

LARS JENSEN

B I O

Composer and musician Lars Jensen is honored to present his first completed work for classical orchestra, *The Silk Purse Overture*, with the Balcones Community Orchestra. His approach to the classical style is one of celebration, seeking to convey its enduring spirit for a modern audience. Jensen's musical journey is defined by deep engagement across many genres. After studying music theory and composition at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, he embarked on a seventeen-year career as a music educator, specializing in guitar and theory. His compositional output is similarly wide-ranging, from original songs in folk, rock, and blues to a significant achievement in Balinese music: for fifteen years he was a member of the renowned Gamelan Sekar Jaya, and in the mid-1990s, his original work for gamelan was performed in San Francisco and at the Festival of Balinese Arts in Bali.

His instrumental fluency spans guitar, mandolin, and piano, supporting active participation in everything from Scottish-Irish folk sessions to funk, soul, and blues bands. An avid orchestrator, he recently completed his own Romantic-style orchestration of a Debussy piano piece. As a performer, he is a seasoned singer-guitarist with a repertoire focused on the classic songs of the 60s through 80s.

The Silk Purse Overture represents a heartfelt homage to the classical tradition, and he is delighted to share it with the orchestra and its community.