

Curriculum Vitae

Joshua Biggs

joshuabiggs.com | joshua.biggs@nyu.edu (+1) 607-279-6226 | 135 W 112th St, Apt. 1A, New York NY, 10026

Josh Biggs is a composer, researcher, and educator from Cape Town, South Africa, whose work centers around gathering, recording, and improvising with found sounds and instruments. Drawing from theories of music cognition, sound- and media studies, Biggs makes electroacoustic music exploring how embodiment, enculturation, and self-expression surface through listening, composing, and performing practices.

Employment:

2024 - Visiting Lecturer in Recorded Musics, New York University
Technical Director, NYU College of Arts & Sciences, Music Department

Education:

2022 - 2024 Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Composition, Cornell University
2019 - 2022 Master of Arts in Music, Cornell University
2013 - 2017 Bachelor of Music in Music Composition, Oberlin Conservatory
2010 - 2012 Diploma in Chamber Music Performance, Trio di Trieste Conservatory

Honors and Awards:

2023 - 2024 Don M. Randel Graduate Teaching Fellowship, Cornell University
2023 - 2024 Media Studies Graduate Working Group Grant, Cornell University
2021 - 2022 Cornell Center for Historical Keyboards Production Grant, Cornell University
2020 ; 2022 Donald J. Grout Travel Grant, Cornell University
2021 Otto R. Stahl Memorial Award, Cornell University
2019 - 2023 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
2017 Pi Kappa Lambda Honor Society, Oberlin Conservatory
2013 - 2017 Davis Scholarship, Oberlin Conservatory
2013 - 2017 Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane Scholarship, Oberlin Conservatory
2010 - 2012 UWC South African National Committee Scholarship, United World College of the Adriatic (Italy)

Festivals, Conferences, and Residencies

2022 - 2023 Nomadic Soundsters Residency, Online
2022 “Works in Process” Graduate Student Conference, Cornell
2022 SPLICE Institute, Kalamazoo
2022 New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival (NYCEMF), New York
2022 Earth Day Festival, Online, Indiana University
2022 SEAMUS 2022 National Conference, Online (Kalamazoo)

2020	Thailand New Music and Arts Symposium, Bangkok (Thailand)
2020	Twisted Spruce Guitar Festival, Online
2020	“Electrifying Music: The Life and Legacy of Robert Moog” Festival, Cornell
2019 - 2021	Steven Stucky Memorial Residency, Cornell
2019	National Arts Festival, Makhanda (South Africa)
2018 ; 2020	Institute for the Creative Arts, Cape Town (South Africa)
2018	Seoul International Computer Music Festival, Seoul (Korea)

Teaching Experience:

2024 - 2025	<i>Instructor of Record:</i> Studio Techniques: An Introduction to Electronic Music Production, NYU
2023	Sound Stories: Field Recording in Theory and Practice, Cornell, Fall

Teaching Assistantships:

2023	Music on the Brain, Cornell, Spring
2023	Music on the Brain Field Study – Whale Conservation: Marine Stewardship in Cape Cod Bay, Cornell, Spring
2022	Computers in Music Performance, Cornell, Spring
2021	Wind Symphony, Cornell, Fall
2021	An Introduction to Western Music Theory and African Diaspora Music of the Caribbean and Americas, Cornell, Spring
2020	Introduction to Computer Music, Cornell, Fall

Other Teaching Experience:

2017 ; 2019	Piano Performance, Music Theory, and Arts & Culture Instructor at Westerford High School, Cape Town
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Guest Lectures:

Cornell University

2024	Sonic Thresholds; Control and Constraint; Discrete vs. Continuous Shapes (<i>Shaping Sound</i> , undergraduate seminar, 3-part Lecture/Workshop Series)
2023	A Brief History of 20 th Century Experimental Western Art Music (<i>Elements of Music</i> , undergraduate seminar)
2023	Open and Closed : Control and Constraint in Experimental Music Practice (<i>Bending Instruments</i> , undergraduate seminar)
2022	Improvisation with and against Recording (<i>Works in Process</i> , Graduate Student Symposium)
2022	Visual Analysis; Narrative Strategies; Abstract Semiotics; and Contingency Zero: Negative Space (<i>Cornell Music Improvisation Ensemble</i> , 4-part Lecture/Workshop Series)
2022	Sampling as Archiving: Research Presentation (Cornell Center for Historical Keyboards)
2021	Spatialization and Ambisonics (<i>Advanced Electroacoustic Techniques</i> , graduate seminar)
2020	Non-Representational Notation (<i>Between the Five Lines</i> , undergraduate seminar)
2019	Contemporary Musical Models of Emotion (<i>Music Psychology</i> , undergraduate seminar)
2019	Musical Motion: Through and Beyond Metaphor (<i>Music Psychology</i> , undergraduate seminar)

Research Experience

2024 Research Assistant for Catherine Appert, Cornell
2020 – 2022 Research Assistant and Audio Engineer for Annie Lewandowski's *Siren—Listening to Another Species on Earth* installation-performance: Chillmark, Martha's Vineyard; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell; Statler Hotel, Ithaca

Selected Audio and Recording Engineering Experience:

