

Thomas Nicholson

(3.2019)

CONTACT

Zähringerstraße 29

10707 Berlin | Germany

+49 176 6387 9937

nicholson.thomas@outlook.com

www.thomasnicholson.ca

ABOUT

Thomas Nicholson (* 1995 in Fredericton, CA) is a composer, keyboardist and violinist. After studying composition with Christopher Butterfield at the University of Victoria (Canada), he moved to Berlin in 2017 to work closely with Marc Sabat at the Berlin University of the Arts. Driven by (artistic) practices from many times and fields ranging from cosmology to painting to interdisciplinary experiments, his compositions since 2014 have focused on the expressive interaction between counterpoint and the distinctive harmonic 'fusing' evoked through microtonal just intonation ('pure tuning'). Composing primarily for chamber settings, he is actively researching and developing the practical means of realising microtonal music on acoustic instruments. His recent awards and honours include first prizes from the SOCAN Foundation for compositions *MOTTE* and *ABOUT* (2017) as well as SOCAN's John Weinzwieg Grand Prize (2017), the DAAD Prize from the Berlin University of the Arts (2018) and a feature in CBC Music's '30 hot Canadian classical musicians under 30' (2018).

STUDIES

- 2017- Universität der Künste Berlin (Germany)
Master of Music (composition, intonation research)
- teacher: Marc Sabat
- 2013-7 University of Victoria (BC, Canada)
Bachelor of Music (composition, theory and piano)
- teachers: Christopher Butterfield (composition), Arthur Rowe (piano)
- 2009-13 St. Thomas University (NB, Canada)
Independent study (music theory and composition)
- teacher: Dr. Martin Kutnowski
- 2009-11 Mount Allison University (NB, Canada)
Independent study (piano)
- teacher: Dr. Stephen Runge

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- 2018 Feature in CBC Music's *30 hot Canadian classical musicians under 30*
- <http://bit.ly/2vLip9z>
DAAD Prize | Universität der Künste Berlin (Germany), 1000 EUR
- 2017 The John Weinzwieg Grand Prize | SOCAN Foundation, 3000 CAD
- composition: *ABOUT*
The Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards (1st prize) | SOCAN Foundation, 3000 CAD
- composition: *ABOUT*
The Serge Grant Awards (1st prize) | SOCAN Foundation, 3000 CAD
- composition: *MOTTE*
- 2015 The Martlet Award | University of Victoria, 5000 CAD
- 2014-6 Arts Scholarship (stipend) | NB Arts Council (Canada), 2500 CAD / year

PROFESSIONAL & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2018- Tutor/Teaching Assistant for Marc Sabat's Intonationstheorie course at UdK Berlin
- 2018- Tutor for the UNI.K Studio for Sound Research and Sound Art at UdK Berlin
- 2016-7 Assistant to the Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria (Canada)
- 2014-7 Teaching Assistant at the University of Victoria (Canada): MUS 180F-480F
- 2012-16 Summer Music Program Coordinator at the University of New Brunswick (Canada)

RESEARCH

- 2018 *Fundamental Principles of Just Intonation and Microtonal Composition*
- cowritten with Marc Sabat | www.marcsabat.com/pdfs/JI.pdf
- 2018 *Helmholtz-Ellis 31-Limit harmonic space calculator with Johnston notation converter and 23-limit enharmonic pitch-class comparison function for composition and analysis of microtonal music*
- www.plainsound.org/HEJI/

COMMISSIONS

- 2018/9 *ANSTATT* for Neuköllner Originaltöne Festival (Berlin, Germany)
- 2016 *THAT, WHICH* for the Fredericton Symphony Orchestra (NB, Canada)
- 2015 *ALONG, AROUND* for Atlantic Sinfonia (NB, Canada)
- 2014 *Tombeau de Souvenirs* for the Fredericton Symphony Orchestra (NB, Canada)
- 2014 *Apparitions* for the Bathurst Chamber Music Festival (NB, Canada)

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

- 2018 *SCHWER ABSCHIED NEHMEN WENN ICH TASCHENTUCH SEHE* | collaborative multimedia live performance combining dance, music, and installation in Urbanraum (Berlin)
- with dancer/writer Luisa Rüster
- 2017 *servicemaster* | multimedia installation in Christ Church Cathedral (Victoria)
- with artist Kimberely Farris-Manning
- 2016 *servicemaster* | multimedia performance at the University of Victoria
- with artist Kimberely Farris-Manning

RECORDING PROJECTS AS PIANIST

- 2019 *Sonata No. 30 in E major* | Ludwig van Beethoven; *Palais de Mari* | Morton Feldman
- piano in Sabat II just intonation well temperament, KM28 (Berlin-Neukölln)
- 2017 *Canteyodjaya* | Olivier Messiaen; *Palais de Mari* | Morton Feldman
- piano, University of Victoria (Canada)
- 2015 *Sonatas and Interludes* | John Cage
- prepared piano, University of Victoria (Canada)

a complete portfolio of compositions with a selection of scores and recordings is available on my website at www.thomasnicholson.ca/music.