

Jess Keyes

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Composer and Performer

Exploring interdisciplinary music-making, ecstatic energy, and communion with the audience.

Selected Ensembles

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| 2019 - present | Solo Performer (sometimes under the name Mueo)
Composer/arranger/instrument designer, synthesizers, woodwinds, piano |
| 2017 - present | Bedlam Brass
Bandleader, composer, and baritone saxophone for this 12-piece brass band |
| 2021 - 2024 | Mid-Atlantic Wilderness
Organizer, host, and performer for this series of improvised music shows featuring musicians from a wide range of backgrounds |
| 2015 - 2023 | Baltimore Rock Opera Society
Creator, composer, music director, and showrunner for <i>The Gold Night</i> . Band member for several productions from 2015 – 2018. |

Recognition

- [Rubys Artist Grant](#) recipient, July 2024
- [“Sensing the Stage - Jessica Keyes.”](#) Dogbotic Labs artist profile. March 15, 2024.
- [“Rousuck's Review: Baltimore Rock Opera Society's 'The Gold Night'.”](#) WYPR. October 19, 2023.
- [“Celebrating Art and Science at Voyages: Chapter 2.”](#) National Aquarium. February 10, 2023.

Notable Performances and Projects

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| November 14, 2024 | <i>Patien(t/ce)</i> performance at the Red Room
First performance with three wireless controllers for Eurorack synth: two gloves and a woven basket with felt balls. |
| September 29, 2024 | <i>Patien(t/ce)</i> performance at Wax Atlas
First performance featuring both left and right knitted wireless glove controllers for Eurorack synth. |
| August 25, 2024 | <i>Patien(t/ce)</i> performance at Current Space
First performance using my knitted wireless glove controller for Eurorack synth. |

- August, 2024 **Floating wetlands music installation** at the National Aquarium
Patrick McMinn and I adapted our 2022 commission *Will the Great Water Remember* with three new movements for a permanent installation in the new floating wetlands at the National Aquarium. This work takes live water quality data collected at the testing station and transforms it into generative music.
- April 12, 2024 ***Patien(t/ce)*** performance at the Red Room
The first full-length performance using prototypes of my wireless handmade wearable controllers for Eurorack synth.
- Fall, 2023 ***The Gold Night*** with the Baltimore Rock Opera Society
Pitched the original idea for this full-length rock opera. Collaborated on the script and co-wrote the music. Acted as music director and band leader for the production. Provided additional support with graphic design and project management.
- July 2, 2023 ***Patien(t/ce)*** proof-of-concept performance at the Red Room
The first performance with a demo version of my system for wireless control of my Eurorack synth using handmade wearable controllers.
- February 3, 2023 ***Patien(t/ce)*** concept performance at a house show
Performance for voice and modular synthesizer exploring themes of chronic illness and disability.
- December 18, 2022 **Mid-Atlantic Wilderness + Sustain Us** at The Crown
Hosted and performed at a special edition of MAW featuring a collaboration with the improvised movement project Sustain Us.
- November 17, 2022 ***Voyages, Chapter II*** at The National Aquarium
My collaborator Patrick McMinn and I were selected to be the featured performers for this immersive event attended by over 400 people. We composed *Will the Great Water Remember*, a four-movement piece in which all the movements were performed simultaneously for 2.5 hours. Individually, I composed the movement *The Body is the Foundation*, a generative piece for saxophone samples programmed together using a variety of chance operations. I also composed the movement *Lateral Lines* for 10 performers, which included music, movement, and audience interaction at multiple points throughout the evening. Finally, Patrick and I performed the movement *What Follows the Stochastic Event* together.
- July 8, 2022 **Bedlam Brass** album release show at the Crown
Booked and performed at this show to celebrate the release of our first album *Exit Seeking Behavior* alongside Baltimore musicians Kevin Sherry, Eze Jackson, and Chiffon.
- March 6, 2022 **High Zero Group Reprise** at the Baltimore Museum of Art
Performed three sets of improvised music with other women from the 2021 High Zero festival for a BMA community day event.

- November, 2021 **Bedlam Brass** mini-tour with Dan Deacon
Opened act for Dan Deacon at Brooklyn Steel in New York and the 9:30 Club in Washington, DC. Also joined Dan on stage for the second half of his set. I arranged four of Dan's songs for Bedlam Brass.
- September 24, 2021 **High Zero Festival**
Performed an improvised set with two other musicians.
- May 31, 2021 ***Mercy Athena*** album recording
Musical collaboration with Thomas Ward for the *Mercy Athena* project by poet Andrea Applebee to bring her short book to audio. Co-wrote and recorded the music, and mixed and published the album on Bandcamp.
- November, 2020 ***Upbraid the Permitting Stars***, solo album release under name Mueo
I composed this durational ambient album on my bedside synthesizer setup during the period between two spine surgeries when I was bedridden. The music served as a powerful pain management tool.
- March 8, 2020 **Ecstata** at Rituals
Saxophone, Electronics
- November 8, 2019 **Solo Performance** at The Waiting Room (Philadelphia)
Electronics, Saxophone
- October 18, 2019 **Ecstata** at Brentwood Arts Exchange (DC)
Electronics, Baritone Saxophone

Education

"Thread and Circuits" course, 2023 Dogbotic Labs
Master of Arts, *Ethnomusicology*, 2007 University of Alberta
Bachelor of Music, *Saxophone*, 2004 University of Alberta

Employment

Johns Hopkins University Sheridan Libraries. *User Experience Analyst*, 2016 - present
Baltimore Museum of Art. *Manager of Interpretation*, 2014 - 2016