

MELANIE SEHMAN | Drummer, Percussionist, Composer

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Education

D.M.A.	Eastman School of Music	Rochester, New York	2006
	Performance and Literature		
	Doctoral document: Large-scale rhythmic patterning in the music of Iannis Xenakis		
	Advisors: Professors John H. Beck and Ciro Scotto		
	Performer's Certificate		2005
M.M.	Arizona State University	Tempe, Arizona	2001
	Percussion Performance		
B.M.	Central Washington University	Ellensburg, Washington	1999
	Percussion Performance, cum laude		

Teaching

Whatcom Community College, Associate Professor			2013-present
	· Courses: Music Theory I, II and III; Survey of Jazz History; Survey of American Music; Honors Seminar; Music Appreciation; Introduction to World Music; Contemporary Music Ensemble; IDS140 Making Musical Instruments (co-teach)		
	· Service: Music Discipline Lead (2013-present); Associate in Music Program Coordinator (2018-present); Associate in Music Degree Program Development (2013-2018); Canvas Faculty Support Team Division II (Spring 2020); Canvas Student Support (Spring 2020); Probationary Committees (various)		
	· Professional Development: Sabbatical – Improvisation Pedagogy (Spring 2022); Advanced Instructional Design for Hybrid and Online Classes; Open Educational Resources for Student Success; Graphing and Modeling; TILT; The 4 Connections; Teachable Moments, parts 1 and 2; Teaching for Transfer; Community Engagement Fellows		
CUNY Queensborough Community College, Associate Professor			2006-2013
	· Courses: Music Theory and Keyboard Harmony I, II and III; Musicianship I and II; Aural Skills; Music Around the World; American Music; Special Topics in Music (various); Chamber Music Improvisation; Percussion Ensemble		
	· Service: Visual and Performing Arts Academy Faculty Coordinator (2012-2013); Coordinator of Musicianship Studies (2009-2011); Music Department Curriculum Committee; Performance and Lectures Committee, chair (2007-2013); CUNY WAC/WID Certified; College Distance Education Initiative Faculty Mentor (2011-2013); College Academic Development Committee; Music Department Scholarship Committee; Search Committee (vocal), chair; Music Department Student Advisor; Assisted with Program Review		
Eastman School of Music – Graduate Teaching Assistant			2002-2005
	· Courses: Applied Percussion (Eastman school and University of Rochester majors and non-majors); Percussion Ensemble; Freshman Marimba Ensemble; Chamber Percussion Ensemble; Percussion Methods; Assisted with general departmental needs.		
Eastman School of Music – Mbira Ensemble Assistant			2005-2006
	· Courses: Zimbabwean Mbira Ensemble – techniques and repertoire of mbira dza vadzimu; Assisted director in rehearsal sessions and organizing performances.		
State University of New York, Finger Lakes Community College – Adjunct Instructor			2003-2006
	· Courses: Applied Percussion; Percussion Ensemble		
Nazareth College of Rochester – Lecturer			2004-2005
	· Courses: Percussion Techniques; Coordinated curriculum with full time professor.		

