

# JEFF KAISER

www.jeffkaiser.com

## EDUCATION

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### **Ph.D., Music, Integrative Studies**

University of California San Diego, 2013

Fields of study: Media technology, ethnomusicology, critical studies, improvisation.

Committee: David Borgo (Chair), Anthony Davis, Mark Dresser, Kevin Fellezs, Sarah Shun-lien Bynum.

Dissertation Title: *Improvising Technology: Configuring Identities and Interfaces in Contemporary Electro-Acoustic Music.*

**M.M., Choral and Orchestral Conducting**, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA, 1987

**B.A., Music Composition**, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA, 1985

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES, SKILLS AND CREATIVE WORK

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### **Audio professional**

- **Producer:** As a music label owner and freelance consultant, I have overseen the production of hundreds of full-length music recordings and thousands of smaller projects that range from language education to sound-for-picture. I have been actively involved with all aspects of production, including: recording, mixing, mastering, audio restoration, graphic design, manufacturing, advertising, as well as physical and digital distribution.
- **Recording and mixing engineer:** I have extensive knowledge of—and experience with—audio technology. This includes, but is not limited to: Pro Tools, Ableton Live, Digital Performer, Native Instruments Komplete Ultimate, Logic, DSP Quattro, Finale, Audacity, Reaper and third party plug-ins from companies such as Izotope, Waves and DMG Audio. I have recorded and mixed a large variety of musical styles including experimental, classical, rock, industrial, dance music, electronica, Irish, pop and folk. I keep up on the latest recording and mixing technologies, including cutting edge plug-in developments.
- **Mastering engineer:** I have wide-ranging experience mastering recordings for physical release (CD, DVD, vinyl, cassette), digital release, film and video.
- **Live engineer:** In addition to traditional live music performances, I have experience in unique setups that integrate performers with software, hardware, multi-channel audio and video in live settings.

### **Interactive arts programming**

- **Experienced programmer:** Working in Max/MSP/Jitter for interactive art projects, I have designed custom audio processing software, interactive hardware, video processing and video tracking software.
- Projects have included, but are not limited to: large-scale multi-channel concert works (for choirs, soloists and chamber ensembles), multi-building outdoor live intermedia performances and machine improvisation.
- While considering myself an audiocentric media technologist, I have also worked extensively on art installations including a site-specific work for a de-commissioned women's prison, video tracking, interactive hardware design and other performances that incorporate visual arts, dance, theater and poetry with music. Current projects include the development of tracking systems, sound design and software for a multi-screen interactive video installation employing parabolic speakers to isolate audio regions in an art gallery.
- In addition to my own work, I consult and work professionally with artists across many disciplines in the development of technological solutions for use in their creative work.
- Experienced video editor (Final Cut Pro X).

### **Experienced composer, performer, conductor**

- **Leader and co-leader** on over twenty-five full-length albums, performer on many more.
- Regularly a featured performer (quarternote trumpet, interactive electronics) at festivals, concert halls and venues around the United States and abroad. I have also performed as a studio musician on television and film.
- **Recipient of numerous grants** for creative work from the American Composers Fellowship *Subito* program, City of Ventura, Forum of the Arts Endowment, as well as commissions from the City of Ventura, California Lutheran University Choir, Ojai Camerata and others.

### **Skilled and experienced organizer and administrator**

- Current Director of Development for the Center for World Music (San Diego, CA).
- Founder and director of the Ventura New Music Festival (Ventura, CA).
- Owner/operator of two independent music labels featuring experimental, composed and improvised music.
- Experienced grant writer. Experience working with government and private granting organizations.
- Former music director and conductor of the Ojai Camerata (a vocal ensemble dedicated to the performance and the commission of new works) and other instrumental and vocal ensembles.

- Advertisement/graphic design professional, extensive experience with Adobe Creative Suite software.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**University of California Irvine****Instructor: Graduate Seminar*****Interactive Arts Programming*** (Spring 2011)

Explores artistic issues, theoretical concerns and programming techniques using Max/MSP/Jitter.

**University of San Diego****Instructor: Undergraduate Seminar*****Digital Audio Composition*** (Fall 2014, Spring 2014, Fall 2013)

This course combines a historical survey of experimental electronic music with creative and technical projects that use open source software for recording, generating, editing, manipulating and mixing audio.

***Interactive Digital Music and Art*** (Upcoming, Spring 2015)

The study of theoretical, aesthetic, philosophical and historical background in computer-human interaction and the arts, as well as basic tenets of programming, practical exercises in programming interactive computer multimedia art, and the conceptualization and design of a complete work of interactive music and/or art.

