

James E. Holdman

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Employment

- 1977 – present Free-lance musician/composer. Performer of jazz and improvised music, American popular music, Greek and other world musics on fretted stringed instruments, percussion and other instruments. Composer of chamber music, jazz, rock, world music, music for theatre and dance, and electronic music. Member ASCAP, American Composers Forum, American Music Center.
- 2010 – present Adjunct faculty, Music Department, Inver Hills Community College, Inver Grove Heights, MN.
- 2011 Adjunct faculty, Audio Production, Art Institutes International Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2010 Adjunct faculty, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indiana University East, Richmond, IN (Distance Learning).
- 2004 – 2009 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota School of Music, Minneapolis, MN.

Education

- 2010 Ph.D. in Music Composition, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2006 M.A. in Music Composition, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2002 – 2003 Music composition studies, MacPhail Center for the Arts, Minneapolis, MN.
- 1983 Bachelor of General Studies with minors in Music and Computer Science. Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

Teaching Experience

- January 2010 - present Adjunct Instructor: Music Theory, Aural Skills, Music Fundamentals, History of Rock and Roll, Electric Bass. Inver Hills Community College, Inver Grove Heights, MN.
- 2011 Adjunct Instructor: Music Theory I & II, Music Appreciation. Art Institutes International Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN.
- Fall 2010 Adjunct Instructor (Distance Learning): History of Rock and Roll. Indiana University East, Richmond, IN
- Spring 2010 Instructor/Research Assistant: University of Minnesota Inclusive Education Seminar, Avalon High School, St. Paul, MN.
- 2007 – 09 Primary Instructor: History of Rock I, History of Rock II University of Minnesota School of Music.
- 2006 Instructor of Record: Music Fundamentals; ear-training/sight-singing proctor, University of Minnesota School of Music.
- 2004 – 05 Primary Instructor: History of Rock I, History of Rock II University of Minnesota School of Music.
- August 2004 Teaching Assistant: Design Camp, University of Minnesota Design Institute.

Recent Professional Development

- August 2010 Arabic Music Retreat, Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA. Studies on Arabic 'ud with William Shaheen, repertoire with Issa Boulos, ear-training with Simon Shaheen.
- April 2010 New York Arabic Orchestra Arabic music seminar, Minneapolis, MN. Studies on Arabic 'ud and repertoire with Bassam Saba.
- August 2009 Arabic Music Retreat, Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA. Studies on Arabic 'ud with Issa Boulos, repertoire and ear-training with Simon Shaheen.

Conference Presentations

University of Oklahoma School of Music, March 2011

"The *earWorm* Approach to Collective Improvisation" panel discussion.

2010 Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Arts, University of Minnesota

Performance with *earWorm* electroacoustic improvisation ensemble.

Hear and Now Festival, University of Indiana East, March 2010

"E-half-flat: A Look at Arabic Art Music" lecture; performance with *earWorm* electroacoustic improvisation ensemble; guest composer panel discussion; guest composer private lessons.

XIX Michiana Improvisation Festival, Indiana University South Bend, May 2009

Performance with *earWorm* electroacoustic improvisation ensemble.

Academic Area Convocation, University of Minnesota Department of Music, Feb 2009

"The Maqam in Arabic Music."

College Music Society Southwest Conference, University of Oklahoma, March 2009

Performance with *earWorm* electroacoustic improvisation ensemble.

International Society for Improvised Music National Conference, December 2009, University of California Santa Cruz

Performance with *earWorm* electroacoustic improvisation ensemble.

International Society for Improvised Music National Conference, December 2008, University of Denver

Performance with *earWorm* electroacoustic improvisation ensemble.

Columbia Music Scholarship Conference, Columbia University, New York, January 2005

Performance of *Down the Stairway the Ghost She Does Not Want Me to See Flees* for string trio.

2004 Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Arts, University of Minnesota,

Performance of *Go Back and Clean Up Your Mess*, electroacoustic piece with solo dancer.

Technical Experience

Music notation software (Sibelius and Finale), digital audio recording and editing software (Protools, Sonar), audio synthesis and live performance software (Max/MSP and others) on both Mac and PC platforms.

COMPOSITIONS

Chamber Music

Shade Birds 2012 (ca 4') for diatonic marimba ensemble.

An 'Ism' Jib 2010 (3'40") for guitar and African percussion, performed at Inver Hills Community College, September 2010.

A Thick, Full Set of Cheeky Hinge 2010 (8') for clarinet and oud, performed at the American Composers Forum Salon Series, May, 2010.

