

# NELL SHAW COHEN | COMPOSER, LIBRETTIST, MULTIMEDIA ARTIST

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## EDUCATION

New York University, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York NY

Advanced Certificate in Digital Media Design for Learning, GPA 4.0, May 2015

Master of Music in Music Theory & Composition, GPA 4.0, May 2014

*Studied with Herschel Garfein, Missy Mazzoli, and Julia Wolfe.*

New England Conservatory of Music, Boston MA

Bachelor of Music in Composition with Honors, GPA 3.99, May 2012

*Studied with Michael Gandolfi, John Mallia, and Kati Agocs.*

## SELECTED RESIDENCIES, FELLOWSHIPS, AND WORKSHOPS

University of New Mexico Opera Theatre, Composer-in-Residence (2018)

Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts, Artist-in-Residence (2017)

Page 73 Yale Summer Residency, Guest Artist (2017)

New Dramatists Composer-Librettist Studio (2017)

The Helene Wurlitzer Foundation, Artist-in-Residence (2016 & 2017)

American Opera Projects, "Composers & the Voice" Fellow (2015-17)

New York University Symphony, Composer-in-Residence (2013-14)

Mozilla/Tribeca Film Institute Storytelling Innovation Lab (2013)

## SELECTED COMMISSIONS

Houston Grand Opera / HGOco "Song of Houston" chamber opera (premiere 2021)

Montage Music Society, upcoming work for violin, cello, and piano (premiere 2019)

Mashuq Mushtaq Deen, playwright, *Doreen's Song* (2017) for voice and guitar

Boston GuitarFest, *Wanderlust* (2015) for guitar quartet

New York University Symphony, *Point Reyes from Chimney Rock* (2014) for orchestra

WordSong, *I Like to Play with Him* (2011) for soprano and piano

San Francisco State University Flute Choir, *Trees* (2009) for flute choir

## SELECTED HONORS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Bold City Contemporary Chamber Ensemble Call for Scores (2017)

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Arts Award Scholarship (2012-2015)

NYU Steinhardt Research/Creative Project Award Challenge Grant (2013-2014)

NEC George Whitefield Chadwick Medal (2012)

Presser Scholar Award (2011-2012)

NEC Honors Ensemble Composition Competition (2011)

NEC Entrepreneurial Grant (2010 & 2011)

Carpe Diem Foundation Scholarship (2009-2012)

Ellen Taaffe Zwilich Prize from the International Alliance for Women in Music (2009)

Francis Judd Cooke Scholarship for Students of Composition (2008-2012)

Elizabeth Brockman Composition Award (2008)

Swiss Global Artistic Foundation, Featured Artist (2008)

