

# Dr. Thomas Ciufu

Sherman Fairchild Artist-in-Residence  
Arts and Technology  
Smith College  
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## Education

### **Ph.D. in Computer Music and New Media**

Brown University (2004)

Ph.D. Dissertation: *Computer-Mediated Improvisation*

### **Masters of Arts in Computer Music and Multimedia Composition**

Brown University (2002)

Masters Thesis: *Three Meditations: Discussion of a Recent Work*

### **Bachelors of Music in Composition**

University of Northern Colorado (1988)

## Selected Professional Appointments

### **Sherman Fairchild Artist-in-Residence (2006-Present)**

Arts and Technology

Smith College, Northampton, MA

### **Postdoctoral Research Associate (2005-2006)**

Arts, Media, and Engineering Program

Herberger College of Fine Arts, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

### **Lecturer / Technical Manager / Researcher (2000-2005)**

Computer Music and Multimedia Program

Music Department, Brown University, Providence, RI

### **Music Technology Consultant / Audio Production Manager (1997-1999)**

School of Music, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI

### **Digital Media Producer / Audio Engineer (1994-1997)**

The Studio, Portland, ME

### **Recording Engineer / Location Producer (1994-1997)**

Portland Symphony Orchestra, Portland, ME

### **Arts Technology Consultant (1990-1994)**

Performing and Visual Arts, University of Northern CO, Greeley, CO

### **Theatrical Sound Designer (1988-1989)**

Denver Center Theatre Company, Denver, CO

## University Teaching

**Sonic Art: Theory and Practice**  
Smith College (2009)

**Introduction to Computing and the Arts**  
Smith College (2008)

**Introduction to Media Arts and Technology**  
Smith College (2006-2008)

**Electronic Music Composition Seminar**  
Brown University (2002-2004)

**Directed Research in Computer Music and Multimedia**  
Brown University (2002-2005)

**Computers and Music**  
Brown University (2001)

**Computers and Music**  
Brown University (Summer Session, 2001)

**Computers and Music: Teaching Assistant**  
Brown University (1999)

**Introduction to Audio Recording and Sound Technology**  
Central Michigan University (1997)

**Audio Recording and Production**  
University of Northern CO, Rocky Mountain Recording Workshop (1997-2004)

**Digital Media Production and Audio Recording Basics**  
University of Northern CO, Rocky Mountain Music Technology Workshop (1996)

**Stereo Recording Techniques**  
Bowdoin College, Recording Workshop (1996)

**Classical Recording Seminar**  
University of Wyoming, Recording Workshop (1995)

**Introduction to Music Technology**  
University of Northern Colorado (1993-1994)

**Audio Recording and Sound Technology for Composers**  
Naropa University (1993)

## Teaching / Research Interests

Collaborative / interdisciplinary media arts research and practice  
Multimedia performance / computer-mediated improvisation  
Digital / multimedia installation  
Interactive systems and physical computing  
Sound art and acoustic ecology  
Computer music and new media composition  
Historical / cultural aspects of sound and media technology  
Real-time digital signal processing and sound spatialization

## Research / Writing / Presentations

***Composer-Improviser: Merging Roles through Computer-Mediated Performance***

Presented at the McGill-Suoni per il Popolo Improvisation Colloquium: Text, Media, and Improvisation, Montreal (2008)

***Rethinking Virtuosity: Computer-Mediated Performance & Extended Instruments***

Presented at the Extensible Electric Guitar Festival; Instruments of the Post-Prohibitive Age Clark University, Worcester, MA (2008)

***Arts and Technology: Pedagogy and Curriculum Design***

Chair, panel discussion, Eleventh Biennial Symposium on Arts and Technology New London, CT (2008)

***Computer-Mediated / Interactive Performance: Moving Boundary Problem - Case Study***

(w/ David Birchfield) Presented at the Enaction in Arts Symposium, Grenoble, France (2007)  
Published in the Enaction in Arts Symposium proceedings (2007)

***Citizen Artist Beyond Boundaries***

Panel discussion, Education Department, Museum of Art, Smith College Northampton, MA (2007)

***Arts and Technology***

Panel discussion, organized by the Student Liaisons of the Department of Art Smith College, Northampton, MA (2006)

***Sound and Interaction for K-12 Mediated Education*** (w/ Birchfield et al.)

Presented at the International Computer Music Conference, New Orleans, LA (2006)  
Published in the International Computer Music Conference proceedings (2006)

***SMALLab: a Mediated Platform for Education*** (w/ Birchfield and Minyard)

Presented at the SIGGRAPH Conference, Boston, MA (2006)  
Published in the SIGGRAPH Conference proceedings (2006)

***Moving Boundary Problem: An Interactive Performance Project*** (w/ David Birchfield)

Presented at the Tenth Biennial Symposium on Arts and Technology New London, CT (2006)  
Published in the Tenth Biennial Symposium on Arts and Technology proceedings (2006)

