

Merlin Coleman

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EDUCATION

- 1997 MFA, Music Composition, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA
- 1993 BFA, Music Composition, Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA

RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Audium, San Francisco, CA
composed and spatialized *EXPLORATIONS of EXTRACTION and DECAY*
- 2015 Chalk Hill, Windsor, CA
collaborated on an outdoor multimedia performance work with Mary Armentrout
- 2004 Mills College, Oakland, CA
invited to join Meredith Monk in performance of large and small group pieces
- 2003 Engine 27, New York, NY
invited to create a 16-channel sound installation, *Fern*
- 2002 Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, IL
composer in residence
- 2000 Millett Farm, Poughkeepsie, NY
composer in residence

DISCOGRAPHY

- 2020 *The Goat Girls missive*
Full length CD inspired by fairy tales
- 2006 *A Schoolhouse of Lost Teeth*
full length CD of cello/voice songs

Women Take Back the Noise
compilation, including "Pretty Little Thing"
- 2005 *Voices in the Wilderness*
compilation, including "Perfecthood is Going Down"
- 2001 *Independent Sounds: Amoeba Music Compilation #5*
compilation, including "Breath Piece"

SOLO & COLLABORATIVE WORKS, MAJOR PERFORMANCES

- 2023 *EXPLORATIONS of EXTRACTION and DECAY :a palliative song cycle for bodies and stuff:*
an evening length multichannel work presented with video installation created in collaboration with media artist Catherine Hollander; commissioned for the Audium as

part of their featured artist program
The Audium, San Francisco, CA

Explorations of the Roblar Quarry
sound installation in quadraphonic sound, presented with readings by Elizabeth Herron and Iris Jamahl Dunkle
Artaluma, Petaluma CA

2022 *Explorations of the Roblar Quarry*
sound installation in quadraphonic sound, presented with sculptural work by Jos Sances and readings by Poet Laureate Elizabeth Herron and past Poet Laureate Maya Khosla
Sebastopol Center for the Arts, Sebastopol, CA

Explorations of the Roblar Quarry
presented sound installation in quadraphonic sound
Mud Flat-MilkBar Salon's 50th Show Celebration, Richmond, CA

2018 *Surrounded by Taiko*
an original composition written for and performed by Sonoma county Taiko
The MilkBar Salon, Cotati, CA

2015 *I forget, I remember*
a multimedia site-specific performance created and performed with Mary Armentrout
Chalk Hill, Windsor, CA

2014 *Under Her breath*
music composition for Megan Nicely's dance performance work
San Francisco, CA

2003 *Fern*
a 16-channel theatrical sound installation, developed as part of a residency
Engine 27, New York, NY

Fern
adapted and presented multi-channel sound theater work
San Francisco Tape Music Festival, CA

2002 *Festival of Stillness*
original cello/voice songs performed with Dan Cantrell, Dina Emerson and Ken Buttler
Collective Unconscious, New York, NY

An Evening of Songs
a full-length performance with invited guest artists
Berkeley Art Center

2001 *Lullabye*
live musical performance of three cello/voice songs, composed for a solo dance piece choreographed by Maxine Moerman

Dance Mission Theater, San Francisco, CA

The Psychopathology of Everyday Life

sound design and cast member, Mary Armentrout Dance Theater
Dance Mission Theater, San Francisco, CA

Swallowing Song for Cello and Voice

presented at Benefit for 21 Grand, Oakland, CA

Song Set for Cello and Voice

interwoven spoken text and vocals with cello accompaniment
21 Grand, Oakland; Kimos, San Francisco; The Luggage Store, San Francisco;
Covered Wagon, San Francisco, CA

Women Hold Up the Sky

performed on radio series hosted by Gregory Sharpen
90.7FM KALX, Berkeley, CA

2000 *Songs and Sounds*

solo, composed and improvised song set for cello and voice
Luggage Store, San Francisco, CA

