During the recent pandemic, the group continued with isolated recordings of Charlie Parker's *Au Privave*, Marc Irwin's original *Pandemonium 20*, and Billy Holiday's *A Child Is Born*.

In 2020 Marc Irwin began co-curating Member Composer concerts for The Musicians Club of New York, with performances of his *Woodwind Quartet* in 2023 and *Fantasy For Clarinet And Piano* in 2024. In 2022, Marc Irwin accepted a position as music director of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, in MD. Opportunities include curating the Music and Meaning concert series, with an emphasis on modern classical music. His *String Quartet No 2* was premiered in 2023 by the Bergamot Quartet as part of this series. Marc Irwin is currently active composing jazz and classical music, curating concert series' and seeking opportunities for both himself and his ensemble, *MIQ*.

# Pianist

## Jazz Highlights

### Solo Work

- Artist-in-residence and solo pianist at the Betsy Hotel including the Overture To Overtown Jazz Festival
- Solo piano performances at the Gateways Inn, Lenox MA
- Solo piano concerts at An Die Musik, Baltimore, MD

### Groups and Collaborations

- *The Marc Irwin Quintet* at the West Side Community Garden "Music In A Garden" Concert Series, New York City with Vinnie Della Rocca on reeds, Bud Burridge on trumpet/flugel, Dick Sarpola on bass, Warren Odze on drums
- Urban Energy at *Cafe Vivaldi* in Greenwich Village with Marty Confurius on bass and Don Mulvaney on drums/vocals.
- Handmade Music at Germano's with Barry Heimowitz on guitar and Maeve Royce on bass
- Crossings at NYC venues with Dan Carillo on guitar

## Modern Classical Highlights

### Solo Work

- Solo piano concert at *An Die Musik* in Baltimore, Maryland
- Performance of "Contemplation" by William McNally, Liederkrantz Concert Hall, New York City
- Solo piano performance of Italian Opera and original jazz and classical music at *Germano's Piattini* in Baltimore's Little Italy district
- Featured soloist playing a tribute to Fats Waller and accompanying Elizabeth Hart at the Liszt-Garrison Festival, Notre Dame Of Maryland University

### Groups and Collaborations

- Musical Director and pianist for baritone Dan Schwait at *An Die Musik* in Baltimore
- Pianist with soprano Elizabeth Hart performing the music of Erich Korngold and Kurt Weill at Loyola University.
- *Marc Irwin- A Concert Collective*, Performance of original contemporary-classical music by ten musicians. Works included a string quartet, woodwind quartet, piano trio and string/winds ensemble.
- Accompanist for bassoonist Philip Kolker, Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore
- Musical director and pianist for sopranos Elizabeth Hart and Siobhan Kolker

# Theatre/Cabaret Highlights

## Marc Irwin's Broadway Credits Include:

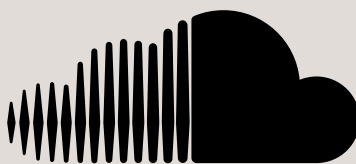
- *Crazy for You*
  - *City of Angels*
  - *Romance, Romance*
  - *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*
  - *Sunday In The Park With George*
  - *Cats*
  - *The Mystery Of Edwin Drood*
  - *The Rink*
- 
- Toured internationally with Harry Belafonte as keyboardist and sound designer
  - Pianist and musical director with The Capitol Steps, performed political satire throughout the United States and Canada.
  - Performed at leading Washington DC venues, including The Kennedy Center, National Theatre, and at Baltimore's Hippodrome, Lyric Opera House and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.
  - Assistant conductor for The Kennedy Center's production of Words And Music including Bells Are Ringing, Where's Charlie, and Purlie.
  - Assistant conductor for Merrily We Roll Along at The Kennedy Center as part of the Sondheim Celebration Series, 2002.
  - Musical director for Ray Leslee's A Chamber Christmas Carol, New York's Pierpont Morgan Library
  - Composer and musical director for Freefall Frostbite, an original musical, part of Fringe NYC Festival.

