

James Borchers

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Music Composition and Theory, Brandeis University (2012)

Thesis: *The Transcendence of Timbre: Timbre and Spatialization in Jonathan Harvey's Bhakti*

Composition: *Zodiacal Light*, for string quartet, percussion quartet and electronics

Committee: David Rakowski, Yu Hui Chang, Allan Keiler, and John Mallia

M.A., Music Composition, Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens College, City University of New York (2005)

M.A., Music Performance, Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens College, City University of New York (2003)

B.M., Music Performance, University of Nebraska at Omaha (2001)

Private Teachers

- Composition: Martin Boykan, Yu-Hui Chang, Eric Chasalow, Thea Musgrave, Jeff Nichols, Menachem Zur, and Ken Bales
- Percussion: Mike Lipsey, Ganesh Kumar (Kanjira), Samir Chatterjee (Tabla), Tomm Roland, and Steve Raybine
- Other: Jean Meltaus (Piano) and Hadley Heavin (Guitar)

Additional Coursework

- German Language, Tufts University, Medford, MA (2010/11)
- *Film Scoring*, New School University, New York City (Spring 2005)
- *Audio Recording* (3 semesters), Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE (1996-97)
- *Abstract painting, Oil painting*, Mark Miller School of Art, Seattle, WA (2019)

TEACHING

Digipen Institute of Technology, Redmond, WA (Fall 2016 to present)

- Instructor: *World Music, Music for Film and Games Masterclass, Sound Design*

Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon, WA (Winter Quarter 2016 to present)

- Instructor of Guitar, *Class Guitar*, Private Lessons
- Music Technology (Curriculum Development)

Seattle University, Seattle, WA (summer 2015) ELLC Program

- Instructor: Music, Language, and Cultural Emersion
- Activities Coordinator

Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY (2013-14)

- Lecturer: *World Music Survey, Introduction to Music Theory*

Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA (2012-2013)

- Instructor: Percussion, Private Lessons
- Director: Percussion Ensemble
- Orchestral Percussion Coach, Faculty performer

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA (2006 – 2010)

- Instructor: *Music in the Age of New Media*
- Teaching Fellow: *Modernism in Music, Music Fundamentals, Ear Training/Sight Singing*

Middlesex Community College, Bedford, MA (2007- 2011)

- Instructor: *Introduction to Music Technology, Percussion Methods, Independent Study in Percussion, Class Piano*
- Substitute Instructor: *Music Technology, Class Piano*
- Music Technology Lab Supervisor
- Faculty performer, Conductor for student concerts

Invited Lectures

- Artist Talk, DXARTS Music Technology Workshop, Jack Straw Center, Seattle, WA (May 9th, 2016)
- Artist Talk, Department of Music, University of Washington, Seattle, WA (May 6th, 2016)
- Artist Talk, Jack Straw Cultural Center, Seattle, WA (April 22nd, 2016)
- “Survey of Sound Art,” Department of Art and Architecture, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY (April 2014)
- Artist Talk, Music Department, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY (April 2014),
- Artist Talk, DigiPen Institute of Technology, Redmond, WA (Dec 2013)
- “Counterpoint,” DigiPen Institute of Technology, Redmond, WA (Dec 2013)
- “Composers and the Environment,” Environmental Studies Program, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA (Nov 2011)

