

Marina Kifferstein | Resume

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Education

DMA in Violin Performance, CUNY Graduate Center (projected '23)

Full scholarship recipient

MM in Contemporary Performance, Manhattan School of Music '14

Full merit scholarship recipient (2012-2014)

GPA: 4.0

BM in Violin Performance, Oberlin Conservatory '12

BA in English with a Creative Writing Concentration, Oberlin College '12

Recipient of the Conservatory Dean's Talent Award (2007-2012)

Recipient of the John Frederick Oberlin Scholarship (2007-2012)

GPA: 3.86

Primary Teachers

Mark Steinberg (2018- present); Laurie Smukler (2012-2014); Curtis Macomber (2012-2014); Reiko Fueting (2013-2014); Milan Vitek (2007-2012); Ecaterina Gerson (2000-2007)

Teaching Experience

Residencies at conservatory and university music programs including:

- University of Pittsburgh (2020), Arkansas State University Jonesboro (2019, 2020), Delian Academy in Greece (2019), Stanford (2019), Cornell (2019), Youngstown State University (2019), University of Pennsylvania (2019), University of St. Cloud, MN (2019), Boston University (2018), Columbia University (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020), McGill (2017), Tulane (2017), University of New Orleans (2017), Williams College (2017), Bowling Green State University (2017), Zurich University of the Arts (2017), New York University (2016), Rutgers University (2014), and Oberlin Conservatory (2014, 2020)

Graphic Score workshop co-leader and designer

- Workshops that focus on scholarship surrounding, and the creation of, graphic and non-traditionally notated scores. Sessions conducted with The Rhythm Method string quartet and the International Contemporary Ensemble at Bowling Green State University, Youngstown State University, Zurich University of the Arts, as well as in public schools in Omaha, Nebraska and Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Violin Faculty, Composers Conference (2016-present)

- Chamber music coach for conservatory, post-graduate, and amateur adult performers
- Performances on faculty concerts
- Lecturer and workshop leader, virtually in 2020

Violin Faculty, United Nations International School (2016-present)

- Private instructor for elementary, middle, and high school violin students, virtually in 2020
- Classroom teacher for middle school strings (2017-2018)
- UNIS is a private international school with elementary through high school students

Violin and Orchestra Faculty, Washington Heights Community Conservatory of Fine Arts (2014-2018)

- Private studio instructor for elementary, middle, and high school students
- Orchestra conductor and curriculum coordinator for a class of 25 middle and high school aged students.
- The WHCC is a pre-conservatory style music school that provides full scholarships and instruments to students from elementary through high school.

Violin faculty, Long Island City Academy of Music (2012-2015)

- Group class instructor and curriculum coordinator for elementary and middle school students at PSIS49 in Queens.

Secondary violin instructor, Oberlin Conservatory (2009-2012)

- Private instructor for students in the Oberlin college and community.

Chamber Music: selected experience

TAK ensemble: Founding member, co-artistic director, and violinist (2013-present)

- Hailed as “fearless” (*The Boston Globe*), TAK is a quintet that delivers energetic and virtuosic performances of contemporary classical music. Awards from Chamber Music America, the Ditson Foundation, Amphion Foundation, New Music USA, and others. Recent performances at the Library of Congress (DC), Cluster Festival (Winnipeg), Look and Listen Festival (NYC), and resident ensemble at the Delian Academy (Greece). www.takenensemble.com

The Rhythm Method String Quartet: Founding member and violinist (2014-present)

- The Rhythm Method is a quartet of performer-composers that strives to reimagine the string quartet in a contemporary feminist context. Performances across NYC, Austria, Switzerland, and France; finalists in the 2015 Concert Artists Guild competition; awards from the Earl Brown Foundation, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Brooklyn Arts Council, and others. www.therhythmmethod.nyc

Ensemble of Lucerne Festival Alumni (2015-present)

- Collaborations with composer Michel van der Aa (2017), violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja (2017), the JACK Quartet (2017), Wolfgang Rihm (2019), Riccardo Chailly (2019), and others
- European tour of “Fensadense,” a theatrical children’s concert, developed in collaboration with composer Tod Machover (2015)

International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE)

- Guest artist, violin (2016-present)
- Performances at the Time of Music Festival in Viitasaari, Finland (2018), Omaha ONE festival (2018), Mostly Mozart Festival (2019), Sacrum Profanum Festival, Poland (2019)

Talea Ensemble

- Guest artist, violin (2016-present)
- Notably, performance at the Musiques Démesurées Festival in Clermont-Ferrand, France (2017), Timespans Festival (2018)

Wet Ink Ensemble

- Guest artist in large ensemble performances. Concerto soloist; featured on the albums “Wet Ink: 20,” Carrier Records, and “Torrent,” Sound American Publications (2015-present)

Da Capo Chamber Players

- Guest artist, violin (2015, 2016)

The Louis Moreau Institute: violinist (2015-2016)

- New music festival ensemble in New Orleans

The Nouveau Classical Project: violinist (2012-2016)

- The Nouveau Classical Project (NCP) is a New York City based hybrid ensemble/production hub that re-imagines classical and new music through interdisciplinary projects.

