

Elisabeth Blair

Podcaster | Poet | Composer | Concert Producer | Multidisciplinary Artist
www.elisabethblair.net | www.listeningtoladies.com | www.compassnewmusic.com

Education

- 9/2015 – 5/2017 Master of Music Composition program at Western Michigan University. Studied with Lisa R. Coons & Chris Biggs; additional lessons with Ingrid Stölzel, Eli Fieldsteel, and Robert Carl. (No degree conferred)
- 2015 **Specialist Certificate in Orchestration for Film and TV**, Berklee.
- 2013 – 15 Private music composition student of composer Kevin Ure.
- 2013 Creative Center Training Institute for Artists & Administrators in Creative Aging, NYC.
- 2013 Private music composition student of composer Michael Wheeler.
- 2004 – 06 Private classical voice student of Bruce Tammen, Chicago.
- 2004 **Bachelor of Arts in Art, Design & Media**, with a focus in Photography and Lens Media, Richmond American International University, London, England.
- 2003 Koinè Center Italian Language School, Florence, Italy.

Residencies

- 2018 Wildacres Artist Residency (poetry translation)
- 2017 Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts (music composition)
- 2017 Toronto Creative Music Lab (music composition)
- 2017 Atlantic Center for the Arts, FL (with poet Heather McHugh)
- 2016 ACRE (Artists' Cooperative Residency & Exhibition)
- 2016 *highSCORE Contemporary Music Festival, Italy (unable to attend)*
- 2015 Wildacres Artist Residency (music composition)
- 2015 Atlantic Center for the Arts (with composer Karl Berger)
- 2013 *The Art Farm, NE (unable to attend)*
- 2012 Chicago Detours (visual art)

Grants

- 2018 & 2019 International Alliance for Women in Music podcast support grant (\$1200 &)
- 2017 & 2018 WMUK podcast support grant (\$2000 & \$1800)
- 2017 New York City Women Composers Seed Grant, for Compass New Music (\$750)
- 2016 College of Fine Arts Student Funding Grant, WMU (\$800)

Publications: Poetry

- 2019 *Feminist Studies, WomenArts Quarterly Journal*
- 2018 *cream city review, S/tick, SWWIM, Roanoke Review, armarolla,*
- 2017 *Eunoia Review, Ovenbird, Lady Lazarus Journal, Brickplight, Right Hand Pointing*
- 2016 Chapbook: *We He She/It*, Dancing Girl Press, Chicago
- 2014 *S/tick Feminist Zine, Wicked Alice Zine*
- 2013 *Dead Flowers: A Poetry Rag*
- 2012 *Fortunates, The Literary Bohemian, Humble Humdrum Cotton Frock*
- 2006 *zafusy Experimental Poetry Journal, ken*again, Can We Have Our Ball Back*
- 2005 *Lilliput Review, Be Which Magazine, Acumen Literary Journal*

Publications: Prose

- 1/17/18 *NewMusicBox: "24 Affordable Opportunities for Composer and Performers"*
- 7/27/17 *VAN Classical Music Magazine: Interview with the Center for Black Music Research*

- 3/2/16 *VAN Classical Music Magazine*: “Can New Music Be Sexy?”
 12/8/16 *Second Inversion*: “Two Women and an Opera House”
 9/8/16 *VAN Classical Music Magazine*: Interview with composer Matthew Evan Taylor
 8/4/16 *VAN Classical Music Magazine*: Interview & photograph: Composer Lisa R. Coons

Lyrics: New Music

- Premiered July 2019 **Librettist** for a piece by composer Andrzej Tereszowski.
 Premiered 2018 **Lyricist** for a piece by composer Sam Boshnack.
 Premiered 4/29/17 **Lyricist** for *Shelter* by composer Andrew Davis, for two sopranos and oboe.

Lectures, etc.

