

Courtney Brown

Composer and Intermedia Performance Artist

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Education

DMA Candidate, Music Composition, emphasis in Digital Media and Performance

Expected Graduation: 2015

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Composition Studies and Research with Garth Paine

MA, Electro-Acoustic Music, 2008

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

Thesis: *The Aesthetics of Losing Control*, a series of compositions for voice, accelerometer, and live electronics

Composition Studies with Newton Armstrong, Larry Polansky, Kui Dong, Jon Appleton

BS, Magna Cum Laude, Music, concentration in soprano and Computer Science, 2002

Loyola University New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

Vocal Studies with Mona Bond

Selected Performances

Seven Ate Nine #4, May 19, 2012

Hadrosaur Musical Instrument Improvisation and Cabaret Act
and with D&spair Club, dancer

Seven Ate Nine #3: John Cage Turns 100!, April 21, 2012

with LOrkAs, presiding as director/conductor and D&spair Club, dancer

Digital Culture Opening, April 20, 2012

Installation of Hadrosaur Dinosaur Sculpture

Robot Cabaret Act, March 25, 2012

Trunkspace, Phoenix, AZ

PLAY Festival of Art and Technology 2012 :: UrbanSTEW. March 23-24.

With LorkAs and as performer in percussion trio

Phoenix, AZ

Seven Ate Nine #2, March 17, 2012

with D&spair Club, Modified Arts Gallery, Phoenix, AZ

Argentine Tango Performance, March 12, 2012

with partner Ben Ren, for Katherine Palmer's DMA recital

Arizona State University School of Music, Recital Hall

Immerge Performance at eMerge Digital Culture Festival, March 3, 2012

Sound Spatialization Design

Nelson Plaza, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Seven Ate Nine #1, February 18, 2012

with D&spair Club, Modified Arts Gallery Phoenix, AZ

LorkAs at Digital Arts Ranch, November 19, 2012

Premiere of "Telephone Tango"
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Maker Faire Phoenix 2011. October 15, 2011
with LOrkAS, Phoenix, AZ.
Gowanus Wildlife Preserve Showcase, April 29-30, 2011
Showing "Abacus for the Body"
Spoke the Hub, Brooklyn, NY
Art in Motion, April 15-17, 2011, Downtown Live, Jersey City, NJ
with Insurgio Stage Company
Provocative Objects, November 12, 2010, Boston, MA
showing "Chair Robot"
Patricia Doran Gallery
VCW Workshop Performance, September 16, 2010
Performance of "I'll huff and puff and blow your house down!"
Diapason Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Triskelion, June 3-5, 2010, Brooklyn, NY
Performance of "Crowded" with Nu Dance Company
Poetry Electric, February 15, 2010, La Mama E.T.C., New York, NY
with Woo Brown Duo
Juddertone Dance 2009, November 13-14, 2009,
Performance of "Crowded" with Nu Dance Company
Boston University Dance Theater
INSideOUT, July 17, 2009,
Performance of "Balancing Act II"
Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FLA
Cabaret Show at The Tank, April 25, 2009, 45 Street Theater, New York, NY
New York Electro-Acoustic Music Festival, April 2-4, 2009,
Performance of "Losing Love in Magnetic Time"
City University of New York
Cabaret Act at The Elevens, January 19, 2009, Northampton, MA
Sidewalk Tzara, The Outpost 186, Cambridge, MA., December 2008-present
Curating and performing in a monthly performance series the first Thursday of most months.
60X60 Project, 2008, A 60 second piece is included in the International and Evolution mixes of the Vox Novus 2008 60X60 project. Performance in the US and international locations.
The Murder Cabaret Show, July 5, 2008, The Tank, New York City
Performing a small solo set and the debut of *Rats* by Kirsten Volness
The Lilypad, May 19, 2008 Boston, MA
Every Night I Lose Control East Coast Tour, March 8-29, 2008
A solo tour of with dates in Providence, RI, Brooklyn, NY, Baltimore, MD, Washington, DC, Boston, MA, Charlottesville, VA, and Chapel Hill, NC
SEAMUS Conference 2008, April 3, 2008, Salt Lake City, UT
The Hartt-Dartmouth Exchange Concert Series, 2007-2008
Co-organizer and founder
Princeton-Dartmouth Exchange Concert Series, April-May 2008

Co-organizer and founder

Festival of the New Musics, April 2007-8, Dartmouth College, NH

The Laila Lounge, February 2008, Brooklyn, NY

with Electrocab

the way to go out, 2007-8, Spheris Gallery, NH

with Electrocab, Dartmouth Contemporary Music Ensemble

Chosen Vale International Trumpet Festival, June 2007, Enfield, NH

The Boston CyberArts Festival, April 2007, Brandeis University, MA

Recent Compositions

2012

Tango for the Night without Sleep

for solo piano

Improvisation for Two Voices

for soprano, live electronics, and lambeosaurine hadrosaur skull and nasal passages 3D printed and fabricated from CT scans of fossils with mechanical larynx

