

Thomas M. Swafford, Ph.D.
composer, violinist, educator

(206) 719-5385
tswaf@hotmail.com
www.tomswafford.com

EDUCATION

- 2001-2002 Post-doctoral studies in composition

 Royal Conservatory, The Hague, Netherlands
 Principle teacher: Louis Andriessen
- 1995-2001 M.A., Ph.D. music composition

 University of California, Berkeley

 Principle teacher: Olly Wilson
 Dissertation: *Night Terrors* (for orchestra)
- 1991-1995 B.A. double major in music and clinical psychology

 Tufts University, Medford, MA
 Principle teacher (composition): John McDonald

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2013-2020 **Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, Brooklyn, NY**
private instruction in violin, theory, composition
chamber music coaching
ages 5 to adult
online lessons March-June, 2020
- 2012 **PS 230, Brooklyn, NY**
beginner violin class, grade 3 after school program
- 2011-2016 **In Performance Music Workshop, Brooklyn, NY**
private instruction in violin and piano for ages 5 to adult
- 2010 **Northeastern University, Boston, MA**
Music in the U.S.A.

THOMAS M. SWAFFORD

U.S. Sino Pathways Summer Bridge Program

Summer program for students from China entering college in the U.S.

Text: Judith Tick, ed., *Music in the USA*

- 2008-2016 **PS 89, New York, NY**
Beginning and intermediate middle school string orchestra (substitute teacher)
- 2006-2007 **Buck's Rock Creative Arts Camp, New Milford, CT**
Supervised music staff; conducted orchestra, pit band, and jazz band; violin, composition, and piano instructor; organized concerts, wrote program notes, and organized daily schedule for music department. Students ages 11 through 17
- 2006 **Art Institute of Seattle, Seattle, WA**
Instruction in beginning and intermediate music theory, classical, jazz and popular music analysis, and music appreciation for college students in the Audio Production program
- 2006 **Community School, White Center, WA**
violin class instructor, ages 4-7
- 2005-2007 **Academy of Music Northwest, Bellevue, WA**
Coached chamber ensembles, class instructor in composition and theory for advanced middle and high school level music students
- 2005 **Washington Middle School, Seattle, WA**
Teaching Assistant; led orchestra string section rehearsals
- 1996-2001 **University of California, Berkeley, Graduate Student Instructor,**
Music Appreciation
(text: Joseph Kerman, *Listen*)
Musicianship
(text: Robert Ottman, *Basic Ear Training Skills*)
Introduction to Theory (texts: Peter Spencer, *Practice of Harmony*; William Duckworth, *A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals*)
Orchestra
librarian and conductor's assistant
- 1993-present **Private Violin and Piano Instructor**

Students ages 5 through adult

HONORS, AWARDS, COMMISSIONS

- 2012 Brooklyn Arts Council Community Arts Fund Grant
“Becoming Human,” composition performance at PS 217, Brooklyn
- 2008 National Endowment for the Arts grant
“Anthropomorphic,” musical for The Puppetry Arts Theatre
Seattle Philharmonic Cello Choir
“Tango Izquierda” (commission)
- 2008 Tufts University New Music Ensemble, “Bad Old Songs” (commission)
- 2006 4Culture Grant, Seattle, WA
trio (piano, clarinet, violin) performance and recording
- 2005 CityArtist Grant, Seattle, WA
Production of a concert of original compositions
- 2005 Jack Straw Foundation Artist Support Program, Seattle, WA
A CD of original compositions: *Golden Crackers* and *Dubious Diversions*
- 2003 Music Northwest, Seattle, WA “Bonnie George Campbell”
Composition selected for concert performance from a nation wide call for scores
- 2001 Charles Ives Scholarship,
American Academy of Arts and Letters
- 2001 Alfred Hertz Memorial Traveling Fellowship, U. C. Berkeley
- 1997-98 Bella Zellerbach Cross Scholarship

THOMAS M. SWAFFORD

- 1997 Roslyn Schneider Eisner Prize for Composition
- 1996 Helen Williams Wallace and Morton Walker Scholarship
- 1996 Departmental Block Grant Fellowship
- 1994 Tufts University Concerto Competition (violin)
performed original violin concerto with the Tufts Orchestra, 1995
- 1994 Mabel Daniels Prize for music, Tufts University, 1994
- 1990 Soloist award (piano), Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival

