

# David J. Simons

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## Education

The New School, New York City. MA 2013 *Media Studies*  
California Institute of the Arts, Valencia CA. BFA 1974 *Music Composition*

## Teaching

2010-24 Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck NJ. Adjunct Professor, *Cross Cultural Perspectives*  
2015 Marquis Studios, World Percussion workshops for Special Needs students, NYC schools  
2014 Sarah Lawrence College, Guest lecturer, interactive music  
2012 Ramapo College, NJ. Guest lecturer music fundamentals; improvisation workshops  
2011-2012 The New School, NY. Graduate Teaching Assistant, Media Studies  
2010 SUNY Binghamton, lecture/concert, for music composition and Evolutionary Studies  
2009-2011 Kripalu Yoga Center, Stockbridge MA, childrens music workshop  
2007-2008 Brooklyn Philharmonic, percussion workshops in city schools  
2006-2010 Young Audiences NYC, instrument building and basic musical skills  
1983-93 music for dance classes: NYU, Marymount Manhattan, Fieldston, CUNY, Jose Limon Studio

## Publications

2020 - "Thematic threads in the work of Lisa Karrer", essay for the catalogue SHELTER, an installation by Lisa Karrer at the **Burchfield Penney Art Center**, Buffalo NY. 12/20 – 6/21; rev. 2024 Oklahoma Contemporary Art Center

2010 - "The Tappan Zee Bridge" by Roger Panetta, **Historical Society of Rockland County**, oral history sound assemblage CD by David Simons

2009 - "Sitting at the Feet of Gurus" by Deena Burton, **Xlibris Press**, David Simons, editor. Claire Holt, Asian Dance ethnographer

1994 - "Radio Galaxy" radio waves in outer space, Radiotexte, **Semiotext(e)**, Neil Strauss, ed.  
1986-91 - Articles, reviews, critical essays, contributing editor, **EAR Magazine**, NY  
1973 - "Whether or not to die in love" for mixed ensemble, **Soundings**, Peter Garland, ed.

*Online essays:* <http://fdu.academia.edu/DavidJSimons>

## Awards and Grants

2023 ArtsAlive/ Arts Westchester commission, "*Help Me Rangda*" for Rockland Angklung Gamelan  
2022 Arts Westchester/NYSCA commission, "*the Shuffle*" trio for percussion, voice, objects and custom made playing cards  
2020 Arts Westchester/NYSCA commission, collaboration with artist Michael Zansky "*The Unplayed Hand*"  
2018 CORE Faculty Award, Fairleigh Dickinson University  
2017 NYSCA/Harvestworks commission for "*Movement Activated Sound in Liminal Space*"  
2013 NYSCA Electronic Media grant with Lisa Karrer for "*Meeting ChenZhen: Drum as a Doorway Between Worlds*" HVCCA, Peekskill NY  
2011-12 NYSCA/ACOR Arts in Education residency in Rockland County schools, workshops in Indonesian Gamelan music and shadow puppet performances  
2009 NYC Dept of Cultural Affairs to curate and produce the INTERACTIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL on the Coney Island Boardwalk  
2009 Arts Council of Rockland to compose and premiere the GONG-HUMPING CEREMONY

2005 Meet the Composer to premiere UNCLE VENUS for gamelan and string quartet  
2005 The Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation for instrument building workshops with Ken Butler and Lisa Karrer and concert, Avampato Museum Charleston, West Virginia  
2003 Rockefeller Foundation residency at Bellagio, Italy to write ODENTITY for Partch instruments  
2000 Arts International and Asian Cultural Council funds for performance in Bali  
2000 NY Foundation for the Arts Composition Fellowship  
1998 American Composers Forum commission for MUSIC FOR THEREMIN and GAMELAN  
1998 Aaron Copland Recording grant for THE BIRTH OF GEORGE  
1997 Jerome Foundation and Greenwall Foundation production funds for THE BIRTH OF GEORGE  
1996 Mary Flagler Cary Commissioning Grant for THE BIRTH OF GEORGE opera  
1995-2003 Arts International travel awards for collaborative projects in Estonia  
1992 Gaudeamus Foundation tour of Holland with Denman Maroney, duets for digital samplers  
1992 Canada Council Visiting Foreign Artist for sound installation at Art Metropole in Toronto  
1991 Composer-in-Residence at American Dance Festival  
1990 NY Foundation for the Arts Composition Fellowship

