

# David Bithell

Assistant Professor of Composition  
Coordinator for the Initiative for Advanced  
Research in Technology and the Arts (iARTA)  
University of North Texas  
[www.davidbithell.com](http://www.davidbithell.com)

2109 North Lake Trail  
Denton, TX 76201  
T 1 (510) 693 - 0546  
dbithell@music.unt.edu

## Education

### University of California, Berkeley, 1999 – 2006

Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Townsend Center for the Humanities, 2005 – 2006

Ph.D., Music Composition, Fall 2004

-----Edmund Campion, dissertation advisor

M.A., Music Composition, Spring 2001

-----Study of Composition and New Technology with David Wessel and Cindy Cox

-----Study of Ethnomusicology with Benjamin Brinner and Bonnie Wade

### University of California, San Diego, 1995 – 1999

B.A., summa cum laude in Music with honors in Composition, Spring 1999

-----Study of Composition with Roger Reynolds, Rand Steiger, and Brian Ferneyhough

-----Study of Contemporary Trumpet Technique with Edwin Harkins

-----Study with Harvey Sollberger and Thomas Nee (conducting), George Lewis and Bertram Turetzky (improvisation), and Steve Schick (contemporary performance practice)

## Teaching Experience

**University of North Texas** – Assistant Professor of Composition, 2006 – present

Developed and taught the following courses: *Introduction to Electro-Acoustic Music*, *Intermedia Performance Art*, doctoral seminars in composition and technology including “*Transcription, Quotation, and the Art of Musical Re-Use*” and “*Physical Computing for Experimental Music and Intermedia*”, graduate and undergraduate composition studio lessons, and thesis advising.

**UC Berkeley Music Department** – Lecturer, 2005 – 2006

Taught Counterpoint and designed a new undergraduate course *Art as Research: Experimental Music Theater and Multimedia Composition* in conjunction with the Townsend Center for the Humanities.

**Pomona College** – Lecturer of Music Theory, Spring 2005

Taught *Music Theory I and III*, the first and last semesters of the music major theory sequence, covering traditional forms, diatonic and chromatic harmony, and including an introduction to species counterpoint and early 20th Century techniques.

**UC Berkeley Music Department** – Graduate Student Instructor, 2000 – 2004

Designed and taught seven semesters of music minor courses including *Introduction to Music Theory* and *Basic Musicianship* and led sections of *American Musical Cultures* and *Introduction to Western Music*. Attended graduate seminars in undergraduate pedagogy, 2000 – 2003

**Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award**, Spring 2002

**ArtsBridge Instructor** at Mira Vista Elementary School, Spring 2002

**Private Instructor** in trumpet and composition for beginning and advanced students, 1996 – 2006

## Music Composition

**Recent Projects** (for a complete list of works see the attached List of Compositions):

*"The Liminal Surface"*, a hardware environment for the performance of interactive music theater. Long-term collaborative project with Ali Momeni, Assistant Professor of Art at the University of Minnesota. Portions premiered at the Ghent International Film Festival and demonstrated in a workshop given at the Royal Academy of Fine Art in Belgium, October 2008. New work for this environment commissioned by the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology at Connecticut College for the 12th Annual Symposium on Arts and Technology (March 2010).

*"Whistle from Above"*, for two percussionists, musical robotics, lighting, and computer sound. Premiered at the SPARK Festival of Electronic Music and Art by the NYC-based percussion duo Hunter/Gatherer in March 2008 with subsequent performances at SUNY Stony Brook, the sfSoundSeries, and the Tenri Cultural Center in New York City. (Supported in part by a American Composers' Forum Encore Grant).

*"the eye (unblinking)"*, for 6 musicians with computer controlled lighting. First performed on the sfSoundSeries (sfSoundEnsemble) in June 2007 and again at the University of North Texas (NOVA Ensemble) and the San Francisco Electronic Music Festival (sfSoundEnsemble). (Supported in part by a University of North Texas Faculty Research Grant)

*"The President has his Photograph Taken"*, for trumpet, video, and interactive electronics. Premiered at the IS ARTI Festival in Kaunas, Lithuania, November 2005. Subsequently performed at the University of the Pacific, the ODC Theater, Texelectronica 2006, the International Computer Music Conference (ICMC 2006) in New Orleans, 2007 SPARK Festival of Electronic Music and Art, University of Texas at Austin, Miami Art Central, the Painted Bride Art Center in Philadelphia, SUNY Stony Brook, and Princeton University.

*"Lumen"*, an evening-length experimental music theater work for trumpet (David Bithell), assistants, four percussionists, live interactive electronics, premiered on the sfSoundSeries at the ODC Theater, San Francisco, January 2005.

