

SPENCER TOPEL

6242 Hallgarten Hall › Dartmouth College › Hanover, NH 03755 › topel@dartmouth.edu › p. +1 603.646.2853
www.spencertopel.com › www.bregman.dartmouth.edu

Profile

I am an American composer and researcher of experimental music and sound installations. My work combines sound art and installation with new technologies, physical systems, acoustic synthesis, and architecture.

Current Positions

Assistant Professor of Music, Dartmouth College, July, 2012 – Present.

Past Positions

Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Music, Dartmouth College, September 2011 – June 2012.

Lecturer in The Department of Music, Dartmouth College, February 2009 – August 2011.

Technical Director in Digital Musics, Dartmouth College, February 2009 – July 2011.

Education and Training

DMA [doctorate of musical arts] Music Composition, Cornell University, May 2012.

minors in CS-Music Information Retrieval, and Musicology.

M.M. Music Composition, The Juilliard School, May 2004.

B.M. Music Composition, The Juilliard School, May 2002.

Research Activities

Selected Works List (Installations and Performances)

Vox Nihili 2016

Installation

[hybrid electronic-acoustic instruments]

SMC 2016, HAW Finkenau

Hamburg, Germany, August, 2016.

Echoic Memory II 2016

Installation

monochords, wood, steel piano strings, metal pins, magnetic resonators, amplifiers, wire, microphones, computer.

Academy of Music and Theatre, Tallinn, Estonia, April, 2016.

Callings VI 2016

6-12 players [laptop ensemble]

ToneBurst Ensemble, Wesleyan University, March 2016.

Vox Nihili 2016

flute, clarinet Bb, violin, cello, piano, and surrogate instruments

[hybrid electronic-acoustic instruments]

American Modern Ensemble Residency

Keene State, NH, March 2016.

Echoic Memory 2015

monochords, wood, steel piano strings, metal pins, magnetic resonators, amplifiers, wire, microphones, computer.

The Drawing Center, New York, NY, September, 2015.

Research Activities [cont.]

Selected Works List (Installations and Performances)

String Quartet 2015 22 minutes

String Quartet and Live Electronics

Premiere scheduled with the FLUX Quartet

Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, February 2015

Palavers 2014 23 minutes

Duo for Two Violins

Premiere scheduled with STRING NOISE

Interpretations Series at Roulette, January 2015

Circadian Rhythms* 2014

wood, metal plates, transducers, wire, stone, sensors, microcomputers, amplifiers.

Premiered at the *Rituals* Festival, Israeli Conservatory of Music, Tel Aviv, Israel, July 2014.

Details on the Strasbourg Rosace 2014 22'

flute, clarinet Bb, violin, cello, and piano Collide-A-Scope Music Commission.

Premiered at Thalia @ Symphony Space, New York, NY, May 2014.

Rev. Premiere with Voices of Argentina Festival, Christ Church Oxford, UK November, 2014.

Listening Glass 2014

plexiglass, surface transducers, piezoelectric elements, amplifier, internet connection.

Premiered at SEAMUS 2013, Wesleyan University, March 2014.

TransVerse 2013 15'

Winds [4,2,8,5,2] Brass [4,4 2,1,1] Timpani, Percussion [3].

Premiered by the Charles River Wind Ensemble, with Matthew Marsitt, conductor.

First Baptist Church, Newton Center, Massachusetts, June 2013.

Figuram 2013 9'

soprano, clarinet Bb, percussion, contrabass, and live-electronics

Premiered by the Figura Ensemble, Literaturhaus, Copenhagen, DK, March 2013.

Callings 2013 8 minutes

eight chromatic tuning pipes and megaphones.

Premiered by musicians from Det Frie Gymnasium and DKDM on the Den Røde Plads, Copenhagen, DK, March 2013.

Homophøn 2012

two 50' flat-screen TV's, ultrasonic rangefinders, and speakers.

Installation presented in the Blågdesgaden Bibliotek, Copenhagen, DK, March 2013.

SVIN 2012 8 minutes

for solo contrabass and laptop.

Premiered by Jesper Egelund at Det Frie Gallerie, Copenhagen, Denmark [DK], July 2012.

Vox Nihili 2012 7 minutes

flute, clarinet, piano, violin, cello.

