

JESSE MANNO

Curriculum Vitae, revised 2026

Color guide: **Humans**, **Organizations**, **Places**, Everything else.

MUSIC MAKER:

Versatile composer, improviser, performer, dance accompanist.

Audio producer, recording, mixing and live sound engineer.

Multi-lingual vocalist, 3.5 octave range, multiple singing styles including beat boxing and overtone singing.

Instruments played: Eastern Mediterranean Lutes (laouto, bouzouki, bağlama, divan sazı, cura, oud; and guitar), Percussion (standard drum kit, doumbek, djembe, frame drum, dun duns, conga, riqq), piano, folk flutes and reeds, accordion, electronics, laptop, field recordings, and random objects like electronic toothbrush, cinderblocks, or chips.

One Man Band: voice/drum kit/accordion; voice/bouzouki/piano/hand drum/ankle bells; flute/piano, others.

Singing languages (listed by skill level): Turkish, French, Greek, Macedonian, Bulgarian, Arabic, Hebrew, Farsi.

Project Studio: Main and isolation rooms, Macintosh brains, Logic Pro, 1919 Steinway 6' grand piano, Focusrite interface, Grace and API pre-amps, AKG c-414 mics and supplemental specialty mics.

Selected EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION employment:

University of Colorado, Boulder Department of Theatre and Dance

Associate Teaching Professor- Graduate and Undergraduate courses, 2001-Present: 5064 Graduate Music Seminar, 3014/5014 Inside The Groove, 3024/5024 Sound Choices, 1908 First Year Seminar, 1013 Improvisation (co-taught) *Music Director-* Hiring, training, purchasing, maintenance, oversight. 1991-Present.

Dance Class Accompanist- Modern, Post Modern, Hip Hop, Contact Improvisation, African Dance, ballet 1984-Present.

Committee service: merit review, hiring search, program fee, curriculum, RIO grant awards, MFA/BFA readerships.

Bates Dance Festival Bates College, Lewiston, Maine. 3 week workshop *Inside The Groove* (2018), *Modern dance accompanist, composer, workshop leader, performer, concert director.* 3 weeks every summer, annually, 1998-2019, 2022, 2024.

Boulder Jazz Dance Festival *accompanist*, 10 day workshops, Boulder, CO, 2025, 2026.

American College Dance Festival Association *Music Director, accompanist, teacher: Collaborating with Musicians, Rhythm Skills for Dancers, Interlocking Rhythms*, CO, AZ, WY, UT, MT, OR, WA, Regional conferences, 2006-present.

Naropa University *Adjunct faculty-* music composition 2001, *composer-performer*, occasionally 1988-present.

Saint Petersburg College Music Program *Workshop- How to Accompany Dance Classes*, St. Petersburg, FL, June, 2015.

Armory for the Arts *Turkish/ Arabic Music workshops for singers and instrumentalists*, 2006-09. Santa Fe, NM

New Directions Cello Festival, *Middle Eastern Modes workshop*, with James Hoskins, Ithica College, New York, 2010.

Colorado Dance Festival *Music Director, accompanist, scholarship award committee member*, Boulder, CO, 1992-2000.

Selected PERSONAL EDUCATION:

University of Colorado, Boulder B.A., **Asian Studies**, 1988. Thesis: Interrelationships between classical music and cultural principles in Bali. Professors **John K. Galm**, **Paul W. Kroll**, advisors. Multiple courses in music theory, world musics, impressionist composition, jazz improvisation, and CU music ensembles.

People's Institute for Survival and Beyond (PISAB) UNDOING RACISM, 3 day workshop, CU, August 2025.

Balkan/Middle Eastern Workshops: Makam theory, Singing (Greek, Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Albanian), Lutes (bouzouki, oud, bağlama), Drums (Tapan, Riqq, Doumbek) with **Souren Baronian**, **Christos Govetas**, **Omar Faruk Tekbilek**, **Georges Lammam**, **Ergun Tamer**, **Haig Manoukian**, **Beth Bahia Cohen**, **Merita Halili**, **Naser Musa**, **Bob Beer**, **Mamek Khadou**, **Brenna MacCrimmon**, **Lise Leipmann**, **Yair Dalal**, **Mendocino Woodlands, CA** 1985-2010.

