

AKSHAYA AVRIL TUCKER *CV

COMPOSER | CELLIST | DANCER

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Akshaya Avril Tucker (b.1992) is a composer, cellist and Odissi dancer, whose work is inspired by the music and dance traditions of South Asia. Her recent commissions include solo works for Johnny Gandelsman and Robert Howard, and chamber works for *invoke* and *Density512*. Her music has been performed by the Refugee Orchestra Project at National Sawdust, and by *Vent Nouveau*, Johnny Gandelsman and Joshua Roman. She is a current Composer Fellow at the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music. Akshaya holds an M.M. in Composition from the University of Texas at Austin and a B.A. in Music from Brown University. In 2018, she received honorable mentions from National Sawdust's Hildegard Competition and the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards. In 2017, she received a Rainwater Innovation Grant from the University of Texas to collaborate with Hindustani vocalist Saili Oak. Akshaya has performed Odissi dance worldwide with Nataraj Dance Company under Guru Ranjanaa Devi. She is Programs Manager at Shastra, an organization dedicated to connecting the musical communities of India and the West.

EDUCATION

M.M., Composition – University of Texas, Austin	2016-2018
o Composition studies with Yevgeniy Sharlat, Donald Grantham, Dan Welcher and Russell Pinkston	
o North Indian Classical Music studies with Stephen Slawek , <i>sitar</i>	
B.A., Music – Brown University, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> and <i>Honors</i>	2011-2015
o Composition studies with Joseph Rovano and Gerald Shapiro	
o Cello studies with Daniel Harp	
▪ Brown University Orchestra Concerto Competition winner	2012
Classical Indian Odissi Dance studies with Ranjanaa Devi (Massachusetts)	1998-2018
o Member, Nataraj Dance Company	

WORKSHOPS & RESIDENCIES

Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy for Music , Composer-Fellow	2018
Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy for Music , Composer-Fellow	2017
Hindustani Music studies with Sandeep Mishra (Mumbai, India)	2014

HONORS & AWARDS

ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award, <i>Honorable Mention</i>	2018
National Sawdust Hildegard Competition, <i>Honorable Mention</i>	2018
University of Texas at Austin, Rainwater Fund for American Music Award	2017
Elected to <i>Phi Kappa Phi</i> , University of Texas Austin Chapter	2017
Jean and Francis Madeira Award of the Brown Club of Rhode Island	2015
Brown University Distinguished Senior Thesis Award	2015
Brown University Orchestra Concerto Competition, <i>Cello Soloist</i>	2013

ORIGINAL WORKS & PERFORMANCES

Pallavi, for Solo Violin, *in progress*. Commissioned by the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music for Johnny Gandelsman.

- *prem.* by Johnny Gandelsman, (Michigan State University, Lansing, MI) Feb. 2019
- Johnny Gandelsman, (Boston Conservatory, Boston, MA) Feb. 2019

Untitled, for Choir and Winds, *in progress*. Commissioned by Density512 for “Like a Religion.”

- *prem.* by Density512, (Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX) Feb. 2019

Sabori, for Solo Cello, *in progress*. Commissioned by Robert Howard with support of the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music.

- *prem.* by Robert Howard, (TBD) Spring, 2019

Our Waters, for String Quartet (doubling on banjo and mandolin), 2018. 9'. Commissioned by *invoke*.

- *prem.* by *invoke* (College Park, MD) Nov. 2018

Daaro Waari, Fantasy on a Bhajan for String Quartet and Hindustani Vocalist, 2018. 5'

- recorded in Aug., 2018 by Salastina Chamber Music and Sails Oak for Sails Oak's upcoming album.

Of My Grandfather, for Mezzo-Soprano and Violin, 2018. 8'. Created under the aegis of the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music.

- prem. by Duo Cortona, (University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC) Dec. 2018

Enough to Unfold, for Pierrot Ensemble, 2018. 6'. Choreography for two Odissi-trained dancers by Akshaya Avril Tucker and Namita Devadas.

- prem. by conductor Lidiya Yankovskaya and the Refugee Orchestra Project, with Akshaya Avril Tucker and Namita Devadas, dancers. (National Sawdust, Brooklyn, NY) Jun. 2018

Three Songs (I. *Saiyan - Soul*, II. *Geliebte Sakhi - Beloved Friend*, III. *Tarana - Dance*) for Hindustani Vocalist, Soprano and Sinfonietta, 2018. 29'.

- prem. by Sails Oak, Suzanne Lis and prismatx ensemble, (University of Texas, Austin, TX) Mar. 2018
- Sails Oak & MusicaNova Orchestra, cond. Warren Cohen, (Musical Instrument Museum, Phoenix, AZ) Jan. 2019

Ich Wandle Unter Blumen - Geliebte Sakhi, for Mezzo-Soprano and Sinfonietta, 2018. 6'. Commissioned by *Density512* for "Something Borrowed."

