

Sheree Clement, composer

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

[Website](#). [Vimeo](#)

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

Vocalise a short work for oboe, string trio and piano, commissioned by the Louis Moreau Gottschalk Institute, in New Orleans, LA. To be premiered in March 2024.

Swimming Upstream A one-act operatic dramedy for three female voice and small ensemble.

On the day before a conference about a formerly industrial river in Maine, the conference organizer takes a call in which the keynote speaker cancels. With no time to lose, she calls the obvious substitute candidate, known for giving eco-talks about the river, who happens to be her sister-in-law. Awkwardly, however, they haven't had time to patch up their friendship since a big argument last Thanksgiving dinner. As she reaches across the political divide to get the talk set up, the conversation slides out of her control, and she finds herself facing a choice of who to stay connected to and which politics will really make the difference. Book and music by Sheree Clement.

The Kiss that Got Away. A surreal chamber opera featuring greed, seduction, transactions, and desperate needs. An older diva reflects on her colorful life with flashbacks, played out onstage. Other characters include her younger self, a frenemy soprano colleague, two men who sing duets and juggle, a card-playing string quartet, and a few non-singing characters - a bitter and sullen maid and several people asking for help. Includes **Table Manners**, below and one of the songs from **Mermaid Songs**. Book and music by Sheree Clement.

Hard Work a radio play for narrator and small mixed ensemble. A setting of the composer's family oral history audio recordings from 1975, in which an old man from the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains tells outrageous yarns of fishing, bootlegging, and outwitting the sheriff in his younger days.

Recent Music

2023 **Mermaid Songs**. Commissioned by Ariadne Greif and the Momenta String Quartet. A setting of three poems by Heather Hartley from her book, **Adult Swim**. With Support from the NYSCA, 2023. To be premiered in the 2023-24 season.

2022 **Fast Fish** A suite in four movements drawn from the first version of **Swimming Upstream**. for flute, cl / bass cl, piano, vln, vc. To be premiered by the New York New Music Ensemble in 2023-24.

2021 **Teeth** for solo piano, bowed and prepared, found sounds, and text spoken by the pianist. 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. Premiere March 30, 2023, Merkin Hall, NYC.

2021 **Table Manners** a duet / dual for two sopranos and 40 pounds of silverware. Commissioned by Ariadne Greif with funding from the Queens Council on the Arts and Exploring the Metropolis. Text by Phillis Levin. Music video with cinematography by Caroline Mariko Stuckey, starring Ariadne Greif in both roles. Best Experimental North America Short in the 2022 AltFF Summer Edition, and six additional film festival laurels. 13'

2019 **Chamber** (for two high voices). Funded by Exploring the Metropolis. Text by Phillis Levin. Premiere June 21, 2020, at Flushing Town Hall cancelled by pandemic. Atmospheric round with staging and movement.

2018 **Swimming Upstream** (first version) dramatic monologue for soprano, narrator, fl., bs cl., vln, 'vc, pno, audio & projections. 20' Commissioned and premiered by APNM, with funding from the Queens Council on the

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Arts. Text by the composer, the US EPA website, Virginia Tech's website about the water crisis in Flint, Michigan and oral history audio recordings. Performed by Ensemble Pi, conducted by Carl Bettendorf, at the Baruch Arts Center, NYC.

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

1978-2015 ***Thirteen Preludes***. For solo piano. Recorded by Eliza Garth on Albany Records TROY 1714. 45'

2015 ***Avian Moments*** Three pieces for piccolo, flute, alto flute and bass flute 6'

2014 ***Objects – Food – Rooms*** for mezzo and clarinet. Commissioned by Janet Smarr Pape. Premiered Feb, 8, 2014 at Le Temple du Luxembourg, Paris, France. 10' Text is from Tender Buttons, by Gertrude Stein. A second version, for mezzo, flute and piano, 2021.

2012 ***Soliloquy*** for solo French horn. 5' Commissioned by Saar Berger.

2011 ***Four Poems by Emily Dickinson*** for SATB 8'

2010 ***Viola Trio*** for viola, 'cello, and piano. 13' Commissioned by Lois Martin. Premiere May 10, 2015, The Tenri Cultural Center. Lois Martin, viola, Molly Morkoski, piano, Caroline Stinson, cello.

2007 ***Round Trip Ticket: A Theme with Variations*** for seven players. Fl, cl, 2 perc, pno, vln, vc.. 13' premiered in Merkin Hall, NYC, recorded by Washington Square Contemporary Music Ensemble, Louis Karchin, Conductor. 2009. Available on Naxos.