Float Songs Tilted House

solo, a collage of live-performed images using a mannequin, cello and chair with
recorded and live soundscapes incorporating sung voice, water, cello, a train and piano
sounds

Venue 9, San Francisco, CA

Song Set for Cello and Voice

solo

Cafe DuNord, San Francisco; Luggage Store, San Francisco; four concert venues in Tokyo
and Kyoto, Japan

A Set of Cello Songs

presented at Cafe du Nord, a bi-monthly series organized by Mark Crowden, San
Francisco, CA

Banana Song for Cello and Voice

presented at Dada Fest, SomArts, San Francisco, CA

1999 *Song Set for Cello and Voice*

an interweaving of spoken text and sung vocals with cello accompaniment
The Marsh, San Francisco, CA

Fern

solo, cello voice, performed as part of "Meet the Beat" series
Venue 9, San Francisco, CA

Small Bits of Progress are Being Made

two full evenings of original work, including a choreographed cello/voice song
cycle and video projection of film "Progress Farm", co-produced and performed with
Mary Armentrout

848 Community Center, San Francisco, CA

Cello and Chair

cello and voice composition created and performed with choreographer Connie Wolf Goddess Festival, Occidental, CA; Venue 9, San Francisco; City College of San Francisco

Progress Farm

a 17-minute 16mm film with composed soundtrack
848 Community Space, San Francisco; 21 Grand, Oakland; Cold Cuts Film Fest, Berkeley

Release

cello voice piece composed and performed with choreographer Jessica Adams, presented as part of "Flight"
ODC Theater, San Francisco, CA

Cockroach

cello voice interlude with singer and dancer, presented as part of San Francisco International Butoh Festival
Theater Artaud, San Francisco, CA

The Tempest

creative director and performer of original score for Shakespeare's classic
Summerfield Theater, Sebastopol, CA

1998 *Fern*

solo, cello voice
Sexo Cabaret, Speakeasy, Seattle, WA

1997 *Profiles Excerpt*

solo, using movement, props, and experimental vocals with overlaid film projections from "Profiles of Sleep", presented as part of "Multifarious Behavior"
Venue 9, Los Angeles, CA

Water Stories

solo, incorporating buckets of water, a children's fantasy, movement of garling and song, presented as part of "Multifarious Behavior"
L.A.C.E., Los Angeles, CA

Goal Washing

solo interdisciplinary work
Roy O. Disney Hall, Valencia, CA

1996 *Profiles of Sleep*

a full-length work centered around five live characters, incorporating original text, a 16mm film shot in collaboration with and edited by Catherine Hollander, recorded and live text and sound, movement and prop manipulation
Cal Arts Theater 2, Valencia, CA

Untitled

solo interdisciplinary work, performed as part of the Seattle Experimental Opera's
"Cabaret"
Speakeasy, Seattle, WA

1993 *Watch If One is Always Steady*
developed in collaboration with choreographer Erin Mitchell using original poetry,
five dancer/singers, and the Gamelan Pacifica Ensemble, presented as part of the
composer/choreographer series sponsored by Gamelan Pacifica; Jarred Powell, director
Ned Skinner Theater, Seattle, WA

RELATED ACTIVITIES

2004–present curator and host, The MilkBar Salon
Richmond, CA

2018–2022 curator and director, The Tower Residency
Cotati, CA

2000–2004 co-producer, Cold Cuts Salon
a monthly in-home gallery showing and performance series
San Francisco, CA

2002 sound designer and cast member, *Blue Sofa*, Mary Armentrout Dance Theater
The LAB, San Francisco, CA

1996 performing and producing member, Flea Market Orchestra
a 10-member composers' performance collective
L.A.C.E., Los Angeles, CA

1992–1994 touring member, Gamelan Pacifica
toured the interdisciplinary piece "Visible Religion" as a player and singer
On the Boards, Seattle; Steppenwolf Theater, Chicago; Walker Art Center,
Minneapolis

