

Shawn L. Decker

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EDUCATION

- 1987** Doctor of Music, music theory and composition, Northwestern University.
- 1982** Master of Music, music theory and composition, Northwestern University.
- 1981** Bachelor of Music, music composition, Oberlin College Conservatory of Music. Minor in mathematics.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 1991- present **Professor, School of the Art Institute of Chicago:** Art and Technology and Sound departments. Teach courses in experimental applications of computers to art, sound and music composition, media installation, flash animation, WWW-based art, acoustics, sound synthesis, computer programming, etc. at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Also the lead faculty member for the School of the Art Institute's Teachers in Contemporary Art summer program in Art and Technology for 5 years, a program funded by the NEA which brings high school art teacher from across the country to Chicago for a two week intensive workshop in using computer technology in both their art-making practice and in their pedagogy.
- Administrative duties:** Chair of Art and Technology department for two 3 year rotations (6 years total). I also chaired the sound department for two years from 1988-90, and am again currently the chair of the Sound department, (in the second year of a three year rotation). Also chaired the Search committee for our most recent Dean and vice-president of the school, and was a member of the search committees for both our current undergraduate and graduate deans, as well as a member of the search committee for one of our former presidents. Additionally, I chaired the Faculty senate for 3 years, and sat as a member of the faculty Senate for another 3 years.
- 1982-88 **Assistant Director of Operations, Northwestern Computer Music Studio, Northwestern University:** Coauthored grants and other fund raising materials which raised over one million dollars to support the studio's activities. Designed and implemented the primary sound generation and music software for the studio. Coordinated the development and usage of computer music systems by composers, musicians, and researchers, and was responsible for developing the principal music software used at the studio. Wrote and published articles and papers on this work. Composed and produced numerous music compositions and soundtracks for a variety of media. Coordinated and performed music and sound production work, including work done for the CBS "Twilight Zone" television series.

SELECTED RECENT EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES

2011: Art Stays: Ptuj, Slovenia. A new work is being developed for this exhibition in collaboration with Artist Jan Tichy and others.

Turku Cultural Capital 2011: Turku, Finland. *Sounding Dome Sauna*, collaboration with Jan-Erik Andersson. Public Art project, a working sauna installed in the public baths for 3 months as part of the art-commissioning series "Saunalab" for their EU cultural capital 2011 festival.

Mordine and Co. Dance Ens.: Completed and premiered a new live 25' electronic work, **Lifespeak**, with Mordine and Co at the Ruth Page Dance Center in Chicago.

Museum Bellerive, Zurich: *Errant Behaviors*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

2010: Audible Gallery, Experimental Sound Studio, Chicago: *Motion Studies (Prairie)*, electro-mechanical sound installation/sculpture

Ragdale House, Lake Forest IL: Site specific installation

Beach Gallery, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS: *Errant Behaviors*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

State of Illinois Gallery, Chicago; State of Illinois Gallery, Lockport: premier of *Motion Studies: Air*, sculptural sound installation.

WAG gallery, Bloomfield College, NJ: *The Night Sounds*, electro-mechanical installation

2009: Museum of the 21st Century, Kanazawa, JAPAN: *Errant Behaviors*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

Pritzker Pavillion, Chicago: *Train Time (reprise)*, Experimental Sound studio project with Lou Mallozzi, Olivia Block, and Ryan Ingebritsen for the Chicago Humanities festival. 5 channel sound installation presented in the pavillion's large distributed sound system.

Center for the Book Arts, NYC: *Mess*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

Sound Culture Lab, Bundanon Foundation, NSW, Australia: Desert TLife on a Leaf, Turkü, Finland: Permanent sound installation as part of an architectural artist's house.

Life on a Leaf, Turkü, Finland: Permanent sound installation as part of an architectural artist's house.

Diapason Gallery, New York, NY: premier of *Concrete*, electro-acoustic sculptural sound installation.

Chicago Cultural Center: *Casting the Circle:* sculptural sound installation for the Poetic Dialogues exhibition, with text in collaboration with poet Annie Finch

Dance Center of Columbia College: *Illuminations*, premier of new Dibly 5.1 electronic music commissioned for Mordine Dance company.

Terre Haute Museum of Art, *Casting the Circle*: sculptural sound installation for the Poetic Dialogues exhibition, with text in collaboration with poet Annie Finch

Bowling Green State Univ. Art Museum, *Casting the Circle*: sculptural sound installation for the Poetic Dialogues exhibition, with text in collaboration with poet Annie Finch

2008: Pritzker Pavillion, Chicago: *Train Time*, Experimental Sound studio project with Lou Mallozzi, Olivia Block, and Ryan Ingebritsen for the Chicago Humanities festival. 5 channel sound installation presented in the pavillion's large distributed sound system.

