

AKSHAYA AVRIL TUCKER *CV

COMPOSER | CELLIST | DANCER

www.akshayatucker.com 6.akshaya@gmail.com

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. From 2017-2018, she was a 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 Sali Oak. Akshaya has performed Odissi dance worldwide with Nataraj Dance Company under Guru Ranjanaa Devi, and she is Programs Manager at Shastra, an organization dedicated to connecting the musical communities of India and the West.

EDUCATION

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| 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, Magna Cum Laude and Honors | 2011-2015 |
| o Composition studies with Joseph Rovano and Gerald Shapiro | |
| o Cello studies with Daniel Harp | |
| Classical Indian Odissi Dance studies with Ranjanaa Devi (Massachusetts) | 1998-2018 |
| o Member, Nataraj Dance Company | |

WORKSHOPS & RESIDENCIES

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| 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

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| ASU Symphony Gammage Beyond and ASU Symphony Commission Competition, <i>Finalist</i> | 2018 |
| ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award, Honorable Mention | 2018 |
| National Sawdust Hildegard Competition, Honorable Mention | 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, Cello Soloist | 2013 |

RECENT WORKS & PERFORMANCES

- Pallavi*, for Solo Violin, 2019. Commissioned by the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music for Johnny Gandelsman. 11'
• *prem.* by Johnny Gandelsman, (Michigan State University, Lansing, MI) Feb. 2019
• Johnny Gandelsman, (Boston Conservatory, Boston, MA) Feb. 2019
- Sabori*, for Solo Cello, *in progress*. Commissioned by Robert Howard with support of the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy.
• *prem.* by Robert Howard, May, 2019
- Our Waters*, for String Quartet (doubling on banjo and mandolin), 2018. 9'. Commissioned by *invoke* and the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland.
• *prem.* by *invoke* (College Park, MD) Nov. 2018
- Of My Grandfather*, for Mezzo-Soprano and Violin, 2018. 8'. Created under the aegis of the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy.
• *prem.* by Duo Cortona, (University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC) Dec. 2018
- Enough to Unfold*, for Pierrot Ensemble, 2018. 6'. Choreography by Akshaya Avril Tucker and Namita Devadas.
• *prem.* by conductor Lidiya Yankovskaya and the Refugee Orchestra Project, with Akshaya Avril Tucker and Namita Devadas, Odissi dancers. (National Sawdust, Brooklyn, NY) Jun. 2018