

# Leah Muir Composer (1978)

## Curriculum Vitae

Weisestr. 46, 12049 Berlin

leah.muir@gmail.com

+ 49 176 276 44449

www.leahmuir.net

- 2024 – Present** Artistic and Musical Direction, Curation  
**Ensemble ilinx, Studio for New Music at the UdK Berlin**
- 2019 – 2024** **Guest Professor of Composition at Berlin University of the Arts**  
Artistic Direction and founding of **Ensemble ilinx, Studio for New Music at the UdK Berlin**  
Duties include conducting, teaching and curation.  
Direction of the contemporary concert series *Zoom + Focus*, where an average of 30 new pieces from the student composers of the UdK and HfM are premiered per year.  
Organizing the composer/conductor orchestral seminar with Harry Curtis, orchestral pieces are read by the studio orchestra and conducting students from Steven Sloane.
- 2018 – Present** **Faculty at the Stanford Overseas Program in Berlin**  
Teaching “Ways of Hearing” – a musical survey for students of all backgrounds
- 2015 – 2019** **Docent at the Berlin University of the Arts**  
Artistic Direction and founding of **Ensemble ilinx, Studio for New Music at the UdK Berlin**
- 2015 – Present** **Artistic Director at Klangzeitort Institute for New Music**
- 2009 – 2014** **KLANGZEITORT Institute for New Music**  
**Adjunct Faculty: UdK from 2009 - 2014; Hanns Eisler Conservatory from 2012 – 2014**  
*Zoom + Focus*, Musical coaching, Organization. Over 150 premieres of student pieces from the UdK and HfM in this 5 year period. Musical Direction and coaching on Crescendo Festival Berlin in 2009, 2010, 2011 in collaboration with Daniel Ott’s scenic concerts.
- 2011** **Meisterschülerin Composition, Berlin University of the Arts**  
(Mentors: Elena Mendoza; Iris ter Schiphorst)
- 2010** **Composer in Residence with Märzmusik: Querklang**
- 2008** **Ph.D., Composition, University at Buffalo, New York**  
Dissertation: *Sound-House for large Ensemble*  
Dissertation Committee: David Felder, Cort Lippe, Michael Long, and Charles Smith  
Composition Studies: David Felder, Computer Music Studies: Cort Lippe  
Music Theory and Musicology: Charles Smith, Michael Long, Eytan Agmon, Jeff Stadelman
- 2006 – 08** **Fulbright Research Grant with Chaya Czernowin**  
Vienna University for Music and Performing Arts
- 2002 – 06** **Graduate Teaching Assistant and Presidential Fellow, University at Buffalo, NY**
- 2002 – 08** **Founder and Director of the „Open Music Foundation“ and the „Open Music Ensembles“**  
Also active as a performer: Piano, Voice, Violoncello, Conductor
- 2001** **Assistant conductor of the Musica Nova Ensemble for new music**  
**University of Missouri-Kansas City**
- 2000 – 02** **„Master of Music“, University of Missouri-Kansas City**  
Thesis: *Between Lightness and Darkness for Orchestra*  
Composition and Computer Music Studies: Chen Yi, James Mobberley, Paul Rudy  
Conducting Studies: Sarah McKoin
- 1997 - 2000** **„Bachelor of the Arts“, Music and Mathematics, Bennington College, Vermont**  
Composition and Music Theory Studies: Allen Shawn, Stephen Siegel and Amy Williams  
Computer Music Studies: Joel Chadabe and Randall Neal  
Math and Dynamic Systems Theory studies (Complexity Theory, Chaos Theory): Jerry Bope and Rueben Puentedora
- 1978** born in California, USA

## TEACHING

### **Guest Professor, Berlin University of the Arts**

Artistic Direction and founding of **Ensemble ilinx, Studio for New Music at the UdK Berlin**  
Duties include conducting, teaching composition and concert management

### **Stanford Program in Berlin**

Teaching introductory music courses to Stanford undergraduates plus private composition lessons

### **Klangzeitort Institut für Neue Musik der UdK Berlin HfM Hanns Eisler Berlin, 2012-2015**

#### **Academic faculty appointment**

Responsibilities involve coaching student composers in making concert ready scores, finding musicians in the institution of the UdK and HfM who will collaborate with them and the founding of an ensemble.

