

Alexander Ness

Curriculum Vitæ

Email	asness@gmail.com
Web	http://nesssoftware.com/home/asn http://vimeo.com/alexanderness
Phone	415-235-6744
Address	165 India Street Apt. RA Brooklyn, NY 11222

Contents

- Education
- Teaching experience
- Work experience
- Expertise
- Awards and honors
- Papers and presentations
- Recent compositions

Education

Graduate

- Currently a doctoral candidate in music composition and theory in New York University's music department. ABD as of January 2010; Ph.D. expected in spring 2012.
 - Dissertation: *Uncommon Practice: Musical Reason in Radical Baroque Music Theory*. Proposal defended on October 12, 2009.
- Certificate from the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Advanced Hindi Language Program in Jaipur, summer 2008.
- M.A. in music from New York University, 2007.
- Participant in University of Wisconsin-Madison's study-abroad program in Varanasi, India, 2004–05.
 - Final project: transcriptions of ten dhrupad voice lessons, pedagogical materials in three ragas, and roughly thirty pages of tabla compositions.

Undergraduate

- A.B. magna cum laude in music from Harvard College, 2004.
 - Senior thesis: *The Lure of the Deep*, a twenty-minute composition for fifteen players.

Teaching experience

Eugene Lang College The New School for Liberal Arts

- Class co-instructor (with Yoni Niv) for an undergraduate experimental music course, spring 2011.

New York University

- Teaching fellow of the Graduate Student Educational Development Program, summer 2009. I organized the following:
 - A workshop on the history of educational discipline.
 - A workshop on running a humanities recitation (with Meg Hammond, doctoral candidate in English).
 - A roundtable on classroom power dynamics.
- Supervisor and administrator of the music department's undergraduate theory program, 2008–09.
 - I developed curricular standards for the first-year course with Prof. Jairo Moreno.
 - I held teacher-training workshops for graduate students.
 - I set up an online resource to archive and discuss exams, syllabi, and teaching materials: <http://nyumusic.pbwiki.com>
- Class instructor for a first-year harmony and counterpoint course, 2007–08; syllabi available on the site above.
- Teaching assistant for a first-year harmony and counterpoint course, 2006–07.

Walden School for Young Musicians

- Three summers on faculty, 2005–07. My courses included musicianship, composition, North Indian music, and symmetric harmony.

Harvard Extension School

- Teaching assistant for a semester-long introductory music theory course, spring 2004.

Work experience

ZAG (subsidiary of Bartle Bogle Hegarty)

- Pedagogy and technology consultant for music education software (“Playground Sessions with David Sides”), summer 2010–present.
 - I designed the software's music theory curriculum, which involved:
 - writing scripts for each lesson;
 - assisting in the video production of the lessons;
 - writing a textbook to supplement the videos.

- I wrote Python scripts to automate the production of MusicXML files.
-

Expertise

Computer languages

- Proficient in SuperCollider, Max/MSP, CSound, and other programs for sound synthesis, editing, and mastering.
- Proficient in Python and command-line utilities for automated data processing, algorithmic composition, and media programming.
- Detailed knowledge of the MusicXML file format.

Natural languages

- General professional proficiency of Spanish and Hindi (speaking, reading, and writing).
- Limited working proficiency of Urdu (reading).

Instruments

- Piano: proficient in figured bass realization, sight reading, and accompaniment.
 - Tabla: detailed knowledge of bols and rhythmic development formulas.
 - Laptop: extensive performance experience with improvised multimedia using SuperCollider.
-

Awards and honors

Fellowships and teaching awards

- Dean's Dissertation Fellowship from New York University: 2010–11.
- Dean's Outstanding Student Teaching Award in the Humanities from New York University: 2009.
- American Institute of Indian Studies graduate fellowship for summer language study: 2008.
- MacCracken graduate fellowship from New York University: 2005–10.
- Beebe Fund fellowship for study in India: 2004.
- John Knowles Paine Traveling Fellowship from Harvard University: 2004.

Composition awards

- "Nocturne" won the MacColl prize from the Harvard music department: 2003.
 - A string quartet won Harvard's Blodgett competition: 2002.
-

Papers and presentations

- “The Ethics of Approximation in Renaissance Tuning Theory,” presented at the American Musicological Society (AMS) conference as part of the “Sensible Number” panel: November 2011 (forthcoming)
- “Style in the Light of Science,” presented at the 99th Annual Conference of the College Art Association (CAA): February 2011.
- “The Meaning of Musical Noise: Radical Dissonance in Eighteenth-Century Music Theory,” presented at the *Noise and Sound in the Eighteenth Century* conference at the Sorbonne nouvelle: December 2009.
- “Uniform Diversity: The Common Myth of Tonal Progress,” published in the American Music Center newmusicbox (<http://www.newmusicbox.org/article.nmbx?id=5801>)

Recent compositions

- Works with video available at <http://vimeo.com/alexanderness>
- Several others available at <http://nesssoftware.com/home/asn>

Date	Title	Instrumentation	Musicians of première	Length
2011	<i>Interaction of Color</i>	video and four-channel synthesized sound		7 min.
	<i>Schismatics</i>	laptop orchestra	PLOrk	10 min.
	<i>Thread Chorale (Third Version)</i>	viola, flute, piano four hands	Talea Ensemble	12 min.
	<i>Thread Chorale (Second Version)</i>	violin, cello, double bass, trombone, piano	Jane Chung, Jane Cords-O’Hara, Rebekah Griffin Greene, Terry Greene, Solon Gordon	12 min.
2010	<i>Five audiovisual compositions (composed with Yoni Niv):</i> 1. <i>Pressure</i> 2. <i>Beating</i> 3. <i>Subharmonics</i> 4. <i>Feedback</i> 5. <i>La Mer</i>	video scores, mixer, electric guitar, cymbal, steel plate, transducers, oscillators, contact mics, amps of varying price and quality, Alka-Selzer tablets, etc.	Yoni Niv and Alex Ness	25 min.
	<i>Ideomania</i>	string quartet and video score	Jack Quartet	10 min.
2009	<i>Qāyadā</i>	video and six-channel synthesized sound		20 min.
	<i>Akousmetria</i>	sextet and video score	Tom Blancarte, Nathan Davis, Peter Evans, Dan Peck,	12 min.

			Meighan Stoops, and Kathering Young	
	<i>Thread Chorale (First Version)</i>	flute and violin	Kylie Collins and Erica Ball	7 min.
2008	<i>Xayāl</i>	flute and percussion	Due East	6 min.
2007	<i>Glass Drum</i>	solo cello	Ha-Yang Kim	4 min.
	<i>Cycles</i>	soprano and small ensemble	Emily Eagen and ICE	
	<i>Good Night</i>	alto flute, bass clarinet, violin and cello	ICE	