

Ryan Tanaka  
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## **Curriculum Vitae (Updated 08/19/07)**

### **Background**

Born March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1981. Hometown: Aiea, Hawaii – USA. Fourth-Generation Japanese-American. Fluency in Japanese and English, spoken and written.

### **Main Areas of Interest**

*Music Composition/Theory* – Traditional and Contemporary Styles, Eclecticism

*Music Improvisation* – Improvisation Pedagogy and Performance (Classical and New Music Styles), Improvisation Accompaniment (Dance, Film, Theater)

*Philosophy and Rhetoric* – Analytical Philosophy, Pragmatist Philosophy, Works of Jose y Ortega Gasset (Perspectivism).

### **Education**

*Masters of Fine Arts (MFA), Music Composition/Performance.* California Institute of the Arts. Awarded 05/2007.

*Bachelors of the Arts (BA), Music Theory-Composition.* University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Awarded 05/2005.

*Pre-Engineering Coursework Completed.* University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 09/1999 – 09/2001.

### **Awards**

*CalArts Scholarship.* Awarded for general academic and performance work at the California Institute of the Arts. 2006-2007 academic year.

### **Residencies**

*California EAR Unit Composer-in-Residence.* @ Arcosanti, Arizona. 08/06/2007-08/11/2007.

### **Experience in Musical Instruction**

*Classroom Instruction – Music Skills Level A and C (First and Third Year*

*Undergraduates).* Melodic, rhythmic, harmonic dictation and recitation. Under the direction of Paul Vorwerk. California Institute of the Arts. 01/2007-05/2007.

*Private Lessons – Composition, Improvisation, Music Theory, Music Skills.* 2004-Present.

*Private Lessons – French Horn.* 2007-Present.

### **Scholarship, Writings**

#### **Publications (Music Theory, History, Musicology)**

*Transcendentalism and Materialism: Classical Music and Improvisation in the United States (Part I – History).* An article dealing with the differences between classical music and improvised musical practices, particularly in the United States. Part 1 deals with the two medium's historical practices. 6000 words. 11/2007. (Pending review at *Critical Studies in Improvisation.*)

*Improvisation for Classical Musicians.* A compilation of pedagogical methods largely geared toward classical musicians who may be looking to improvise. Submitted to *Critical Studies in Improvisation.* 6,000 words. 01/2007.

*Phasing, Relativity, Serialism.* Theoretical analysis of Steve Reich's "Phasing" technique in relation to serial techniques. Submitted to *Perspectives of New Music.* (Supervised by Steven Takasugi and Sara Roberts @ California Institute of the Arts.) 5,500 words. 05/2006.

### **Publications (Art Theory)**

*Interactivity and Abstraction.* Investigation of the relationships between abstract art and video games. (Supervised by Sara Roberts @ CalArts.) 2,000 words. 12/2006.

### **Publications (General Philosophy)**

*Economics of Ideas: A Revisited Look at the Digital/Analog Debate.* A philosophical inquiry into the nature of the digital/analog dichotomy, and its relationships with the rest of society (language, economy, art). 21,800 words. 07/2006.

*Art and Emotional Responses.* Investigation of emotional invocation derived from artworks in relation to the audience's ideological outlooks. 1,500 words. 09/2006.

*Mobility and Freedom.* Mobility as the main propagator of freedom and free-will. 5,000 words. 10/2006.

## **Music Improvisation**

### **Music Improvisation –Performance Ensemble History**

*The A-Tribute Ensemble.* Improv Trio – Ryan Tanaka (piano/keyboard), Melinda Rice (violin), Chris Votek (cello).

*Aloud – Improvisations.* A festival of improvisation, featuring poets, singers, and musicians. @ Il Corral. Los Angeles, CA. 11/09/07.

*MixMatch Dance Festival.* Providing accompanimental music for choreographer Amanda Hart's dance work. @ The Electric Lodge. Venice, CA. 09/21/07-09/23/07.

*Improvisation at the Dangerous Curve.* Performance following the acts of Pianist Danny Holt and improviser Kraig Grady. @ Dangerous Curve. Los Angeles, CA. 07/13/07.

