

Biography

Finding narrative in natural processes and acoustic phenomena, Nathan Davis "writes music that deals deftly and poetically with timbre and sonority" (*NYTimes*), elucidating essential characters of instruments and the fragile athleticism of playing them. Acoustic space and electronics are engaged to reveal and exaggerate subtle complexities of sound, forming an architectural sound-world through which the audience travels in experiencing a piece.

The BAM Next Wave Festival and American Opera Projects presented the world premiere of *Hagoromo*, a chamber dance-opera featuring the International Contemporary Ensemble, soloists Katalin Karolyi and Peter Tantsits, the Brooklyn Youth Chorus, and featuring dancers Wendy Whelan and Jock Soto, also featured at the Guggenheim Museum's "Works and Process". The Donaueschinger Musiktage commissioned Davis's *Echeia* for string quartet and live electronics, and Tanglewood presented the premiere of *The Sand Reckoner* (a "macrocosmic masterpiece" - *Boston Globe*) for six solo voices and celeste. Lincoln Center inaugurated its Tully Scope Festival with the premiere of Nathan's work *Bells*, a site-specific, electroacoustic piece for ensemble and live broadcast to mobile phones.

Davis has received commissions from Ensemble CBarré (France), Christ Church Preservation Trust (Philadelphia), Jacob Greenberg and Ekmeles vocal ensemble, the Calder Quartet, Claire Chase, Steven Schick, Miller Theatre, The La Jolla Symphony Chorus, Third Coast Percussion, MATA, and Yarn/Wire. International performances of his music have been heard at Acht Brücken Köln, Aspekte Salzburg, Helsinki Musica Nova, Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt, Audio Art Krakow, and other festivals in Holland, China, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, and Australia. In the USA, his music been presented at Carnegie Hall, Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center, Miller Theatre, Merkin Hall, Symphony Space, The Kitchen, Roulette, Le Poisson Rouge, The Stone, Issue Project Room, the Park Avenue Armory, and in portrait concerts at Spoleto Festival USA and the MCA Chicago.

Nathan was a Fellow at the Camargo Foundation in Cassis, France, was the 2018 Aaron Copland Fellow at the Bogliasco Foundation, and focused a residency on electronics and spatialization at the GMEM in Marseille. He has also received awards from the Fromm Foundation, Meet The Composer, Aaron Copland Fund, Jerome Foundation, NYSCA, and New Music USA. He and Phyllis Chen won an NY Innovative Theater Award for their score to Sylvia Milo's play "The Other Mozart". Albums of Davis' music appear on New Focus, Bridge, Tundra, and Starkland, and have also been broadcast live on SWR2 in Germany and featured on PBS [Live from Lincoln Center](#), NPR's [All Things Considered](#), and WNYC's [New Sounds](#).

Also an active percussionist, Davis has premiered hundreds of pieces, working with luminaries and fostering emerging composers. He has appeared as a concerto soloist with the Seattle Symphony, Tokyo Symphony, and Nagoya Philharmonic.

Davis teaches composition and electronic music at The New School College of Performing Arts. Prior to that he taught at Montclair State University, and at Dartmouth College for eight years. He has given masterclasses on composition, electronics, and extended percussion techniques at Manhattan School of Music, UC Berkeley, CalArts, Rice, Baylor, Yale, and the Akademia Muzyczna in Krakow, Poland, with additional residencies at Harvard, Princeton, UCSD, Brown, and other universities across North America. Nathan received his Masters in Music from Yale University, Bachelors degrees in both composition and percussion at Rice University, and was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to study at the Rotterdams Conservatorium in Holland.