

**JESSE PEARLMAN KARLSBERG**  
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## EDUCATION

MFA, Integrated Electronic Arts, **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**, Troy, NY, 2004-2006. Thesis title: "Feeding from the Forest's Mouth: Sacred Harp Singing and Attaining Spirituality in *Azariah: Whom Jehovah Helps*."  
BA, Music and Philosophy, **Wesleyan University**, Middletown, CT, 1999-2003. Thesis title: "Activated Spaces."  
Semester Abroad, **King's College London**, London, UK, Spring 2002.

## SELECTED LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, AND TEACHING

- "Sacred Harp Singing School," half-semester course on Sacred Harp as a visiting singing master at Bennington College, Bennington, VT, October-December 2009.
- "Sacred Harp Singing School," two-day series of workshops on the Sacred Harp singing tradition as a visiting artist at the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, Potsdam, NY, September 2009.
- "Discord Discoveries," "Changes in Time," and "Sacred Harp Composium," courses on features of Sacred Harp music and composition taught at Camp Fasola, Double Springs, AL and Anniston, AL, June-July 2009.
- "Sacred Harp Singing," assistant to Tim Eriksen teaching a week-long series of workshops on Sacred Harp singing at the Jaroslaw Early Music Festival in Jaroslaw, Poland. August 2008.
- "Composition in the Tradition of the Sacred Harp," artist's talk at Neely Bruce's American Hymnody Before the Civil War Seminar, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, October 2007.
- "Subliminal History of New York State Singing School," taught workshops on shape note singing featuring original compositions by Jesse, Rensselaer County Historical Society, Troy, NY, Schenectady Public Library, Schenectady, NY, Schenectady Museum, Schenectady, NY, Rome Art and Community Center, Rome, NY, Alling Coverlet Museum, Palmyra, NY, Rustbelt Books, Buffalo, NY, Woodside Campground, Cassadaga, NY, Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild, Woodstock, NY, Eyebeam, New York City, NY, June-October 2007.
- "Above and Below the Earth's Surface: Space, Spirituality, and Shape Note Composition," artist's talk for Upgrade! Boston at Art Interactive, Cambridge, MA, February 2007
- "Azariah: Participatory Singing and Sound Art," artist's talk for Upgrade! New York at Eyebeam, NYC, June 2006.
- "Sounding the Hollow Square: Spatial Meaning in Sacred Harp Singing," paper presented at the Graduate Students in Music Conference "Musical Spaces" at CUNY, April, 2006. With Dana Borrelli.
- "Deep Listening and Sacred Harp Singing," participatory shape note singing workshop at Pauline Oliveros's Deep Listening Seminar, Troy, NY, March 2006.
- "Under Island Singing School," shape note singing workshop at the Contemporary Artists Center, North Adams, MA, November 2005.
- "Media Studio: Audio/Video," teaching assistant for a media arts practice course for undergraduates at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, August 2004-May 2005.
- "Internet Audio Art and Media Mapping," artist's talk at Google Inc., Mountain View, CA, March 2005.

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS, PERFORMANCES, AND PUBLICATIONS

- Subliminal History of New York State: Route of Progress Tunebook*, hardcover tunebook featuring 53 original shape note songs telling the subliminal history of the Erie Canal. Published by the Society for a Subliminal State, September 2007. Second Edition published May 2009.
- Subliminal Statements*, Editor of a newsletter published twice annually on topics such as "Differentiated Bodies," "Living Land," and the "Interior World." Published by the Society for a Subliminal State. 2007-2008
- Route of Progress*, installation featuring a sound piece incorporating 36 shape note songs from the Subliminal History Tour. With Carrie Dashow. Eyebeam, New York City, September-November 2007. Performance, October, 2007.
- Subliminal History of New York State*, summer tour of Upstate New York teaching shape note singing schools and holding participatory performances of original shape note compositions written about each town. With Carrie Dashow. Schenectady Museum, Schenectady, NY, Sanctuary for Independent Media, Troy, NY, Rome Art and Community Center, Rome, NY, Historic Palmyra & the Palmyra Inn, Palmyra, NY, Niagara County Historical Society, Lockport, NY, and Lily Dale Assembly, Lily Dale, NY, June-July 2007.

