

## Short Bios for Lucinda Lawrence and Robert Picklesimer

**Lucinda Lawrence** has written original music for musical theatre, the concert stage, modern dance productions and broadcast video documentaries of them, and contest venues. She has appeared as soloist on the major stages of Chicago and New York – Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center and Carnegie Hall – among others, and she has appeared as a vocalist and pianist on recordings.



She received an Illinois Arts Council grant award for her music composition while teaching on the faculty of the Dance Department at the University of Illinois (Music Director 1979-1988). She has served as resident artist, guest faculty, and/or collaborating artist at the University of Michigan, the University of California at Santa Cruz, the summer arts program at Stephens College/Perry-Mansfield in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, University of Iowa, Bennington (VT) College, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, the Middlebury (VT) College Electronic Music Studio, and Bowdoin (ME) College, among others.

Beginning in 1989, Lawrence served in the University of Illinois School of Music in administrator, organizer, and fund raiser/grants writer positions for ARTS2000, the UIUC Composers' Forum, and the UIUC Youth Opera Preparation and Education. From 1995 until retirement in 2012, she served as head of the UIUC Band Music Performance Library, administering the historically significant and largest band performance collection in the country, and teaching the course in Band Arranging. She now writes musical theatre works and pursues related activities.



**Robert Picklesimer** has run *The Creative Dramatics Workshop* in Sidney, Illinois, since 1996, producing more than 80 separate productions, primarily for and with children (through college age), and has written numerous plays and translations (including *Antigone*, *The Death of Christopher Columbus*, *Tut*, *the Boy King*, *Adams and Jefferson*, *Aunt Jenny* – the Oedipus cycle set in the backwoods of Kentucky – and William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*), as well as successfully directing numerous Shakespeare, Greek and Children's Plays to a contemporary audience (among them *Much Ado*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Lear*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, *Little Princess*, *Little Match Girl*, *The Hobbit*, *The Rivals*, *Diviners*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Lion In Winter*, *Andromache*, *Hecuba*, and *The Persians*). *Antigone* was turned into a film in 2005. He has acted in films and in over 80 plays (including *King Lear*, *Prospero*, *Henry* in *Lion in Winter*, and *Lucky* in *Godot*).

He was an Honors-at-Entrance Scholar at Rockford College, Illinois. He has advanced degrees in English and Theatre from Idaho State University, where he was twice nominated for a National Irene Ryan Acting Award. He managed the Summer Theatre Programs at Idaho State University, the *New Classical Theatre* at Parkland College, and for five years was a cohost of a weekly hour-long public affairs television show, *The Pocatello Video Herald*. His most recent ventures, with Lucinda Lawrence, are the non-partisan *1787 the Musical*, about writing the Constitution, and *A Light for the Little Match Girl*, another musical, adapting the classic tale with some different turns, and other tales involved.