Additional Teaching Assignments

- Associated Recreation Council – Seattle Parks and Rec., Drumming Class (Feb. 2017 to present)
- Jack Straw Cultural Center, Blind Youth Workshop Program (May-July 2016)
- Sound Formation, Rhythm and Percussion Classes Seattle, WA: Music Enrichment classes for Seattle Public and Private Schools: View Ridge Elementary, Olympic View Elementary, The Meridian School (December 2015- present)
- Henderson Academy of Music, Seattle, WA: Private Instruction in Piano, Guitar, Percussion, Music Composition (August 2015- present)
- Halfnote Music Studio, Bellevue, WA: Piano, Guitar, Percussion (July 2015- Jan. 2016)
- Braselton’s Music, Marion, NY: Guitar, Piano, Percussion, Music Technology (June 2014-May 2015)
- Rhapsody Music and Art Center, Hopedale, MA: Guitar and Piano (2007-08)
- Musicscool, Londonderry, NH: Drumset/Percussion (2006-07)
- Channel Surfing After-School Program, Malden, MA: Group Leader (2006-07)
- Cambria Center for the Gifted Child, Queens, NY: Music Teacher/ Percussion (2002-06)
- PS 181, Queens, NY: General Music Instructor, 2nd and 3rd grades (Summer 2004)
- Portraits Project, Brooklyn, NY: Music Mentor, Group Instructor, assisting at risk youth in creating mixed media compositions involving theater, poetry, brass, and percussion (2002-05)

Leadership and Service

- **Juror/Panelist** (Oct. 2016) Office of Arts and Culture 2017 *CityArtists Program* Grants for Dance,

Music, Theater in Seattle, WA

- **Director, New Music Brandeis Concert Series** (2008-10). Duties include contracting professional musicians, arranging rehearsal schedules, marketing and promotion of concert events, writing of grant proposals to secure funding for professional ensemble concerts and resident artists.
- **Assistant Director, Brandeis Electro-Acoustic Music Studio (BEAMS)** (2009-10)
- **President, Graduate Composers Organization**, Queens College (2003-2005)

TECHNOLOGY EXPERIENCE

- Digipen Institute of Technology - Game Team Contributor: Audio Lead – *Crossroads* (interactive VR May 2020*) *Aapo and Soona* (2 player split screen console), Composer/Sound Designer - *Forrest Temple* (VR), *Me Myself and I* (side scroll) (2016 – 2020)
- Sound Technician, American Century Music, ACM Ensemble (2012)
- Music Technology Coordinator, BIMA Summer Arts Program at Brandeis University (2012)
Responsible for all technology needs of the program including: recording for sessions and live concerts, assembly of sound installations, coordination of the tech needs of incoming professional artists in theater, dance, and music.
- Music Technology Lab Supervisor, Middlesex Community College (2007-2011). Duties include maintaining lab computers and software, helping students during lab hours (Software used: Finale, Sonar, Reason, Sony Acid, Adobe Audition)
- Co-organizer, Annual BEAMS Electronic Music Marathon Concert (2008-2010).
- Co-organizer, Concert and Masterclass featuring Charles Dodge, Brandeis University (2009)
- Software Proficiency: Max/MSP Jitter, Pro Tools, Adobe Audition, Logic, Native Instruments (Reaktor, Absynth, etc.), Sibelius, Finale, Audiokinetic Wwise
- Additional Software Experience: Csound, Final Cut, Adobe Premier Pro, Audio Sculpt, Openmusic, Supercollider, Digital Performer, Ableton, FMOD, Unreal
- Coding: Csound, Arduino, (basic level) HTML, Javascript
- Technical Experience: Sound Board Operator for concerts, set-up of multi-channel systems, setup of “sound art” pieces for gallery presentation, construction of Pizeo sensors (contact mic), Arduino software and hardware programing and development
- Radio: DJ for *Classical 90.7 KVNO* in Omaha, NE (1998-2000)

COMMISSIONS, FELLOWSHIPS, RESIDENCIES, AND AWARDS

Commissions

- Seattle Modern Orchestra, new work for ensemble and interactive installation (2018)
- Luke Fitzpatrick, new piece for violin and computer (*2018)
- William Karpf, new piece for baritone sax and computer (2016)
- Matt Sharock, new piece for marimba and computer (2015)
- Transient Canvas, *Orbitals* for marimba and bass clarinet, Boston premier (2014)
- Dinosaur Annex New Music Ensemble, *Narrow Apogee* for viola and flute (2013)
- Abigail Fisher, *Secretum* for mezzo-soprano and electronics (2008)

