

# Joel Styzens

312-731-1803 • joel@relax-your-ears.com  
A-Sharp Records • Relax Your Ears  
Chicago, Illinois

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## Awards & selections:

- Academy Award nominated finalist 2015 - "Devil's Work" (Original music score by Joel Styzens)
- 'Official Selection' at the 2015 L.A. Film Festival - "Devil's Work" (Original music score by Joel Styzens)
- 'Top Honors' & in the running for 'Film of the year' / Columbia University Film Festival 2014, New York: "Devil's Work" (Original music score by Joel Styzens)
- First place winner for feature documentary / Athens Film Festival: "I Am A Visitor In Your World" (co-producer and composer)
- Second Place at the Bikefest, Bogotá, Colombia Film Festival 2014 (Bicycle Notes animation short, composer)
- Official Selection at Sound of Silent Film Festival - Chicago, IL 2014 (Bicycle Notes animation short, composer)
- Official Selection at the Festival de cine de Madrid - Spain 2014 (Bicycle Notes animation short, composer)
- Official Selection at the High Desert International Film Festival 2014 - Nevada U.S. (Bicycle Notes animation short, composer)
- Official Selection at the Lakino Kids Festival 2014 - Berlin, Germany (Bicycle Notes animation short, composer)
- Official Selection at the Bang Awards Film Festival 2014, Portugal (Bicycle Notes animation short, composer)
- Official Selection at the Festival del Cinema Veramente indipendente 2014 - Trevi, Roma (Bicycle Notes animation short, composer)
- Official Selection at the 2013 Woodstock Film Festival, New York: "I Am A Visitor In Your World" (film score)
- Chicago O'Hare International Airport 2011 Music Selection (*Relax Your Ears*)
- *Relax Your Ears* named Best Classical Pick and Top Seller by CD Baby, August 2010
- CD Baby's Editor's Pick & 5/5 Stars for 2009 release, *Relax Your Ears*
- Second place in the Indie International Songwriters Contest for "A-Sharp" (*Relax Your Ears*)
- *Relax Your Ears* selected by the American Tinnitus Association as first ever featured music album
- Talent Seekers International 2010 Award recipient in the 2009-2010 Top Music Award category
- *Relax Your Ears* official selection on Pandora Radio (2009)
- Bluman Group National Finalist (New York, 2004)
- Roger Shuller Jazz Award (Millikin University, 2003)

## Selected Radio features & Publications:

- NPR (National Public Radio) Interview & Music feature, 2012 – "Joel Styzens: A-Sharp" from TheStory.org / re-published/aired 2014
- *Soundtracking "Bicycle Notes," an animated digital short: Chicago Artist Resource feature 2014 (writer)*
- Music featured on Chicago's premiere classical radio station WFMT / 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
- Chicago Tribune: "Sounding the call for tinnitus sufferers" / Jan 12, 2011
- Time Out Chicago, 2010 Classical year in review: "A Classic Year" / Featured artist, Jan 2, 2011
- Time Out Chicago Magazine: "Tinnitus soldier" (Jun 12, 2010)
- American Tinnitus International Journal: A Music Teacher's Battle with Tinnitus and Hyperacusis / Apr 18, 2010
- National Music Examiner: "The Avatar: Joel Styzens turns painful noise into music" / Apr 2, 2010
- UK Hearing Times: "Music to your ears" / Feb 5, 2010

## Selected Recordings:

- *Resonance*: Joel Styzens, featuring cellist Sophie Webber [In progress.]
- Music from the film 'Devil's Work' / 2014 (composer)
- Music from the film 'I Am A Visitor In Your World' / 2013 (composer)
- *Lifeboats for Atlantis*: Heather Styka "#3 on the National Folk DJ Charts", October 2011 (producer, musician)
- *Relax Your Ears*: Joel Styzens (composer, guitarist) / featuring cellist Katinka Kleijn from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra / 2009 / re-released 2010/2011
- *Travel and Teacups*: Heather Styka (producer, studio musician)
- *Law of Attraction*: 56 Hope Road (drum programming)

- Radio Spot for 56 Hope Road & Chicago's Q101 Radio (producer/recording engineer)

