

Catherine Thompson catherine@fiain.com
Artist CV

Catherine Thompson is a Canadian composer, musician, visual artist and instrument maker. She has composed for numerous notable Canadian choreographers including Kate Alton, Louise Bédard, Susanna Hood, Sasha Ivanochko, Susan Lee, Elena Mamais, Naoko Murakoshi, Tedd Robinson, Julia Sasso, Heidi Strauss, Darryl Tracy and Eryn Dace Trudell.

Catherine uses voice extensively, singing in English and frequently Irish (Donegal) Gaelic using traditional, contemporary and wide-ranging vocal techniques. She plays guitar and other fretted instruments, viola, percussion, various flutes (a long history within Irish flute and piping traditions) and several self-created instruments. These last mentioned instruments are a major focus for Catherine at present and are a musical focus of her current project, The Skuld Project. Recently made instruments constructed using raw deerhide-covered gourds include a cora, banjo, a 'da gamba' inspired bowed instrument, a gourdudu and several bone flutes.

Catherine most recently spent the winter of 2008 at The Banff Centre making instruments, performing and preparing music and lyrics for The Skuld Project. A major element of the project involves intimate performances in conjunction with long distance travel by horseback. An exploration of and search for a deep and sure connection with the natural world through the motivations and perceptions of the mythical transformation character/being Skuld. Of mythic imagining and re-vision-ing, The Skuld Project is about the search and struggle to find the state where all spoke as one, when all were as one. To resist the destruction of the wild.

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A few selected press quotes:

Catherine Thompson...contrasts city noises with the recorded sound of bird calls and forest streams, live drumming, vocalizing and the meditative drone of an instrument I can only describe as a primitive double bass. It sounds wonderful...

...Thompson is an imposing, statuesque woman and her physical presence is crucial. She is a benign observer of Trudell's episodic journey, a comforting goddess, a spirit of the forest, a maternal presence...

Michael Crabb - The National Post, 2001 for Heliotrope choreographed by Eryn Dance Trudell

...Piano music remains at the very edge of Catherine Thompson's score, as does the element of human emotion. The voice that rises throughout the score invokes the human reality that is lacking in this landscape of ruins... Lindsay Zier - Vogel, 2003 for The King and Queen of Ruins choreographed by Sasha Ivanochko.

... evocative soundscapes composed by Catherine Thompson... Susan Walker - The Toronto Star, 2001 – Nucleus choreographed by Susan Lee.

...In this concert, composer Catherine Thompson was also part of the mix, either triggering or mirroring movement with a wide range of instruments from a concertina to a cow bell...

Paula Citron - The Globe and Mail, 2005 for Is This Love? & Suite of 4 Miniatures choreographed by Sasha Ivanochko.

...Death, immortality and a mythical character will be the foundation for a unique music/prose performance to take place later this month...."She (her character) is trying to remember life in the earliest of times," said the accomplished guitar player...Dave Stobbe - Rocky Mountain Outlook, 2003 for a performance in Banff (this performance was the beginning of The Skuld Project described in the project description)

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Banff Centre Residencies

Long Term Music Creation Residencies Winter 2009
Autumn 2008
Winter 2008

Leighton Studios for Independent Residencies Winter 2006
Sept – Oct. 2005
Winter 2005
Winter 2003

Banff Centre Theatre Department

Creation Residency Spring – Autumn 2003
Dance Creation Residency w/ dancers Helen Husak,
Lori Duncan, choreographer Sasha Ivanochko &
myself composing the score. May 2009

Film/TV

A Windigo Tale 2009 Sound Design & Original
Armand Ruffo Composition
writer/producer/director

Selected Compositions, Performances & Presentations

The Future Memory Heartbreak Junction Dancemakers Studio Theatre
Choreography – Sasha Ivanochko December 2008 Toronto - recorded

Rocks July 2008 The Barn, 10 Gates Dancing,
Choreography – Tedd Robinson Gatineau – live performance

Banff Centre/Harbourfront June 2008 Harbourfront Centre
instrument making presentation Toronto

Ils May 2008 Tangente
Choreography – Fred Marier Montreal - recorded

Unspeakable May 2008 The Pia Bouman Studio Theatre
Choreography – Julia Sasso, Performed by Tanya Crowder Toronto - recorded

Banff Centre 2008 Winter Music Residency – Numerous performances and recordings during the Winter 2008 program. Please go to www.fiain.com/sonic.html for MP3 recordings.

