

NEW IAWM BOARD MEMBERS

TERMS TO RUN JAN. 2016 – DEC. 2018

ELISABETH BLAIR

Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Michigan
USA

I am a 34-year old vocalist, composer and artist. Originally from Michigan, I got my BA in visual art in London in 2004, then spent many years on the singer-songwriter circuit in Chicago and London, performing my own material as well as traditional folk music, and working extensively with conceptual and performance artists, with a focus on vocal improvisation. After studying classical composition privately under composer Kevin Ure for several years and working with composer/improvisor Karl Berger at the Atlantic Center for the Arts this past summer, I am now beginning an MM in Music Composition program at Western Michigan University, studying primarily under Dr. Lisa Coons.

I am passionate about raising awareness, support, and encouragement for women in music, particularly in the classical/new music world I find myself in now. To that end, since June I have been curating a Facebook page I created called [Listening to Ladies](#) which showcases two new works each day by female composers (and a website is under construction), and I am currently putting together a podcast series which I will record over the next 6 months and release next summer at the latest. Confirmed interviewees so far include Beth Anderson, Mari Kimura, Whitney George, Dorothy Hindman, Dolores White, Djanit Elyakim, Aftab Darvishi, Lauren Sarah Hayes and several other prominent and emerging composers. I am still soliciting participants for this.

I would like to help the board if I can. I am currently a member. I can offer my energy and initiative, a growing network of female composers, an extensive background in the folk/rock performance sector, an international set of resources (particularly within Chicago and London), and a unique point of view as a mature graduate student in classical/new music with a nontraditional background.

BETH DENISCH

Berklee College of Music
Boston, Massachusetts
USA

IAWM is an exciting and important organization that I would be honored to serve. I am an active composer and music educator (Professor, Berklee, Boston, MA). I was Co-Chair of Gender Research in Music Education International (Grime, Inc.) with Monique Buzzarté for several years and was the founder and Director of the American Composers Forum New England Chapter for ten years. I am committed to advocating for women musicians and also currently serve on the Women's Philharmonic Advocacy Project Board.

JENN KIRBY

United Kingdom

I am a composer, music technologist and software developer. I have recently completed my PhD in Composition, pending corrections, from Trinity College Dublin. Currently I hold positions of Programme Director & Lecturer in Music at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. I serve on the board of the Association of Irish Composers and I am an active member of many collectives, such as the Spatial Music Collective (Ireland) and the Irish Composers' Collective. I have attached my CV if you would like more in-depth information.

Statement of Interest

As an active composer and performer of music, I feel very passionate about the promotion and awareness of women in music. I see the IAWM as a very supportive environment in which this promotion and awareness takes place. At many universities the music curricula do not adequately or portray women in music. One of my goals is to expand the student awareness of local and international women composers, sound engineers, sound artists, etc. I feel IAWM is a very strong way of doing that and this is why I am interested in having an active role in IAWM.

CECILIA MONTEMAYOR

Monterrey, N.L.
México

Position in the music world:

- *Art song and opera soprano singer
- *Director of MexicoLiederFest- International Art Song Festival
- *President of the Mexican Association of Voice Teachers
- *Director and owner of ECAP Monterrey, a school for teaching piano and voice to students of all ages
- *Musicologist with research projects in the topic of the art song

I would like to serve in the Alliance to observe research and programs in action and discover where women are making a difference, develop and cultivate new professional friends, learn new strategies and practices in the music world, and demonstrate my professional commitment to the music field by providing insights and reflections as an international member, and giving back what I know as a fellow musician- singer, researcher and educator.

CHRISTINA RUSNAK

<http://christinarusnak.com>

My position in the music world is emerging. I received my masters degree in composition, with a minor in art history, in 2010 from the University of North Texas summa cum laude where I studied with Cindy McTee and David Bithell. In addition, I studied with Jonathan Newman last year. An independent composer, I focus on the intersection of music, culture and place. My first commission in 2009 was for the Dallas Contemporary Art Museum. In the last two years, I've been commissioned by the Oregon State Parks and the US Forest Service, and served as 2014 artist-in-residence for North Cascades National Park. I am currently working on my first orchestra piece. Four of my pieces are recorded by Parma Recordings.

I've been a passive member of IAWM for years but recently was inspired by a journal article to report on Cascadia's Women composer – Crazy Jane. In writing it, I realized I could/should become more involved. With graduate certifications in Arts Leadership and Management Consulting, I have experience and skills that could benefit women composers outside of academia. Beyond composing, I work with communities and organizations to bring music, culture, and heritage into public spaces. I believe diverse minds, talents and points of view strengthen an organization and I think I can contribute to, as well as learn from, that diversity.

INGRID STÖLZEL

www.ingridstolzel.com

University of Kansas School of Music
Lawrence, Kansas
USA

My background:

I am a composer with frequent performances and invitations to festivals, concerts and conferences in the United States and abroad. I have a doctorate in composition from the University of Missouri Conservatory of Music and Dance in Kansas City and a Master of Music from the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, CT. I am currently the director of the International Center for Music at Park University and will begin a new position as Assistant Professor of Composition at the University of Kansas School of Music in the Fall 2015. Prior to my academic appointments, I worked in arts administration for many years including twelve years at the Youth Symphony of Kansas City. I also served on the Board of Directors for newEar contemporary chamber ensemble. During my tenure as president, the group participated in the Second International Conference on Minimalist Music, launched the Annual Composition Competition, received the ASCAP/Chamber Music America Award for Adventurous Programming and performed at the Thailand International Composition Festival. I am originally from Germany and have resided in the United States since 1991. For more information: www.ingridstolzel.com

Statement of Interest:

Thank you for considering me as a board member for IAWM. It would be an honor to serve an organization whose mission and activities closely align with my own interests. Over the years IAWM has been an important part of my career as a composer. My music has been programmed at the annual concert as well as conferences. I was selected as a winner of the PatsyLu Prize and more recently served as one of the judges for the Search for New Music Competition. I have met many wonderful people throughout the years and have found a supportive network. I feel it is time for me to "pay back" to an organization that has been very good to me and I believe that my varied background would make me a good candidate for board membership.

NATALIE WILLIAMS

University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia
USA

www.natworksmusic.com

MUSICAL BACKGROUND

- composer, orchestrator, academic
- Temporary Assistant Professor, University of Georgia (2012-2015); Associate Instructor, Indiana University (2008-2011)
- works commissioned and performed by: Berkeley Symphony, Omaha Symphony, Doric String Quartet (UK), Pavel Haas Quartet (Czech Republic), Atlanta Opera, Melbourne Symphony, Adelaide Symphony
- featured composer of the "Hildegard Project" commissioning women composers in Australia (Musica Viva, Sydney 2015)

STATEMENT

To the IAWM board I can bring an international perspective to the role of contemporary women composers, as an active practitioner in the professional field (United States, Australia, Europe). I can also bring experience in mentoring and nurturing young composers, creating professional opportunities and providing leadership to young creative musicians. I am passionate about the expanding role of women in composition and would welcome the chance to serve alongside colleagues in the IAWM.