

Prof. Michael Schiefel

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Education

University of the Arts (UdK), Berlin. High honors Diplom in Vocal Jazz and Music Education awarded 1996. Coursework in vocal training (classical and jazz), ear training, musicology, and music education and theory. Instructors included David Friedman, Jerry Granelli, and Lauren Newton.

Teaching Experience

- Department of New Music and Improvisation, Franz Liszt Conservatory of Music, Weimar – Professor of Vocal Jazz, tenured, 2009-present.

- Department of Jazz, Franz Liszt Conservatory of Music, Weimar – Professor of Vocal Jazz, tenured, 2007-2009.

Teaches courses in improvisation, repertoire, vocal technique, ear training, jazz choir, jazz ensemble, and music education. Helped plan and implement revision of undergraduate curriculum, advises master theses, and organizes workshops and faculty exchange programs.

- Department of Jazz, Franz Liszt Conservatory of Music, Weimar – Professor of Vocal Jazz, tenure track, 2001-2007.

- Department of Jazz, Franz Liszt Conservatory of Music, Weimar – Vocal Instructor, 1998-2001. Taught individual lessons in improvisation, repertoire, and vocal technique.

- Department of Music, University of the Arts, Berlin – Vocal Instructor, 1998-2001. Taught individual lessons in improvisation, ear training, and vocal technique.

- Charlottenburg Music School, Berlin – Vocal Instructor, 1996-1998. Taught voice lessons to students preparing to apply to music conservatories.

- Prepared numerous workshops and master classes in cooperation with various partner organizations, including the Harvard Music Department, Goethe Institutes in Boston and Los Angeles, Berkeley Jazzschool (California), University of the Arts (Berlin), Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (Australia), Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Universidad Javeriana (Bogota), Projazz School (Santiago de Chile), Midi School of Music (Beijing), Musikhochschule Basel (Switzerland), University of Enschede (Netherlands), and University of Accra (Ghana).

- Language skills: German (mother tongue), English (fluently), French (fluently)

Current Projects and Selected Discography

- Michael Schiefel Solo (voc/electronics) – Solo performance features multilayered loop-based vocal distortions whose style varies between grooves, soundscapes, counterpoint, and lyric-oriented songs. All performances are live and strictly vocal.

My Home Is My Tent (Traumton, 2010)

Don't Touch My Animals (ACT, 2006)

Gay (Traumton, 2003)

I Don't Belong (Traumton, 2001)

Invisible Loop (Traumton, 1997)

- Wood & Steel Trio feat. Michael Schiefel (voc, dobro, marimba, vibraphone, bass) – a new interpretation of the Hollywood Songbook by Hanns Eisler with lyrics by Bertolt Brecht with an unusual instrumentation.

Hollywood Songbook (Traumton, 2018)

- Michael Schiefel Platypus Trio (voc/electronics, cymbalom, cello) – Contemporary jazz trio with Balkan influences, original compositions revolving around an aboriginal tale about the Platypus

Michael Schiefel Platypus Trio (BMC Records Budapest, 2014)

- The Cool Runnings Orchestra (p, git, b, dr, 2 sax, voc/electronics) – European Jazz Project

Tribute to Marley (BMC Records Budapest, 2011)

- Jazz Indeed (p, b, dr, sax, voc/electronics) – Contemporary jazz quintet playing mainly original compositions.

Ostkreuz (NRW Records, 2011)

Blaue Augen (ACT, 2005)

Who the Moon Is (Traumton, 2000)

Under Water (Traumton, 1997)

- Thaerichen's Tentett (p, git, b, dr, tp, tb, 3 sax, voc) – 10-person „mini big band“ whose repertoire emphasizes poetry set to music, as well as blending of classical and jazz elements.

An Berliner Kinder (Double Moon, 2012)

Farewell Songs (Traumton, 2009)

Grateful (Minor Records, 2005)

The Thin Edge (Minor Records, 2003)

Lady Moon (Minor Records, 2001)

- Batoru Balkan Jazz Project (marimba/vibes, b, dr, acc, voc/electronics) – Bulgarian- German quintet playing original Balkan-inspired jazz compositions.

Arabesque (Nabel, 2003)

Tree of Sounds (Nabel, 2000)

- Concert tours and festivals throughout the United States (New York, Boston, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco), Europe (Austria, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Switzerland, United Kingdom), Asia (Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam), the former Soviet Union (Azerbaijan, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldavia, Russia), South America (Chile, Columbia), Africa and the Middle East (Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Israel, Lebanon, Syria) and Australia. Highlights include performances with Carla Bley in *Escalator Over the Hill* at the Essen Philharmonic, at the North Sea Festival, Moers Festival, Beijing Nine Gates Jazz Festival, JZ Festival Shanghai, Jazzkaar Baltic Jazz Festival, and the Earshot Jazz Festival in Seattle.

Sound Installations

- Fugue, sound installation shown in Istanbul at Schneidertempel Gallery (2017)
- Participation (vocal sounds and video material) in Samson Young's Songs for Disaster Relief, shown at the Venice Biennale (2017)
- The coffee cantata (in collaboration with Samson Young), shown in Hong Kong, London (Frieze)

- 5 Emotions for Hanoi, interactive sound installation, shown in Hanoi, HoChi Minh City (2016)
- Sound exhibition *Sound Shuttle*, shown in Amsterdam, Berlin, Boston, Hong Kong, NY, Tel Aviv

Visiting Artist

- Kulturakademie Tarabya Istanbul (2017)
- School of Creative Media at City University Hong Kong (2014/15)
- Improviser in Residence, Moers (2013)
- Harvard Music Department (2008/09)