Justine Koontz, Biography

Baltimore-based composer and conductor Justine Koontz is interested in the intersection of music and identity. Her work encompasses composing, conducting, entrepreneurship, teaching, and presenting.

As a conductor, Justine has worked largely with community ensembles, exploring diverse interests in repertoire such as music by women, Baltic composers, and contemporary compositions. She has premiered new works in Indianapolis and Eugene, Oregon. She has been Music Minister at Memorial Episcopal Church in Baltimore since 2018, is the founding artistic director of the Program Choir of Baltimore, and is the associate director of the Aeonian Woodwind Ensemble in Washington, DC.

As a composer, Justine writes primarily for choir and chamber ensembles in musical languages that are accessible yet diverse. Her compositions have been performed at national and international venues, most recently including the London New Wind Festival, the International Low Flutes Festival in Washington, DC, and the Saito Conducting Workshop in Saskatchewan, Canada. An avid entrepreneur, she self-publishes her compositions.

Other musical activities have included international scholarship, presenting, and teaching. Justine completed a year of study in Latvia on a Fulbright scholarship, where she researched the country's choral culture. A thinker about many aspects of the musical world, she has led presentations and written blog articles on all manner of subjects. She currently teaches a private studio of piano and guitar students of all ages.

Justine completed an M.M. in choral conducting and composition at Butler University and a B.A. in music theory and composition at McDaniel College. She is an active member of ASCAP, Choral Canada and Chorus America. When she is not making music, she is usually engaged in fine craft, language study, or gardening.