Self-Portrait, in Tango and Sound

for video and fixed media

2011

Telephone Tango

for laptop orchestra

Collaboration with software developer Ryan Spicer

Places to Go, People to See!

for 6-8 hacked iTrips, 12 radios, 2-3 performers and 6-8 mp3 players

Collaboration with poet Justin Woo and dancer Morgan Refakis

Abacus for the Body

for percussive bicycle robot, accordion, wiimote, and voice

The stories we are - Music for dance/theater production

for accordion, voice, and live electronics

Collaboration with Insurgio Stage Project, artistic director Avianna Perez

2010

Volcadas con Silla

for dancing chair robot, live electronics, voice

tango for the loss of my job

for soprano, bass clarinet, guitar, violin, viola, cello, double bass, and snare drum

Origami Cranes

for 3 paper folders and 3 or more unspecified instruments

I'll huff and puff and I'll blow your house down

for 3 video performers and live electronics

I will grow teeth

for flute, bass clarinet, piano, violin, cello, and marimba

In which these implications appear to present difficulties

for toy piano and live electronics

2009

Crowded

for dancer, a pile of shoes, voice, accordion and live electronics

Collaboration with choreographer Eva Perrotta

Balancing Act II

for broomstick, accelerometer, and live electronics

In which we become familiar

for violin, double bass, and two flamenco dancers

The idea of eternal return is a mysterious one (2009)

for fixed media

Remix of Rischaos by Gregory Rapp and Sid Redlin for the album

Re:Interpretations

Sound. Picture. Coif.

for hairstylist, live electronics, and video

Collaboration with video artist Kristina Wolfe and hairstylist Alissandra Hipona

2008

might as well live

for accordion quartet

Nocturnes

for solo piano

Balancing Act

for voice, accelerometer, and live electronics

The Error of My Ways

for voice, accelerometer, and live electronics

2007

Study in Losing Control (ii)
for voice and live electronics

Study in Losing Control (i)
for tuba and live electronics

losing love in magnetic time
for fixed media, marimba, and vibraphone

Time becomes Magnetic
for fixed media and accordion

spells against rhymes
for fixed media

this and the day after
for two trumpets and four-hand piano

Novel Musical Interfaces and Robots

Rawr! A Study in Sonic Skulls (2012 – in progress) – a musical instrument using a lambeosaurine hadrosaur skull and nasal passages 3D printed and fabricated from CT scans of fossils as a sound resonator with a working mechanical larynx. CT Scans obtained from Dr. Lawrence Witmer and the Witmer Lab, Ohio University. 3D Modeling and Printing assisted by Carlo Sammarco.

<http://vimeo.com/courtneydbrown/rwarstudyinsonicskulls>

Percussive Bicycle Robot (2011) -- two wheels controlled by both MIDI and/or WiiMote via Processing, Arduino. <http://vimeo.com/22928019>

Robotic Chair (2010) -- ambulatory chair controlled by WiiMote and wireless serial via bluetooth chip and Processing, Arduino.

<http://vimeo.com/19449509>

Balancing Act II performance system (2009) – broom that plays sounds louder the further it falls off the vertical axis via C++, accelerometer, and Supercollider

http://www.somethingfurry.com/portfolio/balancing_act_II.mp4

Every Night I Lose Control performance system (2008) – three accelerometer -based systems using C++, Bluetooth, Open Sound Control, and Supercollider implementing three different metaphors for performer loss of control and/or failure

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Tempe, AZ
Arizona State University, Arts, Media, Engineering Dept.
Interactive Ensembles, Intro to Digital Audio, Professor: Garth Paine

Aug. 2011 to present

- ++Lectured on digital audio concepts such as mixing, audio editing, and using sensor technology
- ++Led lab sessions in MAX/MSP, Ableton Live, and sensor technologies such as Infusion
- ++Graded student work and managed classroom technologies such as Blackboard

Dance Instructor, Roanoke, VA **Jul. 2011**
Argentine Tango Workshop for Beginners with Salsa Noke
++Taught beginning tango, including form, walking, cruzada, ochos, giros, molinette
++Created lesson plan and materials for classes

Teaching Assistant, Hanover, NH **Sep. 2007 to Dec. 2007**
Dartmouth Electro-Acoustic Music Program
Music and Technology, Professor: Newton Armstrong
++Managed and updated web forum for class, using SMF forums and MySQL
++Taught weekly lab sessions on audio technology and electronic music history

Teaching Assistant, Chapel Hill, NC **Aug. 2002 to Apr. 2003**
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Computer Science Department
Intro to Computer Science (JAVA), Data Structures (C++)

Technical Work Experience

Software Developer and Audio Consultant, Brooklyn, NY **Jan. 2011 to Jul. 2011**
Freelance, Clients include: Synchronome, Inc
++Researched existing technologies and created framework for audio engine
++Created bare-bones demo using audio software of a hardware product