*"Situations [plural/fixe]"*, for trumpet (David Bithell), two trombones, slide projection, and live electronic sound premiered at the 24th Annual Festival International des Musiques d'Aujourd'Hui MANCA in Nice, France with support from the Centre National de Creation Musicale (Nice), the Center for New Music and Audio Technologies (Berkeley), and the France/Berkeley Fund, France, November 2003. Subsequent performance on the sfSoundSeries San Francisco, California, February 2004. Solo version premiered on the Strictly Ballroom Series, Stanford University, April 2004.

**Other premieres** include those on the sfSoundSeries (San Francisco, CA), WORKS/San Jose, Berkeley New Music Project, ACME Observatory Series (Berkeley, CA), UC Berkeley Noon Concert series, UC San Diego New Music Forum, and UC San Diego Undergraduate Performers' Forum.

**Commissions** from the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology, WaterTowerTheater Out of the Loop Festival, UC Berkeley's Center for New Music and Audio Technology, the intermedia performance group Double Vision, percussionist Russell Greenberg and the percussion duo Hunter/Gatherer, violinist Mark Menzies, and UC San Diego Carillonneur Scott Paulson.

## Art and Technology

Coordinator for the Initiative for Advanced Research in Technology and the Arts (iARTA), 2008 – present

- Founding principal investigator for an interdisciplinary research cluster at UNT
- Coordinate and facilitate interarts + technology research across 8 departments and 4 colleges
- Oversee hiring process for three new faculty lines generated by this initiative
- Oversee development of a new academic journal, MOEBIUS, focused on arts, technology, and critical theory
- Co-organizer of symposium “iARTA:LEAP Leadership Perspectives on Technology and Art Research”, August 2009.

Faculty Member with the UNT Center for Experimental Music and Intermedia, 2006 – present

- Developed laboratory for Multimedia Physical Computing
  - Designed and implemented a multichannel video matrix environment for live performance
- Head Programmer for UC Berkeley's Space Science Laboratory Sonification Project, 2004 – 2005
- UC Berkeley's Center for New Music and Audio Technologies (CNMAT), 1999 – 2004
- Graduate Student Composer researching real-time interaction and multimedia composition.

## Music Performance

Trumpet player specializing in contemporary music and improvisation:

Major Performances include:

- San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, the sfSoundGroup, ROVA Saxophone Quartet, Nova Ensemble, SPARK Festival, International Computer Music Conference, Berkeley Contemporary Chamber Players, Berkeley New Music Project, Cal Performances, Berkeley Edge Festival, Berkeley TEMPO Festival, Stanford Edge Festival, California Institute for the Arts “Vexations” Festival, and those with Matt Ingalls, John Schott, Hugh Livingston, Larry Ochs, and John Butcher.

Premiered works for Trumpet and Electronics by:

- Olly Wilson, Ali Momeni, Per Bloland, Jan Maresz (US Premiere), Ronald Bruce Smith (US Premiere), and David Bithell.

Trumpet player with the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, La Jolla, California, 1995 – 1999

Gamelan Sari Raras: member of traditional Javanese ensemble, Berkeley, California, 2000 – 2004

## Conducting, Organizing, and Administration

Guest Conductor with the Nova Ensemble (University of North Texas) as a part of artist residencies for Mario Davidovsky, Augusta Read Thomas, and Boknam Lee, 2006 - present

Founding Co-Director and Conductor with sfSound ([www.sfsound.org](http://www.sfsound.org)), 2002 – 2007

- Lead an innovative new music ensemble and performance series producing 10 concerts a year.
- Organize residencies at the ODC Theater, Community Music Center of San Francisco, and Wesleyan University as well as an east-coast tour including Merkin Hall, NYC

Orchestra Manager for the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, La Jolla, California, 1997 – 1999

Conductor and Music Director for the John Muir Musical Ensemble, UC San Diego, 1995 – 1999  
Coordinator of the Undergraduate Performers' Forum at UC San Diego, 1997 – 1999