Sunshine December 2007 The Premiere Dance Theatre
Choreography – Sasho Ivanochko for Toronto – recorded
The Toronto Dance Theatre

Banff Centre 2007 Winter Leighton Residency – Numerous performances and recordings during the Winter of 2006, including the beginning of The Water Peace Project with Eugene Skeef, Bev Simms, Rae Howel and others.

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Self Titled CD with 12 Original Compositions. Released August 2005 with a cross-Canada Tour during the autumn of 2005 including a western CD release performance presented by The Banff Centre and The Banff Public Library

The Betrayal Project Choreography – Julia Sasso	February 2006	The Premiere Dance Theatre Toronto - recorded
Is This Love? Suite of Black Miniatures Choreography – Sasha Ivanochko	June 2005	Winchester St. Theatre, Toronto recorded and live performance
Before Flight Cracks in the Water Allain Duinn Today I found the Sunshine in my head A Postcard from the Hedge	Spring 2003	New songs Premiered at the Banff Centre for the Arts in live performance
Water... on the Rocks	Summer 2003	Parks Canada Heritage Original Theatrical Production recorded
Perdida choreography – Elena Mamais	Nov. 2002	Lorraine Kimsa Theatre, Toronto - live performance
Skin Quest S3 Nucleus Choreography – Susan Lee	Nov. 2001	Dancemakers Studio Theatre Toronto - recorded
The King and Queen of Ruins Choreography – Sasha Ivanochko	Aug. 2001	Buddies in Bad Times Theatre Toronto - recorded
Heliotrope Choreography – Eryn Dace Trudell	June 2001	Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Toronto – recorded and live performance
Medea Choreography – Elena Mamais Music co-created with Ed Hanley	Nov. 2000	Jane Mallet Theatre, Toronto – live performance
Cassiopeia Choreography – Serge Bennathan, Karen Kaeja, Peggy Baker and Roger Sinha. Produced by Corpus	April 1999	Harbourfront Theatre, Toronto recorded and live performance
le cœur de l'ombre Choreography – Darryl Tracy	Dec. 1998	Harbourfront Theatre, Toronto recorded

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of transient overtures Choreography – Heidi Strauss	Dec. 1998	Harbourfront Theatre, Toronto recorded
Uninvited Choreography – Darryl Tracy	Aug. 1998	Withrow Park, Toronto live performance
Créature Choreography – Louise Bédard	May 1998	Dancemakers Studio Theatre, Toronto – recorded
Elimination of Lateral Violence Choreography – Susan Lee and Eryn Dace Trudell	Aug. 1997	Budies in Bad Times Theatre Toronto - recorded
macadam...little broken rocks Choreography – Darryl Tracy	Summer, 1997	Dancemakers Studio Theatre Toronto - recorded and live Performance
Studies of the Heart Choreography – Susanna Hood	Sept. 1994	Winchester St. Theatre Toronto – live performance
<u>Training</u>		
Voice studies with David Dunbar, Toronto		1993 to the present
Voice studies with Daniel Taylor, Banff Centre		October 2008 during Daniel's 4 day stay at the Centre
Voice studies with Lenora Eves, NYC		September 1995
Voice studies with Eileen Smith, Toronto		August 1992 – May 1993
Ear Training with Art Levine		Spring 1997
Irish language immersion & singing study at Oideas Gael in the Donegal Gaeltacht, Ireland. Sean-nós (traditional singing) workshops taught by Gearóidín Bhreathnach.		July - August 2000
Scottish gaelic language and singing workshop. U of Toronto		Autumn 1996
Irish Gaelic , Modern verse in Irish (c.1600-1900) University of Toronto		1994, 1995
Uilleann Pipes and Tin Whistle w/ Chris Langen		1985
Viola with Carol Rowe, Toronto		1973- 1978
Flamenco Guitar with Peter Knight, Bill Katsoukias and Miguel de la Bastide		various times
Acting technique and scene study with Anna Macay Smith Cast (Centre for Actor's Studies in Toronto)		1994, 1995
Mitzvah Technique with Grace Miyagawa		October 1994 – 1999
Limon Dance with Edie Shaw and Darryl Tracy		January 1996 – 2000
Butoh dance workshops with Diego Pinon &		Spring 1999
Voice and movement workshops with URGE		Autumn 1997 & 1999