- prem. by Page Stephens and *Density 512*, (Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX) Feb. 2018
- Page Stephens and *Density 512*, (Austin, TX) Mar. 2018

I Heard God Whisper, for Solo Flute, 2017. 8'30". Commissioned by Karen Baumgartner, with painting by Victoria Majesta and Video by Mikki Pasadaba.

- prem. by Karen Baumgartner, (University of Texas, Austin, TX) Dec. 2017

Breathing Sunlight, for Violin and Violoncello, 2017. 9'. Created under the aegis of the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music. Received an Honorable Mention at the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards.

- prem. by Johnny Gandelsman and Joshua Roman, (Boonville, CA) Sep. 2017
- Sean Riley and Seth Russell, (University of Texas, Austin, TX) Mar. 2018
- Sean Riley and Seth Russell, Turn Up Festival, (University of Texas, Austin, TX) Apr. 2018

Breathing Sunlight, version for Violin and Tabla, 2018. 9'.

- prem. by Shawn Mativetsky, (Cyprus) Dec. 2018

Dancing Rain, for Tabla and Percussion Quartet, 2017. 6'.

- prem. by Steven Crammer, Nick Dekens, Gadiel Renteria, Anthony Salimbene and Dylan Segalewitz, (William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ) Apr. 2018

Shaam, for Sitar and Sinfonietta, 2017. 9'.

- prem. by Aruna Kharod and *Density512*, (Austin, TX) Jun. 2017
- Aruna Kharod and *prismatx ensemble*, (Austin, TX) Mar. 2018

Shaam, version for Hindustani Cello and Sinfonietta, 2017. 9'.

- prem. by Akshaya Avril Tucker and *Density512*, (Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX) Sep. 2017

Nayika,* fixed media (with flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, ganjira, tanpura, voice), and Bharatnatyam and Odissi Dance, in collaboration with Priya Raman, 2017. 11'.

- prem. by Akshaya Avril Tucker and Priya Raman, *Ears, Eyes and Feet* (University of Texas, Austin, TX) May 2017

It all comes down to a single point, for Woodwind Quintet, 2016. 12'.

- prem. by Kirsten Hall, Aidan Dugan, Nick Brown, Andy Thomas, and Zach Morgan (University of Texas, Austin, TX) Feb. 2017
- *Vent Nouveau*, "Listening to Ladies" (Gallery MC, New York, NY) Apr. 2017

Home / Into the Sun, for fixed media (cello, viola, owls, crickets), 2016. 9'.

Lagan Bina, Fantasy on Kabir for String Quartet and Hindustani Vocalist, 2016. 8'.

- prem. by Sails Oak, Tianyang Gao, Ji Soo Choi, Linda Numagami and Andrée Werner (William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ) Oct. 2016
- Sails Oak, Sara Sasaki, Shruthi Kattumenu, Sean Flynn and Akshaya Avril Tucker (University of Texas, Austin TX) Mar. 2018

Lagan Bina, version for Violin and Piano, 2018. 8’.

- *prem.* by Shruthi Kattumenu and Timothy George, (Austin, TX) Mar. 2018

Meru, for Piano Trio, 2016. 7’.

- *prem.* by Nicholas Whittredge, Akshaya Avril Tucker and Cara Hudson-Erdman (Smith College, Northampton, MA) Apr. 2016

Prelude, for Piano, 2015. 3’.

Ancient, for Solo Cello, 2015. 5’.

- *prem.* by Akshaya Avril Tucker (Brown University, Providence, RI) May 2015
- James Burch, (University of Texas, Austin, TX) Oct. 2016
- James Burch, *Tetractys*, (The People’s Gallery, Austin City Hall, Austin, TX) Feb. 2017

Gyaan Kar Dekh / Perceive with Love, for Hindustani/Carnatic Voice, Clarinet, String Quartet, Sitar, Mridangam and six Odissi Dancers, 2015. 30’. Choreographed by Akshaya Avril Tucker. *Recipient of Brown University Distinguished Senior Thesis Award.*

- *prem.* by Katie Johnson, Anny Li, Paula Li, Sebastian Lucek, Sriya Mularidharan, Andrew Nixon, Maya Ramchandran, Aparajit Sriram, Simran Vazirani, Shubh Agrawal, Uday Agrawal, Akshaya Avril Tucker, Dipal Nagda, Vidita Nevatia, Mili Sanwalka, and Isabel Sunshine, (Brown University, Providence, RI) Apr. 2015
- “Pasyati Dishi Dishi” from *Gyaan Kar Dekh*, music only. (Brown University, Providence, RI) Apr. 2015
- “Dariyav” from *Gyaan Kar Dekh*, dance only. (Brown University, Providence, RI) May 2015

Introduction and Dance in Raga Yaman, for String Quartet, 2014, 6’.

- *prem.* by Brown Fermata, (Brown University, Providence, RI) Nov. 2014

A Little Piece for Orchestra, 2014, 3’30”.

- *read* by the Brown University Orchestra, cond. David Wroe. (Brown University, Providence, RI), May 2014.

Film Scores

Unread, (2013) Director: Chakri Toleti, Royal Stag Large Short Films, *in collaboration with Shankar Tucker*. 16’.