

Amber Vistein

Composer and Sound Artist

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www.ambervistein.com

Curriculum Vitae

Education & Training:

Degrees

2022	PhD in Music and Multimedia Composition (<i>anticipated</i>) Brown University, Providence, RI
2021	Doctoral Certificate in Collaborative Humanities Brown University, Providence, RI
2013	MFA in Studio for Interrelated Media (SIM) with focus in Sonic Arts Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA
2007	BA in Music and Philosophy New College of Florida, Sarasota, FL

Summer Programs and Masterclasses

2020	Guerrilla Opera Libretto Writing Workshop; Boston, MA
2019	soundSCAPE Composition and Performance Exchange; Cesena, Italy
2019	Composition Masterclass with John Harbison; Brown University, Providence, RI
2018	Composition Masterclass with Joan Tower; Brown University, Providence, RI
2017	NYU Film Scoring Workshop participant; New York City, NY
2017	EMPAC/IRCAM Spatial Audio Workshop participant; Troy, NY
2013	Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice; New England Conservatory, Boston, MA
2012	CCRMA Summer Workshop in Sound Installation; Stanford University, Stanford, CA

Commissions, Fellowships and Residencies:

2021	<i>the barren(s)</i> , Commissioned by Washington National Opera as part of the American Opera Initiative Program; The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
2017-19	Composition Fellow with American Opera Projects Composers & the Voice program; New York City, NY
2017	ArtsIceland Artist Residency, Ísafjörður, Iceland

Conferences:

2019	"I Grit My Teeth Against the Glacier," composition presented at ICMC/NYCEMF 2019, NYU, New York City, NY
2019	"Stuck in the Throat: Theorizing Oral Expressivity in Claudia Rankine's <i>Citizen: An American Lyric</i> " Feeling Its Presence: Race and the Poetics of Affect, Brown University, Providence, RI
2017	Sounding Out the Space: An International Conference on the Spatiality of Sound, Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin, Ireland (attendee)

Awards & Grants:

2019	New Music USA Project Grant for <i>Dark Exhalation</i>
2019-20	Brown Arts Initiative Research and Development Grant
2019	Joukowsky Summer Research Award
2016	Brown Arts Initiative Student Grant
2012-14	National Science Foundation Grant (in collaboration with Contrapose Dance Company and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute)
2013	Winter Lights Public Art Grant, Rose F. Kennedy Greenway Conservancy (in collaboration with the Lumen Collective)

Guest Lectures & Workshops:

- 2021 “Techniques and Aesthetics in Immersive Audio,” New England Conservatory, Boston, MA
- 2019 “Artist Presentation and Critical Listening Workshop,” Emerson College, Boston, MA
- 2019 “3D Audio,” Emerson College, Boston, MA
- 2019 “Thinking with Sound,” Visiting Artist Presentation, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA
- 2017 “Current Works In-Progress,” ArtsIceland Artist Residency, Ísafjörður, Iceland
- 2016 “Sound as Medium,” Low-Residency MFA program, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA
- 2014 “Techniques of Sonic Composition,” Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA
- 2014 “Sound in Space,” Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA
- 2013 “Sound Installation and Composition Techniques,” Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA
- 2012 “Communal Debt as Sound Workshop,” Momenta Gallery, New York City, Brooklyn, NY

Departmental Service

- 2017-18 Music Department Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Grad Student Representative, Brown University
- 2016-17 Co-Organizer for Music Department Colloquium Series, Brown University
- 2016-17 Student Representative for Music Department Faculty Search Committee, Brown University

List of Works:

Current Projects:

Hymns Queer and Monstrous (2021-22)

Multimedia song cycle for voices and instruments TBD

Dark Exhalation (2018-2021) – 110’

Chamber opera for 4 vocalists, amplified ensemble, and fixed media

Chamber opera film recorded at Brown University in Fall 2021, to be released in early 2022

Selected Works:

The Barren(s) (2020-2021) – 25’

Chamber opera for 5 vocalists and thirteen instruments

Commissioned by the Washington National Opera as part of the American Opera Initiative program

Premiered and filmed at the Kennedy Center Opera House

Washington, DC

Sometimes I forget to breathe (2020) – 5’

Trio for alto flute, clarinet (doubling bass clarinet), cello

Composed for and premiered by Talea Ensemble

Brown University, Providence, RI

The Earth Refused to Catch My Fall (2019) – 5’

Percussion quartet

Commissioned by soundSCAPE Composition and Performance Exchange

Premiered as part of the 2019 Festival in Cesena, Italy

bruised plum (2019) – 8’

String trio (violin, viola, cello)

Composed for and premiered by Chartreuse

Brown University, Providence, RI

Let’s Look at Florida (2018) – 5’

16MM film to digital transfer with stereo soundtrack

Composer/sound designer in collaboration with film/video artists Amanda Justice and Hogan Seidel

