

Reilly Spitzfaden

Composer, electronic musician, educator
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EDUCATION

Eastman School of Music Rochester, NY
Doctor of Philosophy in Composition 2022
Dissertation, *"Misusing" Audio Gear as Instruments*

Eastman School of Music Rochester, NY
Master of Arts in Composition 2017

Michigan State University East Lansing, MI
Bachelor of Music in Composition with High Honor 2015

COLLEGIATE MUSIC TEACHING

SUNY Geneseo Geneseo, NY
Adjunct Lecturer in Music—Music Technology 2022–present

MUSC 303: Film and Game Scoring

- Instructed a class of 7 undergraduate students in two weekly class sessions
- Lectured on composition, orchestration, film score analysis, and creating musical narratives
- Designed the class curriculum as part of the new Music Business, Recording, and Production Track at Geneseo
- Guided students in scoring 4 original film scenes, as well as weekly short composition exercises

MUSC 302: Recording and Production

- Instructed a class of 5 undergraduate students in three weekly class sessions
- Lectured on studio recording and equipment usage, intermediate topics in mixing and mastering, and sound design using modular synthesizers in VCV Rack
- Guided students through recording, mixing, mastering, and sound design on four original compositions.

MUSC 202: Introduction to Music Business

- Instructed a class of 36 undergraduate students in three weekly class sessions

MUSC 102: Introduction to Music Technology

- Instructed a class of 40–43 undergraduate students in three weekly class sessions
- Lectured on recording, production, synthesis, creative coding, and composing for film and games using Audacity, REAPER, and Sonic Pi
- Taught sound design and synthesis using software synthesizers
- Guided students through creating and presenting on four original electronic compositions

Eastman School of Music Rochester, NY
Teaching Assistant—Composition 2017–2021

CMP 221/222/223/224: Composition for Non-Majors

- Instructed a studio of 4–5 undergraduate and graduate students in 2-credit weekly private lessons
- Developed weekly exercises in composition fundamentals for beginning students
- Evaluated and provided feedback on compositions in progress
- Guided students in completing a chamber composition to be performed at a semester concert
- Taught students of a wide range of abilities from beginner to advanced and in a variety of genres, including classical style composition, contemporary classical music, and electronic dance music production
- Worked independently to develop a class curriculum tailored to my students; met weekly with supervisor and other sections' teachers to report on progress

CMP 421/422: Advanced Computer Music Techniques

- Instructed a 3-credit section of 2–3 undergraduate and graduate students
- Coached students on advanced topics in mixing and mastering, signal processing, spatial audio, and synthesis
- Taught usage of Max/MSP, Pure Data, Logic Pro, and SuperCollider software
- Guided students in creating live interactive electronics, audiovisual installations, and fixed-media compositions to be presented in a class concert
- Produced computer music studio concerts of electronic music
- Worked collaboratively; met weekly with other graduate assistants and the class professor to discuss class goals and lesson plans

CMP 225/226: Intro to Computer Music Techniques

- Instructed a 3-credit section of 2–3 undergraduate and graduate students
- Coached students on topics in recording, signal processing, and sound synthesis
- Coordinated lesson plans between the professor and other graduate assistants' sections
- Taught usage of Max/MSP, Pure Data, and Logic Pro software
- Produced computer music studio concerts of electronic music
- Worked collaboratively; met weekly with other graduate assistants and the class professor to discuss class goals and lesson plans

CMP 250: Basic Orchestration

- Instructed a 2-credit section of 18 graduate and undergraduate students
- Lectured on instrumental techniques and capabilities, and effective writing for orchestral instruments in chamber and orchestral contexts
- Coached in-class orchestration projects in small groups of 2–3 students
- Organized bi-weekly performances of student orchestration projects, and provided feedback to the students on their work
- Designed class syllabus and weekly assignments
- Worked independently; reassessed and updated syllabuses from two previous instructors

CMP 240/440: Computer Engraving and Calligraphy

- Instructed a 2-credit section of two undergraduate/graduate students

- Lectured on contemporary and historical engraving practices, graphic notation, tablature, and professional score preparation
- Designed class syllabus and weekly assignments
- Guided students in giving a 20-minute presentation on a relevant topic in notation
- Coached and provided feedback on final projects, consisting of an engraved chamber score to be performed in class
- Worked independently; reassessed and updated syllabuses from two previous instructors