### **Film / Commercial / Music Placement:**

- 'Devil's Work' / Political Thriller 2014/2015 – Original score (composer)
- 'The Elf and the Ornament' / Animation short for the Hallmark company (composer / sound design)
- 'Bicycle Notes' Animation short film (2013 / composer – music & sound effects) :: [www.bicyclenotes.com](http://www.bicyclenotes.com)
- Promo video: [www.cometry.org](http://www.cometry.org) (2013 / composer)
- 'I Am A Visitor In Your World' (2013 / composer) - Chicago International Film Festival winner Miguel Silveira [www.visitormovie.com](http://www.visitormovie.com)
- Best of the Best: The 2012 Third Coast Festival Broadcast (Joel Styzens. "A-Sharp" - Relax Your Ears.)
- RE: Sound [from the Third Coast Audio Festival], episode #138 The Running Show ("Viv" - Relax Your Ears)
- RE: Sound [Third Coast Audio], episode #138 ("For You" - Relax Your Ears) :: [www.thirdcoastfestival.org](http://www.thirdcoastfestival.org)
- 10 second open/closer sting for Check, Please TV (appeared on NBC-5 Chicago & [checkplease.tv](http://checkplease.tv))
- 30 second Latin sting (appeared on NBC-5 Chicago & [checkplease.tv](http://checkplease.tv))
- 30 second Middle Eastern sting, 30 second Asian sting, 30 second Italian sting, 30 second Eastern European sting, 30 second French sting (appeared on [checkplease.tv](http://checkplease.tv))
- Three forwards to CMH Records through A&R company, TAXI
- Percussion featured on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* (2008)

### **Selected performances:**

- Music Box Theater: Sound of Silent Film Festival / Live music performance with the animation short, 'Bicycle Notes' (April 2014)
- Chicago Botanic Gardens: Music on the Esplanade feat. Joel Styzens (Over capacity, 300+ - Aug. 6, 2013)
- Chicago Botanic Gardens: Morning Music series (August 6, 2013)
- Fused Muse Ensemble: Nichols Concert Hall, Music Institute of Chicago (March 26, 2013)
- "I Am A Visitor In Your World" at the Logan Theater (March 2013)
- WGN-TV Midday News: featured interview and live performance (Dec. 3, 2010)
- Chicago Public Radio: live performance and interview on Eight Forty-Eight (Jun. 11, 2010)
- Old Town School Concert Hall, 350+ in attendance (June 11, 2010)
- Evanston Space (August 17 and September 12, 2010)
- Green Mill: "Relax Your Ears" live (April 2010)
- Various live performances & interviews on Chicago's WFMT and WNUR "Airplay" and "Folk" radio shows
- Chicago Folk and Roots Festival (July 11, 2009)
- Various live performances at the Green Mill and T.V. performances, including Fox News, with Grammy Nominated Saxophonist Frank Catalano
- Performed with Grammy-nominated trumpeter Ron Haynes (from the Lenny Kravitz band)
- Featured at the 2003 International Percussive Arts Society convention, Millikin University Percussion Ensemble
- International Dominican Republic tour with the award winning Jazz group, One Voice (2003)
- International Dominican Republic tour with the Millikin University Wind Ensemble (2002)

### **Press Quotes:**

"Music that you feel down in your soul."

- **National Music Examiner**

"An exquisite debut album."

- **Time Out Chicago**

"From the moment I tuned into "A-Sharp," the first of 12 tracks, I haven't been able to shake the haunting, floating, and ethereal melodies. . . . [Styzens creates] simply beautiful, emotionally fragile, and diverse music that sinks in through the conscious into the subconscious and stay inside your soul."

- **Jazz Examiner**

"Is it contemporary classical music? Is it jazz? Is it Windham Hill? No, it's a unique combination of all of the above with sweet moments of guitar and soaring cello lines spiced up with complex rhythms

and harmonies. Styzens is clearly a skilled musician and an inventive composer.”

- **Victory Review** (Seattle, WA)

“Joel Styzens is a true master of sound. “Relax Your Ears” is a highly artistic work that contains many smallest nuances and it needs to be listened to very attentively. Joel Styzens' project gives you not only a state of relaxation, but a lot of moments of delight and pure listening pleasure.”

- **Serge Kozlovsky**, independent music critic (Minsk, Belarus)

“The combination of guitar and cello on these tracks is nothing less than hypnotic. Styzens and Kleijn create a rich soundscape that is filled with emotional content... You can feel the passion in the playing as the guitar and cello share the center stage... [T]he listener feels like waves of sound are washing over them, delivering sonic pleasure.”

- **Ambient Visions**