

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 sparse, minimalist spaces to dense, orchestral landscapes. I seek a visceral, dynamic, improvisational range that explores texture, polyphony and the "infinite between" of continuous, bendable pitch through discrete, minimalist tonal palettes. My aim is to facilitate the creative flow experience and to build a canvas for imaginative dreaming, deep listening, meditation, vision journeys.

I have performed across a wide range of venues and have actively recorded my work, producing solo cello and collaborative albums. I serve an active, international, online listening community through my website where recorded work is available under a creative commons license.

Classical music background: As a classical cellist I studied privately with Minnesota Orchestra cellists Anthony Elliot and Sachiya Isomura. I also studied piano performance, music theory and composition and 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). I was principal cellist with a world-renowned youth symphony and taught private classical cello lessons.

Studies of experimental theory and form: Through studies in mathematics, ecology and music theory I developed a framework for modeling dynamical systems (how things move and change through time and space), chance, minimalism, ways of distilling complexity into simple forms, approaches to free improvisation, polyphony, harmonic progression and orchestration

Recent Grants / Commissions:

2010 Arrowhead Regional Arts Council Arts and Cultural Heritage Individual Artist Fellowship

2009 American Composers Forum / Jerome Composers Commissioning Program Recipient

2009 Arrowhead Regional Arts Council / McKnight Foundation Artist Support Grant Recipient

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.

Recorded Work:

celldreams (solo cello): river icarus: rusted bridge / deep water (2010), nyx (2010), between2deserts / one (2010), between2deserts / the swan (2010), graffiti tunnel (2010), graffiti / 2 hands (2010), radio pluto (2010), photosynthesis (2010), north sea (2009), subway icarus / last dream (2009), cloth (2008), winged instrument (2008), cave drawings (2008), love meditations (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)

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): undertow (2010), echo & lightning (2009), fearful journey (2008), dear bird (2006)

Other collaborations: I have performed and recorded work with Sara Softich, Sara Thomsen, The Three Altos, Rachel Kilgour, Gleam, Equal Xchange, Retribution Gospel Choir, Marc Gartman, Colleen Myhre, 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 Art Center Upside Down City by Claes Oldenburg, 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: dynamical systems, emergent patterns, abstract forms

Metaphor / Modeling / Ways of knowing: visualization, mathematical modeling, information design

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

Published work and delivered papers on new methods to model dynamical systems

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 (continuous modeling) - University of Minnesota

Ph.D. coursework in Theoretical Ecology (all but dissertation) - University of Minnesota