***American Music*** (Survey course, Fall 2014)***Fundamentals of Music Theory*** (Upcoming, Spring 2015)**University of California San Diego****Instructor: Undergraduate Lecture Courses*****Interactive Arts Programming*** (Summer 2012)

An undergraduate version of my graduate seminar for students with little or no programming experience.

***Blues: An Oral Tradition*** (Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2012)

Examines the development of the Blues from its roots to the present day and its relationship with jazz, rhythm-and-blues and rock-and-roll.

***The Music of Africa*** (Winter 2012, Winter 2013)

Survey course on the music of Africa and the African Diaspora.

***Traditional, Popular and Diasporic Music of Africa*** (Summer 2013)

Student project-based seminar.

***Trumpet Instructor*** (2007-2009)**Teaching Assistant:*****Audio/MIDI Studio Techniques I, II and III*** (Fall 2008, Winter 2009, Spring 2009)

I) Microphones, pre-amps, digital recording and editing; analog and digital interfaces; analytical listening.

II) Electronic and acoustic mixing and signal processing; MIDI; synchronization; sound-for-picture.

III) Audio quality; compression and limiting; mastering; surround sound; large scale production management.

***Jazz Roots and Early Development*** (Winter 2008, Winter 2010, Winter 2011)***Jazz Since 1946: Freedom and Form*** (Spring 2008, Spring 2011)***Blues: An Oral Tradition*** (Fall 2007, Fall 2009)***The Odyssey of Miles Davis*** (Spring 2010)

**Reader: *Black Arts Movement and Reggae*** (2007-2008, 2008-2009, Ethnic Studies Department)

**California Institute of the Arts**

Ensemble Director: ***Faculty Led Instrumental Ensemble*** (Fall 2005)

Directed rehearsals, composed/arranged music and organized concerts.

Guest Lecturer/Visiting Director: Seminars on composition, improvisation, career design and visiting director for large and small student ensembles (2003-2012).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND ASSISTANTSHIPS

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**University of California San Diego**

**(2008-2014)**

Assisted Dr. David Borgo in the design and creation of interactive technologies for live audio and video performance.

**KaiBorg** (Kaiser-Borgo duo) has grown out of this research and is a platform to explore the intersections of cutting-edge computer music and jazz- and world-inflected contemporary improvisation. Employing custom signal processing techniques and hardware mapping strategies, *KaiBorg* uses “hybrid instruments” that extend the acoustic sonic palettes of quartertone trumpet and woodwinds and afford new spatialization opportunities: all without sacrificing the sense of intimacy and speed of interaction required in improvised settings.

This work is represented on the full-length recording, *KaiBorg: Harvesting Metadata* (2010) with a new recording in process for early 2014. *KaiBorg* has performed in Sweden, The Netherlands and around the United States.

### **(Spring 2012)**

Assisted Dr. Shlomo Dubnov in his work with audio oracle, a system for recording/sampling and analyzing live and recorded music. Dr. Dubnov has collaborated on the implementation of audio oracle in OMax (IRCAM). My work involved streamlining the OMAX software for integration in live improvisation in both Max/MSP and Ableton Live.

### **(2008-2009)**

Assisted the head of systems administration for the music department, Trevor Henthorn. Trained graduate and undergraduate students in the use of the Interdisciplinary Computing and the Arts recording studios, kept audio computer systems updated.

### **Artist/Research Residencies at STEIM**

Four residencies at STEIM (Studio for Electro Instrumental Music), Amsterdam. STEIM is a leading center for the research and development of new music software, hardware and interactive media technologies.

- Research and development of spatialization methods with improvisational software (May 2012).
- Dissertation research, software development, recording (August 2010).
- Research on spectral spatialization of monophonic sources (September 2009).
- KaiBorg residency and performance (September 2008).

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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**Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Music Department, University of California San Diego (2013)**

**Featured Profile, International Trumpet Guild Journal (March 2013 issue)**

**Jimmy Cheatham Jazz Scholarship Award (2009 and 2012)**

Financial award for excellence in jazz scholarship and performance.

**Frieda Daum Urey Academic Fellowship (2009-2010)**

Financial award for academic excellence.

**Teaching Assistant of the Year, University of California San Diego Music (2009-2010, 2007-2008)**

Financial award for excellence as teaching assistant.

**Recording Grants, University of California San Diego**

Quintet project (2012).

