

## STEVE NORTON

Lives and works in Central Maine.

Steve Norton is a sound artist, musician, researcher and educator living in Orono, Maine. He is focused on understanding the world by listening to it. His practice has gradually shifted from music performance to field recording and soundscape composition over the last decade, tapping into his life-long interest in biology, ecology and the outdoors. His field-recorded sound is used in soundscape study, electroacoustic composition, and performance and presentation contexts.

Steve has been exhibiting, composing and performing in the United States and Canada for over thirty years. He holds a Bachelor of Music from Berklee College of Music in Boston and a Master of Fine Arts in Intermedia from the University of Maine. He is co-founder of the Island Soundscape Project and a board member of the Bangor Land Trust in Bangor, Maine.

### CURRICULUM VITAE

#### Professional Experience

- 2023 Presentation, "Intro to the Soundscape and Acoustic Ecology," Maine Land Trust Network's *Maine Land Conservation Conference 2023*, Topsham, Maine
- 2023 Board member, Bangor Land Trust, Bangor, Maine
- 2022 Visiting artist lecture, Parsons School of Design at The New School, New York, New York
- 2022 Faculty, *Open Door* session, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, Maine
- 2022 Co-director, *The Island Soundscape Project* research unit, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
- 2021 Guest lecture, "Improvisation as compositional strategy," re Twentieth Century Musical Techniques, Dept. of Music, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
- 2021, 2022 Guest lecture: "Material as Epistemology," Intermedia MFA Program, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
- 2021 Paper presented: Dept. of Philosophy Colloquium Series, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
- 2020 Residency: Camp El, Alton, Maine
- 2020 Co-taught course with Prof. N.B.Aldrich, "Sounds Like Music" in Fine Arts dept., Husson University, Bangor, Maine
- 2019 Instructor, field recording workshop: Blue Hill Mountain, Blue Hill, Maine
- 2019 Paper presented: Confounding Expectations Conference, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 2016 – 2019 Teaching assistant for New Media Program, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
- 2018 Residency: Sonic Mmabolela, Limpopo Province, Republic of South Africa
- 2016 – 2022 Co-taught course "Electronic Music Composition I" with Prof. N.B.Aldrich in Department of New Media, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
- 2015 Master class: Franklin Pierce University, Div. of Visual and Performing Arts, Rindge, New Hampshire
- 2011 Master class: New England Conservatory, Dept. of Contemporary Improvisation, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2011 Master class: Sala Rosa, Montreal, Canada

#### Publications, by and about

- 2023 "Soundscape Awareness" (for a Land Trust Audience), Bangor Land Trust Spring 2023 newsletter
- 2021 "[Moss Arts Center's newest exhibition reflects the Earth's beauty and vulnerability.](#)" artdaily.com website
- 2020 Marshall, Malaysia. "[Designing RE: Climate Change, Episode 1: Steve Norton.](#)" Museum of Design Atlanta website
- 2020 Fleming, Deirdre. "[Sounds of extinct species call to listeners.](#)" Portland Press Herald: Outdoors, Jan. 2020
- 2019 Kim, Melissa. "A Community of Sound." [Maine Audubon HABITAT](#), Winter 2019
- 2019 Green, Hadley. "[These Bird Songs Are Disappearing From Nature...](#)" the ARTery, WBUR.ORG, Mar. 2019
- 2010 Marshall, Gordon. "[Steve Norton: Debris And Beyond.](#)" AllAboutJazz.com
- 1994 Heffley, Mike. *The Music of Anthony Braxton*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1996

## Grants

- 2022 University of Maine Arts Initiative Grant: *The Island Soundscape Project*.  
1991 Meet the Composer, New England Foundation for the Arts via WCUW, Worcester, Massachusetts

## Education

- 2016 – 2019 University of Maine, Orono, Maine – Master of Fine Arts in Intermedia  
1998 – 2000 Massachusetts College of Art, Boston – courses in graphic design and fine art  
1985 – 1987 Berklee College of Music, Boston – Bachelor of Music, *magna cum laude*

## Installations

- 2021 *Soapboxing for the middle of the food chain*, Lord Hall Gallery, University of Maine, Orono, Maine  
2021 *Requiem*, in *for Earth Day*, Goethe Institute Boston, Boston, Massachusetts  
2021 *Requiem*, in *Unbearable Beauty*, Moss Arts Center, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia  
2020 *Requiem*, in *RE: Climate Change*, Museum of Design Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia  
2020 *Requiem*, Fields Pond Audubon Center, Holden, Maine  
2019 *field: alarum, implication*, Blum Gallery, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine  
2019 *field: alarum, implication*, Fernald AP/PE Space, Orono, Maine  
2019 *Requiem*, Massachusetts Audubon Boston Nature Center, Boston, Massachusetts  
2019 *Requiem*, The Cannery, Penobscot, Maine  
2018 *Requiem*, Spaceus @ Roslindale, Boston, Massachusetts