2024 - Audio and Recording Engineer for Washington Square Contemporary Music Society
2024 Technical Director for *Sounds of Decomposition* (Graduate Conference), NYU
2021 - 2023 Audio and Recording Engineer for *Ensemble X*, Cornell
2021 - 2023 Audio and Recording Engineer for *ReSounds Festival*, Cornell
2022 Audio and Recording Engineer for David Friend and Jerome Begin's *Post-* Concert, Cornell, Fall
2022 Recording Engineer for *Forte/Piano Summer Festival*, Cornell, Summer
2022 Live Diffusionist for *HereNowHear Duo*, performing Stockhausen's *MANTRA*, Cornell & Syracuse University, Spring

Principle Composition Teachers:

2019 - 2024 Kevin Ernste, Cornell
2019 - 2024 Marianthi Papalexandri-Alexandri, Cornell
2021 - 2022 Elizabeth Ogonek, Cornell
2019 Roberto Sierra, Cornell
2017 Tom Lopez, Oberlin
2016 - 2017 Jesse Jones, Oberlin
2015 - 2016 Aaron Helgeson, Oberlin
2014 - 2015 Lewis Nielson, Oberlin

Additional masterclasses with Laurie Andersen, Chaya Czernowin, Sarah Hennies, Anothai Nitibhon, Karen Power, Bernard Rands, Anthony Cheung, Nomi Epstein, and James Dillon

Selected Recent Works:

For more examples of my recent work, please visit my [website](#)

An Archive of Touch (2024), 22-channel ambisonic installation

Premiere at the Schwartz Center for Performing and Media Arts, Cornell University, April 2024 ([Preview](#))

Sound Letters for Wet Ink (2021) for recorded flute, violin, and cello

Erin Lesser, flute; Josh Modney, violin; Mariel Roberts, cello (Wet Ink Ensemble)

Premiere Online, May 2021 ([Watch](#))

Sound Ribbons for Vicki Ray (2022) for solo piano and electronics

Vicky Ray, piano; Joshua Biggs, electronics

Premiere at SPLICE Institute, Kalamazoo, June 2022

Second performance (with fixed electronics) at Piano Spheres, Los Angeles, September 2022 ([Watch](#))

Tower for Greg Stuart (2022) for solo percussionist

Greg Stuart, amplified sticks, stones & dried leaves

Premiere at Milstein Hall, Cornell University, September 2022 ([Watch](#))

send_silence (2020) for binaural fixed media

Alex Goldberg, Anna Hotter, Augustin Martz, Bella Knemeyer, Ben Eppel, Camille Backman, Chris Robinson, Cindy Bell, Claire Röntsch, Daniel Reza Sabzghabaei, David Viljoen, Douglas Farrand, Emily Gammon, Emily Call, Emma Paul, Evan Deyak, Helen Raine, Ieva Blaževičiūtė, Jaidan Rumboll, Joe Eppel, John Eagle, Judy Jackson, Julie Kolevsohn, Kate Pinchuck, Katie Thomas, Kim Hinrichs, Luke Ducray, Luca Sacher, Lulu Badr, Max Law, Miles Friday, Miranda Moss, Mlondiwethu Dubuzane, Natalie Chester, Nick Stares, Nigel Patel, Nikki Pasqualini, Philip Kolevsohn, Rachel Horner, Ruth Eppel, Salsabeel Maryam Kahn, Sarah Biggs, Sascha Eppel, Sergio Cote, Shari Eppel, Shir Kehila, Simone Rademeyer, Sue Cooper, Sue Hodson, Terry Kahn, Thomas Cressy, Tian Yoon Teh, Tracy Visser, William Bolles-Beaven, ambient recordings

Premiere at Earth Day Festival, Online (Indiana University), April 2022 ([Listen](#))

eye contact (2020), single-channel video

Premiere at Thailand New Music and Arts Symposium, Bangkok, December 2020 ([Watch](#))

a history of decay (2022), generative ambisonic installation with historical keyboards

Commissioned by the Cornell Center for Historical Keyboards ([Research Profile](#))

Premiere at Lincoln Hall, Cornell University, May 2022

for laura cetilia (2021), site-specific installation for recorded cello

with recordings by Laura Cetilia, cello ([Listen](#))

Premiere at Lincoln Hall, Cornell University, November 2021

block II (2021) for fixed ambisonic media

recordings by Amy Zuidema, bass clarinet Nic Mathisen, percussion (Mulholland Duo)

Premiere at SEAMUS, April 2022 ([Listen](#)); Second performance at NYCEMF, June 2022

Almost (2021) for piano quintet

Guy Eshed, flute; Tibi Cziger, clarinet; Yonah Zur, violin; Michal Korman, cello; Assaf Weisman, piano (ICP)

Premiere at Barnes Hall, Cornell University, October 2021 ([Listen](#))

Boni + Wes (2019), short film

Commissioned by Motion City Pictures, film production;
Winner of the Grand Prix at the CICLOPE Africa 2020 awards
Premiere Online, December 2019 ([Watch](#))

On Love (2022), animated zine

Commissioned by Mitchell Messina, animator.
Published Online, February 2022 ([Watch](#))

SPLAT (2018), fixed media (~8')

Co-composed with Kirk Pearson
Premiere at the Seoul International Computer Music Festival, September 2018 ([Listen](#))
