

KITTY BRAZELTON

COMPOSING, MUSICMAKING

- 2013-present ***Art of Memory***, text translated from *Augustine's Confessions* by Kitty Brazelton, additional text by librettist Miriam Seidel. Individual artist commission, **New York State Council on the Arts 2021**. Open workshop performances of Act I at the Firehouse Space, Brooklyn, November 2015 and January 2016 via **OPERA America's 2015 Discovery Grant for Female Composers** with support from the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. First public showcase: February 2013, commissioned as song cycle by Avant Music Fest.
- 2020-present ***"the world is not ending—we've been here before"/COVID Choirs Project***, 6 choral songs for an Internet "album" interweaving 70+ singers and instrumentalists recorded at home during pandemic quarantine. Texts address climate change and social justice, drawn from Q'uran, Bible and personal poetry. For immersive audio, illustrated by singer "selfie" and topical documentary video.
- 2018-present ***The Planes of Your Location***, evening-length concert of recent works for strings with Los Angeles-based Isaura String Quartet & members of their extended musician family. Premiere, Art Share LA, Los Angeles, March 7, 2020.
- 2019-present ***Essential Prayers Project***, founded in 2014. A cappella setting of well-known prayers. Multiple performances in intimate settings of homes and churches.
- 2017-present ***Fierce Grace***, song cycle to celebrate the life of Jeanette Rankin, first congresswoman. Libretto by Kimberly Reed. Co-composers: Kitty Brazelton, Laura Kaminsky, Ellen Reid, Laura Karpman. Premiere, Library of Congress, April 7, 2017. Presented by NYFOS and Five Borough Music Festival for Gay Pride/Stonewall June 11, 2019. On tour 2019-2021.
- 2017 ***Fireworks: an American opera buffa*** premiered in orchestration at Hunter College, May 11-12, 2017. Libretto by Billy Aronson. Commissioned & developed by **American Opera Projects**, 1999-2001, premiered by AOP 2002, Ft. Greene Park.
- 2004-2017 ***Animal Tales***, libretto by George Plimpton, commissioned by Ardea Arts and the Family Opera Initiative in 2004. Residencies: Atlantic Center for the Arts, 2005; Montclair State University Kasser Theatre, 2006. Premiered for full orchestra, children's chorus and 10 principals, March 25, 2017. **Awarded OPERA America's 2016 Commissioning Grant for Female Composers**, with support from the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.
- 2014 ***Earthquake!*** for trombone & SAB choir. Text: Quran, Ch. 99, 17th-c. English translation by George Sale, 1734.
- 2013 ***Father Myke's Prayer*** premiered by a choir of composers, led by Craig Hella Johnson, Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium.
- 2013-2014 ***Redemption***, Kitty Brazelton, bass and vocals, and Hui Cox, electric guitar. Performed at Bennington College and Brooklyn Music School, 2013. Composer's Voice, October 12, 2014. Recording *Live in concert*, released 2013, Bandcamp.
- 2013 ***Psalm 104***, for mixed choirs, organ and percussion. **Awarded 12th annual Carl von Ossietzky Composition Prize, University of Oldenburg.**
- 2011-2014 ***Living in the Sphere of Hildegard's Musical Mind***, presented 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, University of Michigan, Kalamazoo, May 2011. Published *Sonus*, Vol. 34 No. 2, Spring 2014.
- 1996-2011 ***Hildegurles' Electric Ordo Virtutum, Innova Recordings #712***, 2011. Co-composers: Kitty Brazelton, Eve Beglarian, Lisa Bielawa and Elaine Kaplinsky. Commissioned & developed by Lincoln Center Festival '98, reviews include *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Newark Star-Ledger*. Follow-up

- performances at various venues in several cities. Recording funded in part by New York Foundation for the Arts.
- 2000-2010 ***ecclesiastes: a modern oratorio*** released **Innova Recordings #727**, 2010. Male vocal quartet, cello, percussion battery & soundtracks. WNYC podcast excerpts.
- 2008 ***O Joy!*** Choral. Commissioned by VocalEssence 2008. Premiered Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, September 14, 2008. NPR broadcast with Garrison Keillor. Published by Boosey & Hawkes, 2010.
- 1997-2007 ***What is it like to be a Bat?*** Kitty Brazelton & Dafna Naphtali, co-composers, with Danny Tunick, percussion/conductor. **Tzadik: Oracles #770**, 2003. John Zorn: "complex, visionary..." Reviews include *The New Yorker*, *Boston Herald*, *Chicago Reader & Tribune*, *San Diego Tribune*, *All Music Guide*. Venues include Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt Museum, The Stone, Sound Symposium 2000, St. Johns, NL, Canada. Women's Avant Fest '97, Lounge Ax, Chicago, and Southern Theater, Minneapolis.
- 2002 ***Chamber Music for the Inner Ear***, released **CRI #889, New World**. Includes performances by the California EAR Unit, Manhattan Brass Quintet, trombonist Chris Washburne, violinist Lyris Hung and others. Aaron Copland Fund for Recording. Mary Flagler Cary Trust. Reviews: *Gramophone*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Time Out New York*, *All Music Guide*, *NewMusicBox*.
- 1990-2000 ***Dadadah***, electro-acoustic nonet. Two albums. Reviews include *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *Boston Herald*, *Detroit Free Press*, *All About Jazz*, *Signal to Noise*. Performances include: Joe's Pub, Public Theater; HERE Arts Center, The Kitchen, P. S. 122, and CBGB's. Knitting Factory's New York Texaco Jazz Festival, World Trade Center Plaza co-sponsored by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, 1997.
- 1982-1990 ***Hide the Babies***, rock quintet. Recorded live at CBGB's in 1987, released 2017 on Bandcamp. BRAZELTON/SCARPERIA: NYC1985, released 2013 on Bandcamp.
- 1972-1979 ***Musica Orbis***, LP and a single. Four national tours with radio and television appearances. Reviewed in major periodicals: *The New York Times*, *Billboard*, *Boston Globe and Phoenix*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and more. Performed in colleges and universities in 25 states and other venues including: CBGB's, Tramps, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Academy of Music, Zellerbach Theater/Annenberg Center, Berklee Performance Center, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

TEACHING

- 2001-present Bennington College, full professor. Composition, Performance, Theory, History and Fundamentals.
- 1985-2001 Columbia University, New York University, Adjunct lecturer
- 1991-2001 Lincoln Center Institute, Teaching Artist, Pre-K-12
- 1983-1985 Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY, Instructor

EDUCATION

- 1994 Doctor of Musical Arts, Music Composition, Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- 1991 M. A. Music Composition, Columbia University School of the Arts
- 1978 B.A. Music, Swarthmore College

SKILLS: Literature and Speaking Fluency: Spanish, French, Latin and Tzotzil, Mayan dialect and various computer languages. Have led bands & produced concerts since 1972.