Don't Call Me Norman 2009 (5'20") for bass clarinet, piano, and vibraphone, performed by Zeitgeist, St. Paul, MN, May 2009.

Bugs 2009 (4') for piano and vocalist.

Maddy's Eaten a Little Humus Again 2008 (ca. 6') for found metallic objects and four players, performed at Artsmosis at the West Bank Arts Quarter, Minneapolis, MN, October 2008.

Kesha and the Millipede 2008 (1'30") for vocalist and chamber ensemble, text by Neil Cunningham.

Seven Years of Unclouded Happiness 2007 (12') for percussion ensemble.

High Gain Small Grain 2007 (3') for vibes, piano and percussion, performed by RenegadeEnsemble, Minneapolis, January 2010.

A Coconut Eaten by the Moon 2007 (ca. 6') for violin, cello, guitar and double bass, performed at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, MN, July 2007.

Lauderdale Ideal 2007 (3'30") for mandolin quartet, performed at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, MN, July 2008.

Part-time Kite, Non-pareil 2007 (ca. 6') for violin, cello, guitar and double bass.

Underwater Hospital Man 2006 (8'40") for brass quintet.

With White Brass 2006 (7'25") for mandolin, viola, and guitar. Winner of the 2006 Weisman Art Museum Art Sounds Composition Competition. Performed at Ultan Recital Hall, University of Minnesota, April 2006, rescored for mandolin, viola, and cello.

Caracas Getaway 2006 (4') for trombone ensemble, performed by the Minneapolis Trombone Choir, Minneapolis, MN, February 2006.

The Pliable Guest 2005 (6') for flute and glockenspiel, performed at the American Composers Forum Salon Series, St. Paul, MN, January 2006.

Arnk 2005 (3'16") for woodwind quintet, performed at Belgrade High School, Belgrade, MN, April 2005.

Hotbed of Cold Shoulder 2005 (ca. 6') for trombone ensemble, performed by the Minneapolis Trombone Choir, Minneapolis, MN, February 2005.

My Little Quadrilateral 2004 (7'40"), for violin and guitar, performed by *Duo46*, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN, September 2006.

Overlooked...Declared World's Oldest 2004 (6'45") for percussion (drum set) duo

Down the Stairway the Ghost She Does Not Want Me to See Flees 2003 (2'44") for string trio (four movements), performed by *counterinduction* at Columbia Music Scholarship Conference, Columbia University, New York, January 2005.

Dumpster Jivin' 2003 (8'15") collaboration with poet Neil Cunningham for solo voice (spoken word), chorus, and found objects, performed at the Hosmer Library, Minneapolis, December 2003.

March of the Giant Crabs 2003 (4') for saxophone quartet, performed at the Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, December 2003.

An Unlikely Intermission 2002 (4'30") for string trio.

Large Ensemble

A Ham for Sister Flim-Flam 2012 (4'30") for mandolin orchestra.

Simian Ocean 2011 (8'00") for symphonic band.

Gold and Iodine 2010 (11'00") for symphonic band.

The Clairvoyant Cha-Cha 2009 (3') for mandolin orchestra, performed by the Minnesota Mandolin Orchestra, Minneapolis, MN, Summer, 2010.

Lights Out at the Monkey House 2008 (5'15") for big band.

Joropo de Lara 2006 (3'35") for mandolin orchestra, performed by the American Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra, Bristol, RI, July 2007.

My Feet and His Feet 2005 (adapted to 1'00") for symphonic orchestra, selected for performance by the 60x60 Orchestra Project.

Jazz

Viscous Biscuits 2010 (ca. 5') for combo, performed by Sally's Flag Empire, February, 2010.

Blue Acres 2006 (ca. 4'), *Ordinary Circumstances* 2006 (ca. 4'), *B'zorz'b* 2006 (ca. 5'30"), *Elm Loaf* 2006 (ca. 4'), *Unmown* 2006 (ca. 5'), *Think Like a Trout* 2005 (ca. 4'30"), *Holiday for Methuselah* 2004 (ca. 4'), *Schnauzer Lady* 2003 (ca. 5'), *Serpents* 2003 (ca. 10'), *Chimp in a Beamer* 2002 (ca. 4'), *Erase Most of Rotterdam* 2000 (ca. 4'30"), *Wanda* 1997 (ca. 5'), *Shrug the Rug* 1996 (ca. 4'30"), *Neither Newton nor Neitzche* 1996 (ca. 4'30"), *Big Fat American* 1995 (ca. 4'), *The Smith Hinge System* 1995 (ca. 5'), *Steal Harry's Shoe* 1994 (ca. 4'). Performed various times throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN by The Dextet (sextet), The James Holdman Small Band (septet), Jetsam Organic Ensemble (quartet), Modal Operandi (quartet), The Puny Band (sextet), and other small ensembles.