## Awards, Honors, and Grants

Junior Faculty Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,000), 2010  
Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology Commission (\$3,000), 2009  
University of North Texas Small Grant Program (\$950), 2009  
American Composers' Forum Subito Grant (with the sfSoundGroup) (\$1,000), 2009  
Hispanic and Global Studies Initiatives Fund "Leadership Perspectives on Technology and Art: Challenges and Opportunities in a Changing Global Economy" (\$25,000) co-authored with Jennifer Way, 2009  
Junior Faculty Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,000), 2009  
University of North Texas Research Infrastructure Grant (\$45,000) to design and implement a new video and multimedia presentation system for the Merrill Ellis Intermedia Theater, 2009  
University of North Texas Small Grant Program (\$750), 2009  
American Composers' Forum Encore Grant (with the percussion duo Hunter/Gatherer) (\$1,000), 2008  
University of North Texas Faculty Research Grants (\$5,000 each), 2006 - 2007 and 2007 - 2008  
Meet the Composer "Creative Connections" Award, 2005  
UC Berkeley Eisner Prize for Excellence in the Creative Arts, 2004  
Nichola DeLorenzo Prize for Music Composition, 2004  
CalSpace Summer Fellowship to develop solar sonification software, 2004  
Regents Intern Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 1999 – 2000 and 2003 – 2004  
Zellerbach Family Foundation Grant, 2003  
UC Berkeley Department of Music Christofilos Prize for academic achievement, 2002  
Silicon Graphics/Cray Undergraduate Research Scholarship, 1998 – 1999  
UC San Diego John Muir College Most Outstanding Senior Award, 1999  
UC San Diego Department of Music Peter Farrell Award for Most Outstanding Senior, 1999  
UC San Diego Thomas Nee Award for Outstanding Contribution to the La Jolla Symphony, 1999  
Phi Beta Kappa, Golden Key National Honor Society, and Caledonian Society of John Muir College

## Publications

David Bithell and Ali Momeni "The Liminal Surface: An Interactive Table-Top Environment for Hybridized Music-Theater Performance", Proceedings of the 12th Biennial Symposium on Art and Technology (forthcoming).

David Bithell, "Image, Engagement, Technological Resource: An Interview with Roger Reynolds", Computer Music Journal, Volume 31 Issue 1, Spring 2007.

Laura Peticolas, Roberto Morales Manzanares, David Bithell, Nahide Craig, Janet Luhmann, Stuart Bale, "Space Weather Sonification for scientists, educators, and musicians" American Geophysical Union, Spring Meeting 2005.

David Bithell, "East Meets West: 4th Annual San Francisco Electronic Music Festival" Essay-review published in the Computer Music Journal, Volume 28 Issue 1, Spring 2004.

Various reviews for the San Francisco Classical Voice, January 2004 – 2005.

## Lectures, Presentations, and Workshops

Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology - Connecticut College - Artist Residency, Open Studio, Paper Presentation, and Masterclasses - February 28-March 6, 2010.

Dallas Museum of Art - Featured Artist for Late Night Open Lab - February 19, 2010.

University of North Texas - Moderator for a Panel Discussion on Music for the Theater - Music Now - November 16, 2009.

University of North Texas - Moderator for a Panel Discussion for "Leadership Perspectives on Arts and Technology Research" - iARTA:LEAP Symposium - August 28, 2009.

Grinnell College - Seminar on Music, Multimedia, and Technology - Department of Music - April 13, 2009.

University of Oklahoma - "Interactive Approaches to Computer Music for Intermedia and Improvisation" - co-presented with Christopher Burns, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee - April 9, 2009.

University of North Texas - Public Interview with Mario Lavista - Music Now - February 25, 2009.

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities - "A Case Study in Designing Interaction for Kinetic Sound Sculpture - *The Traveler*" - Seminar Presentations for classes in Sound Art and Digital Art - February 18-19, 2009.

Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea - Seminar on my work with Music, Multimedia, and Technology - Department of Music Composition - November 12, 2008.

Royal Academy of Fine Art Belgium / Higher Institute for Fine Arts Flanders-Ghent - "Physical Computing for Music Theater" - Three Day Intensive Workshop co-taught with Ali Momeni. October 13-15, 2008.

2008 SPARK Festival of Electronic Music and Art - "Influences of New Technologies on Theatre, Dance, and Music Traditions" - Panel Discussion - March 1, 2008.

Princeton University - Lecture/Demonstration of my work with Music, Multimedia, and Technology - SlashArts Series - November 14, 2007.

SUNY Stony Brook - Lecture/Demonstration of my work with Music, Multimedia, and Technology - November 12, 2007.

2007 International Digital Media and Art Association (iDMAA) Conference - "Improvisation and the Happy Accident" - Panel Discussion - November 9, 2007.

University of North Texas - Music Now Series - "A Composer's Survival Guide" - Panel Discussion - April 2, 2007.

Florida International University School of Music- "Toward Musical Intermedia: Structuring Medial Connectivity" - March 26, 2007.