Private Study **Naser Musa** (oud), **Chris Kenney** (voice), **Bill Elliott**, **Patricia Burge** (composition, piano).

Fort Collins High School 1981-84, music focus. Honor and all state ensembles, *Statwide best guitar soloist award*.

Foreign languages: French (fluent with faults); Turkish (not fluent yet); Indonesian, Espanol, Italian (basic).

Selected PERFORMING ENSEMBLES:

ImprovExotica (iX) *co-founder, improviser* with **Beth Quist** and **James Hoskins**, **CO**, 2010-present.

Sherefe Balkan & Middle Eastern Ensemble *co-founder, performer*, **CO, CA, NY, WY, NM** 1997-present.

Barbelfish Balkan Band *drummer, vocalist*, **CO**, 2002-present.

Boulder Klezmer Consort led by **Sheldon Sands**, *drummer*, **CO, WY**, 2004-present.

Mishkhah *multi-instrumentalist* Episcopal Music redux with **Kate Eaton**, **CO, NY, MD, TX, FL, CUBA** 2010-18

The Peace Project directed by "Fiddler For Peace" **Kailin Yong**, *performer*, **CO, KA, NE, NY** 2007-12.

Robert Een Ensemble *collaborating performer*, **CO, CA & ME** 2003-2008.

Rachid Halihal and Friends *multi-instrumentalist*, music of the Arab diaspora, **CO & WY** 2003-present.

Latif Bolat Ensemble *performer, concert producer*, Turkish Sufi Devotional music. **CO, NM, TX**, 1997-present.

The Buzz Band *collaborating composer/performer*, instruments that buzz, directed by **Michael Stanwood**, 1998-2008

Lost Angel Stone Ensemble *co-composer, performer*, Original stone instruments with **Tom Wasinger**, **CO** 1991-2004.

COLORADO BASED events and project organizers:

City of Denver *composer, performer*, Library, Art Museum, Mayor's office on Art, Culture and Film, Natural History Museum, Zoo, Botanic Gardens, Performing Arts Festival and others, 1992-present.

City of Boulder *composer, performer*, Downtown Management Commission, Museum of Contemporary Art, CATV 54, Dairy Center for the Arts, Public Library, International Festival, others, 1989-present.

Fourmile Canyon Fire Dept.
KRFC Fort Collins
KGNU Boulder
Turning The Wheel, Inc.

St. John's Episcopal Cathedral
Multi Cultural Mosaic Foundation
First United Methodist Church

Unitarian Universalist Fellowships/Boulder/Nablus Sister City Project
 Jewish Community Center, Boulder
 CU Muslim Student Association
 Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality
 Turkish American Cultural Society
 Attention Homes
 Congregation Nevei Kodesh
 St Peter-Paul Greek Orthodox Church
 Café De La Culture
 Colorado Department of Corrections
 Boulder County Aids Project
 Golden Sun Foundation
 1000 Voices, Nii Armah Sowah
 *Musical Ambassadors for Peace
 Playback Theatre West
 Speaking of Dance
 Boulder Valley School District
 St. Vrain Valley School District
 Colorado Dance Festival
 Sans Souci Dance Cinema Festival
 Colorado Shakespeare Festival
 Glenwood Spgs. Dance Festival
 Sacred Mysteries Productions
 Soulless Cinema
 Talent West
 Moondance International Film Festival
 St. Spyrian Greek Festival
 Helander Dance Company
 Kim Robards Dance
 Third Law Dance Theater