**COMPLETE LIST OF WORKS AND PERFORMANCES - by genre(s), in reverse chronological order**VOCAL MUSIC & MUSIC FOR THEATER

- ***Mabel's Call* (2017), opera in one act for 2 sopranos, mezzo-soprano, tenor, baritone, bass-baritone, and SATB chorus, with flute, oboe, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, and double bass; ca. 83 mins**
  - Upcoming workshop presentation of full score to be produced by University of New Mexico Opera Theatre in Albuquerque, NM, Fall 2018 (tentative dates: 11/02, 11/03, and 11/04).
  - Excerpts (ca. 20 mins) from piano-vocal score presented in workshop reading as part of “Composers & the Voice: Six Scenes” program produced by American Opera Projects. Performed by Tookah Sapper, soprano; Blake Friedman, tenor; Kyle Guglielmo, baritone; and Mila Henry, piano, at South Oxford Space in Brooklyn, NY, 9/29/16 and The National Opera Center in New York NY, 10/02/16.
  - Excerpts (ca. 40 mins) from piano-vocal score presented in workshop reading, in conjunction with exhibit *Mabel Dodge Luhan & Company: American Moderns and the West*, performed by Shelley Jackson, soprano; Andre Garcia-Nuthmann, tenor; Carlos Archuleta, baritone; and Kristin Ditlow, piano, at the Harwood Museum of Art, Taos NM, 8/12/16.
  - Aria *Tony Teaches Me* (ca. 4 mins) performed by Tookah Sapper, soprano, and Charity Wicks, piano, on “Composers & the Voice: First Glimpse” presented by American Opera Projects, South Oxford Space, Brooklyn NY, 5/13 & 5/14/16.
- ***Doreen's Song* (2017) for voice and acoustic guitar, ca. 7 mins**
  - Song for THE BETTERMENT SOCIETY, a new play in development by Mashuq Mushtaq Deen. Workshops at New Dramatists, Page 73 Yale Summer Residency, and New York Theatre Workshop.
- **Five songs and scenes (*Fallen Star*, *Chase the Rain*, *Fly 'till the light's gone*, *Not Sure it's in Me*, *Turkish Delight*) for 5 voices and piano (2017), 27 minutes**
  - Presented in public working session at culmination of the New Dramatists Composer-Librettist Studio. Performed by Mallory Hawks, Lucia Rodrique, Joshua Hinck, Tim Jerome, Sean Cooper with Roger Ames, piano, at New Dramatists in New York NY, 02/03/17.
- ***Human Child Lullaby* (2016) for soprano and piano, 5 ½ mins**
  - Concert performance of aria written with librettist Edward Einhorn. Performed by Rebecca Shimer, soprano, Elizabeth Manus, piano. The International Wizard of Oz Club, 2016 National Convention, Philadelphia PA, 8/06/16.
- ***Sorting Photos* (2016) for soprano and piano, 5 mins**
  - Written for American Opera Projects' Composers & the Voice fellowship. Performed by Jennifer Goode Cooper, soprano, and Mila Henry, piano, in private workshop on 3/7/16.
- ***What If?* (2015) for bass-baritone and piano, 3 mins**
  - Written for American Opera Projects' Composers & the Voice fellowship. Performed by Jonathan Woody, bass-baritone, and Mila Henry, piano, in private workshop on 1/12/16. Public premiere on “First Glimpse” presented by American Opera Projects, South Oxford Space, Brooklyn NY, 5/13 & 5/14/16.
- ***Bury Me* (2015) for baritone and piano, 4 mins**
  - Written for American Opera Projects' Composers & the Voice fellowship. Performed by Michael Weyandt, baritone, and Kelly Horsted, piano, in private workshop on 12/14/15.

- **Dear Mrs. Carr (2015) for tenor and piano, 5 mins**
  - Written for American Opera Projects' Composers & the Voice fellowship. Performed by Blake Friedman, tenor, and Charity Wicks, piano, in private workshop on 11/16/15. Public premiere on "First Glimpse" presented by American Opera Projects, South Oxford Space, Brooklyn NY, 5/13 & 5/14/16.
- **The Coming of Spring (2014) monodrama for tenor with flute/piccolo, oboe/English horn, clarinet/bass clarinet, horn, bassoon, and piano, 36 mins**
  - Dramatic work with libretto by the composer. Presented in staged workshop performance of full score at NYU Provincetown Playhouse, New York NY. Featuring David Rosenmeyer, conductor; Herschel Garfein, stage director; and Tyler Lee, tenor. 4/29/14.
  - Piano-vocal arrangement of "Collecting" (excerpt) performed on recital by Tyler Lee, tenor. NYU Black Box Theatre, New York NY. Ben Baker, piano. 5/19/14.
  - Piano-vocal arrangement of "Prologue: Two Hollows" (excerpt) performed on UrbanAnimals NYU; NYU Provincetown Playhouse, New York NY. Tyler Lee, tenor; Alice Hargrove, piano. 11/24/14.
- **Crescent Meadow (2014) for SATB choir, 4 ½ minutes**
  - Premiere by New Mexico Highlands University Concert Choir at New Mexico Highlands University, Ilfeld Auditorium, Las Vegas NM, 4/23/17.
- **I Dream'd in a Dream (2011) for SATB choir, 11 mins**
  - The New England Conservatory New Music Vocal Chamber Ensemble. NEC, Brown Hall, Boston MA, 4/06/11. (Movements I & III only.)
- **I Like to Play with Him (2011) for soprano and piano, 4 mins**
  - Commissioned by WordSong. Kristen Watson, soprano; Linda Osborn-Blaschke, piano. St. Botolph Club, Boston MA, 5/24/11.
  - NEC Pierce Hall, Boston MA, 10/26/11.
  - Private salon, Cambridge MA, 11/04/11.
  - Club Oberon, Cambridge MA, 11/14/12.
- **To Create One's Own World (2009) for soprano, flute, bass clarinet and marimba, 5 ½ mins**
  - Rachel Holmes, soprano; Stephanie Cambra, flute; Jay Hutchinson, bass clarinet; Takehiko Mochizuki, marimba. NEC, Brown Hall, Boston MA, 4/21/09.
  - *Beyond the Notes: Music Inspired by Art* composer portrait recital. Morgan Strickland, soprano; Erika Boysen, flute; Jay Hutchinson, bass clarinet; Dave Tarantino, marimba. NEC, Pierce Hall, Boston MA, 11/02/12.
- **Revealed in Stone (2009) for tenor and piano, 11 mins**
  - *Beyond the Notes: Music Inspired by Art* composer portrait recital. Joshua Quinn, tenor; Christina Chao, piano. NEC Pierce Hall, Boston MA, 11/02/12.
  - Mxolisi Duda, tenor; Patricia Au, piano. NEC Williams Hall, Boston MA, 3/31/09.
- **Revealed in Stone (2009) arrangement for tenor and 11-piece chamber ensemble, 11 mins**
  - Featuring Mxolisi Duda, tenor; Aram Demirjian, conductor. NEC Brown Hall, Boston MA, 12/01/09.
- **Songs for Baritone (2008) for baritone and piano, 7 mins**
  - Chad Flynn, baritone; Patricia Au, piano. NEC Williams Hall, Boston MA, 2/02/09.
- **Forming Desires (2008) for contralto, Bb clarinet, horn and cello, 8 mins**
  - Awarded the 2009 Ellen Taaffe Zwilich Prize from the International Alliance for Women in Music.
  - Oriana Dunlop, contralto; Alexandra Frana, clarinet; Lauren Hunt, French horn; David Meyer, cello. NEC Williams Hall, Boston MA, 10/28/08.