Solo quartertone trumpet with electronics project (2011).

Prepared piano, trumpet and electronics project (2010).

*KaiBorg*: trumpet, woodwinds, electronics (2009).

**ASCAP Plus/Standard Awards (2001 to 2013)**

Recipient, yearly financial awards “and recognition to writers who create music with a value beyond the scope of performance surveys” (from the ASCAP website).

**Travel Grants for research and to present work**

University of California San Diego (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012).

Center for the Humanities and Arts (2008).

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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**Ohio University (September 2014)**

Guest Lecturer on improvisation and technology, *Introduction to the Arts: Object and Events*

**California Institute of the Arts (March 2012 and February 2011)**

Visiting Artist/Lecturer: Composer-Performer Colloquium.

**Amherst College, Amherst, MA (October 2011)**

Visiting Artist/Lecturer: Improvisation and technology, in addition to individual work with students.

**The Jazzschool, Berkeley, CA (April 2012 and April 2013)**

Visiting Lecturer.

**University of California San Diego**

*KaiBorg*, performed/presented at **Center for Research in Computing and the Arts** (November 2009) and performed at the grand opening concerts for Conrad Prebys Music Center (May 2009).

**University of Göteborg, Sweden (September 2008)**

*KaiBorg* performed and presented. In addition, performed at the popular jazz venue, Club Brötz.

**STEIM, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (September 2008)**

*KaiBorg* in residence, included performance.

**University of Minnesota Minneapolis (February 2008)**

Visiting Artist: Workshop/performance on electronics and improvisation with Dr. Guerino Mazzola.

**University of Wisconsin Madison (December 2007)**

Visiting Artist/Lecturer: Presented on my composition and use of electronics in music.

**Roosevelt University, Chicago (2000 and 2006)**

Visiting Artist/Lecturer: Performed and presented on my electro-acoustic music.

**California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA (2004)**

Visiting Artist: Directed and performed my compositions with a student ensemble.

**Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA (2000)**

Visiting Artist/Lecturer: Presented on my music.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

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**“Trumpet-Trumpet,” Jeff Kaiser and Dave Ballou. Trumpet and new technology, concert/demonstration.**

The New School, New York, International Society for Improvised Music (2014)

**“I gotta have bread or respect’: Touring improvised music” and panelist, “The Cost of Free Jazz.”**

University of California Los Angeles, EMP Pop Conference (2011)

**“The roots of electro-acoustic improvised music in the 1960s.”**

University of Michigan Ann Arbor, International Society for Improvised Music (2010)

***KaiBorg* performed and presented on their work.**

University of California San Diego, UC Initiative for Research in the Arts (2010)

University of California Santa Cruz, International Society for Improvised Music conference (2009)

University of California Riverside, UC Initiative for Research in the Arts (2008)

University of Colorado Denver, International Society for Improvised Music conference (2008)

**“Value, poetry, myth and ideology in John Zorn’s *Arcana*.”**

University of California Santa Cruz, International Society for Improvised Music conference (2009)

**“Building a bridge between your traditional instrument and computer using Max/MSP.”**

Northwestern University, Chicago, International Society for Improvised Music conference (2007)

**“How I lost 150 lbs. thanks to MaxMSP!”**

University of Minnesota Minneapolis, Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Art (2006)

**“Moving away from hardware-based electronics in live performances.”**

Electro-Music.com Festival and Conference, Cheltenham Art Center, Philadelphia, PA (2006)

***The Choir Boys* (Andrew Pask, Jeff Kaiser) performed and present on their electro-acoustic work.**

University of Minnesota Minneapolis, Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Art (2006, 2005)

PUBLICATIONS

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Borgo, David, and Jeff Kaiser. “Configurin(g) KaiBorg: Interactivity, Ideology, and Agency in Electro-Acoustic Improvised Music.” Thessaloniki, Greece, 2010. *Beyond the Centres: Musical Avant-Gardes Since 1950*. Eds. Tsougras, Costas, Danae Stefanou and Kostas Chardas. Aristotle University. Conference proceedings.

“How I lost 150 lbs. Thanks to MaxMSP!” Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2006. *Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Art*. Ed. Doug Geers. University of Minnesota Minneapolis. Conference proceedings.

MEMBERSHIPS

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**International Computer Music Association**  
**Audio Engineering Society**  
**Society for Ethnomusicology**  
**International Society for Improvised Music**  
**International Trumpet Guild**  
**Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States**  
**American Society of Composers and Performers**