

Myra Melford

Place of Birth: Evanston, IL
Date of Birth: January 5, 1957
Education: 1981, B.A., Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA
2000, Fulbright Scholar

Recent Awards, Fellowships, Grants, Residencies

2011-12 Nominated to apply for and received the Alpert Award in the Arts; Received a Faculty Research Grant for the Galeano Project (UC Berkeley 2011-12), a mixed-media (music, dance and film) meditation on *Genesis* from the *Memory of Fire Trilogy*, by Eduardo Galeano; Received a Mellon Research Grant

2010-11 Nominated to apply for a United States Artists (USA) Fellowship; Received a Mellon Research Grant, a Faculty Research Grant (UC Berkeley 2010-11) for telematic performance and piano amplification; a Research Enabling Grant (UC Berkeley); Downbeat 58th Annual Critics' Poll: Acoustic Piano and Harmonium; Awarded a residency at Ragdale through the Alpert Award

2009 Chamber Music America Encore Grant, Jazz Journalists Association Nomination for Jazz Pianist of the Year, Mellon Research Grant, Nomination to apply for Alpert Award in the Arts

2008 Jazz Journalist Association nomination for Jazz Pianist of the Year; COR Junior Faculty Research Grant to support the composition of new work for solo piano, Hellman Family Fund grant to support the research and development of new music for a large improvising ensemble; Downbeat 56th Annual Critics' Poll: Acoustic Piano, Jazz Artist of the Year, and Best Recording for Spark!; Publishing grant from the office of the Dean of Arts and Humanities, University of California, Berkeley, to record the Be Bread Ensemble for Firehouse 12 Records, CT, December, Nomination to apply for Alpert Award in the Arts

2007 Downbeat 55th Annual Critics' Poll: Acoustic Piano, Rising Star Arranger, and Rising Star Jazz Group for Myra Melford's Be Bread; Chamber Music America/FACE grant for new collaborative project with clarinetist/composer Ben Goldberg; Chamber Music America Encore Grant to perform original compositions at the Portland Jazz Festival, Nominated to apply for United States Artists (USA) Fellowship.

2006 Grants from Performing Arts Japan, the Austrian Cultural Forum, and Meet the Composer for *Knock on the Sky*, a multimedia collaborative work; COR Junior Faculty Research Grant to continue developing computer patches using max/MSP and to develop the "Extended Piano," a system to amplify and process sounds from the inside of the piano in real-time performance.

Chamber Music America Encore Grant to perform original compositions at the SF Jazz Festival

2005 COR Junior Faculty Research Grant to develop electronics, an interactive computer program using max/MSP, and sensors for capturing dancers' movements for *Knock on the Sky* at CNMAT (the Center for New Music and Audio Technologies at UC Berkeley).

Commissions from National Performance Network (NPN), The Walker Art Center, The Flynn Center and Providence Productions for *Knock on the Sky*.

Employment

2009 - present Associate Professor Step V, University of California, Berkeley

2003 – 2008 Assistant Professor, Step VI, University of California, Berkeley, Music Department

Major Works

2012 Released *The Guest House* (Enja/Yellowbird) by Trio M. Debut of a new ensemble project: *Snowy Egret* (with Ron Miles, Liberty Ellman, Stomu Takeishi, Tyshawn Sorey and dancer Oguri), in NYC; premier performance of *Life Carries Me This Way*, solo piano music inspired by visual artist Don Reich, Northampton Center for the Arts, MA

2011 Recorded *The Guest House* (Trio M); composed new music for solo piano based on the drawings of Don Reich; multiple concerts in US, Canada and Europe; telematic research and concerts

2010 Released *The Whole Tree Gone*; multiple cd release concerts in US and Europe; composed new work for Trio M; telematic research and concerts

2009 Co-composed and performed a new 45 minute suite with Ben Goldberg for AMR quartet at a residency in Nantes, France; premier of new work at Banlieues Bleues, Paris; Tour in Japan

2008 Co-composed and performed a new 75 minute suite with Ben Goldberg, for quartet including laptop artist, premiered at Maybeck Studio, Berkeley CA, Nov 1 and 2.
Composed and performed a new 60 minute suite: *Happy Whistlings for Quartet of Improvisers*, premiered at Interpretations Series at Roulette, NYC, October 2.
Multiple performances in NYC, SF, Canada, and Europe with several projects including Trio M (Monterey Jazz Festival), Melford-Ehrlich Duo, Myra Melford's Be Bread, Spindrift for Leroy Jenkins.

2007 Record Releases: *Heart Mountain*, Myra Melford and Tanya Kalmanovitch, Perspicacity Records; *Spark!*, Myra Melford-Marty Ehrlich Duo, Palmetto Records; *Big Picture*, Trio M (with Mark Dresser and Matt Wilson), Cryptogramophone, Records; Multiple performances east and west coasts to promote new recordings, solo concerts in Tokyo, Paris, Arles.

2006 Premier of *Knock on the Sky*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, for which I composed and directed the music and created an interactive computer system to manipulate the sonic environment in real-time performance; Release of *The Image of Your Body*, Myra Melford's Be Bread, on Cryptogramophone; European festivals with Be Bread and European tour with Melford-Ehrlich Duo, Myra Melford Quintet at the SF Jazz Festival.

2005 European Tour with Equal Interest (Joseph Jarman and Leroy Jenkins); Myra Melford Quintet, MOMA Sculpture Garden; Joseph Jarman Ensemble at the Chicago Jazz Festival; Tour and recording session with Big Air (British/American ensemble), UK; Numerous performances at U.S. festivals and venues with various projects.

Recent Professional Performances:

2012 CD Release concerts with Trio M in California, New Mexico, NYC and Europe; Myra Melford's *Snowy Egret* debut, NYC; Ben Goldberg's Orphic Machine, CA; upcoming tour in Australia with Trio M (fall 2012), and a theater project with the Yale Drama School in Tanzania (July/August 2012)

2011 Banlieues Bleues Festival, Paris and Avignon, France; Evora and Lisbon, PT; Saalfelden and Willisau Festivals; Ottawa and Toronto Jazz Festivals.

2010 Europe & US Tours to celebrate release of *The Whole Tree Gone*

2009 Banlieues Bleues Festival, Paris; Canadian Jazz Festival Tour; Sant'Anna Arresi Jazz Festival, Sardinia, Red Cat Theater, Disney Hall, LA; Earshot Jazz Festival, Seattle

2008 Chicago Festival, Poznan, PL; London Jazz Festival; Solo Piano Festival, Prague CZ; Portland Jazz Festival; Maybeck Studio, Berkeley, CA

2007 Solo/Duo Concert in Tokyo, Japan (with Satoko Fujii); Jazz Festival Arles, France; La Dynamo, Paris; Guelph Jazz Festival, Canada; CD Release concerts in SF, LA, NYC, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston; Millennium Park, Chicago

2006 Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Flynn Center for the Arts, Burlington, VT; SF Jazz Festival; Kerava Jazz Festival, Finland

Recent Selected Discography (Leader/Co-Leader)

2012 *The Guest House*, (Trio M) for Enja Records

2010 *The Whole Tree Gone*, Myra Melford's Be Bread Sextet, Firehouse 12 Records

2009 *Under the Water*, Myra Melford and Satoko Fujii, piano solo and duo, Libra Records

2007 *Spark!* Myra Melford-Marty Ehrlich Duo, Palmetto Records,
Big Picture, Trio M (with Mark Dresser and Matt Wilson) Cryptogramophone

2006 *The Image of Your Body*, Myra Melford's Be Bread Quartet, Cryptogramophone