*Improvisation at the China Cat.* @ China Cat. Los Angeles, CA. 07/29/07.

*Bartok "Mikrokosmos" Improv Project.* An attempt to record improvised versions of music from the *Mikrokosmos* collection. 09/2006 – Present.

*Vinny Golia Large Ensemble.* French Horn. Under the direction of Vinny Golia. California Institute of the Arts. Los Angeles, CA, 05/02/06.

*Vinny Golia Large Ensemble.* Improvised French Horn. Conducted and performed along with Vinny Golia. CalArts Jazz concert. @ REDCAT Theater. Los Angeles, CA, 05/02/06.

*Cal Arts Advanced Improvisation Ensemble - "Circas".* Susan Allen [CalArts faculty] (harp), Chris Votek (cello), Cooper Baker (laptop), David Goodheim (guitar), Ira Miller (percussion), Alex Macy (drumset), Ryan Tanaka (piano, horn). California Institute of the Arts. 09/2005-01/2006.

*Improvisation at Club Tropical.* CalArts Advanced Improvisation Ensemble under the direction of Susan Allen. @ Club Tropical. Culver City, CA, 04/17/06.

*Improvisation at School of Music's NASM Recital.* CalArts Advanced Improvisation Ensemble under the direction of Susan Allen. @ Roy O' Disney Hall. Valencia, CA, 02/26/06.

*The Brownouts.* Improv Trio – Ryan Tanaka (horn/keyboard), Brad Blackburn (electronics, custom made instruments), Jamie Hutchingson (trombone). University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. 10/2003-05/2005.

*Improvisation, Various.* Solo and group improvisations. @ Independent Media Center hosted by the Pauline Oliveros Foundation run by Jason Finkelman. Champaign, IL. 2001-2005.

### **Music Improvisation – Dance/Theater/Multi-Media Accompaniment**

*Flashpoint.* Dance Theater work choreographed by Mira Kingsley. Musical accompaniment provided by Ryan Tanaka and Eric Lindley. @ Highways Performance Space. Santa Monica, CA. 08/31/07, 09/01/07.

*HotHouse Performance-in-Progress.* Dance Theater work choreographed by Mira Kingsley. Musical accompaniment provided by Ryan Tanaka and Eric Lindley. @ Gloria Kaufman Hall, UCLA. Los Angeles, CA. 08/24/07.

*Throwing Rubies.* Theater work written by Terri Sissman, directed by Sue Hamilton. Play accompanied by improvised keyboard music. @ Stella Adler Theater. Hollywood, CA. 05/18/07-06/10/07 (Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun.)

*Hands.* Collaborated work with Nadine Rambeau (writer), Marie Chambert (dancer), Jan (artist), Tara Schwab (flutist), under the direction of Teresa Chavez. Multimedia work involving video and live performance in music and dance. @ Roy O' Disney Hall, CalArts. Valencia, CA. 12/13/06.

*Meeting! You, Him, and Me.* A dance-work supported by improvised musics, choreographed by Yen-Lin Chou. Dance performance by Chun-Yu Lin, Hannah, Rutherford, Rachel Abrahams, Kristi Tornga. Music performed by Ryan Tanaka (piano), Chris Votek (cello), and Grace Lai (flute). Costumes by Michelle Roshanzamir. @ Lund Theater, CalArts. Valencia, CA. 03/08/06–03/09/06.

### **Music Improvisation – Performances and Projects**

*Bartok “Mikrokosmos” Improv Project.* An ongoing project that will attempt to record all of the Hungarian composer's works from the “Mikrokosmos” in some kind of improvised form. <http://www.ryangtanaka.com/bartokmikro.htm>. 11/2006-Present.

*Neglected Piano Project.* An ongoing project that will do various improvised recordings off of out-of-tune pianos that suffered from neglect. <http://www.ryangtanaka.com/negpiano.htm>. 05/2005-Present.

*Background Music.* Solo piano improvisation. @ Highways Performance Space. Santa Monica, CA. 09/01/06.

*Microtonal Improv.* On organ, playing with French Horn player Jody Hurt. @ Roy O' Disney Hall. Valencia, CA, 11/17/06.