Sound Culture Lab, Bundanon Foundation, NSW, Australia: *Desert Travels 4 – electroacoustic performance*

Univ. of New South Wales, Paddington, Australia: *Errant behaviors*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick Maine: *Errant Behaviors*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis : *Errant Behaviors*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

Evanston Art Center, Sculpture on the Lawn: *Bird's Nest*, collaborative work with Jan-Erik Andersson – installed on the grounds for one year (continuing through May).

Evanston Art Center: *The Night Sounds*, electro-mechanical installation.

Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago: *Notations*: presented with Anne Wilson's piece of the same name, limited edition CD.

Denler Gallery, Northwestern College, St. Paul, MN: *Mess*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

Evanston Art Center, Sculpture on the Lawn: *Bird's Nest*, collaborative work with Jan-Erik Andersson – installed on the grounds for one year (continuing through May).

Evanston Art Center: *The Night Sounds*, electro-mechanical installation.

Victoria and Albert Museum, London: *Errant Behaviors*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago: *Notations*: presented with Anne Wilson's piece of the same name, limited edition CD.

2007: Minnesota Museum of American Art, St. Paul, MN: *Green*, Electro-mechanical sound installation.

Waino Aaltonen Museum, Turku, FINLAND: *Bird's Nest*, collaborative work with Jan-Erik Andersson

Evanston Art Center, Sculpture on the Lawn: *Bird's Nest*, collaborative work with Jan-Erik Andersson – installed on the grounds for one year.

Museum of Art and Design, NYC: *Errant Behaviors*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

Life on a Leaf, Turku, FINLAND, permanent site-specific installations as part of Jan-Erik Anderssons artist's house – opening 2007.

2006: SIGGRAPH 2006, Boston, MA: *Green*, Electro-mechanical sound installation.

Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL, *Mess*, Collaboration with Anne Wilson, video and 4 channel audio.

Glass Curtain Gallery, Chicago, IL, *Green*, Electro-mechanical sound installation.

SOFA Gallery, Bloomington, IN: *The Night Sounds*, electro-mechanical installation.

Lincoln Park Conservatory, Chicago IL: site-specific installation for the Experimental Sound Studio's *Florasonic* series.

Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago IL: *Expansion/Contraction*, electro-mechanical sound installation.

Wakefield Public Arts, Wakefield ENGLAND: *Bird's Nest Wakefield*, collaborative work with Jan Erik Andersson (continuing)

2005: Kurazawa Museum of Art, Kurazawa Japan: *Errant Behaviors*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, video and sound installation.

Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN: *Hairline*; collaboration with artist Arthur Liou, video and surround sound Installation.

Hyvinka, FINLAND: *Bird's Nest Hyvinka*, site specific collaborative work with Jan-Erik Andersson.

Wakefield Public Arts, Wakefield ENGLAND: *Bird's Nest Wakefield*, collaborative work with Jan Erik Andersson (continuing)

2004: Moores Gallery, Fremantle, AUSTRALIA, as part of the **Biennial of Electronic Arts Perth (BEAP):** *A Small Migration*, electro-mechanical installation.

Kiasma Museum, Helsinki, FINLAND: *Bird's Nest Helsinki*, collaborative work with Jan-Erik Andersson.

Wakefield Public Arts, Wakefield ENGLAND: *Bird's Nest Wakefield*, collaborative work with Jan-Erik Andersson.

Art Chicago 2004, Chicago, IL: *Errant Behaviors*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

SOFA gallery, Bloomington IN: *Errant Behaviors*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

Basel Art Fair Miami: *Errant Behaviors*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

Schoff Gallery, Chicago IL *Bloodwork*, collaboration with artist Arthur Liou, Video and Sound Installation.

2003: Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) Houston, TX: *Errant Behaviors*, collaboration with Artist Anne Wilson, Video and Sound installation.

Paul Klein Gallery, Chicago, IL: *Scratch Studies*, interactive electromechanical installation.

Wäinö Aaltonen Art Museum, Turku, FINLAND: *Apple Concert*: video/sound installation (Dolby 5.1 surround sound), collaboration with artist Jan-Erik Andersson.

Sculpture Gallery, Helsinki, FINLAND: *Paradise*, video/sound installation with Jan-Erik Andersson.

A+D Gallery, Columbia College, Chicago, IL: *The Night Sounds*, electro-mechanical installation.

Open End Gallery, Chicago, IL: *Scratch Studies*, interactive electro-mechanical installation.