Teaching Assistant—Music Theory

2015–2017

TH 101/102: Model Composition and Tonal Analysis I, II

- Instructed 2 3-credit sections of 10 undergraduate students
- Lectured on topics in tonal harmony and species counterpoint
- Provided feedback on student weekly assignments
- Coached and provided feedback on 18th-c. style compositions
- Led exam review sessions for all enrolled students
- Worked collaboratively; met weekly with other graduate assistants and the class professor to discuss class goals and lesson plans

ADDITIONAL MUSIC TEACHING

Eastman Community Music School

Rochester, NY

Teaching Intern, Eastman Community Music School

2016–2022

Computer Music

- Instructed sections of 2–6 students from 9th grade through adult in weekly classes for 17-week semesters
- Lectured on digital audio, recording, mixing and mastering, and synthesizer sound design
- Taught usage of REAPER, Logic Pro, Pure Data, and Audacity software
- Guided students in composing 2–5-minute final projects using samples, software synthesizers, and field recordings, and in creating custom software interfaces using Pure Data
- Worked independently to reassess and overhaul curriculum from previous instructor. Pivoted focus to free and/or open-source software in order to give students greater independent access to sophisticated audio production capabilities

Film Scoring

- Instructed sections of 2–6 students from 9th grade through adult in weekly classes for 17-week semesters
- Lectured on tonal and contemporary harmony and melody, narrative in music, film music genres, and composition techniques
- Led students in analyzing scores to classic and contemporary films
- Guided students in composing short cues, analyzing films, and scoring and presenting 2–5-minute film scenes for midterm and final assignments

- Worked independently to reassess and overhaul curriculum from previous instructor
- Designed class syllabus and weekly assignments

Computer Music Private Lessons

- Instructed individual students from college through adult varying from 45–60-minute lessons from 8–17 weeks
- Taught usage of REAPER, Logic Pro, and Ableton Live software and sound design on hardware synthesizers
- Designed custom lesson plans to meet individual student needs
- Guided students in producing and composing for a wide variety of genres including electronic dance music, hip-hop, rock, and experimental electronic music
- Taught studio hardware and recording techniques
- Worked independently to design the curriculum

Film Scoring Private Lessons

- Instructed individual students from college through adult
- Lectured on tonal and contemporary harmony and melody, narrative in music, film music genres, and composition techniques
- Led students in analyzing scores to classic and contemporary films
- Designed custom lesson plans to meet individual student needs
- Guided students in scoring two 2–5 minute scenes, as well as shorter scoring exercises
- Worked independently to design the curriculum

ADMINISTRATION AND PRODUCTION

Eastman Community Music School

Rochester, NY

Student Recruiter

2016–2022

- Recruited new students to my classes from the Rochester and Eastman communities

Eastman Audio Research Studio

Rochester, NY

Concert producer and audio engineer

2017–2021

- Produced a concert of contemporary electronic music, including choosing repertoire, recruiting performers, and performing on the concert
- Operated audio equipment for student recitals, and for two studio concerts every semester

Eastman Graduate Composers' Sinfonietta

Rochester, NY

Concert Recruiter

2018

- Recruited performers to present a concert of chamber orchestra compositions by graduate student composers

Eastman School of Music Composition Studio

Rochester, NY

Performance Recruiter

2017

- Recruited musicians for bi-weekly class performances of student orchestration works

soundSCAPE Festival

Maccagno, Italy

Video producer

2016

- Recorded performances of student compositions
- Produced videos of performances for the soundscape YouTube channel

Lansing Concert Band

Lansing, MI

Percussion Manager

2013–2015

- Recruited percussionists from the Greater Lansing area
- Organized transportation of the band's percussion equipment and acquisition of percussion equipment from destination schools
- Assigned percussion parts and organized percussion library
- Performed in percussion section as section leader