*Music for Finite Time – 60 Minutes of Continuous Music.* Solo Improvisation. @Cal Arts Main Gallery. Valencia, CA, 05/20/06

*Wedding Music.* Solo piano improvisation. @Waikiki Sheraton Hotel. Waikiki, HI, 07/29/06

*Minimalism, Serialism, Noise.* Solo piano improvisation. @ CalArts Main Gallery. Valencia, CA, 11/25/06.

*Dynamic Properties of Water and Air.* Recorded solo piano improvisation. 2003. ~12 mins.

### **Multimedia and Interdisciplinary Projects (Including Film/Video)**

#### **Film/Video Scoring Projects**

*Within a Play.* Piano improvisation used as soundtrack in film, directed by Mark P. Ring. Featured at the 2004 Sundance Festival, collaborated and produced with Jason Finkelman. 01/2004.

*Of Ties and Perfection.* In collaboration with experimental animator, Joice Ozaki. Composed music for violin and cello. Sound design by Marley Carroll. 04/2007.

*My Evening Bath.* In collaboration with experimental animator, Pa Na Lor. Improvised piano used as background music. 04/2007.

### **Interdisciplinary Projects and Performances**

*Hands.* Collaborated work with Nadine Rambeau (writer), Marie Chambert (dancer), Jan (artist), Tara Schwab (flutist), under the direction of Teresa Chavez. Multimedia work involving video and live performance in music and dance. @ Roy O' Disney Hall, CalArts. Valencia, CA. 12/13/06.

*Meeting! You, Him, and Me.* A dance-work supported by improvised musics, choreographed by Yen-Lin Chou. Dance performance by Chun-Yu Lin, Hannah, Rutherford, Rachel Abrahams, Kristi Tornga. Music performed by Ryan Tanaka (piano), Chris Votek (cello), and Grace Lai (flute). Costumes by Michelle Roshanzamir. @ Lund Theater, CalArts. Valencia, CA. 03/08/06–03/09/06.

*Piano Harmonization Experiment No 1.* Collaborated work with Experimental Sound Practitioner, Marc Nemoy. Max/MSP patch written so that the rhythmic speeds of the left and right hand alters the harmonization of the piano. @ Cal Arts Main Gallery, "Sounding Out" Festival. Valencia, CA. 02/13/06.

*Stripe-Dot.* Collaborated work with Experimental Sound Practitioner, Marc Nemoy. Projected animation (generated by Max/MSP) used as a real-time score for improvisation purposes. @ Cal Arts Main Gallery, "Sounding Out" Festival. Valencia, CA. 11/14/05.

*Autonomous Fantasies.* For General MIDI. Visualized with the help of Stephen Malinowski's *Music Animation Machine*. (<http://musanim.com>) 2006. ~35 mins.

*The Cultural Computing Program – Digital Cabaret.* Interdisciplinary technological projects by UIUC students in engineering, dance, and music, under the direction of Guy Garnett and Roy Cambell. @ Krannert Center. Champaign, IL. 04/28/05.

*Cartoon Music Project.* In collaboration with the author of "Too Much Coffee Man", Shannon Wheeler. <http://www.ryangtanaka.com/tmcmp.htm> 05/11/05.

### **Music Composition**

#### **Lessons, Instructions, Workshops – Composition/Improvisation**

*Rosenboom, David.* Lessons in composition. California Institute of the Arts. 2006.

*Takasugi, Steven.* Lessons in composition. Supervision of master's thesis, *Phasing, Relativity and Serialism*. California Institute of the Arts. 2006.

*Roberts, Sara.* Lessons in composition. Supervision of thesis, *Phasing, Relativity, and Serialism*. Supervision of publication, *Improvisation for Classical Musicians*. California Institute of the Arts. 2007.

*Golia, Vincent.* Lessons in composition and improvisation. California Institute of the Arts. 2005.

*Taylor, Steven.* Lessons in composition. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2001-2005.

*Garnett, Guy.* Lessons in composition. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2004-2005.

*Wyatt, Scott.* Instruction in electroacoustic recording and composition. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2004.

*Tipei, Sever.* Lessons in composition. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2004.