Premiered by Callithumpian Consort for the Festival of New Music, Spaulding Concert Hall, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH, 2012.

Research Activities [cont.]

Selected Works List (Installations and Performances)

- Capturing Resonance* 2011 [site-adaptive installation]
Holosonic Speakers, Bass Exciters, and laptop processing.
Installation presented for one year in the Platform Series at the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA, 2011-2012.
- Elementary Sources* 2011 6 minutes
string quartet and laptop.
Premiered by the Voxare Quartet, for the Festival of New Music, Spaulding Concert Hall, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH, 2011.
- Violine* 2011 18 minutes
for solo violin and laptop.
Premiered by the composer at the 2011 MATA Interval Series, Issue Project Room, Brooklyn, NY.
- Cyclicum* 2010 6 minutes
violin, viola, cello, and laptop.
Premiered by the Voxare Quartet, at the ICMC Alternative Events Concert, SUNY Stony Brook, Long Island, NY, 2010.
- Aqua Regia* 2008 6 minutes
flute, clarinet, piano, percussion, violin, viola, cello.
Premiered by the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, Sydney Hodkinson, Harris Concert Hall, Aspen, CO, 2008.
- Incendio* 2008 11 minutes
Winds [3,3,3,3] Brass [4,3 3,1] Timpani, Percussion [3] Harp, Piano, Strings.
Premiered by the Minnesota Orchestra, with Osmo Vanska, conducting. Symphony Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2008.
- Gnomoncholia* 2006 violin, 2007 piano 6 minutes
For solo violin or solo piano [two versions] and laptop.
Premiered by the Onyx Ensemble, at International Computer Music Conference, New Orleans, 2006.
- Automata* 2006 22'
4 diffused acousmatic work.
Premiered at the inauguration of President David Skorton, of Cornell University, 2006.
- Passacaglia* 2007 7 minutes
solo piano.
Premiered by Michael Brown at the Liederkrantz Center in New York, NY 2007.
- Preludes for Violin and Cello* 2007 8 minutes
Premiered by Vittorio and Duccio Ceccanti at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana, Siena, Italy, 2007. Awarded the "Diploma of Merit" from the Accademia Musicale Chigiana.
- Concerto for Winds* 2007 15 minutes
Winds [6,6,4,4,2] Brass [6,4,4,1,2] Percussion [4] Gamelan [2] Piano, and Live-electronics.
Premiered by the Cornell Wind Ensemble on December 3rd 2007 in Bailey Hall, Ithaca, NY, 2007.

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Scholarly Publications

Chang H.C., Topel S. “Electromagnetically Actuated Amplitude Modulation Synthesis.” Proceedings of the International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression [NIME]. Griffith Univ., Brisbane Australia, 2016.

Rector. D, Topel S. 'EMdrum: An Electromagnetically Actuated Drum.' Proceedings of the International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression [NIME]. London, UK, 2014.

Fan J., Topel, S. “SONICTAIJI: A Mobile Instrument For Taiji Performance”, Proceedings of the 20th International Conference on Auditory Display [ICAD2014], New York, NY., 22-25 June 2014.

Grani, F., Serafin, S., de Gotzen, A., Overholt, D., & Topel, S. [2013, July]. Investigating the relationship between pressure force and acoustic waveform in footstep sounds. In Digital Signal Processing [DSP], 2013 18th International Conference on [pp. 1-5]. IEEE.

“Extensible Spectralism: Revealing Latent Structures in Music Audio for Composition, Analysis, and Retrieval”. D.M.A. Dissertation, Cornell University, 2012.

Q. Kong, A. Sarroff, S. Topel, M.A. Casey 'Getting Into the Groove with Hierarchical Probabilistic Latent Component Analysis' In Proc. Of NIPS Workshop, Granada, Spain, 2011.

S. S. Topel, M.A Casey. 'Elementary Sources: Latent Component Analysis for Music Composition' In Proc. Of ISMIR, Miami, United States, 2011.

M.A. Casey, S. Topel. “Timbre-Based Percussive Rhythm Classification and Retrieval”. In Proc. Of ISMIR, Utrecht, Netherlands, 2010.

