

# Christopher Williams - Curriculum Vitae

## Personal Information

Full Name: Christopher Albert Williams  
Profession: Composer, Contrabassist, Artistic Researcher, Organizer  
  
Birthdate: 14 June 1981 / San Diego, California, USA  
Citizenship: USA  
  
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## Primary Education

1985 – 95: *St. Martin of Tours Academy*  
1995 – 97: *St. Augustine High School*  
1997 – 99: *Coronado School of the Arts*

## Secondary Education

January 2011 - *Universiteit Leiden*  
PhD Candidate, Academy of Creative and Performing Arts  
Dissertation title: *Tactile Paths: on and through notation for improvisors*  
Committee Chair: Frans de Ruiter  
Artistic Advisor: Richard Barrett  
Academic Advisor: Marcel Cobussen  
  
September –  
December 2003 *Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya*  
Area: Composition  
Advisor: John Rahn  
  
1999 – 2003 *University of California, San Diego*  
Bachelor of Arts (with Honors) in Music  
Emphasis: Composition and Contrabass Performance  
Advisors: Chaya Czernowin und Bertram Turetzky

## Nonacademic courses

July 2006 Festival Acanthes Composition Workshop, Metz  
July 2002, 2004 Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik, Darmstadt

## Languages

English (Native)  
German (Advanced spoken and written)  
Spanish (Fluent spoken and written)  
Catalan (Fluent spoken and written)  
French (Basic spoken and written)

## Prizes, Scholarships, Grants, and Residencies

2014	Initiative Neue Musik Berlin e.V.: Production Grant for the project <i>Reidemeister Move</i>
2014	Q-o2, Brussels: Residence with the Project <i>Reidemeister Move</i>
2014	Initiative Neue Musik Berlin e.V., Deutscher Musikrat, and Kulturamt Neukölln: Production Grants for the series <i>Certain Sundays: A Salon at SOWIESO</i>
2013	Initiative Neue Musik Berlin e.V. and Kulturamt Neukölln: Production Grants for the series <i>Certain Sundays: A Salon at SOWIESO</i>
April 2012	Berliner Senat International Cultural Exchange Program: Travel Grant for Canadian Tour with the Project <i>Reidemeister Move</i>
March 2012	Goethe Institut: Travel Grant to present at the <i>2012 Conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth</i> , Delhi, India
October 2011	Netwerk Centre for Contemporary Art, Aalst, Belgium: Residence with the Project <i>Reidemeister Move</i>
August 2011	Initiative Neue Musik Berlin e.V.: Production Grant for the project <i>Reidemeister Move</i>
March 2011	Goethe Institut: Travel Grant to perform at the <i>Kaoszféra Fesztivál</i> , Budapest
2011	Hauptstadtkulturfonds, Initiative Neue Musik Berlin e.V., Deutscher Musikrat and Kulturamt Neukölln: Production Grants for the series <i>Certain Sundays: A Salon at SOWIESO</i>
2009	Insitut Ramon Llull, Barcelona: Travel Grants for tours in USA, Holland and Germany
2008	Consell Nacional de les Arts de Catalunya: Production Grant for the composition <i>Ràdio Mòvum</i>
August 2008, 2010	Hotel Pupik, St. Lorenz, Österreich: Artist residence
December 2007	WORM, Rotterdam: Studio residence for the realization of <i>The Hispaniola: a webradio play for flutist</i> ,
2006	Festival Acanthes Composition workshop, Metz: Scholarship
2004	Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik, Darmstadt: Scholarship
2003	University of California, San Diego: <i>Sayer Prize</i> for outstanding classical music performance
2002, 2003	University of California, San Diego: <i>Stuart Prize</i> for outstanding creative work, UCSD
2002	University of California, San Diego: <i>Erickson Prize</i> for excellence in research
2001	University of California, San Diego: <i>Nee Preis</i> to the most outstanding member of the La Jolla Symphony