# Composer

## Modern Classical

- Textural Variations - Orchestra
- Trilogy for Chamber Orchestra\* - Fl, Cl, Bsn, Hrn, 2 Vln, Vla, Cel, Bass
- Theme and Variations for a Brass Sextet - 2 Tpt, 2 Hrn, Tbn, Tuba
- String Quartet No. 1 - A Perplexing Journey Through Time \* - 2 Vln, Vla, Cel
- String Quartet No. 2 - Pendentism On The Loose\* - 2 Vln, Vla, Cel
- Woodwind Quartet - Haphazard Wanderings\* - Fl, Ob, Clar, Bsn
- Woodwind Quintet - Calling Out For Clarity\* - Fl, Ob, Clar, Hrn, Bsn
- Prothelamion - Wedding March - Flugel Hrn, Hrn, Tbn, Keyboard
- Explorations for Alto Saxophone and Four Percussion\*
- Fantasy for Clarinet and Piano - Clar, Piano
- Contemplation for Piano

Found on *Getting Serious\**



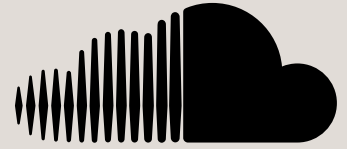
## Listen to Modern Classical on Soundcloud

### Recent and Upcoming Modern Classical Performances

- MCNY 3/23 Woodwind Quartet, New York City
- Bergamot Quartet 6/23 - String Quartet No. 2, Baltimore, MD
- MCNY 2/24 - Fantasy for Clarinet and Piano, New York City
- Music and Meaning Concert 5/24 - Woodwind Quartet, Baltimore, MD

## Theatre

- The Normal Heart - Orchestra
- A Comedy Errors - Orchestra
- The Glass Menagerie - Strings and Winds
- Art - Flute, Piano, Bass
- Treasure Island - Accordion, Perc
- Freefall Frostbite - Piano, Keyboard
- Twelfth Night - Piano (Ragtime)
- Our Town - Piano



Listen to Theatre on  
Soundcloud

## Film/Epic

- Forgotten Dreams\* - Orchestra
- Little Fingers\* - Orchestra
- Birth of Earth\* - Orchestra
- March to Victory\* - Orchestra
- Contained but Blown Out\* - Orchestra
- A Ray of Hope\* - Keyboards, Gtr, Bass, Drums
- Things That Do Not Burn\* - Orchestra
- In A Very Sad Way\* - Orchestra
- Elegy for Strings - String, Orchestra
- Faust Wedding - Clarinet, Violin, Bass



Listen on to Film/Epic  
Soundcloud

\*Found on *Cues*



## Arrangements

- How Long Has This Been Going On – Tpt, Tenor Sax, Piano, Bass, Drums/Piano\*
- Bernie's Tune – Tpt, Tenor Sax, Piano, Bass, Drums\*
- Eleanor Rigby/ Another Hundred People – Voice, Tpt, Piano, Bass, Vibes, Drums\*\*
- Baubles, Bangles and Beads – Tpt, Fl, Piano, Bass, Drums\*
- Good Thing Going/Don't Think Twice – Voice, Tpt, Piano\*\*
- Going Home/Hard Times Again No More – Voice, Piano\*\*\*
- But Not for Me/Gershwin Prelude (Prelude II) – Voice, Piano\*\*\*

\* Available on *MIQ*

\*\* Available on *Dan Schwait Single*

\*\*\* Available on *Piano Songs*



Baubles, Bangles and Beads



Bernie's Tune

## Acoustic Improvisation

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| • In A Sad Way – Guitar, Piano*     | • In A Sad Way – Guitar, Piano*        |
| • Departing – Guitar, Piano**       | • Sweet Joe – Piano*                   |
| • Crossings – Guitar, Piano***      | • Latino – Keyboard*                   |
| • There Was A Time – Guitar, Piano* | • Evening Song – Guitar, Piano/Piano*  |
| • Take It Easy – Guitar, Piano*     | • Natural Tendencies – Guitar, Piano** |
| • Reflections – Guitar, Piano***    | • So It Goes – Piano                   |
| • Settings – Guitar, Piano***       | • Sisters – Piano                      |
| • Moving On – Guitar, Piano***      |  |

