

Tom Swafford, Ph.D.
composer, violinist, educator

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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

- 2023 **Rhode Island College**
Music Theory IV
Non-tonal and post-tonal harmonies and 20th century compositional practices.
Text: Clendinning and Marvin, *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis, 4th Edition* (Norton, 2021)

Graduate Seminar in Music History and Literature
The Use of Folk and Jazz in Western Classical Music
Topics include: Native American, Eastern European, Romani music; Bartók,
Copland, Ellington
Authors include: Richard Taruskin, Beth Levy, Olly Wilson, László Somfai
- 2022-2023 **Community Music Works, Providence, RI**
Improvisation

- 2022-2023 Group class, ages 9-15
Providence School of Music
 Private lessons in violin and piano
 Ages 6 to adult
- 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.
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

SELECTED RECENT AND UPCOMING PERFORMANCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- October 14, 2023 *Alphabet City Cycle* (violin)
Sheltered Garden (composer)
with Rachel Hannauer, soprano; Nathaniel Baker, piano
University of Rhode Island, University Artist Series
- May 4, 2023 Ben Copperhead and the Stringed Serpents, album release (violin)
NUBLU, New York, NY
- February 26, 2023 *Never Ending Flicker*
with Zan Berry, cello, and Matt Crane, percussion
White Electric Coffee, Providence, RI
- January 15, 2023 Improvised Music Performance
with Stephen Haynes, cornet; Nate McBride, bass; Matt Crane,
drums
Speed Shop, Providence, RI

December 10, 2022 *Rocket Appliance*
with Eric Barber, saxophone and Matt Crane, drums
Warren House of Pizza, Warren, RI

October 20, 2022 Music and Butoh performance
with Vanessa Skantze, Butoh artist; Jesse Canterbury, clarinet; Jim
Knodle, trumpet; Greg Campbell and Eveline Müller, percussion
Wayward Music Series, Good Shepherd Center, Seattle, WA

June 25, 2022 Jason Kao Hwang's *Myths of Origin* (violin)
Vision Festival, Roulette, Brooklyn, NY

April 3, 2022 Composition concert
with Rachel Hanauer, voice and Yoon Chung, piano
Providence College, Providence, RI

September 24, 2021 Solo violin performance
IBeam, Brooklyn, NY

June 24, 2021 UCI - Un Dia Cambio La Historia
video performance for installation by artist Damian Toro
Toro Art Studio, Quito, Ecuador

September 28, 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)
- 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, and *Ampa Youtou* (traditional West
African song)
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)

Fall, 2011 *Butch Morris' Lucky Cheng Orchestra*
Fall residency with composer/conductor Lawrence 'Butch' Morris
Lucky Cheng's, New York, NY
(violinist, improviser)

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, New York, NY
(composer, violinist, presenter)

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
- 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**

RECORDINGS

- 2022 *Rough Spaces*
Solo improvisations for violin
Self released on BandCamp

- 2021 *Bound to Go Away* (violin, composer, arranger)
Solo violin album
Self released on BandCamp
- 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
- 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