

# Jason Levis

## Curriculum Vitae

### Education

- 1996 – 1999      B.A. Inter-Arts, Music (Performance). Naropa University, Boulder, Colorado. Studies included: Improvisation, Jazz Performance – Drum Set, Jazz Composition, Meditation, Buddhist Studies, and Traditional Eastern Arts. Professors: Art Lande, Mark Miller, Bill Douglas, Diane Butler and Ernie Cruz.
- 2000 – 2004      Private lessons and concurrent enrollment at UC Berkeley. Classes included: Harmony and Theory, Counterpoint, Composition, and Musicianship. Professors: Cindy Cox, Edwin Dugger, and Henry Threadgill.
- Private lessons Jazz Performance and Improvisation, Drum Set and Percussion with William Winant, Eddie Marshall, Pete Magadini, and Scott Morris.
- 2004 – 2006      M.A. Music Composition, University of California, Berkeley. Professors: Edmund Campion, Cindy Cox, Jorge Liderman, Myra Melford, John Thow, David Wessel.
- 2006 – Present    Ph.D. Candidate, Music Composition, University of California, Berkeley. Professors: Edmund Campion, Cindy Cox, Myra Melford, David Wessel.

### Teaching Career

- 2005 – 2006      Graduate Student Instructor, University of California, Berkeley  
Orchestra Manager
- 2006                Graduate Student Instructor, University of California, Berkeley  
Basic Musicanship
- 2007                Graduate Student Instructor, University of California, Berkeley  
Introduction to Harmony for Non-Majors  
Beginning Harmony
- Improvisation Workshop with *duo B*.  
University of Nevada, Reno
- 2008                Graduate Student Instructor, University of California, Berkeley  
Beginning Harmony

## Honors and Awards

- 1999      Valedictorian  
Naropa University, Boulder, CO
- 2006      Meet the Composer Award  
awarded to *duo B.* (with *Lisa Mezzacappa*)
- 2007      Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award  
University of California, Berkeley
- 2008      the Eisner Prize for Music  
University of California, Berkeley

## Musical Compositions

- 2000      *Robert's Brother's Boyfriend's Closet* for soprano saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone, bass, and drums – 8'  
Performed by *Heftpistole*
- Sore Gain* for soprano voice, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone, bass, and drums – 6'  
Performed by *Heftpistole* – *Lisa Bolin*, soprano
- Kibbutz of Desire* for, trumpet, tenor saxophone, bass clarinet, trombone, bass, and drums – 9'  
Performed by *Heftpistole*
- Night Train to Budapest* for trumpet, tenor saxophone, bass clarinet, trombone, bass, and drums – 7'  
Performed by *Heftpistole*
- Hopscotch* for soprano voice, speaker, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone, bass, and drums – 6'  
performed by *the Heftpistole Chamber Ensemble* – *Lisa Bolin*, soprano, *Charles Ferris*, speaker
- 2001      *Four* for violin, violoncello, 2 bass clarinet – 4'  
commissioned and performed by *the Aaron Novik Chamber Ensemble*
- Andante, a Bit Dramatic* for piano – 3'  
performed by *Marié Abe*
- It Is Night...* for piano and mezzo-soprano voice – 5'
- Wonder Woman* for tenor saxophone, trombone, bass, and drums – 6'  
performed and recorded by *Married Couple*