***Beginner's Mind: An Environment for Sonic Improvisation***

Presented at the International Computer Music Conference, Barcelona, Spain (2005)  
Published in the International Computer Music Conference proceedings (2005)

***Computer-Mediated Performance: Human-Machine Interaction***

Presented at the Performance Studies International Conference Brown University, Providence, RI (2005)

***Improvising with Computers: Ideas and Approaches***

Chair, panel discussion, Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States National Conference, Ball State University (2005)

***Computer-Mediated Improvisation***

Ph.D. Dissertation, Brown University, Providence, RI (2004)

***Design Concepts and Control Strategies for Interactive Improvisational Music Systems***

Presented at the MAXIS International Festival / Symposium of Sound and Experimental Music Festival, Leeds, UK and published in the MAXIS proceedings (2003)

***Three Meditations: Discussion of a Recent Work***

Written as part of Masters of Arts Degree, Brown University, Providence, RI (2002)

***Real-Time Sound / Image Manipulation and Mapping in a Performance Setting***

Presented at the Digital Arts and Culture Conference, Providence, RI (2001)

MAXIS Festival of Sound and Experimental Music, Sheffield, UK (2002)

Published in the MAXIS proceedings (2002)

**Selected Performances / Compositions** (All performances by Thomas Ciufu)

***Second Dialogue*** for two computer-mediated improvisers (w/ Curtis Bahn)

Smith College Arts and Technology Performance Festival, Hallie Flanagan Theatre  
Northampton, MA (2008)

***Silent Movies*** for computer-mediated performer and video (video by Mark Domino)

International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression, Genoa, Italy (2008)

Extensible Electric Guitar Festival, Clark University, Worcester, MA (2008)

New West Electronic Arts and Music Organization Festival, Boulder, CO (2007)

New Works Performance Series, Hallie Flanagan Theatre, Northampton, MA (2007)

***Moving Boundary Problem*** for extended percussion and computer (w/ David Birchfield)

Enaction in Arts Symposium, Grenoble, France (2007)

International Computer Music Conference, New Orleans, LA (2006)

The Tenth Biennial Symposium on Arts and Technology, New London, CT (2006)

Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Art, Minneapolis, MN (2006)

Visiones Sonoras International Festival, Mexico City (2005)

***Just Intoning*** for two improvisers (w/ Pauline Oliveros)

International Society for Improvised Music, Ann Arbor, MI (2006)

AMP Ensemble Concert with guest artist Pauline Oliveros, Phoenix, AZ (2005)

***Sonic Improvisation #N: Beginner's Mind*** for sounding objects and computer

New Works Performance Series, Hallie Flanagan Theatre, Northampton, MA (2007)

International Computer Music Conference, Off-ICMC, Barcelona (2005)

International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression, Vancouver (2005)

Sonus, Sayles Hall, Providence, RI (2004)

***Improvisation*** (with the AMP Ensemble)

New World Electroacoustic Music Organization Festival, San Diego, CA (2005)

***Eighth Nerve meets Needles*** computer-mediated performance (w/ Shawn Greenlee)

Performance Studies International Conference, Providence, RI (2005)

***First Dialogue*** for prepared electric guitar and sensor bass (w/ Curtis Bahn)

Sonus, Sayles Hall, Providence, RI (2004)

***Eighth Nerve*** for prepared electric guitar and computer

International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression, Montreal (2003)

MAXIS International Festival / Symposium of Sound and Experimental Music, UK (2003)

***Inviting the Bell to Sound*** for Tibetan singing bowl and computer

Smith College Arts and Technology Performance Festival, Hallie Flanagan Theatre  
Northampton, MA (2008)

Sonus, Sayles Hall, Providence, RI (2004)

MAXIS International Festival / Symposium of Sound and Experimental Music, UK (2003)

3 is 3 but 5 is 5 (a Concert by the Students of Alvin Lucier) Providence, RI (2003)

**Sonic Improvisation #N** for sound objects and computer  
MAXIS Festival of Sound and Experimental Music, UK (2002)  
MacColl.Sit, Brown University, Providence, RI (2002)

**Sound / Space Study** for sound makers and computer (w/ Jason McGill)  
The Book Mill Performance Series, Montague, MA (2001)  
Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI (2000)

**Three Meditations** for prepared piano and computer  
Sonus, Sayles Hall, Brown University, Providence, RI (2004)  
Florida Electroacoustic Music Festival, Gainesville, FL (2002)  
Digital Polyphony Festival, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA (2001)

**Found Sound** a site-specific improvisation for found sounds and computer  
Trash Rock Art Show, Production Workshop, Providence, RI (2001)

**Incantation #2** for Native American flute, computer, and real-time video  
Electroacoustic Concert, Grant Auditorium, Brown University, Providence, RI (1999)

