

Curriculum Vitae

Nickolai V. Zielinski

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Selected Recordings

- Indicative of Drumming “McMansion Folk” (fadCampaign), Spring 2023
- BANZAT Trio “Quarry Songs” (fadCampaign), Spring 2022
- Mantis “Mantis” (Self-released), 2021
- ARP of the Covenant, “MEP” (fadCampaign), Spring 2019
- ARP of the Covenant, “Robot Western” (fadCampaign), Summer, 2009
- Ingo Bethke, “Eponymous” (self released), May, 2009
- ARP of the Covenant, “Eponymous” (Rock is Dead), October, 2005
- About Ouch!, “Eponymous” (fadCampaign), October 2003

Selected Press

“...psychedelic circus music — one imagines clowns riding around on trikes and tents filled with high-wire acts and other feats of defiance.”

-Andrea Cantor (Jazz Police)

“...it's drummer Nick Zielinski who makes the thing groove. His small flourishes and uncluttered approach make the music dance, hover, float and flit about.”

-Thom Jurek (AllMusic.com)

“Zielinski’s drumming is spectacular throughout... When he plays the drums he takes no back seat to Carl Palmer... one of the most fulfilling adventures you’re likely to hear ”

-Rick Tvedt (Local Sounds.org)

“Juxtaposing the previous trio’s balladry were the Zappa-esque grooves of drummer Nick Zielinski...”

-Lloyd Cargo (Michigan Daily)

“Zielinski... can rattle off more licks in a minute than seems to be humanly possible and not sound the least bit too busy, not one second of overkill.”

-Dwight Hobbes (Twin Cities Daily Planet)

“The music is inventive but not too out there.”

-Pamela Espelund (Bebopified/MinnPost)

"Stripped does turn out to be a stellar track, as the ARP builds the momentum up again, with Zielinski really letting his drums loose around the keyboardist's repetitive groove."

-James Taylor (All About Jazz)

Selected Performance Experience

Ensembles (As Drummer/Percussionist):

- Indicative of Drumming (Solo Electro-Acoustic Improvisation), 2019-present
- Mantis (Jazz Trio), 2019 Present
- Night Cow (Improvised Music Quartet), 2023-present
- BANZAT Trio (Acoustic Improvisation), 2019-present
- ASTRO (large-group improvised music)
- ARP of the Covenant (Jazz/Rock Trio), 2003-present
- Le Boom Boom (Improvised Electro-Acoustic Duo), 2009-2011
- Ingo Bethke (Jazz), 2008-2010
- Consortium of Symphonic Transients (Chamber/New Music) 2010-2011
- Restoration Jazz Band, 2007-2012
- Stefan Kac Quartet (Jazz), 2006-2008
- Tanya and The Holsum Family Fiscal Planner (large-group improvised music), 2002-2008
- About Ouch (Jazz/Improvised), 2001-2005

Featured Performer/Improviser/Soloist:

- “Jazz Meets Art Meets Jazz,” University of Wisconsin at Whitewater Faculty Jazz Ensemble, Whitewater, WI, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
- “Sudden Sound Series: Joshua Abrams,” Urbana, IL, 2014
- “Sudden Sound Series: Henry Grimes,” Urbana, IL, 2013
- “An Evening with Thollem McDonas,” Institute for Creative Studies, Champaign, IL, 2013
- “Sand Boxing” with Brett Wartchow, SEAMUS (Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States) National Conference, Appleton, WI, 2012
- “Two Rivers Jazz Festival,” Braham, MN, 2011, 2017
- “Fat Lip” by Mark Kirshenmann, The Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Arts, Minneapolis, MN, 2006

Selected Composition Experience

Commissions:

- “Seeds and Fields: A,B,X,Y,Z” commissioned by The Black House Collective and The Maroon Trio (Kansas City, MO) premiered on May 20, 2014.
- “Sans Mention,” commissioned by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and premiered on April 17, 2011.

Premiers:

- “Seeds and Fields A,B,X,Y,Z” for the Black House Collective, performed by The Maroon Trio at La Esquina in Kansas City, MO on May 20, 2014.
- “We Should Discuss Your Options to Get You Out of Debt” for jazz trio, performed by ARP of the Covenant at the Orchard Downs Community Center at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign on December 8, 2013.
- “Glamour Returns to Hollywood” for jazz trio, performed by ARP of the Covenant at the Orchard Downs Community Center at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign on December 8, 2013.
- “Sans Mention,” for trumpet, tuba, bass and drums, performed by The Nick Zielinski Quartet at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts on April 17, 2011.
- “A Music Composition for Your Active Lifestyle” for mixed chamber ensemble, performed by C.o.S.T. at Studio Z in St. Paul, MN on May 21, 2010.
- “We’re Going to Test Your Knowledge of Sexy Women” for jazz sextet, performed by Ingo Bethke at The Dakota Jazz Club in Minneapolis, MN, November 7, 2009.
- “Anaerobic Martian Limp” for bass clarinet, piano and marimba, performed by Zeitgeist at Studio Z in St. Paul, MN on May 16, 2009
- “The Holsum Family Fiscal Planner” for an indeterminate collection of improvisers, performed by The University of Michigan Creative Arts Orchestra at the International Society for Improvised Music Annual Conference in Ann Arbor, MI on December 5, 2006.
- “Phil Collins Proves that Crime Doesn’t Pay... but He DOES” for Percussion Ensemble, performed by The University of Minnesota, Duluth Percussion Ensemble at Weber Recital Hall in Duluth, MN on April 30, 2006.
- “Tom Cruise Opens Up on his Crusade to Keep Horses Safe” for Percussion Ensemble, performed by The University of Minnesota, Duluth Percussion Ensemble at Weber Recital Hall in Duluth, MN on April 30, 2006.
- “Mr. Li Poses with His American Birthday Cake” for jazz trio, performed by ARP of the Covenant at The Duderstadt Center of The University of Michigan on November 20, 2004.
- “A Joan That Truly Cares About Y-O-U” for guitar, saxophone and drums, performed by About Ouch at The Acadia Theatre in Minneapolis, MN on December 10, 2003.

Selected Honors/Awards

- National Endowment for the Arts/Iowa Arts Council Project Grant: “Decorah ArtHaus Improvisor’s Orchestra,” 2023-2024
- University of Illinois Teaching Assistantship, 2012-2014
- University of Michigan Cornelius Scholarship, 2003-2004
- University of Minnesota Omnibus Music Scholarship, 2000
- University of Minnesota Fanfare Award, 1999
- University of Minnesota Johnson Music Scholarship, 1996-1999

Post-Secondary Teaching Experience

Instructor - Percussion, World Drumming Ensemble, Jazz Combos, Rock and Roll History, Musical Theatre Ensemble - Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Anoka, MN, 2015-2018

Instructor - Percussion, Rock and Roll History, Music of World Cultures - North Hennepin Community College, Brooklyn Park, MN, 2015-2017

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Jazz Drums - University of Illinois Urbana Champaign School of Music, 2012-2014

Instructor - Drums, McNally Smith College of Music, St. Paul, MN, 2006-2012

Interim Instructor - Percussion and Jazz, University of Minnesota, Duluth, 2005-2006

Education

- **Doctor of Musical Arts** in Jazz Performance (Drums), Cognate Area: Composition, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, **(ABD)**
- **Master of Music** in Improvisation, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- **Bachelor of Music** in Percussion Performance, Minor: Jazz Studies, University of Minnesota, Duluth