

MELISSA HYATT FOSS

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Instrument-maker, musician, composer-performer, researcher, and teaching artist developing artistic and educational projects that explore Pre-Colonial sound artifacts of the Americas and their applications in contemporary art and music.

EDUCATION

Master’s Degree in Musical Creation, New Technologies, and Traditional Arts	2018
Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero Buenos Aires, Argentina	
Specialization: Construction of and composition with Indigenous instruments of the Americas	
Bachelor of Arts in Art History	2006
James Madison University Harrisonburg, VA	
Year-long study abroad program	2004-2005
Wells College Paris, France	

AWARDS, COMMISSIONS & AQUISITIONS

<i>Featured work</i> , MUSLAB International Electroacoustic Music Exhibition (Ecuador)	2024
Leah Reid Electroacoustic and Music Technology Prize	2024
Composition “Palingenesis” awarded in the 43rd Search for New Music Competition by the International Alliance for Women in Music.	
The Walters Art Museum	2021-2024
Commissioned to build three working historical replicas of musical instruments for the museum’s permanent exhibition of the Art of the Americas collection (opening May 2025).	
Baltimore Museum of Art	2023
Original double flute acquired for interactive educational installation in the Patricia and Mark Joseph Education Center.	
<i>Instrument Commission</i> , Birdsongs Project, Shika Shika (France)	2021
<i>Recommended Work</i> , International Rostrum of Composers (Paris, France)	2019
<i>First Prize, Contemporary Music Category</i> , Argentine National Music Council (Arg)	2018
Orchestra of Indigenous Instruments & New Technologies (Arg)	2014-2018
Commissioned to build three hand-carved wooden rattles for the Orchestra’s permanent collection, for use in concerts and presentations.	

EXHIBITIONS

Solo Exhibitions

Kith & Kin: A Rewilding of Sound and Form. Creative Alliance (Baltimore, MD) 2025

Group Exhibitions

Off the Web. The Peale (Baltimore, MD) 2024

The Big Show. Creative Alliance (Baltimore, MD) 2024

Come Through. Amalie Rothschild Gallery (Baltimore, MD) 2024

Reaching Out. Amalie Rothschild Gallery (Baltimore, MD) 2023

The Big Show. Creative Alliance (Baltimore, MD) 2023

Artist in Residence Exhibition. Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild (Woodstock, NY) 2023

The Big Show. Creative Alliance (Baltimore, MD) 2022

Claymates. SoCo Arts Labs (Annapolis, MD) 2022

TEACHING ARTIST EXPERIENCE (Selected)

Teaching Artist Roster, Maryland State Arts Council 2022-Present

Teaching Artist Roster, Story Tapestries, Inc. (MD) 2022-Present

Teaching Artist Roster, Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts (MD) 2022-Present

Instrument-Making Class & Workshop series, Creative Alliance (MD) 2021-Present

Maryland Traditions Artist-in-Residence, UMBC (MD) 2024-2025

Rattle-making workshops, Multiple locations, Enoch Pratt Library (MD) 2024

Residency, Arlington Elementary School (MD) 2024

Residency, The Carl and Norma Miller Children's Center (MD) 2024

Residency, William Wirt Middle School (MD) 2023, 2024

Residency, Overlook Elementary School (MD) 2023, 2024

Residency, Capitol Heights Elementary School (MD) 2023, 2024

Residency, Neelsville Middle School (MD) 2022

BMA Makers: Flute-Making Workshop, Baltimore Museum of Art 2022

Audiovisual Conference, Shepherd University (WV) 2022

Flute-Making Workshop, Potters Guild of Frederick (MD) 2022

Audiovisual Conference, Potters Guild of Frederick (MD) 2021

Adjunct Professor, National University of Argentina at Tres de Febrero (ARG) 2014 – 2019

ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS

Palingenesis, Self-Published 2024

Composition for hand-built triple flute, field recordings, found natural instruments, and electronics.

Whewan, Self-Published 2023

Composition for electronic instruments, found natural instruments, and handcrafted horn and flutes.

Sounds of the Americas, Published by Shika Shika (Berlin) 2022

Sample pack recorded with hand-crafted flutes, zumbadores, turú, whistling bottle, ocarina, and rattles.

ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS, Continued

<i>Innervision</i> , Published by Shika Shika (Berlin)	2021
Composition for electronics and hand-built double flute, noise generator, and turú.	
<i>Hanblecheyapi</i> , Self-Published	2018
Composition for voice, electronics, and hand-built ocarina, rattles, and whistling bottle.	

PERFORMANCES

National Gallery of Art (DC)	2025
Enoch Pratt Library, Southeast Anchor Branch (MD)	2024
Enoch Pratt Library, Central Branch (MD)	2024
Mid Atlantic Wilderness at 2640 Space (MD)	2024
Current Space (MD)	2024
Baker Artist Awards Finalist Showcase at Baltimore Theatre Project (MD)	2024
DCPL Public Libraries, Multiple locations (DC)	2024
Ronald McDonald House (DC)	2024
Rhizome (DC)	2023
Mid Atlantic Wilderness at The Crown (MD)	2023
Mid Atlantic Wilderness at The Crown (MD)	2022

PERFORMANCES AS SOLOIST WITH THE ORCHESTRA OF INDIGENOUS INSTRUMENTS (Selected)

<i>III Simposio de la Sección de Estudios del Cono Sur</i> , Buenos Aires, Argentina	2019
<i>Conferencia Regional de Educación Superior de América Latina y el Caribe</i> , Córdoba, Argentina	2018
<i>Bienal Sur</i> , Museo de los Inmigrantes, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2017
<i>Día de la Diversidad Cultural</i> , Congreso de la Nación, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2017
<i>Descolonizando la Música</i> , Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico	2016
<i>9° Encuentro Bienal Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo de América del Sur</i> , Córdoba, Argentina	2016
<i>Inauguración del Monumento de Juana Azurduy</i> , Casa Rosada, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2015
<i>TedX Río de la Plata</i> , Teatro de la Usina del Arte, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2015
<i>Celebración del Día de la Tradición</i> , Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2015
<i>VI Festival de Música de Cámara Leo Brouwer</i> , Havana, Cuba	2014
<i>Embajada de Argentina en Francia: Sons de l'Amérique Cachée</i> , Paris, France	2014
<i>Berlioz Festival</i> , Hector Berlioz Museum, La Côte-Saint-André, France	2014
<i>Berlioz Festival</i> , Châtenay Church, La Côte-Saint-André, France	2014
<i>IV Congreso Argentino de la Cultura</i> , Resistencia, Argentina	2013
<i>The College Music Society International Conference</i> , Buenos Aires, Argentina	2013

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Barro Residency (Río Negro, Argentina)	Forthcoming Jan 2025
Creative Alliance (Baltimore, MD)	2021-2024
Barro Residency (Chubut, Argentina)	2023
Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild (Woodstock, NY)	2022