

CHARLES JOHNSON

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SUMMARY

Composer, sound artist, musician with a background in improvised music, electronic music composition and performance, experimental rock, American Primitive fingerstyle guitar, and music for film and dance. Recent work has focused on developing a versatile analog electronic performance system, creating interactive and intermedia work with custom software and unusual interfaces, and composition for acoustic and electronic instruments using just intonation tuning systems – all with an ear towards finding faults and instabilities that might reveal latent beauty.

Professional experience in audio engineering, media production, soundtrack composition and audio post-production, IT support and consultation, education, and new music event production.

Technical proficiency in Pro Tools, Logic, Final Cut Pro, Nuendo, Peak, Max/MSP, Jitter, Supercollider, Pure Data, QLab, professional mixing consoles and outboard audio gear, physical computing and interactive arts techniques, electronics fabrication.

Areas of research interest include emerging practices and critical literature in sound art, creative use of audio recording techniques, composition techniques utilizing acoustic phenomena and Just Intonation tuning systems, the political and philosophical history of tuning and temperament, instrument design in the physical and virtual realms, social and ecological implications and critical reading of technology-driven art forms, the nexus of traditional and emerging musical practices.

Areas of expertise include Audio Recording Techniques, Music and Sound for Film, Electronic Music (History, Theory, and Practice), Just Intonation Tuning Systems, The “American Experimentalist” Music (History, Theory, and Practice), Traditional and Classical Musics of India and the Middle East, American Music Traditions, American Primitive Fingerstyle Guitar, Interactive and Intermedia Arts, Circuit Building for Artists and Musicians

EDUCATION

- M.F.A. in Electronic Music and Recording Media - Mills College (Oakland, CA) 2009
- B.A. in Psychology and Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 1991

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Guest Artist and Lecturer, Jenkins MBA Program, North Carolina State University, 2004**
Presentation for the MBA School’s Creativity Project curriculum. Discussed the roles of improvisation, collaboration, and technology in the creative process.

- **Graduate Teaching Assistant, Center for Contemporary Music, Mills College, 2007-2009**
Lab instructor for graduate seminars in Electronic Music Performance, Audio Recording Techniques, and undergraduate course in Electronic Music. Assistantship also included studio management duties, concert technical management, documentation, and media archiving.
- **Guest Lecturer, Department of Music, University of California at Santa Cruz, 2009**
Presentation on David Tudor and Live Electronic Music for Music80c (History, Literature, and Technology of Electronic Music). Discussed the aesthetic and philosophical implications of the shift in the early 1960's from electronic music as a studio practice to a performance practice.
- **Private Tutor In Audio Recording Techniques, Logic And Pro Tools Software 2009-present**
- **Private Instruction In Fingerstyle Guitar and Composition 2008-Present**
- **Media Workshop Coordinator and Youth Education Curriculum Planning - NEXMAP (New Experimental Music, Art, And Performance) (San Francisco, CA) 2010-Present**
Planning and technical supervision of professional media arts workshop series. Proposed and planned curricula for high school elective courses in Digital Media and Audio Recording.

AWARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- *Comprehensivism* commissioned by Duke University's CSMG ensemble (now known as pulsoptional) for their "Synaesthesia: Echoes of Black Mountain College" Fall Concert, 2000
- Orange County, NC Arts Commission travel grant 2007
- Full Graduate Teaching Assistantship at the Center for Contemporary Music, Mills College (Oakland, CA) 2007-2008
- Paul Merritt Henry Prize for Excellence In The Musical Composition For String Instruments, Mills College, 2009
- Meet the Composer Creative Connections grant, 2009
- Best Original Music in a Documentary Award (for *Monster Road*) – RiverRun International Film Festival, 2009

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers
- International Society of Improvised Music

SELECT DISCOGRAPHY

as Chuck Johnson:

- "Duet" with marc faris on *Transmissions 001* (transmissions/ wxyc) 1999
- "Closing Credits" on *And to the Disciples that Remain* compilation CD (Amish Records) 2006
- "A struggle, not a thought" on *Beyond Berkeley Guitar* compilation CD (Tompkins Square) 2010

with Idyll Swords:

- *Idyll Swords* CD (The Communion Label) 1999
- *Idyll Swords II* CD (The Communion Label) 2000
- *Purposeful Availment* CD/EP (Threelobed Recordings) 2002

with Shark Quest:

- *Gods and Devils* CD (Merge Records) 2004

as Pykrete:

- *Over Hylaster* CD-R (Cirrus Oxide) 2004
- Southern Man + Pykrete *No More Love to Give* CD (Phaserprone) 2006
- *Liber Novus* 2xLP (FrequeNC) 2010

with Micro-East Collective:

- *Fabric* CD (Umbrella Recordings) 2001

as Ivanovich:

- "at the end of the day" on CD accompanying *Badaboom Gramophone* magazine 1997
- *Solo Guitar* CD (Amish Records) 1999

with Spatula:

- *Even the Thorny Acacia* CD (Jesus Christ) 1994
- *Medium Planers and Matchers* CD (Jesus Christ) 1995
- *Under the Veil of Health* LP/CD (Squealer Music) 1996
- *Despina by Land* CD (Squealer music) 1998

FILM AND TELEVISION SCORES

- *Tobacco Money Feeds My Family* (directed by Cynthia Hill) 2003
- (with Shark Quest) *Monster Road* (directed by Brett Ingram) 2003
- *The GillianFilm* (directed by Joanne Hershfield) 2005
- *The Guestworker* (directed by Cynthia Hill) 2005
- (with Shark Quest) *Rocaterrania* (directed by Brett Ingram) 2008
- *With These Hands* (directed by Matthew Barr) 2008
- *Crave* (Jennifer Ruff) 2009 (in production)
- *Who's Next* (directed by Rex Miller for the Tennis Channel) 2010

SELECT FESTIVALS AND PERFORMANCES

- improvised music performances with Eugene Chadbourne, Frank Gratkowski, Morgan Guberman, Peter Kowald, Scott Rosenberg, Dennis Gonzalez
- (with Conjunto Ivanovich and solo) *Transmissions oo1* (Chapel Hill, NC) 1998
- *Transmissions oo2* (Chapel Hill, NC) 1999
- (with Idyll Swords) *Transmissions oo3* (Chapel Hill, NC) 2000
- *Transmissions oo3.4* (Chicago) 2000
- (with Spatula) *Tropic of Metalotronic Festival* (Washington DC) 1997
- (with Superchunk) *Siren Festival* (Brooklyn, NY) 2001
- (with Superchunk) performed live score to Teinosuke Kinugasa's 1927 silent film *A Page of Madness* - San Francisco International Film Festival 2002

- (with Randy Ward) quadraphonic live sound performances in various venues – July-October 2003
- (with Mike Walters) BENT 2004 (New York)
- (with Bart Moyers) interactive sound installation at Loom Exhibition (Pittsboro, NC) 2004
- (with Shark Quest) performed live score to short films by Bruce Bickford at Witherspoon Theater, NC State University (Raleigh, NC) 2002
- Soundscape Movement Festival (Chapel Hill, NC) 2006
- Signal+Noise Festival (Vancouver, BC) 2007
- (with Pauline Oliveros) Festival of New American Music (Sacramento, CA) 2007
- (with Pauline Oliveros) World Flute Festival (Oakland, CA) 2007
- (with Miya Masaoka and Pauline Oliveros) Greenwich House School of Music (New York, NY) 2008
- PastForward 25th Anniversary Concert Series, The LAB (San Francisco, CA) 2009
- Music for People and Thingamajigs (San Francisco, CA) 2009
- (with Suzanne Thorpe and Philip White) Diapason Gallery (Brooklyn, NY) 2009
- Live sound design and score for *Life Sustenance* dance performance (choreography by Minna Harri) Subterranean Arts Space (Berkeley, CA) 2010

OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Systems Analyst (IT support and systems administration) – Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research 1999-2007
- Freelance audio engineering and production - specializing in experimental and improvised music and location recording, with work credited on commercial recordings and film soundtracks 1998-present
- Curator – “Shortwave” series of experimental and improvised music 1997-2001
- Technical Director – Transmissions Festival (North Carolina and Chicago) 1999-2000
- Technical and Production Coordinator – NEXMAP (New Experimental Music, Art, and Performance) (San Francisco, CA) 2009-2010
- Soundtrack composer, sound designer – Smith and Johnson Sound 2010-present