Robotics Intern/Assistant, Brooklyn, NY **Dec. 2010**
with Chico MacMurtrie of Amorphic Robots
++Helped to test feasibility of inflatable robotic designs
++Assisted in tear-down and packing of equipment

Audio Software Developer, New York, NY **Jul. 2008 to Nov. 2010**
Scratch DJ Academy, LLC.
++Designed and implemented audio engine for analysis, mixing, and beat-matching
++Performance analysis and profiling of existing code for optimization
++Handled many aspects of creating a software product including GUI, installation, and unit testing

Audio Engineer, Audio Systems Researcher, Hanover, NH **May 2006 to Jun. 2008**
Freelance, Clients include: The Response Network LLC, Dartmouth College Music Dept., etc.
++A/V recording and editing – set
++Created document comparing open source software to proprietary software on Linux, OS X, and Windows
++Installed and configured Linux audio applications
++Consulted for the use of JAVA GUIs in sonification of fluid dynamic systems

Awards, Grants, Workshops, and Residencies

Outstanding Computer Science Major, Loyola University New Orleans, 2002
Dartmouth Graduate Student Travel Award, 2008
ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Awards: finalist, 2009
Associate Artist, Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL, 2009
VCW Workshop, Diapason Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, June-July 2010
ExiTrip Project, with collaborator Justin Woo, 2011
Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Residency, 2011 (invited)
Special Talent Award, Arizona State University, School of Music, 2011
Mark Jeffery and Judd Morrison Performance workshop, 2012

Experience in Curating, Organizing, and Leadership

Seven Ate Nine (2012 - present) founder, curator, producer
A monthly experimental performance series and tango milonga at Modified Arts Gallery, Phoenix, AZ

Arts, Media, and Engineering Student Association (2012-present) co-president
Arizona State University Graduate Student Organization, Tempe, AZ

Sidewalk Tzara (2008-2009) founder, curator, producer
A monthly experimental performance series at The Outpost, Cambridge, MA

The Hartt-Dartmouth Exchange Concert Series (2007-2008) co-founder, organizer
A composer exchange between Dartmouth College and Hartt School of Music

Princeton-Dartmouth Exchange Concert Series (2008) co-founder, organizer
A composer exchange between Dartmouth College and Princeton University

Graduate Concert Organizer/ Promoter, (2007-8) originated position
Organized graduate concerts and performances for the Electro-Acoustic Music program

Technical Skills

Languages: C/C++, JAVA, PHP, Delphi, Smalltalk, Visual Basic, UML, SQL, Pascal
Music/Audio Technologies: SuperCollider, Csound, ChuckK, Open Sound Control, VST plug-ins, JUCE, MIDI, LilyPond, MAX/MSP/Jitter, CoreAudio, DirectShow, OpenAL, Ircam Spat, Soundtouch, Intel IPP Performance Primitives
Applications: XCode, Protools, Digital Performer, Cubase, FruityLoops, Apple Logic, Sibelius, Finale, Peak, Maya, Adobe Photoshop, Processing, SVN, Ableton Live, Apple Logic, 123D AutoDesk, 3D Rhino, OptiTrack Motion Capture
Physical Computing: solenoid motors, AVR/micro-processor programming, Arduino, Arduino LilyPad, accelerometers, contact mics, servos, inflatables, fm radio technologies, Bluetooth COM technologies

Recent Ensembles

D&SPAIR Club (Dance & Sonic Performance Art Improvisation Research) (2012-present) – experiments with movement and sound. Sound director, Dancer, with Julie Cruse (movement director, dancer), Brent Brimhall (dancer), Julie Akerly (dancer)

Lorkas – Arizona Laptop Orchestra (2011-present) - member, occasional conductor with Diana Siwiak, director

Woo ! Brown Duo (2009-11)– experimental electronic music improvisation and performance with DJ/Spoken Word Poet Justin Woo

Electrocab (2007-8)– experimental electronic music improvisation and mixed genre composer collective, with Vocalist/Keyboardist/Composer Carmen Caruso and DJ/Composer John Arroyo

Dartmouth Contemporary Music Ensemble (2006-8)– performing student compositions and contemporary classical music, with Doug Perkins, Director

Additional Instrumental and Dance Skills

Voice, 1987 to present, teachers include Wayne Gibson, Mona Bond, and Isobel Bartz
Guitar, 1994 to present, beginning folk/classical lessons with Tim Martin and self-taught
Piano Accordion, 2003 to present, with David DiGuiseppe and Jeremiah McLaine
Argentine Tango, 2005 to present. classes at Tangophilia, Durham, NC, Dartmouth Tango Society, Hanover, NH, Triangulo Studio, NYC, Daniela Borgialli, Arizona State University
Modern Dance, 2008 to present, classes at Dartmouth, Mark Morris Company, Julie Cruse
Contact Improvisation, 2010 to present, classes at Movement Research, various instructors, workshop with Ted Johnson