## Associations and Organizational Experience

- 2013 - Jury member, Kulturrat Neukölln (Berlin), Culture Subsidies
- 2009 - Co-curator, *Certain Sundays*, a monthly concert/ lecture series in Berlin featuring distinguished local and international experimental musicians and artists. 19 events since 2009. Funded by Hauptstadtkulturfonds, Initiative Neue Musik Berlin, Kulturrat Neukölln, and Deutscher Musikrat.  
[www.certain Sundays.org](http://www.certain Sundays.org)
- November 2011 - Coordinator und Member of the *Berlin Improvisation Research Group*, an informal independent research group.  
[www.berlinimprovisationresearchgroup.wordpress.com](http://www.berlinimprovisationresearchgroup.wordpress.com)
- 2004 – 2009 Secretary, *Associació Musical l'Embut*, a collective dedicated to the presentation of contemporary music in Catalunya. Responsibilities included curating and producing over 60 concerts in the series *M.I.#*, three editions of the *Festivalet d'Hivern de Música Improvisada* and collaborations with Festival Nous Sons, el Mercat de les Flors, and Goethe Institut.
- 2005 – 2007 Artist in Residence, *Experimentem amb l'Art*, Barcelona.  
[www.experimentem.org](http://www.experimentem.org)
- 1999 - 2003 Assistant and writer, *San Diego New Music*, a non-profit organization dedicated to the presentation and dissemination of contemporary music in San Diego, California. Concert production and promotion assistance and reviews for the *SDNM Newsletter*. [www.sandiegonewmusic.com](http://www.sandiegonewmusic.com)

## Selected Lectures and Workshops

- May 2014 Panel Discussion Participant: *Musik Medien Transformation* conference, Private University Witten/ Herdecke – Wittener Tage für Neue Kammermusik.
- March 2014 *Bob Ostertag's Say No More Project as a Model for Artistic Research?* Nordic Summer University Winter Session, Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences, Vilnius.
- October 2013 *An Introduction to Notation for Improvisers*. Department of Music, York St. John's University.
- October 2013 *On Arcanum 17*. Department of Music, Leeds University.
- October 2013 *Tactile Paths: on Borromean Rings*. Conference on Notation in Contemporary Music: Composition, Performance, Improvisation, Goldsmiths College, London.
- September 2013 *Feedback of Thought and Place in Arcanum 17*. Orte/e des Denkens Conference, Department of Philosophy, University of Vienna.
- April 2013 *Semiotic Flow in Arcanum 17*. XII International Conference on Musical Signification, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.
- February 2013 *Bass Playing in the Wild: making music with instruments and field recordings*. University of Limerick, Ireland.
- September 2012 *On Arcanum 17*. Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria, Canada.
- September 2012 *Just Intonation for Tuba and Contrabass* (with Robin Hayward). Department of Music, University of Victoria, Canada.
- April 2012 *Where I End and You Begin: cognition and culture in experimental improvised dance* (with Martin Sonderkamp). 2012 Conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth, Delhi, India.

November 2011	<i>Situating Notation for Improvisors</i> . Presentation in the <i>(Re)thinking Improvisation Conference</i> , University of Lund, Malmö.
March 2011	Improvisation Workshop. Janáček Academy of Music, Brno.
May 2010	<i>Harmonics on the Contrabass</i> . Composition Seminar, Universität der Künste, Berlin.
January 2010	<i>On composition and improvisation in some recent music</i> . Composition seminar, Stanford University.
June, 2009	<i>Polyphony, Paradox, Chuang Tsu, and the Bass: a composer improvises, or vice versa</i> . Presentation in the <i>International Society of Bassists Conference 2009</i> , Penn State University.
February 2009	<i>Musical time for visual artists</i> . 3-day workshop at the <i>Sala d'Art Jove</i> , Barcelona.

