

Christopher Stark (b. 1980, St. Ignatius, MT) is a composer of contemporary classical music deeply rooted in the American West. Having spent his formative years in rural western Montana, his music is always seeking to capture the expansive energy of this quintessential American landscape.

Stark, whose music *The New York Times* has called, "fetching and colorful," has been awarded prizes and commissions from organizations such as the Fromm Foundation at Harvard, Chamber Music America, the Orléans International Piano Competition, and ASCAP. Such ensembles as Alarm Will Sound, American Composers Orchestra, Arctic Philharmonic, Buffalo Philharmonic, Los Angeles Piano Quartet, Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble, Momenta Quartet, New Morse Code, FLUX Quartet, and the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble have performed his music. In 2012, he was a resident composer at Civitella Ranieri, a fifteenth-century castle in Umbria, Italy, and in June of 2016 he was awarded a residency at Copland House. Recent highlights included performances at the 2016 Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and at the Whitney Museum of American Art as part of the 2016 NY Phil Biennial. His score for the feature-length film, "Novitiate," premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January of 2017 and will be theatrically released later this year by Sony Pictures Classics.

Stark completed his doctorate at Cornell University where he studied with Roberto Sierra and Steven Stucky. He previously studied at the Cincinnati Conservatory and the University of Montana, and he is currently Assistant Professor of Music at Washington University in St. Louis. In the fall of 2017, he will be a Faculty Fellow at WashU's Center for the Humanities.