Conference Presentations, Grants

Jack Straw Cultural Center (SEA) Artist Assistance Program grant (MANtrio)	March 2022
NUMUS Northwest (SEA) Premiere performance and presentation of work by composer Bethany Younge	January 2018
Earle Brown Music Foundation Grant For the concert program The Music of Earle Brown	2017
Washington State Arts Commission Project Grant For the concert program Between Two Worlds	2017
College Music Society National Conference (Cambridge, MA) Paper presentation on the pedagogy of collaborative learning in music theory classes	October 2013
College Music Society National Conference (Richmond, VA) Lecture Recital "Maximum Music from Minimal Means." Lecture recital presenting contemporary repertoire highlighting limited musical materials or processes.	October 2011
CUNY Professional Staff Congress Research Foundation Grant Commission of series of five new works for vibraphone, percussion & electronics.	July 2011-June 2013
College Music Society National Conference (Minneapolis, MN) Paper presentation "Creating Music – Creating Musicians." Paper presenting approaches to integrating improvisation activities into core music curriculum courses.	September 2010
CUNY Queensborough Distance Education Initiative, Faculty Mentor Trained in pedagogy, design and implementation of online courses. Mentor faculty in development of online courses and learning materials.	May 2009-2013
Percussive Arts Society International Conference Focus Day, Indianapolis, IN Premiere of new commission from composer Martin Scherzinger	November 2009
New Jersey Percussive Arts Society New Jersey Day of Percussion, Paterson, NJ Featured soloist	April 2009
CUNY Queensborough "Conference of the College" Co-presented lecture "Teaching the Other" with Professor Sara Danielsson. Teaching culturally sensitive subjects to diverse student populations.	October 2007
CUNY Professional Staff Congress Research Foundation Grant Recipient Principal Investigator in grant for the commission and performance/tour of new work from composer Aaron Travers.	July 2007
New York City Percussive Arts Society Day of Percussion, featured soloist	March 2007
Percussive Arts Society International Convention (Austin, TX) "Deconstructing the Mbira." World Music Session on structural understanding and methods of learning improvisation on mbira dza vadzimu.	November 2006
Percussive Arts Society International Convention Focus Day, Columbus, OH	November 2005
Tufts University Festival of African Music and Dance Masterclass and interactive demonstration of the mbira dza vadzimu with Steven Sehman and Martin Scherzinger.	April 2005
Nazareth College of Rochester Lecture/demonstration on the mbira dza vadzimu: its music, cultural background and religious uses in Shona society	February 2005
Society of Composers, Inc. Region VII Conference Performer, Tempe, AZ	April 2001
Arizona Percussive Arts Society Day of Percussion, Tempe, AZ	March 2001
Arizona Percussive Arts Society Day of Percussion, Flagstaff, AZ	March 2000

Performances**Jazz, Pop and Creative**

MANtrio – Improvised music for piano, bass and drums	2019-present
Recording debut album (title TBD) – <i>in progress</i>	August 2022

Residency at Camphill Village (Kimberton, PA)	October 2022
Aslan Depot (Bellingham)	April 2022
Honeymoon (Bellingham)	April 2022
Earshot Jazz – The Second Century Series	October 2020
Wayward in Limbo (Seattle)	August 2020
Old World Deli	January 2020
Racer Sessions (Seattle)	November 2019
Bellingham Alternative Library	October 2019
WJMAC Jazz Walk 2019	October 2019
The Unknowns – Swing standards with three-part vocal harmonies	2018-present
Regular performance schedule and touring in Pacific Northwest region	
Recorded EP Drinking in the Bleachers (2021)	
Cat Valley – Four-piece surf-punk band	2016-present
Regular performances in PNW region, touring and recording	
Treefort Music Festival (2021)	
Recorded EP Feral (2020)	
Nuages – Modern Jazz Manouche	2018-present
Manouche NW Concert Series	
Regular performances in Bellingham area	
Whatcom Sound Jazz Singers – Vocal Jazz Choir	2017-present
Regular performances in Bellingham area	
Hooves and Beak – Folk-pop quartet with harp	2017-2019
Multiple performances in Washington and Oregon; toured and recorded	
Recorded EP Monster (2019)	
SymSynComCon – Improvised music for percussion duo	2017-2019
Seattle Improvised Music Festival (2018)	
Racer Sessions (Seattle)	
Woodland Theater (Seattle)	
Gallery 1412 (Seattle)	
Creative Music Studio (NY) workshop performances	2019
Performed with Billy Martin, Fay Victor, Ingrid Sertso, Ken Filiano and others	
Studio session work at The Unknown (Anacortes, WA)	2020-present
Chamber Music	
Good Vibes Only – Contemporary percussion chamber music	August 2019
Washington Hall (Seattle)	
Cheating, Lying, Stealing – Contemporary chamber music	January 2019
Washington Hall (Seattle)	
Live Session for Second Inversion/KingFM	
Bellingham Chamber Music Society – Contemporary chamber music	
First Congregational Church of Bellingham	April 2018
Make.Shift Artspace	January 2016
Whatcom Community College	January 2015
Global Spice World Music Series – Percussion chamber music	
Western Washington University, with guest artist Dan Piccolo	October 2015
Bellingham Music Club – Percussion chamber music	
Night Beat Concerts at First Congregational Church	March 2015
Night Beat Concerts at The Firehouse	November 2014
Dr. Faustus – New music for piano and percussion	
Di Menna Center (NYC), new commissions, upcoming	May 2013
Proper Glue Duo – Contemporary music for percussion duo	