- **Memory (2007) for SATB vocal ensemble, 12 ½ mins**

- Recorded at John Kilgore Sound & Recording, New York NY. Kris Gould, soprano; Lawrence Lipnik, alto; John Olund, tenor; Kurt-Owen Richards, bass. Members of Lionheart, Pomerium, Parthenia, et al. 2007.

### CHAMBER MUSIC (INSTRUMENTAL)

- **Upcoming work (2019) for violin, cello, and piano, 12-15 mins**

- Commissioned by Montage Music Society for touring program of music inspired by visual art.

- **Walks at Brush Creek (2017) for piano, 9 mins**

- Premiered by Jon Ensminger on faculty concert at Michigan Technological University, Houghton MI, 12/10/17.

- **Refuge (2016) for flute/piccolo, percussion, violin, and cello, 16 ½ mins**

- Premiered by Cadillac Moon Ensemble on Landscape Music Composers Network concert celebrating National Park Service centennial at Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill NY, 9/09/16.

- **Wanderlust (2015) for guitar quartet, 13 ½ mins**

- Commissioned by Boston GuitarFest for the Faculty of the Young Guitarists Workshop. Boston GuitarFest, NEC Williams Hall, Boston MA. 6/16/15.

- **Dai-Shizen (Great Nature) (2014) for guitar and flute/piccolo, 10 ½ minutes**

- Commissioned by Devin Ulibarri, guitar, and Alicia Mielke, flute/piccolo. Boston GuitarFest, NEC Jordan Hall, Boston MA. 6/28/14.
- Democracy Center, Cambridge MA. 2/13/15.
- Advent Library Concert Series, Boston MA. 4/15/16.
- Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson (with Gabriela Ruiz, flute), Hudson MA. 4/02/17.

- **Horizon (2013) for solo cello, 7 ½ minutes**

- Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill NY. Karlos Rodriguez, Cello: 11/09/13. Richard Vaudrey, Cello: 11/10/13.
- Recorded on-site in public parks by Fjola Evans for short dance film, February 2014.
- Performed by Louise King of Cello Dreaming on Australia tour: The Cooroora Institute, Cooroy (9/09/16), Horizon Festival at University Sunshine Coast Art Gallery in Sippy Downs (9/10/16), and Lift Gallery in Maleny (9/11/16).

- **Three Decorations (2013) for percussion trio, 5 mins**

- NYU Percussion Ensemble; Jonathan Haas, Director. NYU Frederick Loewe Theatre, New York NY. 10/13/13.

- **The Winding Path (2013) for string quartet, 7 mins**

- The JACK Quartet. NYU Provincetown Playhouse, New York NY. 4/23/14.