COMMISSIONS AND SELECTED PERFORMANCES

TaPIR Lab and University of Toronto, composition and custom software for using mobile phones as gesture controllers	2023
Toronto, ON, Canada	
Emma Bailie, live electronic music for art gallery show	2022
Rochester, NY	
Oliver Hagen, conducting textbook etude commission	2020
Apply Triangle, commission for flute, clarinet, and MIDI keyboard	2020
Cameron Leach, commission for solo percussion and homemade electronics	2020
Columbus, OH	
Darmstädter Ferienkurse, "Dance and Music" workshop	2018
Darmstadt, Germany	
Untwelve, commission for solo bassoon	2018
Eastman OSSIA, commission competition winner	2018
Rochester, NY	
Megan Ihnen, commission for unaccompanied mezzo-soprano	2017
Rachel Hacker, commission for Kingma System® flute and Glissando Headjoint®	2016
Michigan State University Campus Band, commission competition winner	2015
East Lansing, MI	
<i>Voicing Poetry</i> project, Michigan State University Composition Studio and Residential College of Arts and Humanities Center for Poetry	2015
East Lansing, MI	

RECORDINGS AND MEDIA

Spitzfaden, Reilly, composer. 2024. "Unwind." On Megan Ihnen, *Sleep Songs: Wordless Lullabies for the Sleepless, Volume 3*. Digital audio.

Spitzfaden, Reilly, composer. 2024. "If this reaches you." On Apply Triangle, *Oxalis Triangularis*. Compact Disc.

Spitzfaden, Reilly, composer. 2017. "Combination Locks." On How things are made, *HTAM S3E02*. Digital audio.

Spitzfaden, Reilly, contributing composer. 2015. In Michigan State University Media Sandbox and Department of Theatre, *(313) Choices*. Film.

Spitzfaden, Reilly, composer. 2014. "Nonet." On Michigan State University College of Music Composition Studio, *Statements*. Compact Disc.

LEADERSHIP

Beyond Consent	2019–2020
Organized Gender Equality in Music conference	
Programmed educational campus events on sexual health and gender equity	
Founded a student organization	
Eastman Audio Research Studio	2017–2021
Produced a concert of contemporary electronic music, including choosing repertoire, recruiting performers, and performing on the concert	
Operated audio equipment for student recitals, and for two studio concerts every semester	

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**Technology**

Free Software Foundation LibrePlanet Conference	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended presentations on internet architecture and open-source mobile development 	
New England Software-Defined Radio Conference	2020, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended presentations on the current state of the field of software-defined radio Applied information from the conference in use of telecommunications equipment in sound design 	

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Gender Equality in Music Conference	2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created an educational presentation with Eastman’s “Beyond Consent” student organization to be given at the conference 	

RESEARCH

Dissertation, <i>‘Misusing’ Audio Gear as Instruments: Three Pieces</i>	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researched philosophical issues in perception of and composition with repurposed audio equipment 	
Handmade Electronics Development, Independent Study	2018–present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructed custom electronic musical instruments, MIDI controllers, and effects 	

PRESENTATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

OSSIA New Music “Listening Lounge” presentation	2022
Presented on contemporary electronic music practices	
Podcast Interview on “Now & Xen” podcast	2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented on my compositional practices with microtones 	
Graduate Music History Seminar: MHS 590, <i>Making New Music Now</i>	2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviewed composer Kelley Sheehan on her practices making electronic music using repurposed audio equipment Created a podcast and final research paper from this interview, explaining, contextualizing, and commenting on Sheehan’s work 	
Guest presentation in Eastman music history seminar	2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented on synthesizer circuitry Demonstrated analog synthesizer patching and sound design 	
Guest presentation in a composition seminar at the University of Maryland	2019

- Presented on my compositional practices with electronics
- Graduate Composition Seminar: CMP 592, *From Metaphor to Paraphrase* 2019
- Presented on readings in class every week
- Research project: *The “Sonic Spectre” and the Presence of Physical Media in Conlon Nancarrow’s Studies for Player Piano*
- Graduate Musicology Seminar: MUY 502, *Intro to Ethnomusicology* 2019
- Presented on readings in class every week
- Created and presented a book review on Kristen Gallerneaux, *High Static, Dead Lines: Sonic Spectres and the Object Hereafter*
- Literature review project: *After the Cyborg: Linking Donna Haraway’s “Cyborg Manifesto” and Later Scholarship*
- Graduate Music History Seminar: MHS 590, *Acoustic Africa* 2019
- Presented research on issues of music technology, exoticism, and authenticity in amplified lamellophone music
- Graduate Music History Seminar: MHS 590, *Music, Gender, and the Body* 2018
- Conducted ethnographic research on perception of gendered sound qualities in ASMR videos, concluding with a presentation and paper
- Radio Interview by OSSIA New Music on WAYO 104.3 2018
- Presented on my homemade electronics and my commission by OSSIA
- Graduate Music Theory Seminar: TH 480, *Music and Language* 2017
- Ran a research study on perception of musical “grammars” in microtonal tunings, concluding with a presentation and paper