The Firehouse Series (NYC)	February 2013
Stonybrook University, Staller Center, premiere of <i>Winter Taps</i>	December 2011
Make Music New York with Miller Theater, <i>Inuksuit</i>	June 2011
Bang on a Can Marathon, premiere of <i>Portrait of Eva Hesse</i>	June 2011
Barbès (NYC), collaborative concert with toy pianist Phyllis Chen	March 2011
The Park Avenue Armory (NYC), NY premiere of <i>Inuksuit</i>	February 2011
Indiana University, concert	February 2011
Saint Peters Church (NYC), concert	October 2010
State University of New York, Fredonia in collaboration with <i>Out of Context</i>	April 2010
Christ Church, Rochester, in collaboration with <i>Out of Context</i>	April 2010
Arizona State University, concert	February 2009
University of Arizona, concert and masterclass	February 2009
Pima College, concert and masterclass	February 2009
Tribeca Performing Arts Center, concert	March 2009
Hartt School, concert and masterclass	October 2008
Queens College, concert	October 2008
Rowan University, concert and masterclass	October 2008
University of Maryland, Baltimore County, evening concert	October 2006
Eastman School of Music, evening recital	September 2004
Eastman School of Music, Bartok <i>Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion</i>	December 2004
Bang on a Can Summer Festival	July 2011
Ken Thomson Faculty Recital, Andriessen <i>Hout</i>	
Nouveau Classical Project on MATA Interval series – Experimental and electro-acoustic music	
Issue Project Room (NYC), concert	March 2011
Eastman BroadBand – Contemporary music for mixed chamber ensemble	
Symphony Space Peter Jay Sharp Theater (NYC)	May 2011
The Americas Society (NYC)	May 2011
Conservatorio de Música de las Rosas, Morelia, Michoacan, MX	September 2007
Duo RoMi+Me – Contemporary chamber music for piano, percussion and flute	
Saint Peters Church (NYC)	February 2011
Bang on a Can Summer Festival	July 2009
Composition Fellow Concert, chamber premieres by Mikhailova, Kirsten, and Naeff	
David Cossin Faculty Recital, percussion quartet works by Wolfe & Talujon	
Afternoon Gallery Concert, Reich <i>Piano Phase</i>	
Afternoon Gallery Concert, Reich <i>Music for Pieces of Wood</i>	
Afternoon Gallery Concert, vocal music of Georges Aperghis, <i>Recitation No. 8</i>	
Afternoon Gallery Concert, solo improvisation	
Community Outreach Concert, traditional Kyrgyz/Uzbek music	
Evening Café Concert, Banglewood Latin Jazz Ensemble	
Rehearsal Coaching with Steve Reich, <i>Music for 18 Musicians</i>	
Bang on a Can Summer Marathon, <i>Music for 18 Musicians</i> , <i>Ballet Mecanique</i> , <i>Dark Full Ride</i>	
Banff Centre Summer Percussion Residency with Steven Schick	June 2009
Chamber Music Collaborative Concert, Berio <i>Linea</i>	
Afternoon Performance with Pauline Oliveros, <i>Single Stroke Roll Meditation</i>	
Banff Summer Arts Festival, Reich <i>Drumming</i>	
Banff Summer Arts Festival, premiere of John Luther Adams' <i>Inuksuit</i> , Varèse <i>Ionisation</i>	
OSSIA New Music	2003-2006
African Alchemies Ensemble – New and traditional music from Southern Africa	
Cornell University, evening concert	April 2005
Tufts University, mbira masterclass and evening concert	April 2005
University at Buffalo, evening concert	March 2005

Winchester Theater, Toronto, evening concert	March 2005
State University of New York, Brockport	March 2005
Women in Music Festival, Rochester, NY, premiere by Vera Ivanova	March 2005
Heidelberg New Music Festival, Heidelberg, OH, music of Brian Bevelander	April 2004

