

Honolulu-based composer and pianist Andrew Filson creates music inspired by the various cultures with which he interacts. His interest in working with both Western and non-Western music has resulted in compositions utilizing traditional instruments from Korea, China, and Japan, and it is through this merging of distinct cultural elements that he strives to uncover a unique voice in the expanding field of intercultural composition.

Filson is the recipient of multiple commissions, including his “Chasing Autumn” for two violin soloists, percussion, piano, and strings, “Fighting Against the Current” for 7-string electric guitar and cello, and an upcoming chamber orchestra work. He has also received several awards including an invitation to the International Gugak Workshop at the National Gugak Center in Seoul (2018) and an Erasmus+ grant for study at The Academy of Music in Kraków, Poland (2017).

Recent premieres include “Building Castles in the Sky” as performed by gayageum player Sohyun Youn (윤소현) and janggu player Dongwoo Ham (함동우), “Fractured Mirrors” for flute and guitar, which was performed and recorded by Duo Alterity, and “Tone at Twilight” in Tokyo, Japan by the Japanese Orchestra Dolce. Filson’s music has also received performances by notable musicians such as world-renown pipa virtuoso Yang Jing, the highly acclaimed Duo Yumeno, and many others.

Filson is currently a doctoral student and lecturer at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. He has received degrees from Anderson University and Butler University, and his principal teachers have been Thomas Osborne, Donald Reid Womack, Takuma Itoh, Michael Schelle, Frank Felice, and Marcel Chyrzyński.