2002: Klosterstrasse, Berlin, GERMANY: Site-Specific Installation in sculpture park run by City of Berlin.

ISEA2002, Nagoya JAPAN: *Scratch Studies*, and *The Night Sounds*, interactive electro-mechanical installations.

Galleri 21, Malmö, SWEDEN: *World-Wide Chocolate Heart*, collaborative interactive network installation with Jan-Erik Andersson.

2001: CADE2001, Glasgow, UK: *Night Sounds* and *Scratch Studies*, interactive electro-mechanical installation.

Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL: *Last Friday Night*, sound and image work, included in Annette Barbier and Drew Brownings *Home* project.

Boston Cyberfest: *Soundmap* an interactive multimedia piece for the WWW, presented by Maine New Media.

Slusser Gallery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI: *Divided Circle: Music for 16 Stirrers*, electro-mechanical sound installation.

Ars Electronica Center, Linz, AUSTRIA, and V2_lab, Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS: *Last Friday Night*, sound and image work, included in Annette Barbier and Drew Browning's *Home* project.

Contemporary Arts Council, Chicago, IL: *A History of our Breathing*, installation with Kristine Thompson.

2000: Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL: *Scratch Studies*, interactive electro-mechanical installation.

Brussels 2000, Centrum Bruxelles, in Brussels, BELGIUM: *World-Wide Chocolate Heart*, collaborative interactive network installation with Jan-Erik Andersson.

Helsinki 2000, Lasipalatsi Media Centre in Helsinki, FINLAND: *World-Wide Chocolate Heart*, collaborative network installation with Jan-Erik Andersson.

Gallery for New Media, Sao Paulo, BRAZIL: *Last Friday Night*, sound and image work, included in Annette Barbier and Drew Brownings *Home* project

ISEA 2000: Forum des Images, Paris FRANCE: *Last Friday Night*, sound and image work, included in Annette Barbier and Drew Brownings *Home* project

Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago, IL: *The Night Sounds*, electro-mechanical sound installation

Sound Field 2000, Chicago, IL: Desert Travels #3, performative electro-mechanical installation.

1999: Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, IL: *The Night Sounds*, electro-mechanical sound installation

San Fransisco State University Museum, San Fransisco, CA: *Divided Circle: Music for 16 Stirrers*, electro-mechanical sound installation

1998: Rockford Art Center, Rockford, IL: *Divided Circle: Music for 16 Stirrers*, electro-mechanical sound installation

1997: Turun Taidemuseon, Turku, FINLAND: *Wire Field*, electro-mechanical sound installation.

Nykytaiteen museo, Helsinki, FINLAND: *Music From The Well-Fed Abyss*, installation/performance collaboration with artist Jan-Erik Andersson

N.A.M.E. Gallery, Chicago, IL: *Music From The Well-Fed Abyss*, installation/performance collaboration with artist Jan-Erik Andersson

Chicago Cultural Center: *Divided Circle: Music for 16 Stirrers*, electro-mechanical sound installation.

1996: Randolph St. Gallery, Chicago, IL: *Divided Circle: Music for 16 Stirrers*, electro-mechanical sound installation

1994:Chicago Filmmakers, Chicago IL: *Divided Circle: Music for 16 Stirrers*, electro-mechanical sound installation

1990:Artists Space Gallery, New York, NY: *My Country*, music video installation , collaboration with video artist Annette Barbier

Museum of Moving Image, New York, NY: *My Country*, music video installation (collaboration with video artist Annette Barbier)