SELECTED RECENT PERFORMANCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Fall, 2020 Virtual Lecture on my recent composition and performance activity
Composition Seminar
Tufts University, Medford, MA
- August 1, 2020 *Me, Myself and Eye*
online solo performance to artwork by Grady Swafford
hosted by Connection Works Inc., Brooklyn, NY
(violin, improvisation)
- July 13, 2020 “Corona Etude: A New York City Busker Returns to Composition”
Article about my recent performance and composition activity
published on violinist.com
- February 26, 2020 *The Thursday Experiment*
solo violin performance
Gateway City Arts
Holyoke, MA
(violin, improvisation)
- December 15, 2019 *Me, Myself and Eye*
solo violin performance
440 Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
(violin, improvisation)
- February 16, 2019 *Olly Wilson Memorial Symposium*
new composition for solo violin
University of California, Berkeley
(violin, composition)

THOMAS M. SWAFFORD

- October 17, 2018 *Daniel Carter with Strings*
Combination of freely improvised music with Arabic and Turkish
traditional music
Happy Lucky#1, Brooklyn, NY
(violin)
- February 2, 2018 *Blues Influence*
Music by Tom Swafford, Blind Willie Johnson,
W. C. Handy, M. Ravel
Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, Faculty Concert
(violinist, composer, presenter)
- October 19, 2017 *Bad Actor*, a musical comedy
The Tank, NYC
(composer, lyricist, co-writer, pianist)
- April 20, 2016 String Power, Barbés, Brooklyn
(composer, arranger, violinist)
- September 10, 2015 String Power, album release concert
Shapeshifter Lab, Brooklyn
(composer, arranger, violinist)
- March 29, 2013 *Icarus*, puppet musical based on the Greek myth
Jim Henson Carriage House, NYC
(composer, violinist, music director)
- May 20, 2012 *Becoming Human*
funded in part by Brooklyn Arts Council, Community Arts Fund
Grant
PS 217, Brooklyn, NY
(composer, violinist, producer)
- February 11, 2012 *Your Voice/ My Violin*
workshop for children
Roulette, Brooklyn, NY
(composer, violinist, leader)
- August 5, 2011 *Finger Games* (for solo piano)
The Cell, New York, NY
(composer)
- May 8, 2011 *Mostly Solos* (composition concert)

The Stone, New York, NY
(composer, violin)

- January 21, 2011 *Suspensions of Disbelief*
Detour New Music Ensemble
Galapagos, Brooklyn, NY
(violin, composer)
- March 10, 2010 The Real (?) Me (composition concert)
Roulette, NYC
(composer, violinist, presenter)

SELECTED RECORDINGS

- 2021 *Scythe Paths Through the Nettles* (violin)
Duo album with contrabassist Zachary Swanson
Self released on Bandcamp
- 2018 *Cispontine* (violin, composer)
Multi-track violin album. Made in response to the RPM Challenge. Musicians are
challenged to write and record a complete album in the month of February.
Self released
- 2015 *Tom Swafford's String Power* (violin, composer, arranger)
11 member string ensemble
Original music by Swafford and arrangements of music by Charles Mingus, The
Velvet Underground, Mohamed Abdel Wahab, The Carter Family, and The
Stranglers
Funded by an Indiegogo crowd-funding campaign
Self released
- 2013 *Songs from the Inn* (violin, piano, arranger, composer)
Inspired by my summers as the in-house musician at the Old Faithful Inn,
Yellowstone National Park
Self released
- 2011 *Violin for Christmas* (violin, arranger)
Multi-track violin arrangements of Christmas carols
Self released

THOMAS M. SWAFFORD

- 2011 Aram Bajakian's Kef (violin)
Arrangements of Armenian folk music and originals
Aram Bajakian, guitar, composer; Shanir Ezra Blumenkranz, bass
Tzadik
- 2009 7th Ave (violin, composer, arranger)
Solo violin CD of folk songs, jazz and classical arrangements and original
compositions created over a year of performing in the New York City subway
stations.
Self released
- 2007 *Stonehouse Songs* (violin)
Jarrad Powell, composer, Jessika Kenney, vocalist
Present Sounds Recordings
- 2005 *Cistern* (violin)
Improvisations with the DoublendsVert ensemble, recorded in an empty
underground reservoir with a 45-second reverberation
Line Records
- 2004 *DoublendsVert*, (violin)
Present Sounds Recordings
- 2004 "Imposition" (composer)
Intrada (Ryan Hare, bassoon)
Present Sounds Recordings
- 2003 *Violin Improvisations* (violin)
solo improvisations recorded at Seattle University
Self released
- 1995 "Window" (violin)
Parachute (Guster)
Reprise Records
- 1995 "Passion Play" (violin/arranger)
Papas Fritas
Minty Fresh Records