



**JOEL STYZENS** • Composer, Sound-designer, Multi-instrumentalist  
RelaxYourEars.com • JoelStyzens.com

**Press:** (from Joel Styzens' *Relax Your Ears*)

“An exquisite album.” **Time Out**

“Music that you feel down in your soul.” **National Music Examiner**

“Best of Classical” **CDBaby**

“5/5 Stars” & *Editor's Pick* **CDBaby**

“Joel Styzens is a true master of sound.” **Serge Kozlovsky, music critic** (Belarus)

“From the moment I tuned into 'A-Sharp,' 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.”

**National Jazz Examiner**

“...a unique combination of sweet moments of guitar and piano and soaring cello lines spiced up with complex rhythms and harmonies. Styzens is clearly a skilled musician and an inventive composer.” **Victory Review** (Seattle)

#### **Awards & Selections**

- ESS (Experimental Sound Studios) Artist in Residence winner, Chicago, IL
- Pandora Radio Official Album Selection (“Relax Your Ears”)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner in the Indie International Songwriting Contest (Instrumental category, “A-sharp.”)
- Chicago O'Hare International Airport 2011 Music Selection (“Relax Your Ears”)
- “Relax Your Ears” featured selection by the American Tinnitus Association
- Talent Seekers International 2010 Award recipient
- CD Baby's Editor's Pick & 5/5 Stars for “Relax Your Ears” (album) by Joel Styzens
- “Relax Your Ears” named Best Classical Pick & Top Album Seller by CD Baby

#### **Selected Radio features & publications**

- NPR music feature & Interview, 2014 & 2012 – “Joel Styzens: A-Sharp” from TheStory.org
- Soundtracking "Bicycle Notes," an animated digital short: Chicago Artist Resource feature 2014
- Featured on Chicago's premiere classical radio station WFMT – 2009/2010/2011/2012/2013/2014
- Chicago Tribune: "Sounding the call for tinnitus sufferers" - 2011
- Time Out Chicago, 2010 "A Classic Year," Featured artist - 2011
- Time Out Chicago Magazine: "Tinnitus soldier" - 2010
- ATA International Journal: A Music Teacher's Battle with Tinnitus and Hyperacusis - 2010
- National Music Examiner: "The Avatar: Joel Styzens turns painful noise into music" - 2010
- UK Hearing Times: "Music to your ears" - 2010

## **Film-music related**

- Shortlisted for an Academy-Award nomination 2015: “Devil's Work” (Score/Composer)
- 'Official Selection' Los Angeles Film Festival: “Devil's Work” (Score/Composer) 2015
- 'Top Honors' in 'Film of the year' / CU Film Festival 2014, NY: “Devil's Work” (Score)
- 1st place winner for feature documentary (Score) / Athens Film Festival: “I Am A Visitor In Your World”
- Official Selection, 2013 Woodstock Film Festival, NY: “I Am A Visitor In Your World” (Score)

'Bicycle Notes,' animation short-film (Music score & sound design)

- Second Place (music score) at the Bikefest, Bogotá, Colombia Film Festival 2014
- 2014 Official Selections: Sound of Silent Film Festival - Chicago, IL / Festival de cine de Madrid, Spain / High Desert International Film Festival, Nevada U.S. / Lakino Kids Festival, Berlin, Germany / Bang Awards Film Festival Portugal / Festival del Cinema Veramente indipendente 2014, Trevi, Roma