

# SARAH WALLIN HUFF

## VIOLINIST, COMPOSER, AUTHOR

By Teresa Kelly

Sarah Wallin Huff studied violin and graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in 2006 with a Bachelor or Arts in Music Education. She received her Masters in Music Composition in 2008 from Claremont Graduate University.

Since graduating from Cal Poly Pomona, she continues to give back to her alma mater and has performed with the CPP MIDI Band as a volunteer and coach and has written many arrangements for the group. She has also worked with the CPP String Ensemble as a guest coach and master class clinician, and has performed in several concerts as a solo guest artist and with her group "String Theory Quartet".

Known for performing anything from progressive rock classics to timeless baroque pieces, the "String Theory Quartet" retains a

broad repertoire that makes each of its shows a unique experience.

Playing the violin since 1989, Wallin Huff has performed on Baroque violin and viola with the ensemble "Collegium Musicum" and has been a regular performer on six-string electric violin since 2003. She has toured across the continental U.S. and eleven European countries. She has performed with the Orange County Symphony, as Concertmaster of the Southern California Philharmonic, and with numerous orchestras and diverse ensembles.

She regularly performs as a soloist as well as collaborates on various recording projects. Some past performance highlights include: Performing on camera as the featured violinist for the 2013 art film "Psycho Nacirema," created by and starring James Franco, on the



Photo Credit: Tim Yao



Teresa Kelly is a Communications Specialist II for the Music Department. She is the editor of and contributor to the department E-Newsletter. Her duties include writing, graphic design, social media moderation, publicity, media relations, website content management, event production, and student mentoring.

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set of the Bates Motel, Universal Studios, Hollywood; collaborating with classical/hip-hop/rock artist Jake “ONO” Bhattacharya; and laying down violin tracks for Thomas Graff’s debut album.

As a composer, Wallin Huff has found success since the age of 14, composing her first “real” piece of music that won a finalist position in the Disneyland Creativity Challenge.

Even though her family did not feel she should study music composition, she silently pursued her dream.

With the encouragement and mentoring of Kay Pech, former Cal Poly Pomona adjunct music

faculty and founder/director of the Chamber Music Institute Southern California, she did study music.

While attending Cal Poly Pomona, Music Professor Dr. Peter Yates inspired her to go for her Master’s degree in Composition, suggesting she attend his alma mater.

At Claremont Graduate University she studied composition with both Dr. Mark Carlson and Dr. Edward Zelif while also working on Baroque violin techniques with M. Anne Rardin, playing violin and viola with the college’s early music ensemble.

Wallin Huff’s general compositional style draws from such diverse sound-worlds as early and modern Classical, new age and electronica, world, and folk.

She composed and recorded a full-length album of “The Book of I Musical Response Suite,” featuring string orchestra and assorted soloists, in collaboration with author Jorge Armenteros for the 2014 release of his novel, *THE BOOK OF I*.

Wallin Huff’s work “Anima Mechanicae: Soul of the Machine” had its official international debut in July 2014, being performed in concert at the Exeter Phoenix Auditorium in Devon, England.

The piece was recorded by the New England String Quartet in Boston in 2012 and is featured on the modern chamber works album “Allusions” under the Navona label.

Her debut album with Navona Records “Soul of the Machine” will be released in stores and online in August 2014.



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“Wallin Huff’s string quartet “Anima Mechanicae: Soul of the Machine” is a reimagining of minimalist techniques, in the style of Philip Glass, and uses mathematical ratios to determine rhythmic and tonal patterns, setting a science fiction tale of a computer that is given the chance to experience human emotions. Another work that has an overarching tale, one of uncertainty and identity, is “Courage Triptych,” a cinematic suite of “images,” while “Adoré” transforms the hymn “My Tribute” by Andraé Crouch into an open and ethereal piece, reminiscent of Charles Ives’ “The Unanswered Question.” The sonata for violin and piano, “Gypsy Wanderer,” is a study of patterns, colors, and formula, creating rhythmic and harmonic wanderings. The three movements of “Counterpoint Invariable” follow a strict arrangement of phrases, varying only the compositional material, illustrating that mechanical designs can produce emotive beauty.”