## Compositions

- 2022 *Two Rumfords*, with N.B.Aldrich, Observatory, Belfast, Maine  
2021 *Two Rumfords*, with N.B.Aldrich. Published online: [American Roundtable: River Valley, Maine](#) by The Architectural League of New York.  
2019 *No once in pastless now*. The Wire Factory, Lowell, Massachusetts  
2018 *No once in pastless now*. Opensound, Somerville, Massachusetts  
2017 *No once in pastless now*. The Cannery, Penobscot, Maine  
2014 *Some days in the lives of Endguys*. Mobius, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
2012 *Solo* (Roscoe Mitchell, my transcription/arrangement), Weirdo Records, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
2011 *Solo* (Roscoe Mitchell, my transcription/arrangement), Opensound, Somerville, Massachusetts

## Selected Recordings

- 2021 **Steve Norton**: *The Field, Soundscape Compositions 2018 – 2019*. SPU Music (Bandcamp)  
2017 **Aldrich, Ingalls, Moazzeni, Norton, Ross**: *11/6/2016*. SPU Music (Bandcamp)  
2015 **If, Bwana**: *The Ice Moons*. Nefryt (Poland, EU)  
2014 **Mission Creep**: *On The Sea Of Suns*. Wire Recordings (Seattle, Washington)  
2012 **Duck That**: *Eggs*. Yolk/Weirdo Records (Cambridge, Massachusetts)  
2010 **Steve Norton**: *IT'S HARD NOT TO BE WHO YOU ARE*. YDLMIER (Somerville, Massachusetts)  
2010 **Drive The Pieces Together**: *Ethnography*. Carbon Records (Rochester, New York)  
1999 **Norton Plsek Robair Trio**: *Firehouse Futurities*. Rastaskan Records (San Leandro, California)  
1999 **Joe Morris' Racket Club**: *Rumble Strip*. About Time (Dedham, Massachusetts)  
1997 **Debris**: *Errata*. Eighth Day Music (Chicago)  
1997 **Great Circle Saxophone Quartet**: *Child King Dictator Fool*. New World Recordings (New York)  
1995 **Splatter Trio & Debris**: *Jump Or Die (21 Anthony Braxton Compositions 1992)*. Music & Arts Programs of America (Kensington, California)  
1987 **Either/Orchestra**: *Dial "E"*. Accurate Records (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

### **Selected Performances**

- 2016 – 2023 **Aldrich, Norton, Ross**: various performances
- 2017 Improvisation with Luciano Chessa, Fernald AP/PE Space, Orono, Maine
- 2017 *City of Vorticity* (Tom Hamilton), The Cannery, Penobscot, Maine
- 2016 Improvisation with Thomas Buckner, Leslie Ross, Anna Dembska, The Cannery, Penobscot, Maine
- 2016 **Animal Hospital Ensemble**, Le Laboratoire, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 2014 **Animal Hospital Ensemble**, *Dot Air* festival, Pawtucket, Rhode Island
- 2013 **Animal Hospital Ensemble**, *First Night Boston*, Hynes Convention Center, Boston, Massachusetts
- 1996 **Debris**, Carnegie-Mellon's annual Jazz/Improv Showcase, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 1994 **Debris**, New England Artist Trust's Congress Showcase, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts
- 1993 **Debris**, KTRU Avant-jazz Festival, Rice University, Houston, Texas

### **Mixed Media Performances**

- 2015 **Inedit Ensemble**, *Yesterday's Outskirts Are Today's Hinterlands*, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 2015 **Duck That**, *Interactions*, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2014 **Lord and June**, *Recipe for Making Another World*, Mobius 808 Infuse series, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2013 **Duck That and Douglas Urbank**, *WWII*, Brattle Theater, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 2011 **Duck That**, *Bizarre Animals 2.0*, Harvard Museum of Natural History, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1997 **Debris**, *Hubris II*, Mobius, Boston, Massachusetts
- 1996 **Debris with Peggy Florin and Felice Wolfzahn**, *Jacob's Pillow*, Beckett, Massachusetts
- 1992 **Debris with Dennis Downey**, *One Dream Theater*, New York, New York