### **Installations, premieres & recent performances**

2023 - "*Help Me Rangda*" for Rockland Angklung Gamelan. Pomona Cultural Center, NY  
2022 - "*the Shuffle*" musical composition card game for percussion, voice, and objects, Pomona NY  
2021 - "*The Unplayed Hand*" for interactive Theremin, Pomona NY  
2019 - *The Drumset is a Grid of Empty Space*, "Only the Impossible" performance at Studio 10, Brooklyn  
2017 - *Activating Electro Magnetic Life Forms*, work in progress showing of NYSCA commission for Theremin, webcam, voice, keyboard, video and dancer, Harvestworks, NYC  
2015 - NewMedia Art & Sound Summit, interactive webcam with Ballet Austin dancers, Austin TX  
- *InnaGadda Detective*, Dark Circuits Festival, Hans Tammen curator, Spectrum, NYC  
2014 - Chen Zhen big drum sculpture, sound and video projections triggered by live performance with vocalist Lisa Karrer, Hudson Valley MOCA, Peekskill, NY  
- *Mixed Messages*, interactive sound and video with motion sensing camera, collaboration with John Morton, Hudson River Museum Yonkers NY  
2013 - SIMONS @60 composer's retrospective, various ensembles, Roulette, NYC  
2012 - *Occupational Therapy*, for interactive Theremin, Reno Museum of Art, Nevada  
2010 - *My Musical DNA*, interactive web art <https://davidjsimons.xyz/DNA/dna10.html>  
2003 - surround sound installation, Bad Company, Zagreb  
2000 - Music for Homemade Instruments, artist residency, Sternberg Museum, Hays Kansas  
1993 - CHAIN OF INCIDENT, surround sound environment, TransHudson Gallery, Jersey City, NJ  
1992 - *Eight Emperor Penguins Sang a Dirge*, multimedia installation, Art Metropole, Toronto Canada

### **Recordings**

2010 "CIPHER" for string quartet The NYFA Collection 5 CD set INNOVA  
2009 FUNG SHA NOON for Harry Partch instruments, string quartet, "Music for Theremin and Gamelan", and "Chain of Incidents" for sampled bottles and cans, CD on TZADIK  
2008 SONOGRAM "Naked We Stand", "9-11 Suite" Gamelan Son of Lion double CD on INNOVA  
2004 PRISMATIC HEARING works for Theremin, sampler, Gamelan and Homemade Instruments ensembles CD on TZADIK  
2003 THE BIRTH OF GEORGE an opera for 20 players, with Lisa Karrer, Harvestworks CD  
2002 Gamelan Son Of Lion CD BENDING THE GENDING  
2000 Music For Homemade Instruments CD PICK OF THE LITTER

1995 Gamelan Son Of Lion - NEW GAMELAN / NEW YORK, CD GSOL

1994 God is My Co-Pilot HOW TO BE, The Making of Americans

1989 Music For Homemade Instruments A DECADE OF DEBRIS, MFHI cassette

1980 "Floating Worlds" for Zheng (Chinese zither), flute and harp. Self produced cassette

**World Tours, composer/performer:**

Seoul Korea: Jin Hi Kim *Digital Buddha* 2008;

SinCha Hong, Jason Hwang and *Samul Nori* drumming collective 1992;

SinCha Hong *Laughing Stone* dance company 1986

Bali: Sacred Rhythm Millennial Percussion Festival Jan 1, 2000 , Ubud "*Music for Theremin and Gamelan*" and "*Virtual Percussion Trio*"

Java: Tuk Theater Jakarta 2000;

International Gamelan Festivals with *Gamelan Son of Lion*: Yogyakarta, Borubodur, Bandung, 1996 ;  
Vancouver Canada - Expo '86

Munich, Vienna, Berlin: "*The Passions*" Shelley Hirsch and Barbara Bloom collaboration 1994-95 with Anthony Coleman, David Shea, Denman Maroney, Hannah Hurtzig, director

Mainz, Germany: Experimenta Festival, duets with Lisa Karrer 1995

Tallinn, Estonia: *Puhamu (Sanctuary)* collaboration with Lisa Karrer, Setu Women's choir, "*Perception Unit*" jazz ensemble and artist Peter Laurits 1997

Zagreb, Croatia: new music on personal microtransmitters for Bad Company theater/dance 2003

New York: *Birth of George* chamber opera at LaMama with Lisa Karrer and 20 performers 1997

**Instruments** - theremin, sampler, percussion, zheng, khaen, jaw harp, gamelan, laptop, homemades, motion activated interactive sound and image, recording engineer, producer