### **Märzmusik Composer in Residence for Project Querklang, Sept. 09-April 2010**

Developing experimental music in Berlin schools: presentation Märzmusik 2010 Radial System Berlin.

### **English Teaching Assistant, BFI and BHAK Vienna, Austria, 2007-2008**

Taught English to students in a multitude of levels from 1A to 6A at two High schools in Vienna. I prepared course materials and assisted and presented in High school classes in Vienna.

### **Presidential Teaching Fellow, University At Buffalo, 2002-2006:**

#### **Composition Seminar, Independent Course Instructor, Fall 2005**

Taught undergraduate fourth year music majors orchestration, history of notation and composition, in which they are required to write and have performed an original compositions.  
Designed syllabus and curriculum.

#### **Rock Music, Teaching Assistant, Spring 2006**

Assisting Jonathan Golove. Lecturing and grading assignments, coursework on the subject of Rock Music.

#### **Introduction to Electronic Music, Independent Course Instructor, Fall 2003 - Spring 2005**

This is a full-year course in which non-major undergraduate students in their third and fourth years learn a brief history of Electronic Music, the theoretical elements of acoustics, and intensive study of ProTools and Max/MSP where students learn signal processing, interactive performance techniques, psychoacoustics, as well as a brief overview of sequencers like Reason. Designed syllabus and curriculum and was responsible for the upkeep of the computer lab.

#### **American Pluralism, Teaching Assistant, Spring 2003**

Assisting Jonathan Golove. Lectured, graded assignments on coursework dealing with Jazz, Blues, Rock and other forms of Pop music.

#### **Music and Society, Independent Course Instructor, Fall 2002**

Taught non-majors in their freshman year a history of music from Jazz and Blues, to Rock and Hip-Hop, to Contemporary Concert Music. Designed syllabus and curriculum.

### **Music Coordinator, St. Philips Community Center, Buffalo, NY, July-August 2004**

**Guest Music Instructor:** Taught Music Fundamentals to inner-city children in order to expose them to music classes normally unavailable in their schools due to budget cut-backs. Volunteer.

### **Composers in the Schools Fellowship, University of Missouri-Kansas City, 2000-2002**

**Music Appreciation, Visiting Teacher:** Each week, visited Ruskin High School in Kansas City, Missouri and taught under the supervision of Rod Young.

## ORGANIZING – PERFORMING – CONDUCTING

### **Conducting Ensemble ilinx, Studio for New Music at the University of Arts Berlin, 2015 – Present**

I have conducted or participated in musical coaching on the last 5 concerts of Ensemble ilinx since its founding in 2015. Please see website for an actual list of conducting activities.

### **Klangzeitort Institut für Neue Musik der UdK Berlin HfM Hanns Eisler Berlin, 2008 - 2015**

As a organization of the Hanns Eisler Institute and the Berlin University of the Arts, my responsibilities include organizing new music concerts and coordinating multidisciplinary workshops.

Musical coaching by staged concerts on the Crescendo Concert Series led by Daniel Ott: *Kafka Fragmenten 2009, Der Gefaltete Blick 2010*

Musical Direction : *Morton Feldman „Voices and Instruments“ 2011*

### **Founding Member, Co-Chair, and Grant Manager: The Open Music Foundation, 2004-2010**

The OMF is a not-for-profit, grant-supported organization of (and for) composers and artists dedicated to the promotion of artistic expression based on unconventional, experimental, open-form, and especially graphical, forms of communicating musical ideas. The OMF has received grants from NYSCA, the Argosy Foundation and other esteemed institutions. [www.openmusic.us](http://www.openmusic.us).

**Founding Member, Pianist, Singer, Cellist: The Open Music Ensemble, 2002 - 2010**

A performance ensemble dedicated to the performance of new music, with a special interest in open notation and graphic scores. Please see list of performances on next page. It has been in collaboration with the newly formed non-profit: The Open Music Foundation in the interest of enhancing the exposure of contemporary concert music in the city of Buffalo. Members include over a dozen Western New York composers. The OME has collaborated with many prominent artists such as Elliot Caplan.