- Red Eye Flight to Budapest* for tenor sax, trombone, bass, and drums – 4'  
performed and recorded by *Married Couple*
- 2002 *Andante, A Bit Dramatic (version)* for flute, bass clarinet, 2 saxophone, trumpet, trombone, electric guitar, contrabass, and drums – 9'  
performed and recorded by *the Heftpistole Chamber Ensemble*
- Miniature* for trumpet, trombone, tenor sax, piano, bass, and drums – 7'  
performed and recorded by *the Jonah Minton Sextet* for *Jazziz Magazine* October 2002  
*Jazziz On Disc* edition 2
- Wholivera's Whaffair* for 2 trumpet, 2 trombone, horn, drums, piano, 2 violin, and contrabass – 5'  
written for and performed by *Killing My Lobster Comedy Troupe*
- A Brisk Andante* for Bb clarinet, violin, violoncello – 4'
- Roots No. 5* for tenor saxophone and trombone – 1'15"  
performed and recorded by *Jonah Minton* and *Robert Ewing*
- 2003 *Collected Fictions* for violoncello and piano – 24'  
recorded by *Markia Hughes* and *Hubert Ho*  
performed by *the Berkeley Contemporary Chamber Players* – *Leighton Fong*, violoncello and *Karen Rosenak*, piano
- She Is Inside Remembering* for soprano & alto sax, trumpet, bass trombone – 12'  
recorded by *Aaron Bennett*, *Henry Hung* and *Marc Bolin*
- Looks Like a Pie to Me* for tenor saxophone, trombone, bass and drums – 4'  
performed and recorded by *Married Couple*
- Smarty Pants Du Jour* for tenor saxophone, trombone, bass and drums – 7'  
performed and recorded by *Married Couple*
- Hopscotch* for tenor saxophone, trombone, bass and drums – 6'  
performed and recorded by *Married Couple*
- Yes, This* for clarinet, electric guitar, bass and drums – 3'  
performed by *Non-Band*
- 2004 *Slow Music to the Book of Boaf, Parts I & II* for clarinet/bass clarinet, trumpet, trombone, 2 percussion, bass accordion, violin, 2 contrabass – 12'  
performed and recorded by *the Heftpistole Chamber Ensemble*

*Orange Rothko and Blue* for violin, Bb clarinet, contrabass, and 2 percussion – 10'  
performed by *the Heftpistole Chamber Ensemble*

*Blue Rothko or Just Oranges* for violin, Bb clarinet, contrabass and 2 percussion – 4'  
performed by *the Heftpistole Chamber Ensemble*

*Argigapelligated Fifths* for violin, Bb clarinet, contrabass, and 2 percussion – 7'  
performed by *the Heftpistole Chamber Ensemble*

*Words Without Songs I* for 7 players – 4'  
performed by *the Instant Composers Ensemble*

*Words Without Songs II* for 8 players – 7'  
performed by *the Instant Composers Ensemble*

*Words Without Songs III (like pong)* for 4 players – 8'  
performed by *the Instant Composers Ensemble*

*Reconstructions for Piano* – 15'  
recorded by *Marié Abe*, piano

*Tin Foil is Not Soft* for alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trombone, electric guitar,  
bass, and drums – 7'  
performed and recorded by *Blowout*

*Préparé l'Orangoutang* for alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, electric guitar,  
accordion, violin, contrabass and drums – 9'  
performed by *Heftpistole*

*Toaster Brain* for tenor saxophone, trombone, bass, and drums – 5'  
performed by *Married Couple*

2005 *Songs of the Forking Path* for flute/alto flute, Bb clarinet/bass clarinet, 2 percussion,  
piano, violin, viola, violoncello – 8'  
performed and recorded by *the Berkeley Contemporary Chamber Players*

*Structured Improvisations for Silent Films I* for soprano, Bb/bass clarinet, bass  
trombone, prepared guitar, contrabass, percussion and analog electronics – 30'  
inspired by *Pierrot Lunaire (A. Schoenberg)* to accompany *Nosferatu (F.W. Murnau)*  
performed and recorded by *the Heftpistole Chamber Ensemble, Lisa Bolin - soprano*

*Trio* for Clarinet/Bass Clarinet, Contrabass, Percussion – 10'  
performed and recorded by *Heftpistole Trio*

*Words Without Songs IV* for trombone, contrabass, and percussion – 3'  
performed by *Heftpistole Trio*

*ah mingt be startlying* for piano – 3'

*Etendué* for contrabass and percussion – 6'  
performed and recorded by *duo B.* – *Lisa Mezzacappa*, contrabass