LIST OF WORKS

Solo

- Scratch* for solo percussionist with speaker instruments (6’30”) 2019
- Lift* for solo bassoon (8’30”) 2018
- Touch* for solo viola (10’) 2018
- Unwind* for unaccompanied mezzo-soprano (2’) 2017
- From Dust* for Kingma System® flute and Glissando Headjoint® (8’) 2016
- The View from an Unstable Window* for euphonium and live electronics (8’) 2016

2-4 Players

- Reach Through* for percussion quartet with mobile phones (7’) 2023
- Outlive everything you know* for percussion, soprano sax, and MIDI keyboard (6’45”) 2022
- Afterimage from* for percussion, cello, and MIDI keyboard (7’) 2021
- Everything lost along the way* for trumpet, trombone, percussion, and keyboard (6’) 2021
- If this reaches you* for flute, B-flat clarinet, and MIDI keyboard (5’) 2020
- My days all disappear* for horn and two percussionists/electronics players (8’) 2020
- Skin lives in wires* for alto sax, handmade electronics, percussion, and bass (10’30”) 2018
- carry things* for two dancers and amplification (12”) 2018
- Close to* for violin, voice, and amplified objects (7’) 2018
- Combination Locks* for trumpet, electric guitar, and live electronics (7’) 2017
- Woman in a Meeting* for viola and alto saxophone (9’30”) 2016
- In a Corner* for mezzo-soprano and piano (5’) 2014

5-8 Players

<i>Sign here, please</i> for flexible ensemble (1')	2020
<i>Selist</i> for piano four-hands, two percussionists, and no-input mixer (7'15")	2019
<i>end off</i> for flute, violin, cello, percussion, and live electronics (7'15")	2019
<i>Bones</i> for soprano and string quartet (5')	2017
<i>e. e. cummings songs</i> for wind quintet (14')	2017
<i>Resonances</i> for flute, clarinet, percussion, piano, violin, and cello (7'45")	2016

Large Ensemble

<i>Each city, a tiny white flag</i> for sinfonietta and electronic feedback (8')	2019
<i>Multiplicity</i> for sinfonietta (7'30")	2015
<i>Eidos</i> for concert band (5'45")	2015
<i>Nonet</i> for mixed chamber ensemble (11')	2014

Orchestra

<i>Unrest</i> for orchestra (7'15")	2014
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Fixed Media/Other

<i>Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is</i> for electronic fixed media (3')	2015
Film score selections for <i>(313) Choices</i> for electronic fixed media (approx. 4')	2015
<i>An Ode to Cicadas</i> for electronic fixed media (4'45")	2015
<i>Streams</i> for electronic fixed media (3')	2014
<i>Variations</i> for electronic fixed media (3'15")	2014

FESTIVALS

Yarn/Wire Festival, participant composer	Jul. 2019
Darmstädter Ferienkurse, Dance and Music workshop participant	Jul. 2018
June in Buffalo, participant composer	Jun. 2018
New Music on the Point, participant composer	Jun. 2017
soundSCAPE Festival, participant composer	Jul. 2016

HONORS AND AWARDS

Belle S. Gitelman award	2017, 2022
Paul Sacher Endowed Scholarship	2016, 2021
Graduate Assistantship, Eastman School of Music	2015–2021
Kent Kennan scholarship	2018
Howard Hanson Orchestral Prize	2016
Eastman Professional Development Committee Grant	2016
Michigan State University Board of Trustees Scholarship	2015

PRINCIPAL TEACHERS

Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, Composition, Eastman School of Music	2019–2022
David Liptak, Composition, Eastman School of Music	2018–2019
Oliver Schneller, Composition, Eastman School of Music	2017–2018
Robert Morris, Composition, Eastman School of Music	2016–2017
Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez, Composition, Eastman School of Music	2015–2016
Ricardo Lorenz, Composition, Michigan State University	2013–2015

Jon Weber, Percussion, Michigan State University
Jere Hutcheson, Composition, Michigan State University

2011-2015
2013