

**INTRODUCING
MICHAEL D. GOLDEN, D.M.A.
PROFESSOR OF MUSIC COMPOSITION AND THEORY**

Michael D. Golden joined Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo as professor of music composition and theory in August 1998.

“Coming to Soka was simply the opportunity of a lifetime for me,” Michael says. “To feel responsible to reply to the expectations of so many people around the world can be overwhelming, but a truly worthwhile challenge. For most academics, the chance to help design and develop from scratch a curriculum including creative arts programs for the coming century remains just a dream.”

Michael came to SUA, AV from Marshall University in West Virginia where he was associate professor of music for three years, teaching and developing courses in music composition, theory, computer music, world music and jazz piano. Prior to that experience, he was visiting assistant professor at Colby College in Maine for two years.

“I had great experiences, great colleagues and great students at my previous institutions,” Michael comments, “but the amazing people I get to work with here, the commitment and dedication they have to serve the student first, as well as the focus of the curriculum on providing, as Mr. Ikeda describes it, ‘the intellectual basis for the realization of peace,’ are what make SUA so exciting to me.”

Michael received his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Washington in 1992 and his Bachelor’s of Music and Master’s of Music degrees from the University of Oregon. He studied music composition with William Bergsma, Diane Thome, William O. Smith, Tomas Svoboda and Monte Tubb, as well as music theory with Jonathan Bernard.

Michael’s work has received national and international commissions, awards, publication, recordings and performances. He has composed solo and chamber ensemble pieces, large ensemble works and pieces for jazz ensembles of all sizes, as well as works for computer, live electronics, multimedia, film, video and theatre productions.

“For me,” he notes, “the work of creating music both includes and goes beyond expanding knowledge and technical skills. It is rather a way of connecting to the deepest levels of my own life and the lives of others, and this is the experience I hope my students can enjoy as well.”

Prospective students who may have questions for Michael may contact him at golden@soka.edu or by calling (888) 600-SOKA.