*Hott Rodd Flamez* for contrabass and percussion – 6'  
performed and recorded by *duo B.*

*so it's just the two of you* for contrabass and percussion – 2'30"  
co-composed with *Lisa Mezzacappa*  
performed and recorded by *duo B.*

*upstream* for contrabass and percussion – 5'  
co-composed with *Lisa Mezzacappa*  
performed and recorded by *duo B.*

*half the band, twice the trouble* for contrabass and percussion – 3'  
co-composed with *Lisa Mezzacappa*  
performed and recorded by *duo B.*

*counterclockwise* for contrabass and percussion – 4'  
co-composed with *Lisa Mezzacappa*  
performed and recorded by *duo B.*

*year of the poached egg* for contrabass and percussion – 2'30"  
co-composed with *Lisa Mezzacappa*  
performed and recorded by *duo B.*

*tokyo elevator heat* for contrabass and percussion - 2'45"  
co-composed with *Lisa Mezzacappa*  
performed and recorded by *duo B.*

*dozing at the bottom of a well* for contrabass and percussion – 2'30"  
co-composed with *Lisa Mezzacappa*  
performed and recorded by *duo B.*

*only room for one of us* for contrabass and percussion – 3'45"  
co-composed with *Lisa Mezzacappa*  
performed and recorded by *duo B.*

*soft spot* for contrabass and percussion – 1'45"  
co-composed with *Lisa Mezzacappa*  
performed and recorded by *duo B.*

2006

*Portrait of a Nude Shadow* for percussion duo – 10'  
performed and recorded by *the Berkeley Contemporary Players - Chris Froh*  
and *Florian Conzetti*

*Fallen Leaves Gather* for 2 conductors, flute, bass clarinet, 2 trumpets,  
trombone, percussion, resonator guitar, violin, cello, and contrabass – 8'  
performed by *the Heftpistole Chamber Ensemble, Myra Melford* and *Mei-Fang Lin*, conductors

*Sits Peacefully, the Incision Passes Through Illusion* for piano, violin,  
contrabass and percussion – 6'  
performed and recorded by *the Heftpistole Chamber Ensemble* featuring *Myra Melford*, piano

*Summer Blossoms, Shaded* for bass trombone, percussion, string quintet – 16'  
to accompany the silent film *Meshes of the Afternoon* (*Maya Deren* and *Alexander Hammid*)  
performed and recorded by *the Heftpistole Chamber Ensemble, Marc Bolin* – bass  
trombone

*Structured Improvisations for Silent Films II* for soprano, flute, bass trombone,  
percussion and string quintet – 14'  
inspired by *Machines Agricoles* (*Darius Milhaud*) to accompany *Un Chien Andalou*  
(*Buñuel, Dali*)  
performed and recorded by *the Heftpistole Chamber Ensemble, Katy Stephan* - soprano

*Doublesided* for 2 players and audience – undefined duration  
co-composed with *Lisa Mezzacappa* with support from Meet the Composer  
performed by *duo B.*

*Liberation* for 3 trombones, tuba, 3 electric guitars, bass, and drums – 4'  
performed and recorded by *Joseph's Bones*

*No More Fighting* for 3 trombones, tuba, 3 electric guitars, bass, and drums – 5'  
performed and recorded by *Joseph's Bones*

*If Brahms Were a Rasta* for 3 trombones, tuba, 3 electric guitars, bass, and drums –  
4'30"  
performed and recorded by *Joseph's Bones*

*Inner Zion* for 3 trombones, tuba, 3 electric guitars, bass, and drums – 6'  
performed and recorded by *Joseph's Bones*

*Binghi* for 3 trombones, tuba, 3 electric guitars, bass, and drums – 5'  
performed and recorded by *Joseph's Bones*

*Speak and Spell* for 3 trombones, tuba, 3 electric guitars, bass, and drums – 4'  
performed and recorded by *Joseph's Bones*

*Ital Trod* for 3 trombones, tuba, 3 electric guitars, bass, and drums – 5'  
performed and recorded by *Joseph's Bones*

