

# Jonathon Roberts

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## Audio Production Lead

Highly skilled and passionate sound designer, supervising sound editor, engineer, and composer. Specialist in using audio to distill complex concepts, helping legendary storytellers realize their vision. Out-of-the-box thinker for new show development, special projects, and strategy shifts. Trusted people manager and team leader sensitive to the needs of collaboration.

## Areas of Expertise

Audio Production | Sound Design | Team Leadership | Project Management | Storytelling | Music Composition  
New Show Development | People Management | Coaching | Editorial Feedback | Product Innovation

## Professional Experience

**Spotify, Gimlet Media**, New York, NY

**February 2019 - March 2024**

### Audio Production Lead, Fiction Podcasts

Led team of audio engineers and sound designers for genre-defining fiction podcasts at Spotify serving their rise to become the top podcast platform. Developed shows, designs, and best practices to bring stories to life from revered writers and actors, collaborating with director Mimi O'Donnell and Gimlet's world-class audio professionals.

- Sound supervised and co-designed **Case 63**, starring Julianne Moore and Oscar Isaac. Spotify's first English adaptation of an international hit and first in-house podcast built in Dolby Atmos. Achieved #1 on Spotify.
- Sound supervised and co-designed **Quiet Part Loud**, helping Jordan Peele's Monkeypaw Productions define the world of their first horror podcast. A sound-rich production starring Tracy Letts and a celebrated cast, made possible by recording entirely remotely over the pandemic. Achieved #1 on Spotify.
- Sound designed, mixed, and music directed seasons 2-3 of **The Two Princes** starring Noah Galvin, Ari'el Stachel, Cynthia Erivo, Samira Wiley, directed by Mimi O'Donnell. Adaptation with HBO in talks.
- Additional works: *Motherhacker* (Carrie Coon), *Gay Pride & Prejudice* (Jesse Tyler Ferguson), *Red Frontier*, *Final Chapters of Richard Brown Winters* (Eli Horowitz), mix reviews for *The Riddler* (DC), editorial support and 100+ kid interviews for *Story Pirates*, and mixing on 300+ episodes of *Chompers*.
- Managed direct reports and trained team members, reviewing their work, and offering consistent and reliable feedback and coaching, serving both their personal growth and company goals.
- Special project leader: Assembled cross-functional dream team exploring new uses of AI in audio for Hack Week, defined fiction audio production lead role, developed best practices production guide, participated in multiple hiring processes, spearheaded ad music creation project; each task solving a specific team problem.

**High 5 Games**, New York, NY

**2009-2010 (contractor), 2013-2017**

### Composer and Sound Designer

Composed imaginative scores and sound designs for 60+ online and land-based video slot machines for High 5 Games, helping them become an industry-leader and innovator in gaming.

- Collaborated with animators, programmers, art directors, and mathematicians to create fast-turnaround, high-quality products that engaged a passionate fan base.
- Elevated the sound of gambling products with scores featuring live instruments, operatic and flamenco vocalists, jazz and rock virtuosos, and chamber ensembles to make High 5 Games truly unique.
- Meticulously maintained vast database of sound assets across games and apps so in-house collaborators could focus on being their creative best.

## **Independent Audio Production Work & Consulting**

**2005 – 2023**

Imaginative creator, versatile composer, and ego-free collaborator that helps artists realize their creative goals to entertain and inform audiences.

- Elevated the sound design for writer/actor Jacob Storms' *Tennessee Rising*, a Tennessee Williams theatrical biography, bringing it from its 2022 United Solo Award win to the Edinburgh Fringe. Director: Alan Cumming.
- Created the theme for *Mystery Recipe*, supporting the launch of America's Test Kitchen's first kids podcast.
- Co-starred as the keyboardist for *Renaldo The*, NYC absurdist music and theatre troupe led by Aldo Perez, a late-night institution at NYC's iconic Living Room from 2007-2013.
- Composed 140+ original compositions and four albums across classical, jazz, pop, and theater, forming positive relationships with dozens of artists.
- Created *ComposerDad* podcast, an independent kids and family podcast and YouTube series, establishing a cohesive vision that delighted family audiences for two seasons.
- Facilitated multiple successful tours of chamber pop music and small theatre productions across the US, serving new audiences in unlikely places.

**Spark and Echo Arts, New York, NY**

**2010 - 2017, 2022 - Present**

### **Co-Founder and Executive Director (2010-2017), Volunteer Board President (Current)**

Conceived, established, and communicated the vision for long-running NYC nonprofit that has commissioned hundreds of diverse artists worldwide, creating new works in response to 4K+ verses of the Bible.

- Crafted mission and vision, by-laws and board structure, and secured 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, setting up the processes that maintain a healthy nonprofit for future generations.
- Established partnerships and relationships with donors, funders, volunteers, and arts organizations across the US, giving them opportunities to champion amazing art and artists in this project.

## **Education**

**Lawrence University, Appleton, WI**

Bachelor of Music, Music Composition (cum laude)

Bachelor of Arts, Theatre Arts (cum laude)

## **Professional Development**

**Video Game Audio Course**, Berklee Music Online, 2024

**Leadership@Spotify Course**, 2023

**LLM Ai Prompting Techniques for RnD**, Spotify, 2023

**Dolby Atmos Certification**, Avid, 2022

**Management@Spotify Course**, 2022

**Mixing & Mastering Courses**, Berklee Music Online, 2016

## **Technical Skills**

ProTools, Logic Pro, iZotope RX, Dolby Atmos, Altered AI, LLM prompting techniques, Unity, FMOD, Final Cut Pro, Google Suite, Salesforce, Asana