

# Jessica Keyes

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## Composer and Performer

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

## Selected Ensembles

2017 - present **Bedlam Brass**

Bandleader, Composer, and Baritone Saxophone

2015 - present **Baltimore Rock Opera Society**

Showrunner, composer, and music director for *The Gold Night*. Band member for several productions from 2015 – 2018.

2019 - present

**Mueo** (solo project)

Composer/Arranger, Synthesizers, Woodwinds, Piano

2021 - 2023

**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 performed about every other month.

2019 - 2020

**Ecstata** (improvisatory collaboration with April Camlin)

Synthesizers, Saxophones

## Notable Performances and Projects

Spring, 2024

**Floating wetlands music installation** at the National Aquarium

Patrick McMinn and I are adapting our work *Will the Great Water Remember* for a permanent installation in the new floating wetlands at the National Aquarium, opening in the summer of 2024. This work will take live data collected at the nearby water quality testing station and transform it into generative music.

April 19, 2023

**Bedlam's Big F\*cking Desk Concert** at Area 405

The inaugural concert in Bedlam Brass' new series, featuring a HUGE desk-stage and whimsical local performers.

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.

- July 7, 2023 **Bedlam Brass** at Current Space  
Produced and performed this show, with supporting performances from Baltimore bands Cora Sone and Mowder Oyal.
- June 10, 2023 **Bedlam Brass** with the Dan Deacon Ensemble  
Wrote arrangements and performed at a WTMD celebration at the B&O Railroad Museum.
- 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.
- January 27, 2023 **Trucker Talk** at Black Cherry Puppet Theater  
Performed original songs in this chamber pop ensemble to celebrate the release of our music video *Coming Down*.
- January 20, 2023 **Bedlam Brass** at Charm City Meadworks  
Booked and performed at this sold out show celebrating Bedlam's 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a band.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

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
- 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
- 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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

## Education

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