SELECTED GRANTS, AWARDS and COMMISSIONS

2011 Commission, *Lifespeak*, Mordine and Co. Dance

2010 Illinois Arts Council Project Grant Award

2009 Commission, *Illuminations*, Mordine and Co. Dance

State of Illinois Arts Council Governor's International travel grant

2008 State of Illinois Arts Council Governor's International travel grant

- 2007** Illinois Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship
Illinois Arts Council International Fellowship
- 2006** Ragdale Foundation Fellowship and Residency
Rockefeller Media Arts Fellowship Nomination
- 2005** Ragdale Foundation Fellowship and Residency
Rockefeller Media Arts Fellowship Nomination
Illinois Arts Council individual Artist Fellowship
- 2004** Ragdale Foundation Fellowship and Residency, October, 2004
Roger Brown Estate Residency, September 2004
- 2003** Illinois Art Council Individual Artist Fellowship (Interdisciplinary and Digital Arts Category)
- 2002** Illinois Governor's International Arts Exchange Program, August, 2002
Ragdale Foundation Fellowship and Residency, June, 2002
Rockefeller Media Arts Fellowship Nomination
- 2001** Ragdale Foundation Fellowship and Residency, August, 2001
- 2000** Illinois Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship (Interdisciplinary Arts category)
Evanston Arts Council Individual Artist Project Grant
First Prize, *A4 Arnheim Architectural Award*, Arnheim, NETHERLANDS. A collaborative computer animation with Joshua Mosley and Steve Waldeck for a proposal of a sound-light installation for the Atlanta Airport (this project is currently one of three finalists for this commission).
Ragdale Foundation Fellowship and Residency, June, 2000
- 1999** Illinois Arts Council Individual Artist Finalist Award (Interdisciplinary Arts category)
- 1998** Commissioned permanent architectural sound installation, Kiipula, FINLAND.
- 1997** Named one of 15 "Chicagoans of the Year" in the Arts by the Chicago Tribune for 1997.
Residency in Turku and Helsinki FINLAND, sponsored by Chicago Artists International Program, the Turun taidemuseon, Turku and the Nykytaiteen museo, Helsinki. June and July, 97
- 1996** Chicago Artists International Program sponsorship, Oct. 96
Ragdale Foundation fellowship and residency, June, 96
- 1995** Faculty enrichment grant, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, to support ongoing work.
- 1993** Illinois Arts Council Special Project grant to begin work on a piece utilizing field recordings of birdsongs.

Ruth Page Award Nomination (Collaborative Artist) for the interactive live electronic score for Shirley Mordine's "Truth Spin".

Faculty enrichment grant from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago to support ongoing compositional work utilizing field-recordings of birdsongs

- 1992** Commissioned by the Mordine and Company dance ensemble to write a interactive live electronic score for a new work. The piece "Truth Spin" premiered in spring 1993.
- 1991** Commission for a new work from the Chicago Saxophone Quartet, which was premiered in the winter of 1991.
- 1989** Chicago Access Network CAN award for "Best Music Video" with Annette Barbier for the collaborative video "My Country".
- 1988** "Exchange", a week long sound and visual installation for the Lobby of the 440 S. LaSalle St. building (which houses the Chicago Commodities Exchange), was commissioned by "One Financial Place" and the LaSalle Club in conjunction with the New Music Chicago Spring Festival '88. The opening of the piece was featured in a live WFMT broadcast.

Received thousands of dollars in equipment support from corporations in support of music studios at Northwestern University. Donors included Opcode, Dr. T's, Mark of the Unicorn, Passport, Digidesign, and others.

- 1987 "Wet Grass", a music and multi-image piece, was commissioned by Triton College as part of their "State of the Arts" festival.

Illinois Arts Council Individual Artists Fellowship Award.

Grant from the System Development Foundation, with Gary Kendall and William Martens, for continuing support of the Northwestern University Computer Music Studio. \$297,000.

- 1984 Grant from the System Development Foundation, with Gary Kendall and William Martens, for support of research and to expand the computer music studio at Northwestern University \$892,835.

SELECTED PERFORMANCES AND BROADCASTS, pre 2000.

Truth Spin, collaboration with Mordine Dance Theatre: live electronics, using light sensors triggered by dancers

Evanston First Night, Evanston IL, 12/31/96

Harold Washington Library Theatre, "Chicago Dances" series, 4/7 - 4/9, 1994

Columbia College Dance Center, 11/19 - 11/20, 1994

Chicago Cultural Center, AIC benefit performance, 1994

Columbia College Dance Center, 5/6 - 5/15, 1993

International Parliament of Religions meeting, Chicago, 1993

Desert Travels #2 (Live Electronics / homemade instruments), 1998

The Cliffdwellers, Chicago, IL, 1998

Art Institute of Chicago, 1998

Truth Spin Suite (tape/live electronics)

Lunar Cafe, Chicago, Sept. 27, 1996

University of South Carolina Computer Music Festival, April 12, 1995

Desert Travels #1 (Bass Clarinet and electronic percussion), 1992

Art Institute of Chicago, 1992

Wishing for the War to Cease (Saxophone Quartet), 1991

Curtis Hall, Chicago IL, 7/94

Harper College, Palatine IL, 8/93

Rossini Theatre, Pesaro ITALY, 10/92

St. Mary's College, Winoma MN, 3/92

Unity Church, Oak Park, IL, 2/92

Paine College, Augusta, GA, 11/91

Georgia State University, Atlanta GA, 11/91

LaGrange College, LaGrange GA, 11/91

Prairie Performing Arts Center, Racine WI, 5/91

My Country (2 synthesizers, marimba and computer-controlled synth.), 1986:

USArts festival, Akademie der Künste, Berlin, GERMANY, 5/93

New Music Chicago Spring Festival '87, Curtis Hall, Chicago, 4/87

Triton College "State of the Arts" Festival, River Grove, IL 4/87

Univ. of Illinois Circle Center series, Chicago, 10/86

Links Hall performance series, Chicago, 1/86

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Evanston, IL, 2/86

Cernan Space Center, River Grove, IL 5/85-7/85

N.A.M.E. Gallery "Performorama Series", Chicago, 3/85

Rising Song (synthesizer, guitar, bass, electronic percussion, voice, sax), 1990

Edge of the Looking Glass, Chicago, 1990

Univ. of Ohio, Bowling Green, Ohio, 1990

Quartet (synthesizer, electronic percussion, sax, guitar), 1988:

Satori Gallery, Chicago, 6/88

Madison Arts Center, Madison Wisconsin, 1989

Wet Grass (for tape); from a multi-media piece of the same name, 1987:

Kapture concerts at *Links Hall*, *Grace Place*, and *N.A.M.E. Gallery*, Chicago, 7/87

A Vague History of Light (brass ensemble), 1986:

Pitzen Brass Ensemble, 1986 concert series, *St. Luke's Church*, Evanston, 6/86

Movement Music (Violin and computer generated tape), 1984:

Moming Dance and Arts Center, Chicago, 7/85 and 1/87

N.A.M.E. Gallery, Chicago, 6/85

New Music Chicago Spring Festival '85, Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, 4/85

N.A.M.E. Gallery, 6/85

"Three Chicago Composers in Concert", presented by *N.A.M.E. gallery*, Chicago, 12/84

Nightbreak (vocals, keyboards, sax, clarinet, and vibes), 1983/86:

Univ. of Illinois Circle Center series, Chicago, 10/86

Artemesia Gallery, Chicago, 6/84

New Music Chicago Spring Festival '83, Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, 4/83

Construction with Plains and Curves . (computer generated tape), 1982:

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Urbana, IL 12/86.

“Three Chicago Composers in Concert”, presented by N.A.M.E. gallery, Chicago, 12/84

Museum of Science and Industry Centennial Concert, Chicago, 8/83

New Music America '82 festival, Installation in Monroe street garage, Chicago, 7/82

Full-length performances

“Works by Shawn Decker” - A full-length concert presented at *Pick-Staiger Concert Hall*, Evanston, IL 5/86. which received city-wide attention, including a Chicago Tribune preview article.

Television Broadcasts

- PBS Broadcast of the Annette Barbier video “Woman’s Movements”, in 1990
- PBS broadcast of “My Country” (collaboration with video artist Annette Barbier), in 1989 and 1990
- PBS and Learning Channel broadcasts of Annette Barbier’s “Table of Silence” video (soundtrack), spring/summer 1988.
- WTTW Chicago broadcasts of “Louis Sullivan, the Function of Ornament” (soundtrack) 1987, 1988

Radio Broadcasts

- Swedish Public Radio Broadcast of interview, sound recordings from “Wire Field”, 6/97
- WNIB, WNUR and other local and nationwide broadcasts of a program on “Computer Music in Chicago” I produced for the Experimental Sound Studio’s series “Sounds from Chicago”, which included the piece “Wet Grass”. 1990
- WFMT live Chicago broadcast of Exchange sound and visual installation (with interview) at 1 Financial Place, Chicago, IL. 4/88
- NPR broadcast of music from Cranston-Csuri, as part of a segment of “Morning Edition”.
- NPR broadcast of “Nightbreak” on the “USA Ear” new music program, Fall 1985
- New Music FM series broadcast of “Construction with Plains and Curves”, a joint nationwide satellite broadcast by NPR radio stations in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Washington DC, and other NPR affiliates. The broadcast was also aired on various European stations via the European Broadcast System. beg. 9/83.
- WFMT Chicago broadcast of “Movement Music”, 4/85 and 11/85.
- WFMT Chicago broadcast of “A Vague History of Light”, 4/87.
- NPR affiliate WBEZ Chicago broadcast of “Movement Music”, 4/85

FILM AND VIDEO SOUNDTRACKS

Soundtrack for the Annette Barbier video “Women’s Movements”, seen on PBS and other broadcast networks.

Sound design and music for the Tom Finerty film, “Trust Me”, which has won numerous film festival awards.

Collaborated with video artist Annette Barbier on the music video “My Country” which has been featured at the New York “Museum of the Moving Image” and “Artists Space” galleries, has been seen on PBS and other networks, and won the 1988 CAN award for “Best New Music Video”.

Composed and produced soundtrack for the Chicago Historical Society’s “Streets of Chicago” video, which has been on exhibit since late 1988.