2007 *Etendué (version)* for contrabass and electronics – 6'  
performed and recorded by *Lisa Mezzacappa*, contrabass

*A Lush Palmyra* for 2 trumpets, flugelhorn, horn, tenor trombone, tuba, drumset, and electronic clutter – 6'  
performed and recorded by *Paradigm Brass*

*Portrait of a Nude Shadow (version)* for prepared piano and harpsichord – 8'  
performed and recorded by *Key Note +*, *Kate Ryder*, prepared piano and *Jane Chapman*, harpsichord

*Heavy Duo (the sound of a mid-life crisis)* for contrabass and percussion – 2'30"  
performed by *duo B.*

*MashUp (innine)* for electric guitar, bass, and 2 drum sets – 4'  
performed and recorded by *duo B.* with *the Schott/Hanes*

*MashUp II (inthirteen)* for tenor saxophone, tenor trombone, contrabass, drums – 3'  
performed by *Married Couple*

*Red Sea* for 3 trombones, tuba, 3 electric guitars, bass, and drums – 4'  
performed and recorded by *Joseph's Bones*

*Yosef* for 3 trombones, tuba, 3 electric guitars, bass, and drums – 4'  
performed and recorded by *Joseph's Bones*

2008 *Der Schneebesen Tanz* for flute, clarinet/bass clarinet, alto/baritone saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, 2 trombone, tuba, piano, contrabass, drum set – 14'  
recorded by *the Heftpistole Chamber Ensemble*

*Der Schneebesen Tanz (version)* for electric guitar, 2 piano, percussion, contrabass, drum set – 7'  
performed by *the Steve Mackey House Band*, *Steve Mackey* – electric guitar

*Dub Conrète* for computer – 5'  
performed by *Jason Levis*, original tracking performed by *Joseph's Bones*

*plum blossom / warm gentle wind / shimmering stillness* for bass trombone, 2 percussion, piano, string quintet – 13'

*Postmark Tokyo* for contrabass and percussion – 11'  
co-composed with *Lisa Mezzacappa* for the film *Postmark Tokyo* by *Mark Wilson*  
performed and recorded by *duo B*

*duoBdub I* for computer – 6'  
performed by *Jason Levis*, original tracking performed by *duo B*.

*Words Without Songs V* for 2 or more players – 6'

*Seitlich Spielen* for piano, contrabass, and drums – 5'  
performed by *the Lisa Mezzacappa Trio* featuring *Myra Melford*, piano

*Wedding Trio* for violin, violoncello, contrabass – 7'  
performed by *the Heftpistole String Trio*

## Discography

- 2002      *Married Couple* – Married Couple  
Self Released
- “*Miniature*” – on the compilation disc *Jazziz On Disc ed. 2*  
            *Jazziz Magazine* October, 2002
- 2003      *Looks Like A Pie To Me* – Married Couple  
            Odd Shaped Case
- 2004      *[i!]* – Dielectric Minimalist All-Stars  
            Dielectric Records
- Uncurling* – Belinda Underwood  
            Cosmik Muse Records
- The Supporting Theory* – Blowout  
            Life Force Jazz Records
- 7 Days In February* – Noertker’s Moxie  
            Edgetone Records
- 2005      “*Close To Me*” from *Of The Air* – *Pyeng Threadgill*  
            Random Chance Records

- 2006      *These Things Seem Natural To Us* – duo B.  
Evander Music
- Flashes of Irrational Happiness* – Aaron Novik’s Kipple  
Evander Music
- 2007      *Sketches of Catalonia, Vol.2: Suite for Miró* – Noertker’s Moxie  
Edgetone Records
- Crafty Apples* – Aaron Novik’s Crafty Apples  
release pending
- 2008      *Nomadic Pulse* – Joseph’s Bones  
Self Released
- Samuel Suite/Dancing Into One* – Aaron Novik  
Evander Music
- “*Here’s To Us*” from *Saints of the Lost Cause Saloon* – Katy Stephan  
Self Released
- 2009      *Green Mitchell* – Green Mitchell  
release pending
- Koffer Auf, Koffer Zu* – Susie Asado  
release pending