Presented at Indie Grits Film Festival 2019

Columbia, South Carolina

tenterhooks (2018) – 4’ for
coloratura soprano and piano
Composed for premiered by Tookah Sapper and Mila Henry
First Glimpse 2018 presented by American Opera Projects
Brooklyn, NY

a hundred tiny mouths (2018) – 7’
for soprano and piano
Composed for premiered by Jennifer Goode Cooper and Mila Henry
First Glimpse 2018 presented by American Opera Projects
Brooklyn, NY

touching touching (2018) – 5’
For string-trio (violin, viola, cello)
Composed for and performed by members of Ensemble Dal Niente
Brown University, Providence, RI

Landscapes (2017) – 5’
Composer/Sound designer
Collaboration with video artist Amanda Justice
Presented at the XYZT Reception at the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA

Man Will Not Outlive the Weather (2017) – 33’
Chamber opera for mezzo-soprano, flute, cello, piano, percussion, and electronics
Premiered by Britt Brown, Carlos Aguilar, Stephen Marotto, Jennifer Elowsky-Fox, and
Michael Hardin; Selections performed by the International Contemporary Ensemble,
Brown University, Providence, RI

Growth Continuum (2016)
Set of site-specific sound installations
Commissioned by the deCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA

Byggja (2016) – 11’
For solo percussionist, fixed media, and live electronics
Composed for and premiered by Russell Greenberg
Brown University, Providence, RI

Constellations and Bones (2016) – 7’ 35”
For flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and percussion
Composed for the Boston Modern Orchestra Project
Brown University, Providence, RI

Approach Stillness (2015), 8’
For solo piano and electronics
Composed for and premiered by Keith Kirchoff
Brown University, Providence, R

Apropos (2014) – 10’
For soprano and electronics
Composed for and premiered by soprano Tony Arnold
Boston, MA

The Wax of the Wane (2014) – 11’
Miniature multimedia opera for soprano, actor, and electronics
Composed for and premiered by soprano Christina Pecce
Pozen Center, Boston, MA

Hoverdive (2014) – 70'

Evening-length ensemble dance piece with original sound score

Electronic music composer/sound designer in collaboration with Contrapose Dance and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Premiered at Boston University Dance Theatre, Boston, MA

Murmur (2014) – 11'

Audio-visual installation featuring 3-channel video and 5.1 surround sound

Composer/sound designer in collaboration with video/installation artist Amanda Justice Presented

at Illuminus Boston, SOWA, Boston, MA

Skills

Software:

Proficiency with numerous DAW's including Pro Tools, Ableton Live, Logic Pro X, and Reaper; Audio plug-ins from Native Instruments, Waves, and iZotope; Audio restoration using RX8 and SoundSoap; Visual Programming in Max/MSP; Music Notation using Sibelius; Media production using Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office Suite, Google applications

Hardware:

Proficient using analog and digital mixers (Mackie, Yamaha, Behringer, Soundcraft), Audio Interfaces (Apogee, MOTU, PreSonus, Scarlett, M-Audio), preamps, DI's, field recorders (Zoom, Roland), microphones (including ambisonic, binaural, hydrophones, contact mics), loudspeakers, reference monitors, contact speakers, and an array of MIDI keyboards and controllers

Principal Teachers:

Eric Nathan	2015-Present
Wang Lu	2015-Present
Butch Rovin	2015-Present
John Mallia	2011-2013

Teaching Experience:

Emerson College, Boston, MA

Affiliated Faculty

Introduction to Sound Principles and Audio Production (Fall 2021, Spring 2021)

Sound Design (Spring 2021, Fall 2020)

Advanced Sound Design (Spring 2020, Fall 2019)

Audio for VR/Interactive Media (Fall 2019)

Brown University, Providence, RI

Instructor

Becoming a Bedroom Producer (Fall 2020)

Microphone as Instrument (Spring 2018)

Teaching Assistant

Seminar in Composition (Spring 2022)

Synthesis and Spatialization (Fall 2021)

On Songs and Songwriting (Spring 2021)

Recording Studio as Compositional Tool (Spring 2017, Spring 2019)

Music and Computers (Fall 2016, Fall 2018)

Seminar in Electronic Music: Real-Time Systems (Fall 2017)

Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA

Visiting Lecturer

TIME (Spring 2014, Spring 2015)

Co-taught with Prof. Elaine Buckholtz

MassArt Choir (Spring 2013)

Directed Studies Supervised

Graduate

Jake Zapor, "Sound and Space," Summer 2019

Laura Ganci, "Sound Installation," Fall 2016

Undergraduate

Group-directed study, "Harmonic Thinking and Theory," Spring 2013

Teaching Assistant

Advanced Sound Studio (Spring 2013)

Sound Performance (Fall 2012)

Intro to Sound Studio (Spring 2011)

Boston Architectural College, Boston, MA

Adjunct Faculty

Voice, Identity, Place: Critical Reading and Writing (Spring 2015)