- **Places in the Bay Area (2012) for flute/piccolo and piano, 8 mins**

- Sarah Sutherland, flute/piccolo; Kristina Nyberg, piano. NEC Pierce Hall, Boston MA, 3/06/12.

- **Sextet (2012) for oboe, bassoon, trumpet, harpsichord, violin, and viola, 8 ½ mins**

- Zachary Boeding, oboe; Andrew Thompson, bassoon; Gregor Kaelin, trumpet; Amy Kao, harpsichord; Lisa Goddard, violin; Elizabeth Oka, viola. NEC Jordan Hall, Boston MA, 4/23/12.

- **Setsugekka (2011) for violin and piano, 5 ½ mins**

- Samantha Bennett, violin and Wesley Chu, piano. NEC Pierce Hall, Boston MA, 10/25/11.
- *Beyond the Notes: Music Inspired by Art* composer portrait recital. NEC Pierce Hall, Boston MA, 11/02/12.

- **Triptych (2011) for solo guitar, 7 mins**

- Devin Ulibarri, Guitar. NEC Williams Hall, Boston MA, 4/26/11.

- *Beyond the Notes: Music Inspired by Art* composer portrait recital. NEC Pierce Hall, Boston MA, 11/02/12.
- Democracy Center, Cambridge MA. 2/13/15.
- Young Guitarists Workshop Faculty Recital, Boston GuitarFest, NEC Jordan Hall, Boston MA. 6/16/15.
- **Watercolors (2011) for flute/piccolo, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and horn, 15 mins**
  - Two performances by Chelsea Quintet on grand opening of the Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY, 11/10/12.
  - Winner of NEC Honors Ensemble Composition Competition. Andra Winds, NEC Honors Ensemble. Ridge Davis, flute/piccolo; Martha Kleiner, oboe; Christopher Mothersole, clarinet; Lauren Hunt, Horn; Sean Maree, Bassoon. NEC Jordan Hall, Boston MA, 5/12/11.
  - *Beyond the Notes: Music Inspired by Art* composer portrait recital. Ridge Davis, Flute and piccolo; Elizabeth O'Neil, Oboe; Randolph Palada, Clarinet; Sarah Sutherland, Horn; Sean Maree, Bassoon. NEC Pierce Hall, Boston MA 11/02/12.
- **Into nowhere (2010) for flute, clarinet, piano, violin, and cello, 19 mins**
  - Ridge Davis, flute; Christopher Mothersole, clarinet; Asher Severini and Wesley Chu, piano; Samantha Bennett, violin; Joanna Wiebe, cello. NEC Williams Hall, Boston MA, 4/26/11.
- **Duet (2011) for flute and bassoon, 6 mins**
  - Boston Composers Collective. Lisa Husseini, flute and Andrew Thompson, bassoon. Anderson Auditorium and Grossman Gallery at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston MA, 3/01/11.
  - Adam Eccleston III, flute and Nathan Landes, bassoon. NEC Williams Hall, Boston MA. 10/27/09 & 1/26/10.
- **Trees (2009) for six-part flute choir, 7 mins**
  - Commissioned by San Francisco State University Flute Choir. Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, San Francisco CA, 5/15/09.
- **Trees (2010), arrangement for two oboes and harpsichord, 7 mins**
  - Heather Shelley and Paul Lueders, oboe; Sojourner Hodges, harpsichord. NEC Williams Hall, Boston MA, 2/22/10.
- **Nine Muses (2009), miniatures for solo flute, violin, and harp, 13 ½ minutes**
  - Anne Gregory, flute; Maria Rindello Parker, harp; Audrey Wright, violin. NEC Williams Hall, Boston MA, 3/10/09.
  - *Proclaiming Pan*, a program of music inspired by Greek mythology. Elizabeth Erenberg, flute; Maria Rindello Parker, harp; Gabe Terracciano, violin. Tufts University, Distler Performance Hall, 10/13/13 and Hunneman Hall, Brookline Public Library, Boston MA, 3/25/12.
- **The Course of Empire (2008) for string quartet, 15 mins**
  - Grand opening of touring exhibit *Painting the American Vision* at Peabody Essex Museum. Performed by members of string orchestra A Far Cry: Lisa Zurlindin and Ethan Wood, violin; Jason Fisher, viola; Alexei Gonzales, cello. Peabody Essex Museum, Salem MA, 7/30/11.
  - *Beyond the Notes: Music Inspired by Art* composer portrait recital. Lisa Goddard and Ryan Shannon, violin; Maureen Heflinger, viola; Talya Buckbinder, cello. NEC Pierce Hall, Boston MA, 11/02/12.
  - NEC Honors Ensemble Tetrachord: Quan Yuan and Jennifer Wey, violin; Matthew Davies, viola; David Meyer, cello. NEC Brown Hall, Boston MA, 2/24/09.
- **The Promise (2008) for trumpet and string quartet, 11 mins**
  - Diana Wensley, trumpet; Amy Galluzzo and Jennifer Wey, violin; Samuel Gold, viola; Ginevra Ventre, cello. NEC Williams Hall, Boston MA, 11/25/08.
- **Time-Lapse (2007) for English horn, clarinet, viola, and cello, 4 mins**
  - Recorded at John Kilgore Sound & Recording, New York NY. Jacqueline Leclair, English Horn; Bill Kalinkos,

