

Courtney Brown

Composer | Intermedia Performance Artist | Software Developer

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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 with Garth Paine, Glenn Hackbarth, James DeMars

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

"How to Speak Dinosaur: Courtship" at Opus, May 11, 2013

with hadrosaur skull instrument and David Earll, tuba

David Earll, tuba

Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ

Premiere of "How to Speak Dinosaur: Courtship", April 15, 2013

with musical hadrosaur skull and David Earll, tuba

Katzin Recital Hall

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Emerge Festival 2013, March 1-2, 2013

performance of Laptop Orchestra of Arizona State

exhibition of "Rwar! A Study in Sonic Skulls"

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

performance by Laptop Orchestra of Arizona State

Seven Ate Nine, Feb.- May 2012

Modified Arts, Roosevelt Row, Phoenix, AZ

Performances with D&pair Club (sound and dance ensemble) and with hadrosaur skull instrument

3rd Saturday of the month

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

With LorkAs and as performer in percussion trio

Phoenix, AZ

Argentine Tango Performance, March 12, 2012

with partner Ben Ren

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

LorkAs at Digital Arts Ranch, November 19, 2012
Premiere of “Telephone Tango” for laptop orchestra
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Gowanus Wildlife Preserve Showcase, April 29-30, 2011
Showing “Abacus for the Body” for accordion, voice, and bicycle robot
Spoke the Hub, Brooklyn, NY

Art in Motion, April 15-17, 2011, Downtown Live, Jersey City, NJ
composed and performed live electronics, voice, and accordion for interdisciplinary dance, spoken word
and video work
with Insurgio Stage Company

Provocative Objects, November 12, 2010, Boston, MA
showing “Volcadas con Silla” for voice, live electronics, and dancing chair robot
Patricia Doran Gallery

Premiere of “I’ll huff and puff and blow your house down!”, September 16, 2010
VCW Workshop Performance
Diapason Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

Poetry Electric, February 15, 2010, La Mama E.T.C., New York, NY
with Woo Brown Duo, spoken word poetry, live electronics, voice, and electric guitar

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” for broomstick and electronics
Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FLA

Cabaret Show at The Tank, April 25, 2009, 45 Street Theater, New York, NY
Performance of “Every Night I Lose Control”

New York Electro-Acoustic Music Festival, April 2-4, 2009,
Performance of “Losing Love in Magnetic Time” for tape, marimba, and vibraphone
City University of New York

Sidewalk Tzara, The Outpost 186, Cambridge, MA., December 2008-present
Curating & performing in a monthly performance series the first Thursday of the month.
Premiering “Sound. Picture. Coif” for hairstylist, live electronics, and video, performances with Woo!
Brown Duo and of *Every Night I Lose Control*

60X60 Project, 2008, “Places in Time Become Magnetic” 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 an excerpt of *Every Night I Lose Control* and vocalist for the debut of *Rats* by Kirsten Volness

The Lilypad, May 19, 2008 Boston, MA

Performance of *Every Night I Lose Control*

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

Presentation of "Pop Presto #2"

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

Performance of *Every Night I Lose Control*

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

Performance of "this and the day after"

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

Performance of "Things that Breathe"

Recent Compositions

2012

How to Speak Dinosaur: Courtship

for hadrosaur skull instrument, tuba, fixed media, and live electronics

Tango Fragments

for accordion, piano, guitar, violin, bass, two Argentine tango dancers, and computer

Rawr! A Study in Sonic Skulls

Performance/Installation for 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 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

Interactive Tango Milonga (2012- present) – an interactive environment for Argentine tango milongas (tango social dance events) currently in progress. Dancers control sound and video with their movements. Current prototype uses C++/Cinder/OpenCV for motion capture and analysis.

Hadrosaur Skull Instrument (2012 - present) – 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.

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

Sound Installations

Blown Away (2013)
for 4-8 contact mics, speakers, and projected video
an audiovisual musical instrument which gallery visitors may play by blowing into air pressure sensors installed all the wall and illuminated by projection. The Digital Culture Showcase, DC Gallery, April 23-30
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

lo atamos con alambre (“we tied with wire”) (2013)
collaboration with Garrett Johnson
for eight-channel speakers installed around a space
Pop songs are slowed down to many times their original speed, broken down into spectra
Microtonal Music Festival, April 26, 2013, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Rawr! A Study in Sonic Skulls (2013)
Hadrosaur skull instrument as an installation. Gallery visitors are encouraged to blow into the mouthpiece to give voice to an extinct dinosaur.
eMerge Festival and Gallery Show, March 1-7, 2013
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Grants and Awards

2013-14 Fulbright US Student Award: Buenos Aires, 2013-2014

2012-13 ASU GPSA Graduate Research Support Program Award, 2012

Special Talent Award, Arizona State University, School of Music, 2011

ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Awards: finalist, 2009

Dartmouth Graduate Student Travel Award, 2008

Outstanding Computer Science Major, Loyola University New Orleans, 2002

National Merit Finalist, 1998

Workshops and Residencies

Associate Artist, Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL, 2009

VCW Workshop, Diapason Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, June-July 2010

Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Residency, 2011 (invited)

Mark Jeffery and Judd Morrison Performance workshop, 2012

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Tempe, AZ

Aug. 2011 to present

Arizona State University, Arts, Media, Engineering Dept.

Interactive Ensembles, Intro to Digital Audio, Professor: Garth Paine, Rob Esler

++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

Argentine Tango 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

Experience in Curating, Organizing, and Leadership

Laptop Orchestra of Arizona State- LOrkAS (2012-present) director, conductor, and interim conductor since 2011

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

Arts, Media, and Engineering Student Association (2012-2013) 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 Technologies: SuperCollider, Csound, ChucK, Open Sound Control, VST plug-ins, MIDI, LilyPond, MAX/MSP, CoreAudio, DirectShow, OpenAL, STK library, FMOD, RtAudio, IRCAM spat

Applications: XCode, Protocols, Digital Performer, Cubase, FruityLoops, Apple Logic, Sibelius, Finale, Peak, Maya, Adobe Creative Suite, SVN, GIT, Matlab/Octave

Physical Computing: AVR/micro-processor programming, Arduino, accelerometers, contact mics, servos, inflatables (robotics), fm radio technologies, Bluetooth COM technologies, solenoid motors, pressure sensors, Infusion System sensors,

Multimedia Libraries/Platforms: Cinder, Processing, OpenGL, JUCE

Motion Capture: OpenCV, OpenNI, Kinect, OptiTrack

Recent Ensembles

Lorkas –Laptop Orchestra of Arizona State (2011-present) - member and occasional conductor with Diana Siwiak(2011-12), Currently, since Fall 2012, director and conductor.

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

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, classes with Daniela Borgielli at Arizona State University. *Workshops with Pablo Veron, Graciela Gonzales, more.*

Post-Contemporary Modern Dance, 2008 to present, classes at Dartmouth, Mark Morris Company, workshops with Julie Cruse

Contact Improvisation, 2010 to present, classes at Movement Research, various instructors, workshop with Ted Johnson