*Browning, Zach.* Lessons in composition. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2003.

*Bashwhiner, David.* Lessons in composition. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2001.

*Lewis, George.* Visiting Artist. Lessons and workshops in improvisations. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2003.

*Aharonián, Coriún.* Visiting Artist. Lesson and workshops in composition. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2004.

*Schweintz, Wolfgang.* Visiting Artist. Lesson in composition. California Institute of the Arts. 2007.

*Globokar, Vinko.* Visiting Artist. Workshops in improvisation and composition. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2003.

### **Music Composition – List of Composed Works, Acoustic**

*Fantasies for a Quintet.* For Pierrot Ensemble. 2007. ~15 mins.

Performed and recorded by the “California EAR Unit.” @ Ampitheater, Arcosanti, AZ. 08/12/07.

*Conquest of Happiness.* For chamber orchestra. 2007. ~14 mins.

Performed and recorded by the “New Century Players”. @ Roy O’ Disney Hall, California Institute of the Arts. Valencia, CA. 05/07/07.

*String Quartet No. 4.* Dedicated to the “Formalist Quartet”. (Violin 1 – Andrew Tholl, Violin 2 – Mark Menzies, Viola – Andrew McIntosh, Cello – Ashley Walters.) 2007. ~10 mins.

*String Quartet No. 3.* 2006. ~10 mins.

*Skin and Meat.* For horn, trumpet, trombone, xylophone and percussion, violin, viola, and cello. 2006. ~8 mins.

Performed and recorded by the “New Century Players”. @ Roy O’ Disney Hall, California Institute of the Arts. Valencia, CA. 12/04/06.

*String Quartet No. 2.* For string quartet. 2006. ~15 mins.

Performed and recorded by the “Formalist Quartet”. @ Roy O’ Disney Hall, California Institute of the Arts. Valencia, CA. 11/16/06.

*Adventures in Contemporary Culture.* For Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, and Piano. @ Roy O’ Disney Hall, California Institute of the Arts. Valencia, CA. 2006. ~24 mins.

Performed by Alysha Conroy (soprano) and Catherine Hay (mezzo) and Rory Cowal (piano). @ Roy O’ Disney Hall, California Institute of the Arts. Valencia, CA. 04/15/06.

*Cadences.* For string quartet. 2006. ~2 mins.

Performed and commissioned by the “Formalist Quartet”. @ Roy O’ Disney Hall, California Institute of the Arts. Valencia, CA. 11/02/06.

Performed by the Formalist Quartet. @ University of Nevada, Reno. Reno, NV. 03/02/07.

Performed by the Formalist Quartet. CSSA concert (for high school students). @ Disney Modular Theatre, California Institute of the Arts. Valencia, CA. 07/16/07.

Performed by the Formalist Quartet. @ Princeton University. Princeton, NJ. 10/27/07.

Performed by the Formalist Quartet. @ Music at Our Savior’s Atonement. Manhattan, NY. 10/28/07.

*One Cycle.* For oboe, clarinet, piano, cello, and percussion. 2005. ~9 mins.

Performed, commissioned, and recorded by the “California EAR Unit”. @ Roy O’ Disney Hall, California Institute of the Arts. Valencia, CA. 02/24/06.

*Counterpoint in Three Parts.* For horn, violin, cello. 2006. ~3 mins.

Performed by Jody Hurt (horn), Melinda Rice (violin), Chris Votek (cello). @ Roy O’ Disney Hall, California Institute of the Arts. Valencia, CA. 03/14/07.

*Music for Finite Time.* Conceptual work for any number of instruments. 2005. ~x mins, predetermined.

*Postlude for Piano.* For solo piano. 2004. ~7 mins.

Performed and recorded by Sung Hi-Lee. @ Smith Recital Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. 05/04/04.

### **Music Composition – Electronic Works**

*Autonomous Fantasies.* For General MIDI, designed to work with Stephen Malinowsky’s “Music Animation Machine”. 2006. ~35 mins.

*Trombone Talk.* Virtual dialogue using the “trombone” patch from General MIDI. ~3 mins.

*Life Factory.* For General MIDI. 2003. ~15 mins.