2001 ***Wherewith I Strive***, for mezzo, harp & flute. 12' Commissioned by the Jubal Trio in 1985, completed in 1995, revised 2001, premiered by Canyonlands Ensemble, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 2002. Second version for mezzo, flute and piano, 2021, partially premiered September 2022 by The Faucon ensemble, in Bruno Walter Auditorium, NY, NY.

1985 ***Variations / Obsessions*** for fl, cl, tpt, vln, vc. 10' Commissioned by Parnassus Contemporary Music Ensemble. Premiered November by Parnassus, Anthony Korf, Conductor. 1985 Merkin Hall, NY, NY.

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, Don Palma, conductor, Merkin Hall, NYC. 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 CRI #617 (New World Records).

1980 ***One Breath*** 4 channel tape 3' composed in Music 11 at the MIT Experimental Music Studio. Premiered in Loeb Theatre, Cambridge, MA. July 1980

1980 ***String Quartet***. 8' premiered at the Composers' Conference, Johnson, VT, by the Atlantic String Quartet. July 1980. In their repertoire for two years. Performed throughout New England.

1979 ***Glinda Returns*** for 4 channel tape 9' composed at the Columbia – Princeton Electronic Music Center. (analog studio). Premiered at McMillin Theatre, Columbia University, April 1979. Numerous additional 'live' and radio performances.

1979 ***Belladonna Dreams*** for woodwind quintet and piano, commissioned by the Borealis Ensemble. Premiered in their Debut Recital, Artists International, Carnegie Recital Hall, NY NY 1979 In their repertoire for a year.

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1978 *From a Summer Afternoon* 4-3-3-3, 3-4-2-1, 3 perc, celeste, harp, strings. Premiered by the University of Michigan Philharmonia Orchestra, Stephen Osmond, conductor, Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor, MI February 1978.

1976 *Thresholds* stereo tape. 4' Composed at the University of Michigan Electronic Music Studio (analog tape studio). Premiered at a concert by the U. of M. Contemporary Music Players, in Rackham Auditorium, Ann Arbor, MI. December 1976. Numerous additional live and radio performances

Education

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

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. M. Mus. Composition with minor in Electronic Music. B. Mus. Composition

Awards

New York State Council on the Arts grant for Mermaid Songs - 2023

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

Exploring the Metropolis Residency at Flushing Town Hall Jan – June 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

ASCAP Award to Young Composers 1985, Standard Award 1984, 1985, 1986

John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, 1983

Residence at the MacDowell Colony 1982

Crofts Fellow in Composition, Grant Award in Composing, Tanglewood Music Center 1981

League-ISCM National Composers' Competition, 1981 (String Quartet)

Fellow at the Composers' Conference, Johnson, VT, 1979, 1980, 1982

Discography

Chamber Concerto New World Records / CRI.

Thirteen Preludes Albany Records

Round Trip Ticket New Focus Recordings / Naxos

Music published by **Rude Awakening** (ASCAP), distributed by Subito unless otherwise noted.

Member: New York Women Composers, APNM, Dramatists Guild, Opera America.

Community Leadership

League of Composers / ISCM, US Section

2017-present Board member.

2014 – 2017 Co-chair of the Board of Directors.

2011- 2014 President. Responsible for Concert production, marketing, fund-raising, budgeting, and proposal-writing. Lead the Curatorial efforts of the Programming Committee, including researching possible repertoire and commissioning opportunities to increase the number of women and BIPOC composers presented.

2009- 11 Vice-President. Organized and led the Competition Adjudication. Participated in the Programming Committee.

2007- 09 Treasurer. Reconstructed financial records for prior five years, as part of a 'turn-around' of the League, led by Louis Karchin and David Gordon. Organized and led the Competition Adjudication.

New York New Music Ensemble

July 2013 – July 2017. Executive Director. Responsible for operations that supported the ensemble's 3-concert

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season in New York City plus tours and residencies outside the city, including planning, budgeting, development, and marketing. Directed a staff of four part-time people: a bookkeeper, a publicist, a grant-writer, and an administrative assistant. Researched possible repertoire and commissioning opportunities that would increase the number of women and BIPOC composers presented. Facilitated programming meetings with the musicians as they developed programs and commissions that reflected their artistic vision. Organized and assisted Board members, alumni and volunteers in activities supporting NYNME.

Association for the Promotion of New Music

Board member 2019 – present.

2022 - led a workgroup in a series of about fifteen meetings developing a new design and new functionality for the APNM website. We completed a set of wireframes and workflows and selected a designer and developer. The project is on hold, waiting for funding.

Adjudication

2017 – present. For two government-sponsored non-profit entities. One panel selected national music performance / touring projects. The other selected local new works and performing arts projects.