**Incantation #1** for Native American flute and tape  
Central Michigan University New Music Series, Mount Pleasant, MI (1999)

**Harvest** for eight channel tape (collaboration with the group Cerberus Shoal)  
Central Michigan University New Music Series, Mount Pleasant, MI (1999)

**Sun at Midnight** self-produced CD project (1995) with airplay on *Music from the Hearts of Space*, (National Public Radio) and *The New Edge*, Cambridge, MA

## Digital Media Installations and Gallery Pieces

**Motion Study #5** an interactive digital video painting  
Interactive Expressions Art Exhibit, Center for Advanced Visual Studies  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA (2001)

**Resonance** an interactive sound installation  
Scraping Skies, New Music Concert, Brown University, Providence, RI (2000)

**Channels** a real-time, interactive TV/sound installation  
Archaeology of Multimedia Conference, Brown University, Providence, RI (2000)

**Walking at the Speed of Light** original music and multichannel audio  
Tinton Gallery for the Visual Arts, Greeley, CO (1995)

## Selected Recording and Production Credits

Produced CMU pipe organ series featured on the NPR program, *Pipe Dreams* (1999)  
Recorded and co-produced CMU School of Music CD, *A New Beginning* (1998)  
Edited/mastered Bowdoin Chamber Choir CD, *Music of the Renaissance* (1996)  
Edited/mastered CD, *Picture Gallery Blues* by Cormac McCarthy (1995)  
Edited/mastered Kate Schrock solo CD, *Refuge* (1994)  
Recorded/produced chamber music CD, *Relations* by the duChateau Ehle Duo (1993)  
Synthesizer programming/production on CD, *Perfectly Human* by Mark Sloniker (1992)

## **Additional Activities / Professional Memberships**

Acting Chair; Arts and Technology Working Group, Smith College (2006-present)  
Producer; Arts and Technology Guest Artist Series, Smith College (2006-present)  
Producer; Arts and Technology Performance Festival, Smith College (2008)  
Faculty Mentor; STRIDE Program, Smith College (2007-present)  
MFA Thesis Committee Member; Maura Donohue, Smith College (2007-2008)  
Organizing fellow; Open Labs / Open Studios, Kahn Liberal Arts Institute (2007)  
Consultant to Hiring Committee; Computer Science Department, Smith College (2006-2007)  
Consultant to Hiring Committee; Art Department, Smith College (2006-2007)  
Grant consultant; Center for Design and Fabrication, Smith College (2007)  
Co-produced guest artist series, Arts, Media, and Engineering Program, ASU (2005-2006)  
Paper Review Committee, International Computer Music Conference (2005)  
Mentor for the MET School, Big Picture Company Inc. Providence, RI (2000-2004)  
Co-produced guest artist series for the MacColl Studios, Brown University (2001-2003)  
Hiring Committee, Department of Music Brown University (2000, 2002)  
Member, International Society for Improvised Music (ISIM)  
Member, International Computer Music Association (ICMA)  
Member, Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique (IRCAM)  
Member, Electronic Music Foundation (EMF)

## **Selected Professional Development**

McGill-Suoni Improvisation Colloquium: Text, Media, and Improvisation, Montreal (2008)  
International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression, Genoa (2008)  
Extensible Electric Guitar Festival, Clark University, Worcester, MA (2008)  
Eleventh Biennial Symposium on Arts and Technology, New London, CT (2008)  
International Conference on Enactive Interfaces / Enaction in Arts, Grenoble (2007)  
New West Electronic Arts and Music Organization Festival, Boulder, CO (2007)  
International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression, NYC (2007)  
International Society for Improvised Music, Ann Arbor, MI (2006)  
International Computer Music Conference, New Orleans, LA (2006)  
Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Art, Minneapolis, MN (2006)  
International Computer Music Conference, Barcelona (2005)  
Visiones Sonoras International Festival, Mexico City (2005)  
Performance Studies International Conference, Providence, RI (2005)  
New World Electroacoustic Music Organization Festival, San Diego, CA (2005)  
International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression, Vancouver (2005)  
International Convention on Technologies for Music IRCAM, Paris (2002, 2004)  
Surround Sound Seminar, Parsons Center for Audio Studies (2004)  
International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression, Montreal (2003)  
MAXIS Festival / Symposium of Sound and Experimental Music, UK (2002, 2003)  
International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression, Dublin (2002)  
Max/MSP Workshop, CNMAT, University of California, Berkeley, CA (2002)  
Exchange Scholar MIT Media Lab / CAVS, Cambridge, MA (2001)  
Id/entity Symposium, MIT Media Laboratory Cambridge, MA (2001)  
Deep Listening Retreat with Pauline Oliveros, Big Indian, NY (2001)  
International Digital Art and Culture Conference, Providence, RI (2001)  
International Symposium on Electronic Art, Paris (2000)  
Archaeology of Multimedia Conference, Brown University, Providence, RI (2000)