

# WENDY J. SPITZER

*composer, multi-instrumentalist, & interdisciplinary artist*

## EDUCATION

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|-------------|--|---------------------|
| Nov. 2016   | <b>Goldsmiths, University of London</b>                            | London, UK          |
| ▪           | <i>Master's of Music in Creative Practice</i>                      |                     |
| ▪           | With Distinction   |                     |
| May 2002    | <b>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</b>                 | Chapel Hill, NC     |
| ▪           | <i>Bachelor of Music in Performance, Minor in Creative Writing</i> |                     |
| ▪           | Highest Distinction & Highest Honors                               |                     |
| Summer 2001 | <b>Course Internationale de Musique</b>                            | Morges, Switzerland |
| Summer 1999 | <b>Brevard Music Center</b>  | Brevard, NC         |

## GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & AWARDS

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*Funding as an independent artist:*

- Sonic South Prize (2019)
- City of Raleigh Temporary Public Art & Performance Project artist stipend (2019)
- Durham Arts Council Emerging Artist grant recipient (awarded twice: 2018-2019 & 2008-2009)
- Downtown Durham, Inc. Public Space Project grant recipient (2018)
- Crosshatch Center for Art and Ecology (formerly ISLAND) Hill House stipend (2013)
- Strowd Roses Foundation grant recipient (2009)
- Orange County Arts Commission Artist grant recipient (2009)

*Collegiate scholarships/awards:*

- Benjamin Swalin University Orchestra Scholarship (1998-2002) & Award (2002)
- Spirit Square Scholarship for the Arts (2000-2002)
- National Merit Scholarship (1998-2002)
- UNC-CH Music Department Award for Academic Excellence (2002)

## MUSICAL PROJECT

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|---|-------------------|
| <b>Felix Obelix</b> (composing/performing pseudonym)  | Oct. 2005-present |
| ▪ Composer/Songwriter   |                   |
| ▪ Bass, organ, piano, oboe, mallet percussion & vocal performance                                       |                   |
| ▪ <i>The Ringtone Album</i> : full-length album, Potluck Foundation label, 2013                         |                   |
| ▪ <i>The Tick of the Clock, the Beat in the Chest</i> : full-length album, Pox World Empire label, 2010 |                   |
| ▪ Track selected for compilation CD of <i>Southern Cultures</i> (journal), Volume 17: 4, Winter 2011    |                   |
| ▪ Performances at Strange Beauty Film Festival, Durham, NC, 2011, 2012, 2014                            |                   |
| ▪ Performances at South by Southwest music festival, Austin, TX, 2009                                   |                   |
| ▪ Track selected by <i>The Independent Weekly</i> to accompany photos in multimedia slideshow, 2008     |                   |
| ▪ Radio airplay in USA: NC, FL, LA, CA, GA; in Canada: in Ontario and BC                                |                   |

## OTHER RECORDINGS

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*In collaborative groups:*

- **Billy Sugarfix's Carousel** – oboist/vocalist/percussionist on self-titled EP (self-released 2012) and oboist on split 7" record (307 Knox Records, 2010)

- **Lemming Malloy** – bassist/vocalist on LP, *The Return of the Norfolk Regiment* (Neckbeard Records, 2009) & EP, *Avalauncher* (self-released 2008)
- **The Physics of Meaning** – oboist on *Snake Charmer and Destiny at the Stroke of Midnight* (Trekky Records, 2008) & self-titled LP (Bu Hanan Records, 2005)
- **Eyes to Space** – bassist/vocalist/composer on LP, *From the Bureau of Robotic Affairs* (self-released 2007) & self-titled EP (Solarium Records, 2005)

*Selected session work:*

- **Genevieve Dawson** – bassist on EP (self-released 2017)
- **Schooner** – oboist on LP (Potluck, 2013)
- **Birds & Arrows** – oboist/xylophonist on LP (self-released 2013)
- **Le Weekend** – oboist on LPs (self-released 2012 & 2010)
- **Joy in Red** – oboist on LP (self-released 2012)
- **Schooner** – backing vocalist on EP (self-released 2011)
- **Billy Sugarfix** – oboist on LP (Pox World Empire, 2009)
- **The Strugglers** – bassist on song featured on *Computation: Vol. 3* (Pox World Empire, 2009)
- **Pattern is Movement** – oboist on LP (Hometapes, 2008)
- **David Karsten Daniels** – oboist on LP (FatCat Records 2008)
- **Douglas Vuncannon** – oboist on compositions, recorded 2008 & 2014 (unreleased)

## MUSIC FOR MOVING IMAGE (FILM, TV, ADVERTISEMENTS, ETC.)

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### **Cheat-Proof** (2018)

- Composed and recorded original score to short independent film, *Cheat-Proof*, by Edith Snow, to be released in late 2018.