Orchestral

Bellingham Symphony Orchestra (formerly Whatcom Symphony Orchestra), Co-principal percussion	2014-present
Whatcom Chorale, percussion	2014-2016
Bellingham Festival of Music, substitute percussion	2014
Camerata Notturna (NY), section percussion	2010-2013
Eastman Composer's Sinfonietta	2003-2006
Gateways Festival, Rochester, NY	2003
Eastman Philharmonia, principal percussion	2003
Phoenix Bach Choir	2001
Tucson (AZ) Symphony Orchestra, extra percussion	2001-2002
Yakima (WA) Symphony Orchestra, section percussion II	1998-1999
Mid-Columbia (WA) Symphony Orchestra, extra percussion	1998-1999
Chautauqua Institution Festival Orchestra	1998

Opera, Theater and Dance

Pacific Northwest Opera (formerly Skagit Opera), Multiple productions: <i>Otello, La Traviata, The Ring of the Niebelung (adapted), La Boheme, Don Giovanni, Norma, Hansel und Gretel, Cosi fan Tutte, Aida, Die Fledermaus, Rigoletto</i>	2014-present
B3W Dance Group (NYC), Conversations	2009
OSSIA New Music, Comala	2004
Rochester Opera Factory, <i>Cavalleria Rusticana, I Pagliacci</i>	2003-2004
George Crumb & David Burge ASU Music/Dance residency, <i>Moku</i>	2002
Phoenix Little Theater, substitute percussion	2000
ASU Lyric Opera Theater, <i>Bye Bye Birdie, H.M.S. Pinafore, Carousel</i>	1999-2000

Solo Concerts

Racer Sessions, solo performance with video art	June 2021
Bellingham Electro-Acoustic Music Festival, solo concert & masterclass	May 2011
Wayward Music Series at Good Shepherd (Seattle, WA), solo concert	April 2011
Princeton University Composers' Concert, solo performance	March 2011
Random Access Music Secret Series (NYC), solo percussion & electronics	March 2011
Queensborough Performing Arts Center, solo concert	April 2010
Fort Lewis College, solo concert, student coaching, world music lecture	March 2009
Montana State University, solo concert, student coaching, percussion class lecture	March 2008
Queensborough Performing Arts Center, solo concert	March 2008
New Jersey City University, featured ensemble soloist	March 2007
Eastman School of Music, DMA solo recital	March 2005
Eastman School of Music, DMA solo recital	April 2003
Eastman School of Music, DMA solo recital	December 2003
Arizona State University, MM solo recital	March 2001
Arizona State University, MM solo recital	April 2000
Central Washington University, BM solo recital	May 1999
Central Washington University, BM solo recital	April 1997

Masterclasses and Coachings

Marina Albero	2022
Billy Martin	2019
Fay Victor	2019
Ken Filiano	2019
Steven Schick	2009
Anders Loguin	2009
Mark Applebaum	2009
Bob Becker	2009
Aiyun Huang	2009
Steve Reich	2009
Julia Wolfe	2009
David Cossin	2009
Brad Lubman	2009
Robert Morris	2007
Steven Schick	2001
Alison Shaw	1999
Robert Van Sice	1997

Other teachers

Dave King (The Bad Plus), Steven Schick (UCSD), Michael Burritt (Eastman School), Anders Loguin (Kroumata), Bob Becker (NEXUS), David Cossin (Bang on a can All Stars), Aiyun Huang (McGill), Ron Barnett (Kennedy Center Opera), Brian Kushmaul (Louisville Orchestra), Stuart Chafetz (Honolulu Symphony)

Publications

Sehman, Melanie. "Acoustics of Timpani." *Percussive Notes* 45, no. 2 (April 2007): 54-55.
 Sehman, Melanie and Steven Sehman. "Deconstructing the Mbira." *Percussive Notes* 44, no. 5 (Oct. 2006): 30-31.

Awards

Fulbright Scholar Award semi-finalist	2012
Eastman School of Music Outstanding Teaching Assistant Prize Nominee	2004
Eastman School of Music Teaching Assistant Award	2002-2005
Arizona State University Regents Scholarship & University Grant	1999-2001
Eirene Peggy Lamb Scholarship	1999-2001
Louise Kerr Endowment	1999-2001