*Channel Surfer.* Improvisations on Casio Keyboard General MIDI and Presets. 2005. ~15 mins.

*Complex Emotions.* Tape piece produced at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Electronic Music Studio (EMS). 2003. ~3 mins.

### **Music Performance – French Horn**

#### **Lessons, Instructions, Workshops – French Horn Performance**

*Katzen, Daniel.* Lessons in French Horn Performance. California Institute of the Arts. 2005-2007.

*Kazmiercz, Machala.* Lessons in French Horn Performance. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2002-2005.

*Vogel, Alan.* Instruction in performance for winds. California Institute of the Arts. 2005-2007.

*Menzies, Mark.* Instruction in orchestral performance. California Institute of the Arts. 2005-2007.

*Powell, William.* Wind quintet coaching. California Institute of the Arts. 09/2006-11/2006.

*Carroll, Edward.* Brass Ensemble. California Institute of the Arts. 2005-2007.

*Tornquist, Doug.* Brass Ensemble. California Institute of the Arts. 2005-2007.

*Miller, James.* Brass Ensemble. California Institute of the Arts. 2005-2007.

### **Performance History – French Horn**

*Konzertstück for Four Horns by Robert Schumann.* Fourth Horn. CalArts Chamber Orchestra. @ Roy O' Disney Hall, CalArts. Valencia, CA, 11/19/06

*Woodwind Quintet (1948) by Elliott Carter.* CalArts Chamber Music Group coached by William Powell. @ Roy O' Disney Hall, CalArts. Valencia, CA, 11/06/06

*Sonata for Four Horns by Paul Hindemith.* CalArts Horn Quartet, coached by Daniel Katzen. @ Roy O' Disney Hall, CalArts. Valencia CA, 04/16/07.

*Sonata for Horn and Piano by Paul Hindemith.* Solo horn. With pianist Lorna Eder, coached by Daniel Katzen. @ Main Gallery, Cal Arts. Valencia, CA. 03/16/06.

*Quintet for Oboe, Bassoon, and Three Horns in E-flat by Ludwig Beethoven.* Second Horn. Student ensemble under the direction of Daniel Katzen. Valencia, CA. 04/14/06.

*Cello Concerto by Joseph Haydn.* CalArts Chamber Music Group conducted by Ashley Walters and Marc Lowenstien. Valencia, CA. 03/04/07.

*Symphony 103 by Joseph Haydn.* CalArts Orchestra conducted by Ashley Walters. Valencia, CA. @ Roy O' Disney Hall, CalArts. 02/27/07

*Queen in Yellow – A Hyper Opera by Jeff Vitucci, Sarah Seelig, Kirin Kapin, Jonathan Mann, Jay Garrett, Larry Lindberg, Teri Card, Daniel Corral, Adrian Dunham.* Spring 2006 “Hyper Opera” class under the direction of Anne LeBaron. @ Roy O' Disney Hall, CalArts. Valencia, CA. 04/23/06.

*New Piece (1971) by Earl Brown.* CalArts Ensemble conducted by Vinny Golia. @ Roy O' Disney Hall. Valencia, CA. 05/13/06.

*In C by Terry Riley.* Performance by the Cal Arts Music School under the direction of David Rosenboom. @ Walt Disney Concert Hall. Los Angeles, CA. 03/20/06.

*John Daversa MFA Graduation Recital: Jazz Studies.* First Horn. @ Roy O' Disney Hall. Valencia, CA. 03/12/06

*Rhapsody in Blue* by George Gershwin. Second Horn. University of Irvine Orchestra conducted by Steven Tucker. @ Radisson Hotel, paid performance. Palm Springs, CA. 05/19/06.

*Piano Concerto No. 2* by Sergei Rachmaninoff. Second Horn. University of Irvine Orchestra conducted by Steven Tucker. @ Radisson Hotel, paid performance. Palm Springs, CA. 05/19/06.

*Perpetual Mobile* by Johann Strauss. Second Horn. University of Irvine Orchestra conducted by Steven Tucker. @ Radisson Hotel, paid performance. Palm Springs, CA. 05/19/06.