\* Available on *Handmade Music*

\*\* Available on *Child's Play*

\*\*\* Available on *Crossings of the Spirit*



## Jazz

- Octopus Suite - Tpt, Alto Sax, Bari Sax, Tbne, Piano, Drums, Perc
- Moments After - Tpt, Alto Sax, Bari Sax, Tbne, Piano, Bass, Drums, Perc
- Double Down - Tpt, Tenor Sax, Piano, Bass, Drums/Piano, Bass, Drums\*
- A for Effort - Tpt, Tenor Sax, Piano, Bass, Drums/Piano, Bass, Drums\*
- Small Steps - Tpt, Tenor Sax, Tbne, Piano, Bass, Drums
- On Listening to Inner Thoughts - Alto Fl, Flugel Hrn, Piano, Bass, Drums
- TBD - Tpt, Tenor Sax, Piano, Bass, Drums
- Not In The Mood And Why - Tpt, Tenor Sax, Bass, Drums
- Never For Me - Tpt, Tenor Sax, Piano, Bass, Drums
- Contemplation - Tpt, Fl, Alto Fl, Piano, Bass, Drums
- Serioso - Tpt, Tenor Sax, Piano, Bass, Drums
- Sad but True - Tpt, Tenor Sax, Piano, Bass, Drums\*
- Pandemonium 20 - Tpt, Tenor Sax, Piano, Bass, Drums\*
- Fresh Bop - Piano, Bass, Drums\*\*
- Long Way Home - Piano, Bass Drums\*\*
- Unnatural Tendencies - Piano, Bass, Drums\*\*
- Ballade - Piano\*\*\*
- Serioso - Piano\*\*\*
- Evening Song - Piano\*\*\*

\*Available on *MIQ*

\*\*Available on *Three of a Kind*

\*\*\*Available on *A Few Moments More*

## Watch



Sad But True



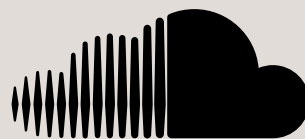
An Affair to Remember



A Child is Born

## Electronic

- Another Thursday - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- Tear Down With An Angel - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- In Half The Time - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- For More Info Look Ahead - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- Monday Doneday - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- Wednesness - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- Back At It - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- Double Joy - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- It's Time, No? - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- More Than Expected - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- Smooth As It Goes - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- So Sad - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- Understanding - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- What I Said - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)
- When I Say Go - Sampled Libraries (VSL/EWQL)



**Listen to Electronic on SoundCloud**

# Choral Arrangements

- Goodbye Old Paint - S
- Daddy's Baby - SSA
- Oseh Shalom - SA
- Summertime - SSA
- Zun In Mayrey - SSAA
- Ma Navu
- Oh, Freedom/Langston Hughes - SSA
- O Susanna - S
- Lift Every Voice - SSAA
- A Frog Went A-Courtin' - S
- Ihr Kinderlein - S
- How Can I Keep from Singing - SA
- Hiney Ma Tov - SA
- Goodnight - S
- Silent Night - SA
- Colinda - SA
- Zemer Atik - SA
- What Shall We Do With The Baby-O - S
- When That I Was
- Tumbalalaika - SA
- The Riddle Song
- This Is a Song for You - SSA
- Shed a Little Light - SSA
- Take Me Out To The Ballgame
- Rio Grande
- The Birds Courting Song
- America
- O Come All Ye Faithful - SATB
- Bless This House - SSAA
- Some Other Time - SSA
- The Old Folks At Home - SSAA
- Sophisticated Lady - SSAA

# Discography

Click on each cover to listen