**Assistant Conductor: Musica Nova New Music Ensemble, University of Kansas City, 2001**

Performed in concert and lead several readings of student works at the University of Kansas City

**Important COMPOSER Commissions, Prizes and Performances -a selection**

2025	<b>Rainy Days Festival Luxembourg Commission – Em-Body-Ment a video-opera</b>
2023	<b>University at Buffalo Commission for Anatomy of the Hand, etudes for pianist Eric Huebner</b>
2019	<b>Artists Fellowship, German Study Center Venice, Italy</b>
2018	<b>Babelsberg Orchestra CD project with David Friedman</b> <i>By the Reflecting Pool and The Quanta of Sublimity</i>
2017	<b>INM commission for Axe and Pile: Michael Weilacher, percussion and Seth Josel, E.Guitar</b>
2016	<b>Berlin City Stipend: 12,000 granted for music theater project with Berlin PianoPercussion</b>
2013	<b>Bruckner Orchestra Linz – Dennis Russell Davies conducting</b> Commission: <i>By the Reflecting Pool</i> for improvising Vibraphone and Orchestra
2013	<b>Deutsche Oper „New Scenes“ Prize</b> Commission: <i>Wie man findet, was man nicht sucht</i> a music theater
2012	<b>Munich Biennale: Von Sodom und Gommora nach Berlin</b> a Music Theater
2010	<b>Soundtrack Cologne Premiere: Music Video Hardbeat</b>
2009	<b>Wien Modern: Hardbeat, for Soprano, Alto/Bass Flute and Violoncello.</b>
2008	<b>Wien Modern I Frammenti di Desiderio for Accordion and Contraforte</b>
2005	<b>Summer Academy Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart</b> Premiere: <i>A Heron Who Built a Nest in a Willow on Top of a Hill: Ensemble SurPlus.</i>
2003	<b>„June In Buffalo“ Music Festival: Convent de la Tourette, New York New Music Ensemble</b>
2001	<b>ASCAP Morton Gould 1<sup>st</sup> prize for young composers, USA (national prize)</b> <i>Harbor's Secret</i> for String Quartet
2001	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize Chamber Music Competition at the Conservatory of Univ. Missouri-Kansas City</b> <i>Hymn to Priapos</i> for Brass Quintet
2000	<b>Aspen Music Festival, Aspen, Colorado: Emergence</b> for Flute and Piano

**FILM SCREENING AND EXHIBITION LIST**

**10.04 - 17.04 Installation: Gewölbekeller Gallery.**

Video Art "The Keen illimitable Secret of Begin" Berlin, Germany.

**14.03 - 27.03.25 Installation: ROME INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR 2025 – 13TH EDITION**

Video art: "You are What you Eat", Starring Irene Kurka

**14.02 - 28.02.25 Installation: THE BODY LANGUAGE Exhibition 2025, in Venice, at Palazzo Albrizzi-Capello. Italy.**

Video art: "The Keen illimitable Secret of Begin" and "You are What you Eat".

Starring Irene Kurka and Martin Wistinghausen, and Irene Kurka respectively.

**23.03.23 Film Screening: Internationalen Kurzfilmwoche Regensburg 2023**

Musikvideo The Keen Illimitable Secret of Begin

**17.–22.12.16 Installation: Matera Festival, Bari Italy**

Audiovisual Installation: „8 to 8 „ Leah Muir and Michael Weilacher

**17.–22.12.16 Installation: Espacio Center, Canary Islands**

„8 to 8 „ Leah Muir and Michael Weilacher

**25.–26.1.13, Installation: Berlin, Denkerei Imaging Science**

Symposium zur Formwerdung & Formgebung" Paganinis Streichquartett für Bernhard Lang", ePlayer-Installation

**2010 Film Screening: Soundtrack Cologne**

Music Video *Hardbeat*

**February 7 - March 21, 2004 Burchfield-Penney Art Center, Buffalo NY**

Installation of Music Score and Performances: February 15 and February 22, 2004 with the Open Music Ensemble