*Under Island*, storytelling and participatory singing performance, featuring original shape note songs, in “Special Reconnaissance\_” at Gigantic ArtSpace, New York City, January 2007. Solo exhibition and performance at the Contemporary Artists Center, North Adams, MA, November 2005. With Carrie Dashow.

*Under Island CD*, limited edition cd featuring 11 original shape note songs published by Gigantic ArtSpace for “Special Reconnaissance\_,” New York City, December 2006. With Carrie Dashow. Exhibited with *UNDER ISLAND: the land revolts* artists book.

*Eat Meat Meteorite*, participatory public performance and science project telling the story of the Peekskill Fireball in Peekskill Project, Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Peekskill, NY, Sept. 2006. With Carrie Dashow.

*The Tune our Lips to Sing Quartet*, public performance, psychogeographic roving shape note music quartet, Conflux Festival 2006, McCaig-Welles Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, September 2006.

*The Subliminal History of New York State, Rosendale Edition*, participatory singing school and storytelling performance/assembly held in an abandoned cement mine, featuring original shape note compositions, Widow Jane Mines, Century House Historical Society, Rosendale, NY, July 2006. With Carrie Dashow

*Azariah: Whom Jehovah Helps*, solo performance, theatrical participatory singing, featuring original shape note songs about the 19th-century Millerite movement. Old Songs Community Art Center, Voorheesville, NY, March 2006.

*Parsons Cove*, composition for book and soprano, performed by Anne Rhodes in “Brand Spanking New,” Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, February 2006.

*Tintinnabulate*, performance with Pauline Oliveros and Brown’s mig at Eyebeam, New York City, January 2006. Other performances at the Planetarium at the Rensselaer Museum of Science and Technology, March 2006, and with Arizona State University’s amp Ensemble at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, October 2005.

*Rapture/Rupture*, sound installation, solo exhibition at the Tang Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY, June–October 2005.

*Air Raid*, sound installation, featured in “Zéppelin 2005: Sobre el Control,” Contemporary Culture Center of Barcelona, Spain, October 2005. Also featured in “Shock and Awe: Some American Art,” Firlefanz Gallery, Albany, NY, September 2004 and at the Campus Center Courtyard, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, April 2003.

*Sound for Pent-Up and Under Gone*, five-channel sound installation, in “Pent-Up and Under Gone” at Jessica Murray Projects, New York City, May–June 2005. With Carrie Dashow and Matt Bua.

*Lawrence, Shade*, complementary sound installation and artist’s book, Gallery III, Troy, NY, May 2006.

*Knock-Knock*, interactive installation, featured in the “Boston Cyberarts Festival at Kendall Square,” Cambridge, MA, April–May 2005. With Bettina Bloc, Olivia Robinson, and Amy Scarfone.

*Crawling through Network Cable*, live two-location sound and video performance over the Internet, Troy, NY and Middletown, CT, April 2005. Composed by Jesse Pearlman Karlsberg. Performed by Dave Kadden, Jesse Pearlman Karlsberg, Nik Kanter, Pauline Oliveros, Angela Opell, and Anne Rhodes.

*Artificial Space*, for two vocalists, and one performer running live computer processing, and

*Weapons Inspections*, sound and video installation, performed in thesis concert, World Music Hall, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, February 2003.

*Resolution*, composition for 12–15 musicians, commissioned by the Wesleyan New Music Ensemble, Micah Silver, director, Middletown, CT, December 2002.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

**Sustainable Arts Society Residency** for the composition of original songs in the style of the Sacred Harp and research on Sacred Harp music in Georgia and Alabama, in Blue Ridge, GA, 2008.

**New York State Music Fund Grant** supporting shape note singing workshops and presentations featuring original compositions throughout New York State for *The Subliminal History of New York State*, with Carrie Dashow as the Society for a Subliminal State. Administered by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. 2007.

