

Jessica Keyes

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Composer and Performer

Exploring trickster characters, ecstatic energy, and communion with the audience.

Employment

Johns Hopkins University Sheridan Libraries *User Experience Analyst*, 2016 - present

Baltimore Museum of Art
Manager of Interpretation, 2014 - 2016

Education

Master of Arts, *Ethnomusicology*, 2007 University of Alberta

Bachelor of Music, *Saxophone*, 2004 University of Alberta

Selected Ensembles and Musical Communities

- 2021 - present **Mid-Atlantic Wilderness**
Organizer and host for this series of monthly-ish evenings of improvised music featuring musicians from a wide range of backgrounds assembled into duos and trios. I also perform about every other month.
- 2019 - present **Mueo** (solo project)
Composer/Arranger, Synthesizers, Woodwinds, Piano
- 2017 - present **Bedlam Brass**
Bandleader, Composer, and Baritone Saxophone
- 2016 - present **Trucker Talk**
Saxophones, Flute, Vocalist, and Composer/Arranger
- 2015 - present **Baltimore Rock Opera Society**
Saxophones, Flute, Keyboards, Synths, and Composer/Arranger
- 2019 - present **Opt Out** (improvisatory collaboration with Patrick McMinn)
Synthesizers, Woodwinds
- 2019 - 2020 **Ecstata** (improvisatory collaboration with April Camlin)
Synthesizers, Saxophones

Notable Performances and Projects

- 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
Patrick McMinn and I were selected to be the featured artists for this immersive event. 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.

- October 28, 2022 **10-Minute Music Festival Cover Band Show** at Current Space
Performed on saxophone with electronics and vocals in two different bands, one covering Laurie Anderson and the other Smashing Pumpkins.
- August 26, 2022 **Baltimore Boom Bap Society** at Le Mondo
I played baritone saxophone for this night of improvised hip hop.
- July 13, 2022 **Smoke Bellow** at Current Space
Joined as a special guest on saxophone for a few songs.
- July 8, 2022 **Bedlam Brass** album release show at the Crown
Booked and performed at this show to celebrate the release of *Exit Seeking Behavior* alongside Baltimore musicians Kevin Sherry, Eze Jackson, and Chiffon.
- June 9-10, 2022 **Dan Deacon Ensemble** at the Ottobar
Organized and performed in the horn section. Arranged Dan's songs for the section.
- June 2, 2022 **Wume** at the Ottobar
Joined as a special guest on saxophone for a few songs.
- 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.
- November, 2021 **Bedlam Brass** album recording
Recorded *Exit Seeking Behavior*, which we released in July, 2022 online and as vinyl.
- September 24, 2021 **High Zero Festival**
Performed an improvised set with two other musicians.
- March, 2021 **Improvisation for Modular Synth and Puppet**
Video performance created for the Executive Summary series.
- March, 2021 **Opt Out Sunroom Sessions**
Collaboration with Patrick McMinn. Two improvised performances recorded with live video, released on YouTube and Bandcamp.
- January 15, 2021 *Litmus Test*, short film for **Baltimore Rock Opera Society**

- Composer, Sound Designer. Recorded all music myself on synthesizers, saxophones, clarinet, flute, and piano.
- 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.
- June, 2020 **Move Move Collaborative**
Participated in a week-long immersive workshop held online due to the pandemic. Performed improvised music for several movement sessions and the final devised performance.
- March 8, 2020 **Ecstata** at Rituals
Saxophone, Electronics
- February 8, 2020 *Bedlam Brass EP Fundraiser* at Charm City Meadworks
Organizer for this successful interactive and participatory event, Bandleader, Baritone Saxophone
- January, 2020 **Baltimore Rock Opera Society**, winner of the pitch contest for *The Gold Night*, an original full length rock opera that I am co-writing with John Bennett and Abby Becker, composing the music for, and will lead the band for. Originally scheduled for production in 2022, now pushed back to fall of 2023 because of the pandemic.
- November, 2019 *Stop Making Sense*, fundraiser for Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
Arranger, Horn Section Leader, Baritone Saxophone
- November 8, 2019 **Solo Performance** at The Waiting Room (Philadelphia)
Electronics, Saxophone
- October 18, 2019 **Ecstata** at Brentwood Arts Exchange (DC)
Electronics, Baritone Saxophone
- August 28, 2019 *A Sappy Story About Trees* shadow puppet show with Sam Grossman
Electronics, Soprano Saxophone
- August 9, 2019 "This Land is Not" for **Reedswarm** at Current Space
Composer, Baritone Saxophone
- May 5, 2019 **Bedlam Brass**, Baltimore Mixtape
Composer, Bandleader, Baritone Saxophone
- April 27, 2019 **The New Oldfashioneds**, *80s Prom* at Mobtown Ballroom
Baritone Saxophone, Flute
- January 26, 2019 **Baltimore Boom Bap Society** at Windup Space
Baritone Saxophone
- January 16, 2019 **Dan Deacon Ensemble**, BSO Pulse
Baritone Saxophone
- December 10, 2018 **Solo Performance**, *Hopkins' Got Talent*

Composer, Saxophone, and Electronics

- November 16, 2018 *The Last Waltz* fundraiser for Moveable Feast
Arranger, Horn Section Leader, Baritone Saxophone
- October, 2018 **Baltimore Rock Opera Society**, *Lurid Happenings*
Keyboardist and Composer
- October 20, 2018 **Bedlam Brass** at Mobtown Ballroom
Show Organizer, Composer, Bandleader, Baritone Saxophone
- March 3, 2018 **Bedlam Brass**, *Cotillion Ball Party* and Show
Composer, Organizer, Bandleader, Baritone Saxophone
- 2018 *The Elephant's Song* animated short by **Lynn Tomlinson**
Arranger, Saxophone, Piano
- December 2, 2017 **Trucker Talk**, Pictures at an Exhibition
Arranger, Baritone and Soprano Saxophones
- October 13, 2017 **Dan Deacon Ensemble**, *Spiderman of the Rings 10th Anniversary*
Baritone Saxophone
- April 8, 2017 **Powerhouse Big Band**, *Big Swing Thing* Festival
Lead Alto Saxophone
- November, 2016 **Baltimore Rock Opera Society**, *Brides of Tortuga*
Saxophones and Flute
- June, 2016 **Baltimore Rock Opera Society**, *Amphion*
Saxophones and Flute