K. Agres, S. Topel, S. Moeson, M. Spivey. “An Auditory Twist On Visual Search Using Head-Movement Controlled Ambisonics”, Proc. Of ICMC, New York, NY, 2010.

Talks and Guest Lectures [since 2010]

- ❑ “Scalable Art: Open Source for Sound Art and Installation” Composer and Technology Seminar
- ❑ Talk, CRMMT, McGill University November, 2014.
- ❑ “Scalable Art: Open Source for Sound Art and Installation”, A/V Synthesis Workshop [Neukom] October, 2014.
- ❑ Composer Seminar Talk, Wesleyan University, October, 2013.
- ❑ Interactivity Workshop, DKDM, Copenhagen, February, 2013.
- ❑ Composer Seminar, DKDM, Copenhagen, February, 2013.
- ❑ Guest Composer/Performer at the 'State of the Art' Festival, Cornell University, April, 2011.
- ❑ Three Workshops on Live Performance Interaction. Brandeis University, February, 2011.
- ❑ “*Finding the Groove: A Latent Rhythm Stream Approach to Audio Analysis*”. Univ. of Virginia, November, 2010.

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Curation, Adjudication, and Reviewing Activities [since 2010]

- ❑ *Resonant Spaces: Sound Art at Dartmouth*, Exhibition, guest-curator, 2017.
- ❑ ASCAP/SEAMUS Prize, Artist Panel, 2015.
- ❑ New Music USA, Artist Panel, 2015.
- ❑ Appointed Curator for the 9th Sound and Music Computing Conference, [SMC]. Copenhagen, Denmark, 2012.
- ❑ Reviewer for ICMC, [Intl. Computer Music Conference]. Huddersfield, UK, 2011.
- ❑ Co-Curator for the *Alternative Events Concert* at ICMC. New York, USA, 2010.
- ❑ Adjudication of works for the *New York Electroacoustic Music Festival* at the CUNY Graduate Center. New York, NY, 2010.

Association Memberships

- NIME** New Instruments for Musical Expression.
- SMC** Sound and Music Computing.
- ISMIR** International Society of Music Information Retrieval.
- NEMISIG** North East Music Information Special Interest Group.
- BMI** Broadcast Music Incorporated.
- ICMA** International Computer Music Association.
- SEAMUS** Society for Electroacoustic Music in the United States.
- AMF** American Music Forum.

Awards and Honors

- Artist-in-Residence, Barnes Foundation, 2017-2019
- Composer-in-Residence, Meitar Ensemble, 2014.
- Danish International Visiting Artist Residency, 2013.
- Minnesota Orchestra Composers Institute, 2009.
- American Modern Ensemble Award for Best Composition, 2008.
- Diploma di Merito, Accademia Musicale Chigiana, Siena, Italy, 2006.
- Morton Gould Young Composers Award [ASCAP], 2006.
- Young Composers Award [BMI], 2005.
- Palmer Dixon Prize from the The Juilliard School, 2004.

Current Teaching

- Music 08** Music and the Internet, Spring 2012.
- Music 09** Introduction to Music and Technology, Spring 2010, Fall 2012, Fall 2013.
- Music 21** Melody and Rhythm, Fall 2012.
- Music 22** Harmony and Rhythm, Winter 2014.
- Music 23** Timbre and Form, Spring 2013.
- Music 24** Techniques in Electroacoustic Music Composition, Spring 2009.
- Music 25** Introduction to Sonic Arts, Spring 2015.
- Music 26** Sonic Linearity, Winter 2015.
- Music 30** Composition Seminar, Winter, 2014 - 2015.
- Music 31** [formerly 24]: Digital Music Composition, Spring 2009 Spring 2010-2012.
- Music 34** Advanced Sound Design, Fall 2012-2013.
- Music 104** Musical Systems / Computer Music Composition [graduate], Fall 2013, Spring 2015.
- Music 105** Systems of Musical Thought, Fall 2015.

Software

Python, SuperCollider, Matlab, Chuck, Max 5, AutoCAD, VectorWorks, Unix, Ableton LIVE /Max-for-Live, Logic Pro, ProTools, HTML 5, Final Cut Pro, SuperCollider, LaTeX, PureData, Finale, Sibelius, and standard productivity software.