Texas A&M University Center for Humanities Research and the Department of Performance Studies - "Toward Musical Intermedia: Structuring Medial Connectivity" - March 5, 2007.

Texelectronica 2006 Festival of Art, Music, Technology, Society and Culture - Fort Worth Museum of Modern Art - "Interactivity" - Lecture and Panel Discussion - October 28, 2006.

University of North Texas - Music Now Series - "Lumen:Aria - A Case Study in Improvisation and Interactivity" - September 25, 2006.

Wesleyan University - "Collaborative Performance and Composition" - Talk as a part of an sfSound residency - February 22, 2006.

University of California, Berkeley - Composition Colloquium Series - Talk and Panel Discussion with Ali Momeni and Roberto Morales - January 24, 2003.

## Selected Press

August 27, 2009 - KERA Public Radio - Art&Seek Blog - Preview Interview for the iARTA:LEAP Symposium - <http://www.kera.org/blogs/culture/2009/08/27/art-technology-unt/>

August 6, 2009 - KQED Radio Online - Molly Samuel - "sfSound Brings Experimental Music to the Mission" - Preview of sfSoundGroup premiere of *Temporary Structures* - <http://www.kqed.org/arts/music/article.jsp?essid=25151>

July 27, 2009 - San Francisco Classical Voice - Jessica Balik - "It's About Time" - Preview of sfSoundGroup premiere of *Temporary Structures* - <http://www.sfcv.org/preview/sfsoundseries-amp-sfsoundgroup/its-about-time>

July 13, 2009 - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review - Mark Kanny - "Review: New Music Ensemble opens season on a strong note" - Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble performance of *Table Setting* - [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/ae/music/s\\_633481.html#](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/ae/music/s_633481.html#)

July 11, 2009 - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette - Andrew Druckenbrod - "Review: New Music Ensemble keeps its offerings fresh" - Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble performance of *Table Setting* - <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09192/983334-388.stm>

June 19, 2007 - San Francisco Classical Voice - Janos Gereben - "*Listening Ahead*" - Preview article of sfSoundSeries performance of *the eye (unblinking)*.

April 7, 2009 - The Oklahoman - "OU concerts showcase digital art" - Preview article of concert featuring David Bithell and Chris Burns - <http://newsok.com/ou-concerts-showcase-digital-art/article/3359409>

February 22, 2007 - Minneapolis Star-Tribune - Preview of Spark Festival Performance

June 26, 2006 - San Francisco Classical Voice - Jonathan Russell - "*Contemporary Music Review: sfSoundSeries*" - Premiere of *katajjaq a 6* and performance of Globokar's *Dos a Dos* - [http://www.sfcv.org/arts\\_revs/sfsoundseries\\_6\\_27\\_06.php](http://www.sfcv.org/arts_revs/sfsoundseries_6_27_06.php)

May 6, 2006 - San Francisco Classical Voice - Mark Alburger - "*Contemporary Music Review: As Committed as Possible*" - Performances of Kagel's *con voce*, Cage's *Concert for Piano and Orchestra*, and *improvisations* - [http://www.sfcv.org/arts\\_revs/sfsoundgroup\\_5\\_9\\_06.php](http://www.sfcv.org/arts_revs/sfsoundgroup_5_9_06.php)

February, 2005 - Transbay Creative Music Calendar - Phillip Greenlief - Review of *Lumen* - [http://www.transbaycalendar.org/archive/TB\\_2005\\_02.pdf](http://www.transbaycalendar.org/archive/TB_2005_02.pdf)

January 13, 2005 - San Francisco Classical Voice - Mark Alburger - "*Contemporary Music Review: Ring in the New Year*" - sfSoundSeries performance of *Lumen* - [http://www.sfcv.org/arts\\_revs/sfsoundseries\\_1\\_18\\_05.php](http://www.sfcv.org/arts_revs/sfsoundseries_1_18_05.php)

September 25, 2004 - San Francisco Classical Voice - Jonathan Russell - "*Contemporary Music Review: A Bit of This, a Touch of That*" - Premiere of new arrangement of Feldman's *Three Voices* - [http://www.sfcv.org/arts\\_revs/sfsoundseries\\_9\\_28\\_04.php](http://www.sfcv.org/arts_revs/sfsoundseries_9_28_04.php)

April 16, 2002 - San Francisco Classical Voice - Jules Langert - Performance of Ronald Bruce Smith's *Return to Breath* with San Francisco Contemporary Music Players - [http://www.sfcv.org/arts\\_revs/sfcmp\\_4\\_16\\_02.php](http://www.sfcv.org/arts_revs/sfcmp_4_16_02.php)