

Sheree Clement, composer

34-29 80th Street #41, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

<https://shereeclement.com/>

Artistic Statement

Using intricate shimmering colors over re-imagined fragments of tunes, composer Sheree Clement builds surprising comedic narratives. She upends the listener's expectations using politically charged texts and over-the-top staged and semi-staged dramas. All with the goal of waking us up to the upheaval, conflicting truths and possibilities of now.

Works in Progress

The Kiss that Got Away. Chamber opera featuring greed, seduction, transactions, and desperate needs. Includes ***Table Manners***, below. For two female voices, actors, and string quartet.

Swimming Upstream Musical theatre tragicomedy in 1 act for 3 female singers, small ensemble. 2022

The chairwoman of a conference about a river invites an old friend to sub when the keynote speaker cancels. The two women hope they're in agreement about the talk contents, but quickly learn that they aren't, with racism and classism fueling the conflict. Under the pressure of time, they stumble toward each other with best of intentions, trying to find common ground. It takes the intervention of a too blunt daughter to find a way forward. Everyone's deep relationship to the river's health is revealed. Book and music by Sheree Clement.

Recent Music

2021 ***Teeth*** for solo piano, bowed and prepared, found sounds, text spoken by the pianist and projections. 10' Commissioned by Eliza Garth. Various texts used with permission. An ironic and dramatic monologue and solo reflecting on the losses, tensions and tearing social fabric of the pandemic.

2020 ***Table Manners*** a duet/dual for two sopranos and 40 pounds of silverware. Commissioned by Ariadne Greif. Text by Phillis Levin. Music video with cinematography by Caroline Mariko Stuckey, starring Ariadne Greif in both roles. Livestreamed in June 2021. 13'

2017 ***Stories I Cannot Tell You*** in three movements for chamber orchestra, commissioned by the League of Composers, premiered in May 2017, conducted by Louis Karchin. 18'

1978-2015 ***Thirteen Preludes***. Performed in Maryland and NYC, 2016. Recorded by Eliza Garth on Albany Records. 45'

2014/ 2022 ***Objects – Food – Rooms*** for mezzo & clarinet / mezzo, flute, piano. Commissioned by Janet Smarr Pape. Premiered Feb. 2014, Paris, France. 10' Text is from *Tender Buttons*, by Gertrude Stein.

2001/2022 ***Wherewith I Strive***, for mezzo, harp & flute; mezzo, flute, piano. 12' Commissioned by the Jubal Trio. Premiered by Canyonlands Ensemble, Salt Lake City, Utah, Morris Rosenzweig, conductor. 2002.

1982 ***Chamber Concerto*** for 16 players. 15' premiered August 1985 Tanglewood Music Festival. Kent Nagano, conductor. Subsequent performances: Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston, Sanders Theatre, Gunther Schuller, conductor. Speculum Musicae, Merkin Hall, NYC, Don Palma, conductor. San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Don Palma, conductor, and the Oberlin Conservatory Contemporary Music Ensemble. Recorded by Speculum Musicae on New World Records.

Education

Columbia University, New York, N.Y. DMA., Music Composition.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. M. Mus., B. Mus. In Music Composition

Awards

NYC City Artist Corps Grant for producing an evening of short films, including a screening of *Table Manners*. 2021

Queens Council on the Arts New Work Grant for *Table Manners*. 2020.

Exploring the Metropolis Residency at Flushing Town Hall. 2020

Queens Council on the Arts New Work Grant for *Swimming Upstream*. 2018

Goddard Leiberson Award, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. 1985

John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. 1983