## Professional Ensembles

Leader      *Joseph’s Bones*  
*the Heftpistole Chamber Ensemble*  
*Heftpistole Trio*  
*Heftpistole*

Collaborator *duo B.*  
*Married Couple*

Side Person *Donovan*  
*Susie Asado*  
*sfSound*  
*Floating World*  
*Crafty Apples*  
*the Lisa Mezzacappa Trio*  
*Citta Di Vitti*

*Green Mitchell*  
*Paradigm Brass*  
*the Berkeley Contemporary Chamber Players*  
*the Maccabeats*  
*Katy Stephan*  
*Four Flea Circus*  
*Blowout*  
*Noertker's Moxie*  
*Non-Band*  
*the Jonah Minton Sextet*  
*Belinda Underwood*  
*the Lark*

## Professional Performance Highlights

### California:

Alfred Hertz Memorial Concert Hall – Berkeley, CA  
Ashkenaz – Berkeley, CA  
Avalon – Eureka, CA  
The Barclay Theater – Irvine, CA  
Black Box Theater – Oakland, CA  
Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics at Stanford University – Palo Alto, CA  
Center for New Music and Audio Technologies – Berkeley, CA  
Chapel of the Chimes – Oakland, CA  
Community Music Center – San Francisco, CA  
Dance Mission – San Francisco, CA  
Fort Mason Theater – San Francisco, CA  
Great American Music Hall – San Francisco, CA  
Headlands Center for the Arts – Sausalito, CA  
High Energy Constructs – Los Angeles, CA  
Hillside Club – Berkeley, CA  
Intersection for the Arts – San Francisco, CA  
The Jazz School – Berkeley, CA  
Jewish Community Center – San Francisco, CA  
Julia Morgan Theater – Berkeley, CA  
Kate Wolf Memorial Music Festival – Black Oak Ranch, Laytonville, CA  
La Pena Cultural Center – Berkeley, CA  
Maybeck Recital Hall – Berkeley, CA  
Meridian Gallery – San Francisco, CA  
Musicians Union Hall – San Francisco, CA  
Oakland Metro – Oakland, CA  
Oberlin Dance Collective Theater – San Francisco, CA  
Old First Church – San Francisco, CA  
Red Poppy Art House – San Francisco, CA  
San Diego County Fair – San Diego, CA  
Southern Exposure – San Francisco, CA

USA:

Astoria Visual Arts Center – Astoria, OR  
Britt Festival – Jacksonville, OR  
Long Island Summer Festival – Oyster Bay, LI  
Mahaiwe Theatre – Great Barrington, MA  
Milwaukee Summerfest – Milwaukee, WI  
Taste of Minnesota Music Festival – Harriet Island, MN  
University of Nevada, Reno – Reno, NV  
University of Virginia – Charlottesville, VA  
Warner Theatre – Torrington, CT

International:

Japan:

Bridge - Osaka, Japan  
K.D. Japon - Nagoya, Japan  
Koen Dori Classics - Tokyo, Japan  
Otoya Kintoki - Tokyo, Japan

Canada:

Banff Center for the Arts – Banff, Canada

Germany:

Ä – Berlin, Germany  
Blau – Mannheim, Germany  
Café Nerly – Erfurt, Germany  
Coffee Karma – Berlin, Germany  
Galerie Durchlauferhitzer – Halle, Germany  
Kunsthof Friedrichrode – Friedrichrode, Germany  
Li-Wei – Apolda, Germany  
NBI – Berlin, Germany  
Schokoladen – Berlin, Germany  
Speditoin/Folk Art Now – Bremen, Germany  
Subway to Peter – Chemnitz, Germany  
Valentin Stueberl – Berlin, Germany  
vorWien – Berlin, Germany