Clarinet in Bb; Chris Jenkins, Viola; Leigh Stuart, Cello. November 2007. Members and former members of Alarm Will Sound, Fireworks Ensemble, Invert, and The Catalyst Quartet.

#### ORCHESTRA AND LARGE ENSEMBLE

- ***Point Reyes from Chimney Rock (2014) for orchestra, 7 mins***
  - Commissioned by the NYU Symphony. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, New York NY, 3/03/14.
- ***Places in the Bay Area (2013) arrangement for string orchestra, 8 minutes – No performances***
- ***Symphony No. 1 (2012) for orchestra, 17 ½ mins***
  - First movement read by the New England Conservatory Philharmonia, NEC Jordan Hall, Boston MA, 4/27/12.
  - Second movement read by the NYU Symphony, New York University, New York NY, 11/19/12.
- ***The Sphinx and the Milky Way (2011) for orchestra, 5 mins***
  - Read by the New England Conservatory Philharmonia, NEC Jordan Hall, Boston MA, 5/02/11.
- ***Fantasy for Winds (2011) for wind ensemble, 6 mins***
  - Read by the New England Conservatory Wind Ensemble, NEC Jordan Hall, Boston MA, 5/04/10.
- ***From the Faraway Nearby (2009) for orchestra, 6 mins***
  - Read by the New England Conservatory Philharmonia, NEC Jordan Hall, Boston MA, 4/17/09.
- ***Fantasy (2009) for orchestra, 6 mins***
  - Read by the New England Conservatory Philharmonia, NEC Jordan Hall, Boston MA, 4/17/09.

#### ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC / MULTIMEDIA / OTHER

- ***Explore John Muir's Yosemite (2014) multimedia installation for web browser & iPad app with photography, video, and digitally-produced score*** [<http://muirsyosemite.com>]
  - Selected by Apple for inclusion in App Store.
  - Exhibited at international John Muir Symposium at University of the Pacific in Stockton CA, 3/22/14.
  - Exhibited at NYU Steinhardt Scholarship Day, New York NY, 4/16/14.
- ***California Zephyr (2014) video with piccolo, clarinet, 2 percussion, piano, violin, viola, cello, bass, 8 mins***
  - Commissioned by the NYU Contemporary Music Ensemble for premiere at NYU Frederick Loewe Theatre, New York NY. 4/28/14.
- ***San Marco (2012) for trumpet with samples and live processing, 3 mins***
  - Class recital. Ezra Weller, trumpet. NEC Pierce Hall, Boston MA, 4/01/12.
- ***The Faraway Nearby: Georgia O'Keeffe and The New Mexico Landscape (2010) video with flute, clarinet, piano, violin, cello, 10 mins***
  - NEC Brown Hall, Boston MA, 11/10/10.
  - Awarded NEC Entrepreneurial Grant.
  - YouTube version of this video [[http://youtu.be/UVoYKIS\\_x-4](http://youtu.be/UVoYKIS_x-4)] has received over 12,000 views.
- ***Tempus (2006), rock album for voice, guitar, bass, keyboards, drums, percussion, 40 mins***
  - Composed, recorded and performed vocals and instruments, independently released under the stage name Nell James in 2006. Positive reviews include former Village Voice music editor Chuck Eddy in *Harp Magazine*, et al.