

“...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*

### **Current Work / Artist Statement**

I trained as a classical cellist and studied composition and music theory. In 2001 I made a shift in direction and immersed myself into collaborative work with folk, blues, rock, rap, punk, metal, ambient, techno, jazz, and free improvisation musicians. An in-the-moment, deep-listening, improvisational style emerged. My current work as a composer/free-style musician is influenced by studies of 12-tone music, chance, minimalism, polyphonic forms, free jazz and old blues. I am inspired by the rhythms of human speech, beat poets such as Alan Ginsberg and abstract expressionist art.

I have used this immersion experience outside the classical music world to hone a distinctive solo voice. Broadening the range of texture and tonality that is traditionally expressed through the cello, I perform and record original works. I often blend my acoustic sound with the occasional warped echo or found sound to create multidimensional sound spaces.

As a composer I often use chance and generative/organic forms to create everything from sparse, minimalist spaces to dense, orchestral landscapes. My aim to facilitate the creative flow experience; to build a canvas for imaginative dreaming, deep listening, meditation, vision journeys.

I seek a visceral and dynamic improvisational range that explores dimensions of *tonality* (the "infinite between" of continuous, bendable pitch through discrete, sparse tonal palettes), *space* (spare, minimalist canvases through dense, orchestral spaces), *form* (chance collage to organic, generative, emergent forms), *emotion, organization* (disintegration/incoherence/lostness through integration/coherence/transcendence/flight), *texture* (raw, frayed, cries/growls and whispered textures through a clear, warm, classical tone), *alone/together* (polyphonic/multi-threadedness and how independent threads side-by-side or loosely integrated can culminate in an intense togetherness, a cathartic fusion).

I have performed extensively across a wide range of venues regionally and have actively recorded my work, producing 14 solo cello albums/"journals", 7 Cosmic Pit Orchestra albums, and 2 cello / poetry albums. I maintain an extensive web presence. All of these recorded works are released online through a creative commons license, and I have an active online listening community.

### **Classical music background**

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, churches, private homes, yoga studios, galleries, studio spaces and many other creative venues. From January 2006 through August 2009 I have given over 320 regional performances.

**Recorded Work**

***Cellodreams (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