Where'd that Thango? 2002 (5') for trombone ensemble, performed by the Minneapolis Trombone Choir, February 2003.

S is for Spiv 2001 (5') for trombone ensemble, performed by the St. Olaf Trombone Choir, Northfield, MN, May 2002.

Electronic Music

The Ministry of Information 2004 (4'41") audio-video, text by Neil Cunningham.

Chit Chat 2004 (4'), composer-designed improvisational environment for laptop computer, performed at Ultan Recital Hall, University of Minnesota, November 2004.

Go Back and Clean Up Your Mess 2003 (5'20") with solo dancer, performed at the Spark Festival of Music and Art, University of Minnesota, February 2004

Bad Dog! Off the Furniture! 2003 (3').

This Might be Something about Pigs (you decide) 2003 (4'02").

Ralfshaus 1985 (ca. 15'), a collaborative performance of spoken word, pre-recorded sounds, and live processing, broadcast on KFAI-FM, Minneapolis, October 1985.

Puppet Dance 1985 (5') acousmatic music for dance, text by Kathleen Terhaar, performed at University of Minnesota, 1985.

Crystal 1983 (5'), *Victim* 1983 (5'), *Peasant Stew* 1982 (3'), acousmatic music for dance, performed at Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

World Music

Joropo de Lara 2006 (3'35") for mandolin orchestra.

Get Me the Yes Men! 2004 (5') for 22-piece trombone ensemble and Middle Eastern percussion ensemble, performed by the Minneapolis Trombone Choir, February 2004

Lahana Bakkal 2004 (5'45") for alto voice, alto trombone, double bass, dumbek and belly dancer, performed at Ultan Recital Hall, University of Minnesota, November 2004.

Waldo's Item 2003 (3'30"), performed and recorded by Mandragora Tango.

Imaginary Folk Song Series 2002 (9'40"), *Gunk Pixies* 2001 (3'), *A Pile of Nations* 2000 (2').

Rock

Fez 1998 (4'), *Bob Z* 1997 (4'30"), *Black Angel* 1997 (6'), *Karla* 1996 (5'30"), *Big Baggy Head* 1996 (4'30"), collaboratively composed; *Bernie G.* 1995 (3'45"), *21?Jesus!* 1989 (4'), *Unique New York* 1988 (5'30"), *¡Bailame!* 1986 (4'), *Bald-faced Bill* 1985 (7'), *Barbie* 1983 (5'), *Kitchen Drudgery* 1982 (7'). Performed at venues throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN, by Head Octet (improvisational rock trio).

Music for Theatre

The Hole of Lament, 2011, Open Eye Figure Theatre, Minneapolis, MN.
Lollipop Legends 1985, *Hippopotamus Sandwich* 1984, *Poemsicles* 1983, Other Things and Company, performed throughout Michigan, 1983-85.

Music for Video

Oklahoma Department of Tourism promotional video, 2011. Co-composed with members of the earWorm Improv Ensemble.

Solo Pieces

Crooks and Nannies 2006 (5'30") for harp.
Darwin's Folly 2005 (9') for piano, performed by Matthew McCright/Zeitgeist, St. Paul, MN, May 2005.
My People Have a Vacancy 2004 (5'), for marimba.
Worm Song 2002 (1'30") for piano.

Recordings

"Angels of Area 51" (Vermiphone), earWorm Improv Ensemble, 2011.
"You're Not Larry" (Vermiphone), earWorm Improv Ensemble, 2011.
"Artificial Teeth and Limbs" (Vermiphone), earWorm Improv Ensemble, 2010.
"earWorm" (Vermiphone), earWorm Improv Ensemble, 2009.
Think Like a Trout on Modal Operandi's "Provenance", 2008.
Waldo's Item on Mandragora's "Mandragora Plays Tangos and Sad Waltzes", 2003.
Steal Harry's Shoe and *The Smith Hinge System* on The Dextet's "Windfall", 1995.

Awards and Grants

ASCAP Plus Awards, 2009 - 2011
American Composers Forum *subito* Grant, September 2009.
Weisman Art Sounds Composer Competition First Place, 2006.
Heikki Sarmanto Fellowship, University of Minnesota, 2003.
University of Minnesota travel grants.