**The Tank Artist Residency** for the development of a 2007 summer tour of New York State with *The Subliminal History of New York State*, with Carrie Dashow as the Society for a Subliminal State. 2007.

**Schenectady Museum Residency** to compose original shape note songs telling the subliminal history of Schenectady’s Vale Park Cemetery, with Carrie Dashow as the Society for a Subliminal State. 2007.

**Rome Art and Community Center Residency** to compose original shape note songs telling the subliminal history of Rome, NY, with Carrie Dashow as the Society for a Subliminal State. 2007.

**New York Foundation for the Arts SOS Grant** supporting shape note singing workshops taught by Jesse in preparation for *The Subliminal History of New York State*. 2007.

**Wave Farm AIRtime Residency** supporting the development of an outdoor, interactive, transmission arts installation working with the story from *Azariah: Whom Jehovah Helps*. 2006.

**Western Massachusetts Sacred Harp Convention Travel Grant** supporting research on Sacred Harp and shape note music in Northeastern and East-Central Alabama. 2005.

**Joe Beasley Memorial Foundation Grant** for the promotion & preservation of Sacred Harp/shape note music. 2005.

**Rensselaer Polytech. Inst. Humanities and Social Sciences Travel Grant** supporting my talk at Google, Inc. 2005.

**High Honors in Music** for undergraduate thesis: "Activated Spaces." 2003.

**Gwen Livingston Pokora Prize** recipient, awarded annually to a graduating Wesleyan University Senior, for excellence in music composition. 2003.

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Boston Globe*, "In song, different faiths find harmony," by Rich Barlow, Spiritual Life column, featured in an article on Sacred Harp singing in Boston, MA, January 2008.

*Lockport Union-Sun*, "Hidden History Strikes a Note," by Joyce M. Miles, front-page article on the Subliminal History of New York State summer tour. June 2007.

*Buffalo ArtVoice*, "See You There: Subliminal History of NYS," by Geoff Kelley on our Lockport show. June 2007.

*New York Sun*, "Digging Below & Flying Above," Knickerbocker column, by Gary Shapiro. Profile of *The Subliminal History of New York State* project and my collaboration with Carrie Dashow. August 2006.

*Albany Times-Union*, "Elevator Is Artistic Canvas," by Danielle Furfaro. Article discussing my sound installation *Rapture/Rupture* and the Tang Museum's "Elevator Music" series. April 2006.

*Boston Phoenix*, "The Wired Blue Yonder," by Randi Hopkins. Preview of the 2005 Boston Cyberarts Festival, discussing my interactive installation *Knock-Knock*. April 2005.

## SKILLS

**Web Programming:** (x)HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, ColdFusion, MSSQL, MYSQL, XML.

**Graphic Design:** Proficient user of Photoshop, InDesign, Dreamweaver, Expression Web.

**Audio and Video Software:** Digital Performer, ProTools, Final Cut Pro, Audacity, SuperCollider.

**Audio and Video Hardware:** Proficient at field and studio audio recording including microphone selection and setup, operating a mixer and audio recorders. Proficient user of digital video cameras. Experience with lighting.

## SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

**Bolder Giving**, Arlington, MA, 2005-present – Web Development Consultant

- Designed and built interactive website for non profit organization.
- Created database-driven web sites from the ground up to help client organize conferences and categorize and promote the stories of prominent philanthropists.
- Designed 80-page workbook on giving potential, postcards, financial reports, and other print materials.

**Harvard Divinity School**, Cambridge, MA – Web Dev. Consultant, 2006-2009 – Web Dev. Assistant, 2003-2004

- Designed and built several web applications for administrative use at different HDS departments, as well as for applicants, outside reviewers, and other constituencies.

**Google Inc.**, Mountain View, CA, 2006 – Graphic Design and Web Programming Consultant

- Designed and built templates for Google Page Creator. Designs used for thousands of user-created web sites.

**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**, Troy, NY, 2006 – Graphic Design Consultant

- Designed print and web materials for RPI Arts Department events.

## REFERENCES

**Neil Rolnick**, PhD – rolnick@rpi.edu, 518-276-4778

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