

## Chris Becker

Composer

beckermusic@yahoo.com

(347) 968-5348

### CURRENT AND ONGOING PROJECTS

Composing and recording *A Dream of the Unknown* for five guitars (electric or acoustic) and one bass (electric or upright).

### SELECTED PERFORMANCES

*Parlour Games* with Tze Chun Dance

Original score by Chris Becker; Choreography by Tze Chun

December 4 and 5, 2009, The Tank, New York, NY

*The Other Shoe* with Sasha Soreff Dance

Original score by Chris Becker; Choreography by Sasha Soreff

Performed June 25 through 28, 2009, The Ailey Citicorp Theater, New York, NY

*La Spectra* with Movement Pants Dance

Original score by Chris Becker; Choreography by Adrian Jevicki and company

April 23 and 24, 2009 The Tank, New York, NY

*Music for Silent Films*

Improvised music performance accompanying contemporary silent films

February 13, 2009, NOW Music Festival, Capital University, Columbus, OH

Matt Adams (Saxophone), Lewis 'Flip' Barnes (Trumpet, Effects), Chris Becker (Laptop), Trista Hill (Harp), Roger Hines (Upright Bass), Stan Smith (Electric Guitar), Lynn Wright (Electric Guitar, Effects)

*Delta* (for classical guitar)

Commissioned by guitarist Dan Sumner and the Bloomington Classical Guitar Society. Funded in part by the American Music Center's Composer Assistance Program

Premiered January 10th, 2009, Bloomington, IN

at the John Waldron Arts Center by Dan Sumner

*Thrown* with Racoco Productions

Original score by Chris Becker; Choreography by Rachel Cohen

October 26, 2008, Purchase College Performing Arts Center, Portchester, NY

*Cornell Box* with Racoco Productions

Music by Becker; Installation by Rachel Cohen and Racoco Productions

*Stagger Lee*

Music by Becker; Poetry performance by Sharrif Simmons

*Thrown* with Racoco Productions

Music by Becker; Choreography by Rachel Cohen; Video by Leighton Edmondson

March 29 and 31, 2007, Studio 111, Brooklyn, NY, Residency with Racoco

Productions. Funded in part through Meet the Composer's Creative Connections program

*Recidivistas* with Racoco Productions

*If The Shoe Fits* with Racoco Productions

Original Score by Chris Becker; Choreography by Rachel Cohen

October 19, 2006, Winter Garden, World Financial Center, New York, NY

*Thrown* with Racoco Productions

May 4 and 5, 2006, Harvard University, Adams House Art Space, Cambridge, MA  
Original Score by Chris Becker; Choreography and installation by Rachel Cohen

*If The Shoe Fits* with Racoco Productions

February 10-12, 16-19, 2005, Walkerspace, New York, NY  
Original Score by Chris Becker; Choreography by Rachel Cohen  
(Named one of the best dance performances of 2005 by New York Times dance critic John Rockwell)

#### **RECENT GRANTS**

American Music Center Composer Assistance Program Grant (2008)  
Awarded to fund copying costs for the score for *Delta* for solo classical guitar.

American Music Center Live Music for Dance (2008)  
Awarded to fund rehearsals for and live performances of an original score for choreographer Rachel Cohen's *Like Dirt*.

American Music Center Composer Assistance Program Grant (2007)  
Awarded to assist with the recording of sound material for live sampling in New York premier performance of Becker's Caribbean inspired electro-acoustic work *Shanty Town Suite*.

Meet the Composer Creative Connections (2007)  
Awarded to Racoco Productions to fund two open rehearsals and one evening of original music by Chris Becker including collaborative works with choreographer Rachel Cohen, film maker Leighton Edmondson and poet Sharrif Simmons.

The American Society of Composers and Publishers (2004-2007)  
Louisiana Division of the Arts (1999)

#### **SOUND INSTALLATIONS**

*NY Tape Piece (Bliss Station Remix)*  
Capital University's Conservatory of Music,  
Commissioned by Capital University's 2001 NOW Music Festival

*Terra / 200 Birds*  
Mixed media installation by Jacqueline Bishop; Sound and music by Chris Becker  
1999 - 2001; Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA, Anderson Gallery, Richmond, VA, Tyler Museum of Art, Tyler, TX, Leedy-Voulkos Gallery, Kansas City, MO.

#### **RECORDINGS**

*Saints & Devils* (2006)  
Ten track suite of music inspired by songs, stories and icons of the Deep South with performances by musicians from New York City and New Orleans. Sampled material courtesy of the Alan Lomax archives. CD artwork by New Orleans artist Jon Graubarth. *Saints & Devils* was mastered two weeks before hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast.

*Alabama Song* (2001)

An arrangement the Weill/Brecht composition for accordion, electric guitar, trombone, alto saxophone and Mezzo-soprano voice. Recorded by The Four Bags for their debut CD.

*200 Birds* (1999)

A continuous suite of music and sounds created for New Orleans artist Jacqueline Bishop's mixed media installation *Terra*.

#### **WRITINGS**

Interview with writer Ned Sublette (*The Year Before The Flood, The World That Made New Orleans, Cuba And Its Music*) (September 2009)

Interview with saxophonist / composer Matana Roberts (October 2009)

Interview with composer / sound artist Douglas Henderson (November 2009)

Interview with writer / musician Michael Veal (January 2010)

Interview with composer / keyboardist Lawrence Sieberth (March 2010)

All interviews archived at <http://beckermusic.blogspot.com/>

#### **AFFILIATIONS**

American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP)

#### **RADIO INTERVIEWS AND PROFILES**

WNYC "Overnight Music" host Helga Davis plays Becker's *Saints & Devils* CD in its entirety (2008)

KCSC (Oklahoma City, OK) "The Composer Next Door," host Rob Deemer profiled Chris Becker (2007)

WNYC "New Sounds," host John Schaeffer featured Becker's *Saints & Devils* CD in a show called "Preaching to the Choir." (2007)

WNYC "New Sounds," host John Schaeffer profiled Becker and played tracks from his *Saints & Devils* CD in a show called "New Sounds of Old Americana." (2006)

WWNO (New Orleans), Chris Becker profiled and interviewed by Jacqueline Bishop on her show "Louisiana Artist." (2006)

#### **EDUCATION**

(1985-1989) Music Theory and Composition, Capital University Conservatory of Music, Columbus, Ohio; Composition professor Dr. Rocky J. Reuter (currently the Dean for the Conservatory of Music). Private study with Stan Smith (jazz harmony and composition), Eric Paton (ethnic percussion, African and Latin-American rhythms)

(2004-2007) Private study with Dr. Douglas Henderson (digital recording and mixing techniques)