### **Pella Windows and Doors AIA Conference on Architecture** (2018)

- Composed and recorded signature track to Pella's online coverage of the American Institute of Architects' 2018 Conference on Architecture.

### **The Cameraman's Revenge** (2014)

- Composed and performed soundtrack to 1912 silent animated short, *The Cameraman's Revenge*. Live piano/cello/organ performance at Strange Beauty Film Festival, Durham, NC, among others.

### **North Carolina Weekend** (2013)

- Songs included in two segments – “Earthshine Discovery Center” & “Geocaching” – of *North Carolina Weekend*, a TV series produced by UNC-TV (PBS affiliate).

### **Dreams of the Rarebit Fiend** (2011 & 2012)

- Co-composed/co-performed soundtrack to 1921 silent animated short, *Dreams of the Rarebit Fiend*. Live organ and xylophone performance at Strange Beauty Film Festival, Durham, NC, among others.

### **Nosferatu** (2010 & 2011)

- Performed live soundtrack on oboe (classical, ragtime, improvisation) of 1922 silent film, *Nosferatu*, at various venues, central NC.

### **Drifting** (2011)

- Composed and performed soundtrack to short film *Drifting* by Malic Amalya for Strange Beauty Film Festival, Durham, NC. Recorded ambient percussion backing track and performed organ live.

### **Highrise** (2010)

- Song included in web-based, interactive documentary *Highrise*, winner of 2010 international Emmy.

## COMPOSER / THEATRE COMMISSIONS

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### **Matchstick Theatre Company**, London, UK (composed and premiered in February, 2016)

- Incidental music for theatrical production of *Two Cunts Go Camping*, a play by Tom Nolan and Toby Webster

### **Camas High School Choirs**, Camas, OR (composed in 2014, premiered in April 2015; European premiere December 2015)

- *The Bone Church*, for SATB choir

- *Braid Your Hair Tight*, for SSA choir

**Deep Dish Theater Company**, Chapel Hill, NC (composed, recorded, and premiered in Feb. 2014)

- Incidental music for theatrical production of *Arcadia*, a play by Tom Stoppard

## PARTICIPATORY ARTS PROJECTS

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- **Dix in Sound in Situ** (2019): A traveling audio installation for visitors to Dorothea Dix park in Raleigh, NC, home to a former psychiatric hospital. Piece includes original music, archival & modern-day recordings, & field recordings. Visitors to the park download the piece & listen on headphones as they walk a one-mile loop through the park. Sponsored by the City of Raleigh.
- **Portraits in Common** (2018): attendees were paired up with a stranger, tasked with finding the most unusual thing in common with that stranger; then, portraits were taken, aggregated into a video for which an original musical score was written. Partnered with Downtown Durham, Inc.
- **Letters to Yourself Project** (2010): attendees of a show wrote letters to themselves, which were secured and mailed back to them six months later, creating a personal communication from their past to future selves.
- **Liminal Festival** (2009): planned and executed genre-defying music festival for underserved audiences, Chapel Hill, NC. Partnered with Ronald McDonald House, Town of Carrboro, and Strowd Roses Foundation.
- Time Capsule Project (2009): attendees brought objects for inclusion in time capsule, to be opened in 2059. Partnered with the Historical Society of Chapel Hill, NC and the Orange County Arts Commission.

## SELECTED COLLABORATIVE MUSICAL PROJECTS

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2016-present **Genevieve Dawson + Wendy Spitzer** (collaborative songwriting duo)

- Bass, piano performance
- Co-songwriter
- Performances in London (Sept. 2016) and North Carolina (July 2018)

2016 **Nur (Nour Emam) + Wendy Spitzer** (manipulated sound/improvisational duo)

- In this project, Nur (Egyptian-based sonic artist) took my improvised sound (performed on bass, piano, marimba, English horn, or organ) and manipulated that sound in real-time; together we followed a graphic score created from the histograms of a series of photographs taken on theme of vulnerability

2007-2014 **Triangle Soundpainting Orchestra & Sextet** (experimental/improvisatory group)

- Oboe performance & co-conductor
- Conductor of performance in collaboration with Ricky Garni, poet (Mar. 2014)
- Other performances in collaboration with Transactors Improv troupe and Paperhand Puppet Intervention

2003-2007 **Eyes to Space** (pop/new wave/prog band)