*Ariel Oxaal, PR Coordinator  
Parma Recordings*

You can listen to clips from the album at <http://sarahwallinhuff.com/samples-from-the-2014-parma-release/>.

As if these accomplishments weren’t enough, Wallin Huff is also an accomplished author.

At the young age of 14, she began writing a sci-fi/mythology trilogy

that has since developed into a multi-book saga titled “The Keshher Chronicles”, a far-reaching saga, blurring the lines between imaginative science, dystopian future politics, and magical, mythological warfare.

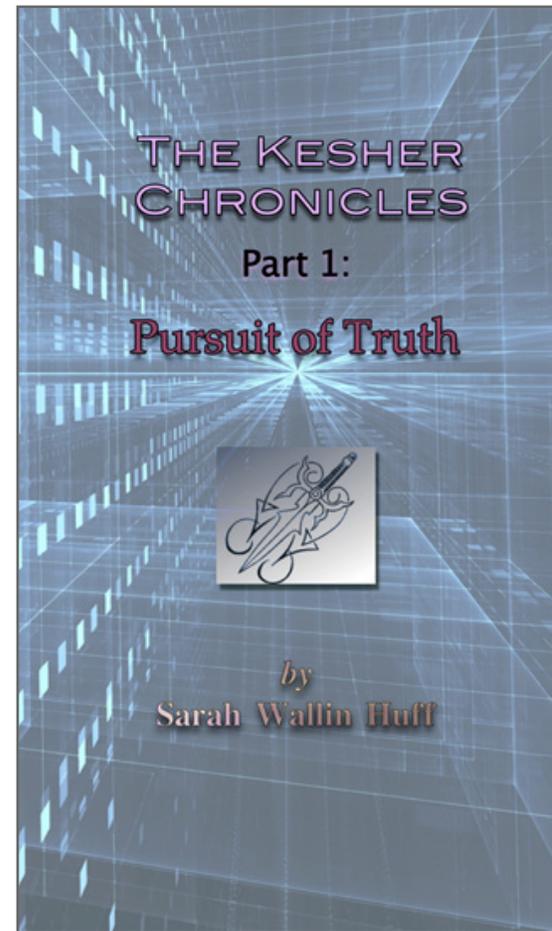
With a fascination for mythology and paranormal mysteries, Wallin Huff’s books create a descriptive and visual landscape with its own history and societal development (on the scale of Tolkien and Harry Potter) that give the reader a feeling of being a part of the fantasy world.

An epic, philosophical tale akin to “Blade Runner,” “Lord of the Rings,” or the work of Orson Scott Card, “The Kreshher Chronicles” Part 1 “Pursuit of Truth” takes place in the year 2241 in America’s vast midwest.

America has undergone a ‘century of tyranny,’ which has established such elements of societal control as Homestate Restriction laws and the Allowance-Level System.

Perhaps most dramatically, there now exists a new country with its own fully developed language and culture, that of the island of Artemisia.

Emerging from a history of corruption and war, the people of Artemisia are locked in a twisted maze of intrigue....Janice Smith, a twelve-year-old girl from Louisiana, is unwittingly thrust into the heart of this conflict when her mother is secretly targeted as a national threat. She embarks on a journey to preserve her own life from the government agents who pursue her and hopes all the while to find her mother alive at the end of it... and the seeds of deception take



root to forever haunt Janice’s future....

The book is now available for download in various e-book formats. Part 2 “Questions of Love” is finished and will be released next year, while Wallin Huff is currently working on Part 3 “Rivalry of Power”.

You can find out more, and find download links via your favorite retailer at <https://my.bookbaby.com/book/pursuit-of-truth>.

Sarah Wallin Huff is Professor of Composition and conductor of the Chamber Ensemble at The Master’s College in Santa Clarita. She lives in Santa Clarita with her husband Jim Huff, also a Cal Poly Pomona Music alum.