Fellowships and Residencies

- Oxbow Gallery, Artist in Residence, Seattle, WA (spring 2018)
- Jack Straw Cultural Center, New Media Residency and Solo Exhibition, Seattle, WA (spring 2016)
- Atlantic Center for the Arts, Associate Artist in Residence, New Smyrna Beach, FL (2013)

- Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Nebraska City, Nebraska (2010)
- Tanglewood Music Center, Composition Fellow (2009)
Teachers: Michael Gandolfi, John Harbison, Augusta Read Thomas
- Wellesley Composers Conference, Composition Fellow (2008)
Teachers: Mario Davidovsky, Stephen Jaffe, Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon
- Chamber Music Institute, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Composition Fellow (2006)
- American Opera Projects, *Composer and the Voice* Composition Fellow, Brooklyn, NY (2005/06)

Awards

- 4Culture Artist Grant, King County, WA (2017)
- Mellon Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (2011-12)
- ASCAP Plus Award (2012)
- Max Kade International Travel Grant, Brandeis University (2010)
- American Academy of Arts and Letters Award Nominee (2008, 2009, 2010)
- George Perle Award for Composition, CUNY (2005)
- Karol Rathaus Award for Composition, CUNY (2004)
- Herbert Sukoff Memorial Award for Composition, CUNY (2003)

Selective Workshops, Projects, and Summer Programs

- Vancouver Intercultural Orchestra Academy, Vancouver, BC (2017)
Composer: Farshid Samandari
- Sound Travels Intensive Workshop, New Adventures in Sound Art, Toronto, Ontario (2013)
Teachers: Barry Truax, Darren Copeland
- Composing Interactive Multimedia, CMMAS, Morelia, Mexico (2010)
Teachers: Ken Ueno, Kevin Patton
- Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium with Martin Bresnik and Lisa Moore, Eugene, OR (2007)
- Composer and Choreographer collaboration program at the University Chichester, England (2001)
- ASCAP's *Making Score* program working with Lisa Bielawa and the New York Youth Symphony (2001-02)
- *Beowulf* with Reverie Production Company, composed songs and incidental music, New York City (2003 & 2009)
- Music for the short film *Dolores* by Christopher Young, screening in New York City (2005)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN WORKS

- "Between Experimental Music and Sound Art." Article-in-progress.
- "Spatialization as Musical Discourse." Article-in-progress.
- *Talking Drum*. 40th Annual International Computer Music Conference / Sound and Music Computing Conference, Athens, Greece (Sept 2014)
- Electronic Music Midwest festival, (Kansas City, MO, June 2013)
- New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, (NYC April, 2013& June 2010)
- *The Transcendence of Timbre: Timbre and Spatialization in Jonathan Harvey's Bhakti*. Doctoral Dissertation (Brandeis University, 2012). Available through ProQuest.
- Interview with *The Justice* on ICE Residency (Brandeis University, January 2010)
- "Analysis of Hans Werner Henze's Five Scenes from the Snow Country." Masters Thesis (Queens College, 2015)

PERCUSSION/MUSICIAN PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Orchestras, Music Programs, and Arts Organizations

- Bang on a Can Marathon (2004)
- Ballet Hispanico
- Storm King Music Festival (2003)
- Chamber Music Live at LeFrak Concert Hall
- Collaborative Arts Project 21
- Chezzam Entertainment Performing Arts
- Son of the Good Earth Gamelan
- Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra (principal)
- Musica Bella Orchestra of New York
- New Amsterdam Orchestra (section perc.)
- Faculty Recitals at Middlesex Community College and Mount Holyoke College

Musical Theater Pit Orchestra (primarily in New York City, off Broadway, 2001-05)

On the Town, Sweeny Todd, Blood Brothers, Forbidden Fruit, Charlie Brown, Pal Joey, Annie, Nunsense, Funny Girl, Grease, Fiddler on the Roof, Willie Wonka, La Cage Aux Folles, Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat, The King and I

