

# CONRAD ASKLAND

Music Producer and Composer

+1 360-770-3719 | caskland@gmail.com | linkedin.com/in/askland | conradaskland.com

## PROFILE

---

- Music producer, composer, and music director with 35+ years of experience specializing in live touring shows, musical theatre, and recording.
- A rare all-in-one show-music capability — composes and produces original scores, delivers finished, performance-ready tracks, can build the show in Ableton Live, and can operate the interactive soundtrack live — composer, music director, and show-control operator in one person.
- Led three Cirque du Soleil productions with global tours reaching audiences over four million — across the U.S., Canada, Europe, South America, Asia, and Oceania (Australia / New Zealand).
- Composer, orchestrator & bookwriter of original musicals with sold-out world premieres.
- Expert in Ableton Live show control, cue integration, and reducing show-stop errors.
- Calm, centered, and trusted music director who cultivates cultures that support artists and seamless performances.
- Four years resident in Macau, China, with extensive Asia-Pacific touring and performance across China, Japan, Okinawa, and South Korea.

## EDUCATION

---

Master of Arts Leadership and Cultural Management — Colorado State University

Bachelor of Arts, Music Performance — Berklee College of Music

Ableton Live Professional Certification — Berklee College of Music

## SHOW MUSIC — FROM COMPOSITION TO LIVE PERFORMANCE

---

- End-to-end command of show music in a single person: composes and produces original material, prepares and builds it in Ableton Live, and can operate the interactive soundtrack live on tour — composer, music director, and show-control operator combined.
- Delivers finished, performance-ready tracks and stems through the full production pipeline — writing, recording, editing, and mix-ready delivery — rather than sketches handed off for others to finish.

## CIRQUE DU SOLEIL & LARGE-SCALE LIVE PRODUCTION

---

### **Cirque du Soleil — CRYSTAL World Tour**

2022–2025

*Bandleader, Keyboards, Accordion & Ableton Live Specialist — Global*

- Music direction for Cirque du Soleil's first ice production, an arena world tour across five continents reaching audiences exceeding three million.
- Managed all Ableton Live programming, integrated new acts, and ensured seamless nightly playback and cue execution; led the live band on keyboards and accordion.

### **Cirque du Soleil — VAREKAI World Tour**

2017

*Bandleader, Keyboards & Ableton Live Specialist — 17 European countries*

- Re-engineered the Ableton Live show file, reducing playback errors from approximately 15% to under 2% for consistently reliable performances.
- Directed the musicians and worked closely with the artistic director and stage managers to integrate new acts.

### **Cirque du Soleil — ZAIA, Macau (SAR), China**

2008–2012

*Bandleader, Key 1, Accordion & Ableton Live Programmer*

- Led the band and an 8-member international ensemble of musicians and singers across 1,200+ performances of this resident Cirque production; performed on keyboards and accordion.
- Adapted and prepared the show's music in Ableton Live in close collaboration with composer Violaine Corradi, and oversaw all show programming and system maintenance.

- Transcribed Corradi's string arrangements for the official ZAIA soundtrack, recorded with members of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.

## MUSIC DIRECTION & CONDUCTING — THEATRE & TOURING

---

**Burn the Floor** 2014–2017

*Music Supervisor — NCL, New York*

- Music Supervisor for the international Broadway dance production Burn the Floor; oversaw nightly music performance, show quality, and reliability.

**Rock of Ages** 2014–2017

*Music Supervisor — NCL, New York*

- Conducted the live band nightly with click-track integration for the Broadway production Rock of Ages.
- Ran vocal rehearsals and warmups and maintained nightly show quality; drove weekly show improvements and reported show status to the corporate office.

**Mamma Mia & Sideshow** 2018–2019

*Conductor, Music Director & Vocal Director — Regional Theatre, Seattle, WA*

**Regional Theatre — Conductor, Music Director & Vocal Director** 2006–2008  
*Seattle, WA*

- Conductor, Music Director, and Vocal Director for Brigadoon, Annie Get Your Gun, Rocky Horror Show, Bye Bye Birdie, Disney's High School Musical, and Seussical.

## ORIGINAL STAGE WORKS — COMPOSER, ORCHESTRATOR, BOOKWRITER & CONDUCTOR

---

*Original musicals world-premiered at The Historic Lincoln Theatre.*

**PAN** 2013 & 2025

**PTGA** 2019

*Sold-out, record-setting run*

**Romeo & Juliet** 2015

*Score set to Shakespeare's text*

**Witches** 2012

**Bram Stoker's Dracula** 2007

*Composer — main theme and original underscores*

## RECORDING & PRODUCTION

---

**Road Records — Studio Manager, Producer, Arranger & Audio Engineer** 1989–2005

*Southern California*

- Grew the studio across hundreds of album projects; oversaw audio engineering, MIDI programming, and sound design for clients including PBS and GTE.

**Music Producer** 2006–Present

*Freelance · Greater Seattle Area*

- Writing and producing for catalog and artists generating 1.6 billion+ streams.

## PERFORMANCE — PIANO & KEYBOARDS

---

**Touring Keyboardist — Freddy Fender (Grammy winner, Texas Tornados)** 1997–2004

*U.S., Europe & Okinawa*

- Appearances including the Grand Ole Opry and the American Latin Music Awards (NBC).

**Hollywood Superstars**

1995–1997

*Music Director, Arranger & Keyboardist — Las Vegas, Reno & Japan tour***Solo Pianist — Shanghai Music Festival**

2003

*Performing for the Sejung Piano Company — Shanghai, China***Pianist — Calico Saloon & Birdcage Theater, Knott's Berry Farm**

1994–1997

**SKILLS & EXPERTISE**

---

**Music Direction & Conducting:** live touring & resident shows, band/ensemble leadership, rehearsal management, cross-department show collaboration**Show Control & Playback:** Ableton Live programming, timecode/MIDI cue integration, redundancy workflows, show reliability & error reduction, lighting/automation sync**Audio Production & Recording:** Ableton Live, Pro Tools, Cubase, Dorico, multitrack recording**Instruments:** piano / keyboards, accordion**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

---

Pro Tools 110 Certification — Avid

Dorico, Cubase &amp; Film Scoring — Berklee College of Music (2025)

Film Scoring — UCLA Extension

Copyright Law — University of Miami

"The Beauty of Kunqu Opera" (Chinese classical opera) — Coursera