*Overture to Der Freischutz*. Second Horn. University of Irvine Orchestra conducted by Steven Tucker. @ Radisson Hotel, paid performance. Palm Springs, CA. 05/19/06.

*Various Chinese Medley's, Original and Arranged Compositions*. First Horn. University of Irvine Orchestra conducted by Steven Tucker. @ Irvine Barclay Theater, paid performance. Irvine, CA. 05/26/06.

*Mozart Piano Concerto No. 8*. Second Horn. University of Irvine Orchestra conducted by Steven Tucker. @ Irvine Barclay Theater, paid performance. Irvine, CA. 06/09/06.

*Breed Street*, by Bernard Gilmore. Second Horn. University of Irvine Orchestra conducted by Steven Tucker. @ Irvine Barclay Theater, paid performance. Irvine, CA. 06/09/06.

*La Boheme* by Giacomo Puccini. Second Horn. University of Irvine Orchestra conducted by Steven Tucker. @ Irvine Barclay Theater, paid performance. Irvine, CA. 06/09/06.

*Clap and Tap, Summer Salon Concert 2006*. Chamber Orchestra conducted by David Wen. @ Quest Culture Center, paid performance. Artesia, CA. 06/24/06.

*Symphony No. 1* by Gustav Mahler. Sixth Horn. U of I Orchestra conducted by Jack Ranney. @ Krannert Center. Urbana, IL. 2002.

*Symphonic Metamorphosis*. Third Horn. U of I Orchestra conducted by Jack Ranney. @ Krannert Center. Urbana, IL. 2003

*Symphony No. 7* by Ludwig Beethoven. Second Horn. U of I Orchestra conducted by Jack Ranney. Urbana, IL. 2004.

*Student and Faculty Composed Works, Various*. University of Illinois New Music Ensemble directed by Stephen Taylor and Zach Browning. Urbana, IL. 2001-2005.

### **Other Music-Related Activities/Skills**

### **Music Technology/Electronic Music**

*Sequencing and Sound Synthesis.* Experience working with electronic musical techniques, under the direction of Scott Wyatt. Galaxy, Vision DSP. @ University of Illinois Electronic Music Studios. Urbana, IL. 2004.

*Sound Recording.* Various experiences with sound recordings, both field and studio. Logic, Cubase, ProTools, Reason, Audacity, etc. 2003-Present.

*Compositional Programs.* Various experiences with compositional programs. Sibelius, Finale, etc. 2001-Present.

*Multimedia Software.* Various experiences working with multimedia software. Max/MSP, Jitter. 2005-Present.

### **Non-Western Musical Studies**

*“Nomura Style” Shamisen Instruction.* Shamisen instruction in Okinawan style by Master Tamaki. Okinawa, Japan. 2005.

*Shamisen Instruction.* Shamisen instruction in Okinawan style by Robert Kobashigawa. 1999-2004.

### **Music Related Employment and Projects**

*Music Librarian – Sinfonia da Camera.* Stage manager and music processing/distribution/collection. Sinfonia da Camera @ Urbana, Illinois. 09/2001-05/2005.

*Information Science.* Supervisor and reference librarian for music library. Knowledge of Dewey, Library of Congress, and site-specific cataloguing systems, including the handling of audio, video, and visual mediums. @ California Institute of the Arts Library. 09/2006 – Present.

*Information Science.* Circulation librarian for music library. Knowledge of Dewey, Library of Congress, and site-specific cataloguing systems, including handling of audio and video mediums. @ University of Illinois Music Library and California Institute of the Arts Library. 09/2002 – 05/2005.

*Score Editing.* For Michael Gordon’s “What to Wear”, performed at REDCAT from 09/19/06-10/01/06. Commissioned and conducted by David Rosenboom. 09/2006. ~500 pages.

*Part Reconstruction from Score.* For Don Gillis' full-orchestral work, "Star-Spangled Symphony". Commissioned and conducted by Ian Hobson. 03/2004. ~900 pages.

### **Memberships**

American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP)

Music National Teacher's Association (MNTA)  
International Society for Improvised Music (ISIM)  
American Composer's Forum, Los Angeles (ACF-LA)

--<http://www.ryangtanaka.com> for other information, references.