Rock/ Pop Music

- Recording and performing with Boston-based singer/songwriter Audrey Ryan (Folkwit Records, 2006-2011). Performances throughout the United States, including at festivals such as at South by Southwest.
- Recording with Boston-based folk/rock quartet *Gretel* (Independent release, 2008)
- Performances with Omaha-based rock band *Strange Pleasures* (2001)
- Member of Omaha-based rock/improv group *Uncle Sid's Music Farm* (1996-98)

Experimental/ Improvisation

- Co-Founder and Performer at *Altaira* new music ensemble, Boston, MA (2007)
- Performer with Seattle Modern Orchestra, Seattle, WA (2019)

Professional Affiliations

American Composers Forum, Society for Electro-Acoustic Music US, International Computer Music Association

WORKS LIST AND SELECTED PERFORMANCES

Chamber Music

Orbitals - marimba and bass clarinet (2014) *commission by Transient Canvas

- Davis Square Theater, Somerville, MA - June 2014

Sextet - percussion ensemble (2013)

- Chapin Auditorium, Mount Holyoke College: MHC Percussion Ensemble - May 2013

Narrow Apogee - flute and viola (2012) *commission by Dinosaur Annex

- Goethe Institute, Boston, MA - October 2012. Reviewed on *NewMusicBox*.

Xibalba - percussion quartet (2012)

- Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University: Talujon Percussion Quartet - March 2012
- Slosberg Hall, Brandeis University: Talujon Percussion Quartet - March 2012
- Day of Percussion Festival, University of Nebraska, Omaha: Talujon Percussion Quartet - April 2012

Weeping Water - violin and piano (2010)

- Sofia, Bulgaria: Biliana Voutchkova (violin), Sarah Bob (piano) - October 2010
- BKA Theater, Berlin, Germany: Biliana Voutchkova, Sarah Bob - October 2010

Serenade - violin and piano (2009)

- Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood Music Festival, Lenox, MA - July 2009

Images - string quartet, 2 pianos, and percussion (2009)

- Slosberg Hall, Brandeis University - May 2009

Pleades - open/mixed instrumentation (2008)

- Carver Gallery, Omaha, NE - October 2013. Reviewed on *ArtPlaceAmerica* and Rebuild Foundation/Bemis Center blog
- Slosberg Hall, Brandeis University - May 2008

Among momentary days - solo piano (2007)

- Slosberg Hall, Brandeis University - May 2007
- Oregon Bach Festival (reading), Eugene, OR - July 2007

Mirador - chamber orchestra (2008)

- Wellesley Composers Conference - July 2008

Addressless letter - solo violin (2007)

- Lilly Pad, Cambridge, MA: Yohanan Chendler - January 2013
- Berlin, Germany: Biliana Voutchkova - Fall 2008
- Slosberg Hall, Brandeis University: Biliana Voutchkova - May 2008

Winter dreams the same dream - cello, piano, percussion (2007)

- Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood - July 2009
- Slosberg Hall, Brandeis University - December 2007

Quintet (for wind instruments) - flute, clarinet, oboe, horn, bassoon (2005)

- St. Marks Church, NYC: Sospiro Winds - April 2007

3 pieces - 3 double basses (2005)

- LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College - 2005

Aradia - flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, percussion (2004)

- LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College: ICE Ensemble - May, 2004

Autumn echo spiral - flute, clarinet, oboe, violin, cello, bass, harp, piano, 2 percussion (2004)

- LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College - 2004

Cipher - for clarinet solo (2004)

- LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College - 2004

Lapis Lazuli - flute and marimba (2003)

- LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College - 2003
- Recorded by Clair Chase (flute) and Adam Sliwinski (marimba) - 2004

Masks - 2 sopranos, 2 violins, viola, cello, bass, guitar, piano, percussion (2003)

- LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College - 2003

Red Chamber - flute, piano, percussion (2002)

Waiting - chamber orchestra (2002)

- Weill Hall (at Carnegie Hall), NYC: New York Youth Symphony

Yuwipi - flute and 2 percussion (2001)