- Bass, vocal, synth performance live; other performances on recordings include organ and oboe
- Co-songwriter
- Played over 120 shows in USA and Canada
- Best Instrumentalists, Battle of the Bands competition, Wilkesboro, NC (Oct. 2006)
- Selected to perform at Music Law Conference, Gainesville, FL (Feb. 2006) and Mid-Atlantic Music Conference, Charlotte, NC (Nov. 2005)
- Nominated for Best Rock Band by *Independent Weekly* (Jan. 2006)

## TOURING EXPERIENCE

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- June 2009 Lemming Malloy (Chapel Hill, NC to Minneapolis, MN)
- Mar. 2009 Felix Obelix (Chapel Hill, NC to Austin, TX)
- Mar. 2008 The Physics of Meaning (Chapel Hill, NC to Austin, TX)
- Sept. 2006 Eyes to Space (Chapel Hill, NC to Toronto, Ontario)
- July 2006 Eyes to Space (Chapel Hill, NC to NYC)
- Mar.-April 2006 The Physics of Meaning (Chapel Hill, NC to Chicago, IL)
- Oct.-Nov. 2005 The Physics of Meaning (Chapel Hill, NC to Boston, MA & to Dallas, TX)
- April 2004 Eyes to Space (Chapel Hill, NC to NYC)

## PEDAGOGICAL EMPLOYMENT IN MUSIC

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**Private Oboe Instructor**, Carrboro, NC 2009-2014

- Taught oboe performance and reed-making to beginning and intermediate students aged 10-18
- Two students admitted to university on oboe scholarship

**Tutor**, UNC Academic Support Program for Student-Athletes, Chapel Hill, NC 2013-2014

- Tutored university student-athletes in their music and culture courses in one-to-one and small group sessions

## PRESENTATIONS & PANELS

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**Tracking the Creative Process in Music**, Huddersfield, UK, Sept. 2017

- Selected to present original research, "Vulnerability and the Social Dynamic in Creative Collaboration: An Arts-Based Research (ABR) Perspective"

**Thirteenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry**, Champaign-Urbana, IL, May 2017

- Selected to present original research, "Vulnerability and the Social Dynamic in Creative Collaboration: An Arts-Based Research (ABR) Perspective"

**UNC Center for the Study of the American South**, Chapel Hill, NC, March 2010

- Invited to moderate a panel discussion, "Southern Music Shaken and Stirred" as part of the *Music on the Porch* series

**The Carrack Modern Art Gallery**, Durham, NC, 2011

- Served as grant panelist, evaluating applications for exhibits

## SELECTED CLASSICAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

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**Freelance oboist** (2002-2014):

- Chorale Society of Durham (2013)
- Duke Chapel Music (2010)
- North Carolina Wind Symphony (2003)
- Judea Reform Congregation, world premiere of *With Perfect Faith*, a Holocaust Cantata for choir, lector, soprano, oboe, organ, and cello, by Allan Friedman (Apr. 2001)

**Undergraduate performance experience** (1998-2002)

- Symphony Orchestra (principal oboe 2000-2002; hired post-graduation for 2002-2003 season)
- Chamber Players (woodwind quintet 1998-2000; oboe/bassoon/piano trio 2000-2002)
- Wind Ensemble (principal oboe 1999-2000)

## INSTRUMENT AND TECHNOLOGY PROFICIENCY

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- Oboe, English horn, keyboard, electric bass, voice, mallet percussion performance skills
- ProTools and Logic Pro X audio recording software, Sibelius music notation software

## OTHER MUSIC EXPERIENCE/SKILLS

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- Songwriting, arranging, and basic conducting skills
- Soundpainting improvisational conducting language
- Oboe reed-making skills
- Improvisational abilities, including free improvisation and pop improvisation

## VISUAL ART EXPERIENCE

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### *Solo Shows:*

|           |  |                                      |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Mar. 2014 | <i>YEH!</i>  | The Looking Glass Cafe, Carrboro, NC |
| Nov. 2013 | <i>The Sound That Means Someone Wants You</i>          | The Carrack Modern Art, Durham, NC   |
| Mar. 2012 | <i>The Strong Grow Great</i>                           | Open Eye, Carrboro, NC               |
| Apr. 2010 | <i>The Inner on the Outside, the Outside on the In</i> | ROOM 100 Gallery, Golden Belt,       |
|           | Durham, NC   |                                      |

### *Group Shows:*

|            |                               |                                      |
|------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sept. 2012 | <i>Hopscotch</i>              | Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, NC |
| Oct. 2010  | <i>Music Sound Research 5</i> | The ArtsCenter, Carrboro, NC         |