Manchester Music Festival, guest artist and concerto soloist

- Regular chamber music and orchestral performances (2012-2016)

Concerto solo/Concertmaster/notable orchestral experience

Ensemble of Lucerne Festival Alumni (2017-present)

- Concertmaster and Principal Second Violin for various performances at venues including the KKL Luzern and the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie
- Concertmaster for Frank Zappa portrait at Roulette Intermedium (Brooklyn, NY)

Ensemble Signal (2017)

- Performance at the Lincoln Center Festival, in Alice Tully Hall

Orchestra of Lucerne Festival Academy Alumni: Concertmaster (2016)

- Pierre Boulez Memorial concert under the direction of Matthias Pintscher in Lucerne, Switzerland

Wet Ink Ensemble: concerto soloist (2015)

- World premiere of *K. Tracing*, by Ryan Pratt

Tactus Ensemble: concerto soloist (2014)

- Performance of Luciano Berio's *Corale* under the direction of Kyle Ritenauer, performed at the Manhattan School of Music.

Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra: Concert Master and soloist under the direction of Sir Simon Rattle (2014)

- Performance of Luciano Berio's epic symphonic/choral work, *Coro*

Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra: Concert Master under the direction of Matthias Pintscher (2014)

- Working directly with Helmut Lachenmann, tour across Switzerland and Germany

Compositions and improvisation

Regular collaborators on improvised sets include:

- The Rhythm Method string quartet: programming includes graphic and text scores, as well as free improvisation
- xbucket: trio with Alex Van Gils, live electronics, and Sam Tarakajian, visualizations.
- NinaMarina: duo with Nina Dante, both performing with voice and violin
- Trio with Weston Olencki, synthesizer and brass, and Austin Wulliman, violin
- Brandon Lopez, bass (with TAK Ensemble)

Selected recent compositions include:

- Quintet for trombone and strings (2019), premiered by The Rhythm Method and Will Lang
- Feeling/unfeeling (2019) for voice, viola, and piano/actors, premiered by Jennifer Roderer, Carrie Frey, and Ari Livne
- Duo for violin and cello (2019), premiered by myself and Meaghan Burke
- Trio for 2 violins and trombone (2018), premiered by myself, Austin Wulliman, and Weston Olencki; Duo version for 2 violins
- Loyly (2018) for violin and tuba, premiered by myself and Jack Adler-McKean
- IZARD, for 2 violins (2018), premiered by the International Contemporary Ensemble (myself and Leah Asher)
- An Alien with Extraordinary Abilities (2017), for string quartet, premiered by The Rhythm Method
- The master of such moments (2016) for voice and vocalizing violinist, premiered by myself and Charlotte Mundy; subsequent performance by Amber Evans and Lena Vidulich duo

Selected recordings can be found on my website, www.marinakifferstein.com/composition

Selected discography

- Oor, TAK ensemble, TAK Editions (2019)
- Wet Ink: 20, Wet Ink Ensemble, Carrier Records (2018)
- Sanctuary, TAK ensemble, Denovali Records (2017)
- Torrent, Wet Ink Ensemble, Sound American Publications (2017)
- Creature Comforts, Meaghan Burke: violin and melodica (2017)
- Ecstatic Music, TAK ensemble, New Focus Recordings (2016)
- Potential Energies, The Nouveau Classical Project, Orange Mountain Music (2016)

Skills

Music performance and recording: violin, mandolin, ukulele, various percussion, electronics

Music composition for concert, film, and commercial use

Audio and video editing

Podcast production

Music journalism

Social media production and curation

Proficiency with the following relevant software/online tools:

- Online instruction via Zoom, WebEx, Google, Dropbox, Blackboard, Veracross
- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), Pages, Google Suite
- Adobe Creative Suite (Premiere Pro, Photoshop, After Effects), iMovie
- Ableton Live, Audacity, Max/MSP
- Finale, Sibelius, MuseScore

Languages

English, Spanish

Selected media samples

[Mouthpiece 28, by Erin Gee](#)

with TAK Ensemble

Audio recording from *Oor* (2019, TAK Editions)

[Corale, by Luciano Berio](#)

Live performance at the Manhattan School of Music, Greenfield Hall, February 2014

[Solo improvised set](#)

Live stream performance in May 2020, presented by Rhizome, DC

[String Quartet no. 2, by Marina Kifferstein](#)

with the Rhythm Method String Quartet

Live performance at Jupiter Sound, March 2020

[Ecstatic Music](#)

Album by TAK Ensemble (2016, New Focus)

[Violin Sonata in B minor, by Amanda Maier](#)

with Daniel Colalillo, piano

Selected press

“Fierce, fearless, and virtuosic... unapologetically stylistically omnivorous and versatile” - New Music Box

“Trailblazing...skillful composer-performers” - The New Yorker

"These young, fearless players navigate Brook's mechanized instruments and alternate tunings with fluid grace and confidence." - The Boston Globe, listing TAK's album "Ecstatic Music" in the Top 10 Classical Albums of 2016

"My first encounter with TAK Ensemble quite took my breath away... This intrepid quintet... impresses with the organicity of their sound, their dynamism and virtuosity — and, well, just a dash of IDGAF as they slay the thorniest material like it's nothing... As titillating and irresistible a band as we have on the new music scene today." - WQXR, Q2 Music

"Stunning" - The Brooklyn Rail

“Sound porn” - BuzzFeed