- 2018 **Guest lecturer**: Collaborative Improvisation, Middlebury College, VT
 2017 **Featured poet**: Flint Literary Festival, Flint, MI.
 2017 **Guest teacher**: Introduction to Songwriting, Flint Public Library.
 2017 **Guest lecturer**: Arts Entrepreneurship, Kalamazoo College, MI.
 2017 **Panelist**: Inclusion in New Music, New Music Gathering, Bowling Green, OH.
 2016 **Guest lecturer**: Women and Gender Studies Department, Western Michigan University.

Select recordings:

Improvisation

- 2017 Founder of the Improv Poetry Orchestra, featuring live improvised (typed) poetry projected on a screen while musicians respond to the text.
 2015 *In the Middle of the Room There's a Town* (with Jeff Morris, live interactive electronics)
 2015 *Wait...* (collaboration with Jeff Morris and live interactive electronics)
 2015 *All Us Boys Together* (collaboration with J.J. Treadway on piano)

Works: Classical

- 2017 *Making It* for two saxophones, guitar, clarinet, and two violins
 2017 *Mobilize* for carillon
 2016 *Funhouse: The 2016 USA Sociopolitical Horror Show* for flute, violin, clarinet, cello
 2016 *Curfew* for solo viola
 2016 *The Haunted Dollhouse* for harp, piano, cello, bass
 2016 *motherlover* for drumkit, toys, xylophone, fixed media
 2016 *Close of Day* for fixed media
 2015 *Mabel* for string quartet
 2015 *In Seeing, the Energy is Light* for solo violin

Singer/Songwriter

- 2012 Album: *THIS WAR WILL LIBERATE US FROM OUR MYTHS: Songs from the Warehouse, Barn, & Other People's Bedrooms*
 2012 Album: *Dear Kid: Songs Born from the Historical Archives of Traverse City*
 2011 Album: *Happy Halloween*
 2010 Album: *Country of Origin*
 2010 Album: *The Magical Island*, with magician Christopher Howell.
 2009 Album: *What Do Words Know*, with Ryan Gunzel as folk noir duo House & Bird.

Commissions

- 2019 **Composer**, *Esse quam videri* ("To be rather than to seem"), for solo violin. Megan Healy.
2017 **Arranger and producer** for singer/songwriter Krystee Wylder's album *Two of Hearts*
2017 **Composer**, *Mobilize*, for carillon. Professor Tiffany Ng, University of Michigan.
2017 **Composer**, *motherlover*, for drumkit, xylophone & fixed media. Joe Tucker, NYC.
2018 **Arranger** for singer/songwriter Jessica Fogle's album
2015 **Composer** of music for *I Met a Man* by Aaron Sarka, Public House Theatre, Chicago, IL.
2012 **Co-composer, producer** of country song, "I Am Beautiful" for performance artist duo Industry of the Ordinary, featured as part of an installation in their 2012 retrospective exhibition at the Chicago Cultural Center.
- 2006 – 11 **Composer and producer** of music for author Connor Coyne to accompany his fiction.
2010 – Ongoing **Composer/producer** of stage music for London-based magician Christopher Howell.
2010 **Composer, arranger, producer** of children's album *The Magical Island* for magician Christopher Howell, London, England.
2009 **Composer and producer** of taped music for *AWOL*, a theatre production by Eleffant Foot Theatre Co., which ran at the Peter Jones Gallery, Chicago.

Select Performances

& Installations

- 2019 *Curfew*, Toronto (performed by Elizabeth Reid McQuillan)
2019 *motherlover*, Segundo Festival Ramificaciones, Zacatacas, Mexico (perf. by Joe Tucker)
2019 *In the middle of the room*, Curious Electro-Acoustic Theater Symposium, Chicago, IL
2018 *motherlover*, Montreal (performed by Nikki Joshi)
2018 *Mobilize*, Canberra, Australia (performed by Tiffany Ng)
2017 *Mobilize*, Berlin's Tiergarten (performed by Tiffany Ng)
2017 Improv Poetry Orchestra, ACRE Gallery, Chicago, IL
2017 Improv Poetry Orchestra, Atlantic Center for the Arts, FL
2016 *Close of Day*, sound art installation, The Listening Room, Helsinki, Finland.
2016 *Tell the Story*, interactive audio-video installation with Dr. Jeff Morris, Electronic Literature Organization Conference, Victoria, BC.
2015 Vocalist, live performance of Karl Berger's Improviser's Orchestra, Orlando FL.
2009 Lead improvisational vocalist for Chicago experimental music/dance performance *ALAS*, directed by Links Hall artist-in-residence Carole McCurdy, Chicago, IL.
2008 Seven week performance run of musical theatre show *A Soldier Of Three Wars*, written, produced and performed by Elisabeth Blair with Eleffant Foot Theatre Company, Peter Jones Gallery, Chicago IL.
2007 Lead improvisational vocalist in Robert Metrick's experimental music installation, *The Power of Then*, at the Chicago Cultural Center's festival, *Site Unseen*, Chicago.
2007 Guest vocalist on debut album of bluegrass group The Giving Tree Band.
2005 Performed *Carmina Burana* with Oriana Chorus, United Center, Chicago, IL.

