

Baltimore-based composer and conductor Justine Koontz uses music as a way of exploring identity. Her work, encompassing composing, conducting, entrepreneurship, teaching, and international scholarship, explores how music defines people.

As a composer, Justine writes primarily for choir and chamber ensembles in musical languages that are accessible yet diverse. Her compositions have been performed at national and international venues, most recently at the 2023 Saito Conducting Workshop in Saskatchewan and the 2019 London Festival of Contemporary Music. She was recently awarded first place in the Rocky Mountain Chamber Choir's inaugural composition competition. She self-publishes her compositions.

As a conductor, Justine's diverse interests in repertoire includes music by women, Baltic composers, and new works. She has premiered new works in Indianapolis and Eugene, Oregon. She has been Music Minister at Memorial Episcopal Church in Baltimore since 2018, and is the founder of the Program Choir of Baltimore.

Other musical activities have included international scholarship and teaching. Justine completed a year of study in Latvia on a Fulbright scholarship, where she researched the country's choral culture. She currently teaches a private studio of piano and guitar students of all ages.

Justine completed an M.M. in choral conducting and composition at Butler University and a B.A. in music theory and composition at McDaniel College. Since 2019 she has studied the Saito conducting method with Wayne Toews in Saskatoon. She is an active member of ASCAP and Chorus America. When she is not making music, she is usually engaged in fine craft, language study, or gardening.