

Spencer S. Topel

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

Objectives

To develop my career internationally as a composer and sound artist utilizing my research knowledge to
push boundaries of design, acoustic synthesis, spectral decomposition, and human machine interaction.

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 Music Composition, Cornell University, May 2012.

minors in Computational Music Research, and Musicology.

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

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

Research Activities

List of Works

Works since 2012 (beginning of Current Appointment)

Electric String Quartet (rev.) 2014 22 minutes

String Quartet and Live Electronics

Premiere scheduled with the FLUX Quartet

Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, February 2015

Fragility of Spaces 2014 12'

Winds (3,3,3,3) Brass (4,3 3,1) Timpani, Percussion (3) Harp, Piano, Strings.

Premiere TBA 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.

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Research Activities (cont.)

Listening Glass 2014

plexiglass, surface transducers, piezoelectric elements, amplifier, internet connection.
Premiered at SEAMUS 2013, Wesleyan University, March 2014.

Fragility of Spaces 2014 12'

Winds (3,3,3,3) Brass (4,3 3,1) Timpani, Percussion (3) Harp, Piano, Strings.
Premiere scheduled for Christ Church, Oxford, November, 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 Blågdsgaden 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.

Additional Works (completed and in progress)

Border Languages 2014 [in progress]

multi-video projection, continuous.
premiere TBA

Cell & Sanctuary** 2014 [completed]

metal, plexiglass, magnetic resonators, amplifiers, microcomputer, sensors.
premiere TBA

Signals 2013 20' [in progress]

a radio play for broadcast and installation (as an antique radio)

Nestings 2012 6 minutes [completed]

4 percussionists and amplified nested toy boxes.

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Research Activities (cont.)

Works List Prior to Dartmouth (chronological)

Concerto for Three Players and Orchestra 2003 15 minutes

Winds (2,2,2,2,1) Brass (4,2,2,1,1) Percussion (2), Harp, Strings, and Solo Instruments:
Bb Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, and Piano.

Premiered by the Juilliard Orchestra, Jeffrey Milarsky, conductor, Alice Tully Hall,
New York, NY 2003.

Electric String Quartet 2004 26 minutes

String Quartet and Live Electronics

Premiered by the Juilliard Electric Ensemble at the 2004 Beyond the Machine 2.1. The
Juilliard School Room 208, New York, NY 2004.

Spheres 2004 7 minutes

Solo Piano

Premiered by Frederic Lacroix at the Mid-Day Music Concerts, Lincoln Hall, Cornell
Univ., Ithaca, NY 2004.

Glass Roof 2004 9 minutes

Flute, clarinet Bb, oboe, bassoon, French horn, trumpet, trombone, percussion, piano, 2
violins, viola, cello, bass. ASCAP 2005 Award.

Akulavira 2004 8 minutes

string quartet

Premiered by the Cornell Contemporary Chamber Players, Barnes Hall, Cornell Univ.,
Ithaca, NY. BMI Young Composers Award 2005.

Stations 2005 12 minutes

Flute, clarinet Bb, oboe, bassoon, French horn, trumpet, trombone,
percussion, piano, 2 violins, viola, cello, bass, and electronics. Premiered by
the Festival Chamber Orchestra, Cynthia Johnston-Turner, Conductor.
Barnes Hall, Ithaca, NY.

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.

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Research Activities (cont.)

- 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.
- Sentimenti Devoti* 2008 12 minutes
Solo Violin and Cello.
Flute, clarinet Bb, oboe, bassoon, French horn, trumpet, trombone, percussion, piano, violin, viola, bass. Commissioned by Cornell University.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Violine* 2011 12 minutes
for solo violin and laptop.
Premiered by the composer at the 2011 MATA Interval Series, Issue Project Room, Brooklyn, NY.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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Scholarly Publications

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

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.

"Where's the Groove? Probe-Tone Analogies in Rhythm Perception". Dartmouth College, July, 2009.

"Ambisonics, Wave-Field Synthesis, and other Spatialization Techniques", CUNY, October, 2008.

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Curation, Adjudication, and Reviewing Activities

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. Artistic Director and composer for a two-week Tour of Turkey presenting music by American composers, 2008.
Reviewer for conference proceedings, ICMC.Copenhagen, Denmark, 2007.

Association Memberships

Executive Producer and Director at GPR Prospect (Records).
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.
Recording Academy Voting Member (Grammys).
SEAMUS Society for Electroacoustic Music in the United States.

Awards and Honors

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

*new courses in 2015-16

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.

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Select Prior Teaching (Cornell University)

Instructor for Independent Study: Advanced Electroacoustic Music, three credits, fall semester, 2007.

Interim Co-Instructor MUSIC 152, 154: Theory and Ear-Training for Music Majors, spring semester, 2007.

Software

Max 5, Ableton LIVE, Logic Pro, Pro Tools, Matlab, HTML 5, Final Cut Pro X, Python, SuperCollider, ChucK, LaTeX, Google SketchUp, Finale, Sibelius, and standard productivity software.