### Selected Performances of Compositions

October 2013	<p><i>What Hole Is This?</i> (2013) [Scene for four performers]. Commissioned by Maulwerker.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pyramidale Festival, Berlin</li> </ul>
September 2013 October 2013 April 2013, October 2014 March 2013 September 2012 September 2012 September 2012 September 2012 September 2012	<p><i>Arcanum 17</i> (2012) [Contrabass, microtonal Tuba, field recordings und Texts after André Breton]. Binaural Production produced for Deutschlandradio Kultur <i>Klangkunst</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation Version, <i>Ort/e des Denkens</i> Conference, Universität Wien</li> <li>Broadcasts, Deutschlandradio Kultur</li> <li>Université Catholique de Louvain</li> <li>Fylkingen, Stockholm</li> <li>Neutral Ground, Regina</li> <li>Open Space, Victoria</li> <li>The Western Front, Vancouver</li> <li>Tour de Bras, Rimouski</li> <li>Suddenly Listen, Halifax</li> </ul>
December 2010 September 2010 August 2010 January 2010 January 2010	<p><i>Profiad</i> (2009) [solo Contrabass]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KOMA Festival, Belgrad Philharmonie</li> <li>REX Cultural Centre, Belgrad</li> <li>Hotel Pupik Künstlerresidenz, St. Lorenz, Österreich</li> <li>The Wulf, Los Angeles</li> <li>Stanford University</li> </ul>
March 2009	<p><i>Diferencias Familiares sobre las Cuerdas</i> (2009) [solo Guitar, Tape, and Electronics]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sala d'Art Jove de la Generalitat de Catalunya, Barcelona</li> </ul>
November 2009 March 2008 April 2008 April 2008 June 2008	<p><i>The Hispaniola: a webradio play for flutist</i> (2008) [Flute, Elektronik, Live Radiotransmission und Texts after Robert Louis Stevenson]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Berlin Volksbühne, Berlin</li> <li>mex Intermediale, Dortmund</li> <li>Festival "Blurred Edges", Hamburg</li> <li>WORM, Rotterdam</li> <li>Sendung: VPRO Radio 6 (Holland)</li> </ul>

February 2010 December 2008	<p><i>Apples Are Basic</i> (2007) [Viola and Contrabass]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hörbar, Hamburg</li> <li>• Festivalet d'Hivern de Música Improvisada, Barcelona</li> </ul>
June 2008 May 2006 October 2006 October 2006	<p><i>The English Dancing Master leads: or, Mr. Bailey's Maggot</i> (2006) (in collaboration with visual artist Tanja Smit) [for ensemble chronophonie: fl., e.h., bn., tpt., perc., and vln.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Score included in Centre de Documentació del Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona</li> <li>• Museum für Neue Kunst, Freiburg</li> <li>• Wechselraum, Stuttgart</li> <li>• Radbrünnentor, Breisach</li> </ul>

## Selected Performing Experience

2014	<p>Performance with MI-65 Ensemble, <i>Club Transmediale</i> Festival</p> <p>Duo Concerts with Robin Hayward in <i>Reidemeister Move</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>ausland</i>, Berlin</li> </ul> <p>Solo Concerts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pagrabs, Liepaja, Latvia</li> <li>• Chomsky Bar, Riga, Latvia</li> <li>• Venclovu Namai Museum, Vilnius, Lithuania</li> <li>• Ben Patterson 80th Birthday Concert, Ackerstadt Palast, Berlin</li> <li>• Private Universität Witten-Hardecke</li> </ul>
2013	<p>Duo Concerts with Robin Hayward in <i>Reidemeister Move</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fylkingen, Stockholm</li> <li>• Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium</li> </ul> <p>Performances with <i>PATCHES</i> dance and music project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tanzhaus Köln</li> <li>• Dansehuset Oslo</li> </ul> <p>Solo Concerts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Limerick, Ireland</li> <li>• <i>PostMutArt</i> Festival, Nitra, Slovakia</li> <li>• University of York, St. John</li> </ul>
2012	<p>Duo Concerts with Robin Hayward in <i>Reidemeister Move</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neutral Ground, Regina</li> <li>• Open Space, Victoria</li> <li>• The Western Front, Vancouver</li> <li>• Tour de Bras, Rimouski</li> <li>• Suddenly Listen, Halifax</li> </ul> <p>Quartet Concerts with <i>BERLIN QUELQUE PART</i> project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sonotone Festival, Périgueux, France</li> <li>• Densités Festival, Fresnes-en-Woevre, France</li> <li>• Gergesehen Series, Cologne</li> <li>• FEED Soundspace, Berlin</li> </ul>

