

Full Biography

Alicia Armstrong is a composer who savors beauty as a gift from her Creator and finds the sublime in art, nature, and everyday experiences while endeavoring to create music that others can enjoy in a similar fashion. Her choral and chamber works have been performed both in the USA and in her second home of the Philippines. In 2020, Alicia was commissioned by mezzo-soprano Audrey Johnson to create a set of two songs to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. *Remember the Ladies*, which highlights influential letters by Abigail Adams and Febb Burn, will be premiered later this year.

Alicia's early love of reading and theatre evolved into a desire to connect language and storytelling to the music she writes. This has manifested in several choral and vocal works that marry profound, poignant, or humorous texts with a conversational, lyrical setting. Alicia's song cycle *How Do I Love Thee?*, featuring texts by American women, was premiered by soprano Lindsay Kesselman at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in April 2018 and included in part on a program of the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble that summer.

In her vocal and instrumental music alike, Alicia is fond of taking familiar ideas and sounds and tweaking them slightly into something unexpected. Her "Tango for String Orchestra," an off-kilter reimaging of the familiar dance form, was performed by the Charlotte Symphony String Orchestra in 2019. In the past four years, her music has also been performed by Grammy award-winning Attacca Quartet and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts Wind Ensemble and Orchestra, as well as by numerous small ensembles and soloists. In 2017, she was commissioned by the Wachovia Winds Youth Wind Ensemble in Winston-Salem to write "A Joyful Noise," a new work celebrating the group's Moravian heritage.

In addition to her works for the concert hall, Alicia has also composed and arranged a variety of sacred music. Her choral anthem "Dakilang Diyos" has been performed dozens of times all over the Philippines. Other choral works include "A Bell" and "Adoramus Te," both performed at Bob Jones University, along with an arrangement of the hymn "For the Sake of His Name" which was commissioned for the 29th anniversary celebration of Bob Jones Memorial Bible College in Quezon City, Philippines.

When she is not composing, Alicia enjoys making the ideal cup of tea, shopping for second-hand treasures, and reading or watching crime dramas, all by the side of her perfect husband Will. She received a master's degree in composition from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in 2018 where she studied with Lawrence Dillon. Learn more or listen by visiting AliciaArmstrongMusic.com.