

Hazel Leach: CV

... as musician/composer/conductor.....

2014

- Release of 2 CDs by the Composers' Orchestra Berlin: "Free Range Music" and "Spazieren in Berlin"
- A Peace Symphony: Dona Nobis Pacem, commissioned by "Musik und Leben" in Luckau (D). Written for young musicians from Germany and Poland.
- Aug: teacher/conductor during the 23rd. Jazz Conceptions in Darmstadt.

2013

MD, conductor and composer for "Spazieren in Berlin": a series of radioplays based on texts by Franz Hessel, for the rbb (Radio Berlin-Brandenburg). Broadcast in March 2013, the CD was released in March 2014 as an audio-book.

Since January 2011: Musical Director of the Composers' Orchestra Berlin, a large ensemble consisting of strings, horns and rhythm section. The members of the orchestra are not only improvising instrumentalists, but are also the composers. The first CD was released in April 2014.

2010: A cycle of 8 songs entitled "Song from the Edge" was recorded with the German/Dutch band "PLoTS". The CD was released in April 2012 (JazzhausMusik 208)

2010: "Screen Shot" for symphonic windband was commissioned by the Bibloservice Gelderland (NL), to add a little jazz'n'pop to the traditional repertoire.

2009/2010: Composer for the award-winning "Paradies 2" project "Das Geheimnis von Schlabendorf", organised by the IBA (Internationale BauAusstellung) in Germany. Performed in May & June 2010.

October 2006 : 'Artist-in-residence' at the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

July/August 2005: Curator of the Omi International Music Residency in New York, USA, also giving lectures and workshops at Harvard & Columbia Guest workshop & performances with the Seattle Women's Jazz Orchestra (SWOJO) in Seattle.

Aug.2002: Resident composer at the Omi International Music Residency

Feb.2002: Musical leader and conductor of the "JazzArt Orchestra", performing prize-winning pieces composed for the prestigious "JazzArt-Aktuelle Musik im 21.Jahrhundert" competition in NRW (Germany)

1996: Commissioned by the Fonds voor de Scheppende Kunsten (Amsterdam) to write four pieces for Big Band with additional soloists. In the same year two other pieces were performed by the violinist Michael Gustoff, together with the Guus Tangelder Big Band in the Luxor Theatre in Arnhem. Three jazz-based string quartets were played in première in the City Theatre in Arnhem, by an ensemble led by Michael Gustoff and Michiel Braam (piano).

1992-2009: Composer and co-leader of the United Women's Orchestra, an international bigband working from Germany.

1979-1988: Free-lance work with a wide variety of commercial and non-commercial groups and studio formations.

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1976-79: Work as a free-lance musician/arranger in the clubs and pubs of England. Bands include The Ivy Benson Big Band (2nd.tenor sax), and the Dave Thomas Band.

Prizes and Awards

2011: The "Paradies 2" project, for which I wrote the music for "Das Geheimnis von Schlabendorf", was awarded the prestigious BKM-Kulturelle Bildungspreis 2011 (Germany).

2000: "Mabel's Birthday" was a prizewinner in the Hemphill Awards 2000 (Jazz Composers Alliance, USA)

2000: "Cerasarda" is a piece for bigband, inspired by Sardinian folk music. Winner of the 1st prize in the "Scrivere in Jazz" composition concours in Sardinia.

1998: The piece "Á la Mode" was awarded a "Menzione Speciale" in "Scrivere in Jazz"

1996: Commissioned by the Fonds voor de Scheppende Kunsten (Amsterdam) to write 4 pieces for concert bigband with additional soloists.

..... as teacher/academic.....

EDUCATION

1974-1977. Student at the Newcastle School of Music, following a combined jazz (sax) and classical (flute) course which included commercial composition & arranging.

Diplomas:

- Diploma in Light Music (comparative B.Mus) Main instrument Flute, second study Saxophone. Other examination subjects; arranging, theory, history, composition (light & commercial) & teaching principles.
- LTCL diploma (Licentiate of Trinity College London) Education diploma, Flute.

1979-1984. Student at the Muziek Pedagogische Academie tin Leeuwarden (NL), following courses in teaching principles and methods, curriculum planning, repertoire etc. Also ensemble & workshop organization; arranging, conducting & composing for young and/or amateur groups.

Diplomas:

- 1982 Education Diploma A (equiv. Bachelor), Flute
- 1984 Education Diploma B (equiv. Master), specializing in Ensemble-leading.

EXPERIENCE

Aug 2014: teacher/conductor during the 23rd. Jazz Conceptions in Darmstadt.

1985-2010: Employed as a teacher in the jazz & pop department of the Arnhem Institute for the Arts (Artez). Subjects taught include: Harmony, Solfege (eartraining), Notation & general theory, Arranging & composition, Songwriting, Jazz history, Solo analysis & Bigband analysis & Ensemble coaching.

Oct 2006: "Artist-in -residence" at the Berklee School of Music in Boston.

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1979 -1988: Employed as a flute teacher and workshop/orchestra leader (pop, jazz, folk & classical) at the Muzisch Centrum (music school) in Emmeloord, NL.
1973-1975: employed at Spectro Arts Workshop in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Work entailed the organization of musical 'events': festivals, concerts and the running of jazz-rock & experimental workshops.

Guest lectures

- April 2012: During the 14e. Congress of the Vereniging voor Muziektheorie (Association for Music Theory) in Antwerp, Belgium: "Shifted root chords: A practical demonstration of a contemporary approach to chord-scale theory"
- February 2005: Lectures at Harvard, Berklee and Columbia (USA) about modern jazz harmony (about educational methods and my own compositional style)
- February 2000. During the 2nd. Congress of the Vereniging voor Muziektheorie (Association for Music Theory) in Antwerp, Belgium: "A practical approach to structural analysis for improvising musicians"
- October 1999. During the 4th. European Music Analysis Conference (EuroMac) in Rotterdam, entitled "Milestones: an analysis of changes in harmonic language in jazz improvisation".

CDs

- 2014 "Free Range Music" The Composers' Orchestra Berlin. JHM 224
- 2014 "Spazieren in Berlin" Hörbuch Buchfunk/rbb
- 2012 "Songs from the Edge" Plots JHM 208
- 2007 "Meeting of the Waters" The Seattle Women's Jazz Orchestra. OA2 Records
- 2002 "Virgo Supercluster" The United Women's Orchestra JHM 123
- 1999 "The Blue One" The United Women's Orchestra JHM 99
- 1996 "The United Women's Orchestra" UWO 9601

Websites

www.hazelleach.com
www.composersorchestraberlin.com