

“...sounds of nature. At times...the craggy power of tectonic plates shifting deep in the earth before an earthquake. Then it's the rustle of the wind through birches. Next you're inside the eye of a hurricane or hearing groans from the depths of the ocean.”

-John Ziegler, Duluth News-Tribune

"the journey of a bird...a winged instrument"

"unbelievably beautiful...sounds like whales"

"a beautiful, poignant exploration of the world"

"mystical possession...cave drawings"

"abstract expressionist... sound paintings..."

"meditative, moving...I was transfixed"

-Quotes from listeners

Current Work

In my work as a cellist / composer, I blend genres and cross-media inspirations (sound installations, sound canvases, collage) to create richly textured, soulful musical journeys. I delve into my instrument's rich textural and tonal range to produce a full continuum of sound. I love to range across the "infinite between", the continuous pitch space of my fretless instrument and then to settle back into sparse, more discrete tonal palettes. I love to explore my bow's ability to produce everything from raw, edgy sounds to more pure, classical tones. I embrace non-traditional performance spaces, integrating the physical environment and the listener into my live performance.

As a composer I blend acoustic and electronic sound with chance and generative/organic forms to create sparse, minimalist spaces to dense, orchestral landscapes. I often work with found sound or with "created found sound", eliciting sound samples from my cello and other musicians. I seek to facilitate the creative flow experience; to build a canvas for imaginative dreaming, deep listening, meditation, vision journeys.

In collaborative work I specialize in "deep listening" / free-style improvisation. My regular collaborations include Wildwood River (with poet Sheila Packa) and The Cosmic Pit Orchestra (with Richie Townsend - electric guitar). Other collaborations include original music composed/performed for various experimental theater, dance, and art projects, accompaniment for spoken word (poetry, lectures, story, sermons, and guided meditations) and guest appearances in diverse musical groups (folk, blues, rock, rap, metal, ambient, techno, jazz, and free improvisation).

Classical music background

Before moving into more experimental territory I trained as a classical cellist. I studied privately with Minnesota Orchestra cellists Anthony Elliot and Sachiya Isomura and studied piano performance, music theory and composition. I received two years of scholarship to the Eastern Music Festival for cello performance and composition where I was featured in a master class with Yo-Yo Ma. I coordinated and performed with a variety of chamber ensembles (wrote/arranged music, facilitated rehearsals, and coordinated performances), was principal cellist with a world-renowned youth symphony and taught private classical cello lessons.

Performance

I have performed in a wide range of settings including Orchestra Hall and the O'Shaughnessy Auditorium in Minneapolis, Royal Albert Hall in London, the Weber and Mitchell auditoriums in Duluth, other regional theaters and auditoriums, the Sacred Heart Music Center, Intermedia Arts, as well as coffeehouses, bars and restaurants, urban streetscapes, drop-in centers, private homes, yoga studios, galleries, studio spaces and many other creative venues.

Recorded Work

Celldreams (solo cello): subway icarus / last dream (2009), cloth (2008), winged instrument (2008), cave drawings (2008), love meditations (thematic collection, 2008), joyflight: euphoric love letters to bach (thematic collection, 2008), blue (thematic collection, 2008), crane language (2008), the infinite between (2007), night language (2007), lines (2007), dusk filaments (2007), rain clouds (2007), summer 06 (2006), noise2peace (2006), 4 strings (2006), i meant to say ... (2006), live @ the grace - november, 2008, live @ the grace - october, 2008

Cosmic Pit Orchestra (with Richie Townsend, electric guitar): hOwL 1 (2009), edge of peace collection (2008), industrial collection (2008), red queen diaries (2007), caught you falling (2007), primordial dreaming (2007), dreamtime (2007), twisted & frayed (2006), grief & love (2006), gossiping dolphins (2006)

Wildwood River (with Sheila Packa, poet): fearful journey (2008), dear bird (2006)

All of the above work is released online where it has received a considerable international listening audience.

Other collaborations: I have performed and recorded work with Sara Softich, Sara Thomsen, The Three Altos, Rachel Kilgour, Gleam, Equal Xchange, Retribution Gospel Choir, Grounds for Dismissal, Yoga North, and Annie Humphrey

Film & video: My work or the work of the Cosmic Pit Orchestra has been used behind a number of projects including those by Andy Underwood, (Walker Inside Out / Art Goes Outdoors: a celebration of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden's 20th Anniversary), Dudley Edmundson, Patrick Eller, Garrett Tiedemann and others

Related experience

Studies in live sound, recording, mixing, and mastering

Theoretical Ecology / Mathematics: research and coursework on dynamical systems, emergent patterns, abstract forms

Metaphor / Modeling / Ways of knowing (Epistemology): scientific visualization, mathematical models of dynamical systems, information design

Teaching individuals and groups in formal classroom settings and in community workshops

Desktop publishing / graphics design / web technologies

Formal Education

Sign Language Interpreting Certificate - St. Paul Technical College

B.S. Mathematics - University of Minnesota, Duluth

M.S. Applied Mathematics - University of Minnesota

Ph.D. coursework in Theoretical Ecology - University of Minnesota