	<p>Solo Concerts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of California, Santa Cruz</li> <li>• ausland, Berlin</li> </ul>
2011	<p>Solo Concerts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ausland, Berlin</li> <li>• Galerie Kurt im Hirsch, Berlin</li> <li>• Interarts Centre, Malmö</li> <li>• Labor Sonor, Berlin</li> <li>• Janáček Musikakademie, Brno, Tschechien</li> </ul> <p>Duo Concerts with Robin Hayward in <i>Reidemeister Move</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Certain Sundays Series</i>, Berlin</li> <li>• Network Centre for Contemporary Art, Aalst, Belgien</li> <li>• Evangelische Brüdergemeinde, Berlin</li> </ul> <p>Duo Concert with Zsolt Söres, <i>Kaoszféra Fesztivál</i>, Budapest</p>
2010	<p>Solo Concerts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KOMA Festival, Belgrad Philharmonie</li> <li>• Hotel Pupik Artist Residence, St. Lorenz, Austria</li> <li>• REX Cultural Center, Belgrade</li> <li>• Improv Est, Grand Cafe, Szeged, Hungary</li> <li>• Stanford University</li> <li>• The Wulf, Los Angeles, California</li> </ul> <p>Dance performances mit Martin Sonderkamp, Hans W. Koch and the Michael Douglas Kollektiv, Köln</p> <p>Large Ensemble Concert with Evan Parker, <i>Sonorities Festival</i>, Queen's University, Belfast</p>
2009	<p>Solo Concerts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moltkerei Werkstatt, Köln (with Benjamin Patterson and Hans W. Koch)</li> <li>• Hotel Pupik Artist Residence, St. Lorenz, Austria</li> </ul> <p>Concert with Yarn/Wire Ensemble (Works by Benjamin Carson), Columbia University, New York</p> <p>Musical accompaniment for Dance-Workshops with Martin Sonderkamp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universität der Künste, Berlin</li> <li>• Henny Jurriëns Stiftung, Amsterdam</li> </ul>
2000 - 2008	<p>Solo Concerts: University of San Diego, Stanford University, California Institute of the Arts, The Athaneum (San Diego)</p> <p>Concerts with Derek Bailey, Barcelona</p> <p>Concerts with LaMonte Young's <i>Theatre of Eternal Music String Ensemble</i>: Kunst im Regenbogenstadl (Polling), Diapason Gallery, (New York)</p> <p>Member: La Jolla Symphony, Orquesta de Baja California</p>

## Publications

“Dancing about Witnessess” (with Mathias Maschat). Forthcoming in *Experiencing Liveness*, ed. Matthew Sweet and Anja Lindelof.

“Where You End and I Begin: cognition and continuity in experimental music and dance” (with Martin Sonderkamp). In: *Critical Studies in Improvisation/ Études critiques en improvisation Vol 8, No 2* (2012).

“Situating Notation for Improvisors”. In: *Proceeding of the (Re)thinking Improvisation Conference 2011*. Malmö: University of Lund, 2013.

Book Review: *echtzeitmusik: selbstbestimmung einer szene*. In: *Critical Studies in Improvisation*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (2011). [www.criticalimprov.com](http://www.criticalimprov.com).

Concert Review: *minim*. In: *The Improvisor*, Summer 2004. [www.the-improvisor.com](http://www.the-improvisor.com).

“KIVA (no colon)”. In: *Open Space Magazine*, no. 6. Red Hook, NY, 2004. pp. 204-217.

“On the Piano Music of Ben Carson: A Correspondence of Essays“ (with Benjamin Carson). In: *Open Space Magazine*, no. 5. Red Hook, NY, 2002. pp. 231-250.

## References

Richard Barrett (*Composer; Professor of Music, Orpheus Instituut*)  
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