

**VONN VANIER**  
**DAWN**  
**Biography**

Vonn Vanier is a new American composer and pianist who – at the remarkable age of 17 – is making his recording debut with the album *Dawn*, a survey of his orchestral, chamber and solo piano works with Montclair Records.

In early childhood in San Francisco, Vanier received his primary musical training over five years as a member of the professional Grace Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, for which he composed a hymn the choir performed at his eighth-grade graduation ceremony – an experience that inspired him to immerse himself in the craft of composing.

Then, the trajectory of Vanier’s development became unique.

Composers typically incubate and develop in a structured music conservatory environment. Vanier did this largely by himself, and in one of the most spectacular and inspiring environments on the American continent. With his family’s move to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, he continued his studies alone during the COVID pandemic. A deep dive into textbooks about music theory, composition and repertoire – and an improvisational gift at the piano that he was also evolving – prepared him to begin seriously writing music.

In the summer of 2022, Vanier was invited to participate in the composition program of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute (B.U.T.I.), to which he returned in the following two summers. His education entered a new phase there, particularly under three mentors – Drs. Martin Amlin (Chair of Composition, B.U. School of Music), Len Tetta and Justin Casinghino.

This still-unfolding creative journey does not obscure the fact that Vonn Vanier, at 17, is also an affable, soccer-playing American teenager with a passion for math – unusually well-spoken and precise in talking about his work – whose musical interests also include jazz and salsa. As inspiration, he will cite in specific ways the masters in the pantheon of Western classical music, but he also has an affinity for the work of the Oscar-winning film composer Hans Zimmer.

For the recording of *Dawn*, the music of Vonn Vanier is performed by the Skywalker Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Daria Novo; Quartet San Francisco, Quinteto Latino; and pianist Brenda Vahur. In addition to these artists, his music has been performed or recorded by the New Fromm Quartet, Vento Chiaro Wind Quintet, Thomas Weaver, Dr. Jacquelen Matava, the Tanglewood Institute Young Artists Orchestra and the Grace Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys.

“In all the different pieces and different approaches that I’ve used,” Vonn Vanier says of his music on *Dawn*, “I’ve sought a middle ground between atonality – the style that might be considered intellectual or technical – and the popular side of Classical and Romantic music, even film music. I’ve taken influences from various traditions, and I hope I’ve found a way to create something novel that all audiences can enjoy and appreciate.”