Arts Experience

- 2018 – Present **Poetry Workshop Leader**, Burlington Writers Workshop. Design and lead twice monthly 2-hour workshops, as well as full-day workshops.

- 2015 – Present **Director, host, editor and producer** of the Listening to Ladies podcast, featuring interviews with composers who are women. Publication began in September 2016.
- 2017 – Present **Director**, Compass New Music. Consulting, admin and concert production. Showcasing music by women, trans, nonbinary, genderfluid composers. Partner ensembles include The Admiral Launch Duo, Latitude 49, Ctrl-Z, N/A Ensemble, and Vent Nouveau.
- 2014 – 2018 **Co-Editor**, *Paramanu Pentaquark*. Review submissions to online lit/arts journal.
- 1/16 – 5/16 **Graduate Assistant**, Western Michigan University. Coordinated the New Sounds Festival and the Bullock Performance Institute and assisted the percussion studio.
- 2015 **Host** of weekly Creative Open Mic, Brewtopia Coffeehouse, MI.
- 2013 – 2017 **Arts & Culture Instructor**, Virtual Senior Center, NYC. Taught online monthly classes to housebound New York senior citizens.
- 2013 – 14 **Life Enrichment Coordinator**, Bayfield Assisted Living, Bay City, MI. Activities director for approximately 30 elderly residents, average age between 80-90. Designed and implemented full calendar of activities, including exercise, crafts, games, gardening, music performance, facilitating outside programs. Created innovative one-on-one activities for residents with poor communication and/or physical abilities.
- 9/12 – 8/13 **Full-time musician** and creative professional.
- 2010 – 11 **Producer** of series of seven Intimate Acoustic Music Nights at private venue The Barn.
- 2009 – 10 **Full-time musician** and creative professional.
- 2009 **Host** of weekly Open Mic at Tea Essence Café, Chicago, IL.
- 2008 **Musician in Residence**, Rimland Services NFP, performed weekly at daycare for adults with severe autism, Evanston, IL.
- 2003 **Studio assistant** to visual artist Yinka Shonibare, London, England.

Other Experience

- 3/19 – Present **Program Assistant**, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
- 9/18 – 2/19 **Administrative Assistant**, Vermont Adult Learning, Burlington, VT.
- 1/18 – 3/19 **Administrative Assistant**, HealthFirst Inc, Burlington, VT.
- 6/12 – 8/12 **Temporary Program Assistant**, Northwestern University, Evanston.
- 1/11 – 4/12 **Medical Biller**, Dr. H. J. Blair, MD, Saginaw, MI.
- 6/08 – 8/09 **Figure Art Model** –American Academy of Art, Evanston Art Center, Lill Street Art Center, Palette & Chisel, and others. Chicago, IL.
- 6/06 – 3/08 **Administrative Assistant**, Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company, Chicago.
- 6/04 – 3/06 **Secretary**, Department of Art History, University of Chicago.

Affiliations

- 2017 – present Member of ASCAP
- 2016 – 2018 Board Member, International Alliance for Women in Music
- 2014 – Present Member, International Alliance for Women in Music
- 2015 – 2017 Society of Composers Inc.
- 2013 – 2017 American Composers Forum