Descent of outer darkness - flute, clarinet, horn, mandolin, guitar, piano, 3 percussion, violin, cello, bass (2001)

Aphelion - cello and marimba (2001)

Rapture of the deep - percussion solo (2001)

Chamber Music with Electronics

Resonantia – for cello, 3 percussion, computer

- Jack Straw Cultural Center, Seattle, WA- (June 10th 2016)

Talking Drum- frame drum and computer (2013)

- ICMC/SMC Conference, Athens, Greece - September 2014
- Electronic Music Midwest Festival, Kansas City - October 2013
- Galapagos Art Space, New York Festival of Electroacoustic Music - April 2013
- BEAMS electronic music marathon, Brandeis University - April 2013

Zodiacal Light – string quartet, percussion quartet, electronic sound (2012)

- Slosberg Hall, Brandeis University: Lydian String Quartet – December 2012

Adrastea - flute, trumpet, cello, electric bass, 2 percussion, electronic sound (2011)

- Slosberg Hall, Brandeis University - May 2011

God Particles - flute, clarinet, guitar, piano, percussion, electronic sound (2010)

- Slosberg Hall, Brandeis University: International Contemporary Ensemble - January 2010

Composed Improvisation - tabla and Max/MSP (2010)

- BEAMS Marathon, Brandeis University – Spring 2010

Ravens - string quartet and electronics (2007)

- University of Nebraska, Lincoln: Ebony String Quartet - 2006

Vairocana - flute, trumpet and tape (2005)

- Amsterdam, Netherlands - 2005

Fractures - percussion and tape (2003)

- New York University - Spring 2003

Electronic Works

Stellar Wind - 8 channel fixed media (2012)

Nothing - fixed media, video, electronic sound (2010)

- Centro Mexicano para la Música y las Artes Sonoras (CMMAS), Morelia, Mexico - Summer 2010
- First Thursday Open Studios, Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Nebraska City, NE – August 2010

Stand Up - 2 channel fixed media, sampled and electronic sound (2007)

- Slosberg Hall, Brandeis University - 2007

Walking in the rain - 2 channel fixed media, sampled and electronic sound (2010)

Awareness - 2 channel fixed media, sampled and electronic sound (2007)

Sound Art/Installation

I am the shadow of the image of my person

- Oxbow Gallery, Seattle, WA (May 4th to June 3rd 2018))

Obeictum Resonare

- New Media Gallery at Jack Straw Cultural Center, Seattle, WA (April 8th to June 10th 2016))

Crosscurrents – Interactive sound installation, reservoir of water, camera, Max/MSP (2014)

- Left Bank Gallery, Geneva, NY - May 2014

Other Spaces – Interactive sound environment, contact sensors, 8 channels, displaced speakers (2007)

- Brandeis University - April 2007

Vocal Works

Secretum - soprano and electronics (2008)

- BEAMS Marathon, Brandeis University: Abigail Fischer (vocal) - 2008

(All of the following songs presented by American Opera Projects, Brooklyn, NY - 2005/2006)

That pass between the false dawn and the true - soprano and piano (2006)

Old Song - Baritone and piano (2006)

Autumn Refrain - Tenor and piano (2006)

Under the harvest moon - Mezzo-soprano and piano (2006)

Winter Twilight - Bass and piano (2006)

Christmas Day - chamber opera in 3 parts (2007)

- Workshop performance with American Opera Projects- Brooklyn, New York, (October 2007)

Full Orchestra

- ***The Edge of Forever*** (2014/15)
- ***Mirador*** - Orchestral Version (2012)

Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Projects

“26 years: 1 week: 72 hrs” - score for short film, collaboration with film maker John Hulsey (2010)

- New York City Festival of Electroacoustic Music - 2010

Beowulf - music for a theatrical production of Beowulf (produced in NYC 2003-2009)

Dolores - music for short film by Artist Christopher Young (2005)

Murmurs - for mixed chamber ensemble, dancers, video projection (2001)

- Chichester University, Chichester, England - Summer 2001