Frequent Flyers Productions
 David Taylor Dance Theatre
 Zikr Dance Ensemble
 Jan Justis Dance Company
 Boulder Ballet
 Kinetic Playground, Leah Woods
 Skeleton Dance- Onye Ozuzu
 Ballet Nouveau Colorado
 Colorado College
 Ty Burhoe/Tala Records
 University Club, Denver
 Mike David Photography
 Wind Over The Earth Recording
 Trident Coffeehouse
 Naropa University
 Colorado State University
 Boulder Jewish Festival
 Planina Balkan Chorus
 Museum of Outdoor Arts
 Sterling Regional Medical Center
 Coupe Recording Studios
 Farell Lowe's MIME
 Immersive Recording Studios
 The Found Collective
 The New Local, Boulder
 Colorado Business Committee for the Arts
 Hanzon Studios
 Now or Never Theatre
 Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse
 St. Julien Hotel

NATIONAL-INTERNATIONAL events and project organizers:

American College Dance Assn. [CO, UT, MT, WY, OR, AZ](#)
 National High School Dance Festival [VA](#)
 NAFSA Intl. Education Conference [CO, CA, PA, WA](#)
 Turning The Wheel [CA, NC, MA, MT, TX, WA, OR](#)
 National Playback Theatre ([Chicago, IL](#))
 Pomegranite Productions Teen Mentorship Program ([NM](#))
 Orthodox Jewish National Conference ([CO](#))
 International Conference of Jesuit Clergy ([TX, CO](#))
 Latif Bolat Turkish Sufi Music ([TX, CO, NM, Turkey](#))
 Arizona Council on the Arts, Awards committee, ([AZ](#))
 West America Turkic Council ([CA, WY, AZ, CO](#))
 Her Future Coalition.org ([CO](#))
 Mishkhah Episcopal org. [NY, MD, TX, CO, FL, CUBA](#)
 Mothers Acting Up (via Beth Osnes)
 Bates Dance Festival
 David Dorfman Dance ([NY, AZ, NC, ME, CO](#))
 Delfos Danza Contemporanea (Claudia Lavista)
 Chris Aiken and Angie Hauser ([CO, MA, ME, UT](#))
 Florida Dance Festival ([Tampa, FL](#))
 SaltDance Festival ([Salt Lake City, UT](#))
 Dance Improvisation Festival ([Chicago, IL](#))
 Desperate Figures Dance Theater ([Germany, Netherlands](#))

Citi Neon ([Istanbul, Turkey based NGO](#))
 Julia Ziviani/Dancaberta ([Brazilian Dance Company](#))
 Cubeatz/Josh Plotner ([USA](#))
 Lazer Vaudeville ([USA, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan](#))
 Los Angeles Art Show ([CA](#))
 Sound Body Productions (Vickie Dodd, [WA, OR, CO](#))
 East European Folklife Center ([WA, CA](#))
 Swire Properties, Ltd. ([Hong Kong](#))
 The Roxy Theater, [Missoula \(MT\)](#)
 City Of Missoula, First Night celebration ([MT](#))
 New Directions Cello Festival ([NY](#))
 Jaipur Literature Festival ([CO](#))
 Smith College ([MA](#))
 St. Petersburg College ([FL](#))
 University of [North Carolina](#)
 University of [Oregon](#)
 University of [Wyoming](#)
 University of [Utah](#)
 University of [Washington](#)

AUDIO DISCOGRAPHY partial list:

Quantum Qi Original Soundtrack for the documentary film by [Sharron Rose](#), *co-composer, co-producer*, [Sacred Mysteries](#), 2026.

Something Came Up by [Bards of a Feather](#), 5 song EP, *album producer, co-arranger*, 2025
Om Sri Gaia by Nina Bliss, produced by [David Hinojosa](#), *multi-instrumentalist session player*, 2025
Komorebi by Vickie Dodd, James Hoskins, and Farrell Lowe, *album recording engineer, session player*, [Right Brain Records](#), 2023.
Healing Through Sound Audio book demo, with [Vickie Dodd](#), *producer*, 2023 (ultimately produced by [Findhorn Press](#))
From The Wild with [Flight Behavior](#), *collaborating composer, multi-instrumentalist, recording engineer*, 2022.
For Nyla with [Carla Sciacky](#), *oud session player*, 2022.
 Riff/Sample library talent with [Cubeatz/Josh Plotner](#), *session player for use in Cubeatz productions*, 2020
Pairings with [Carl Dixon and Derek Wright](#), Brazilian/Middle Eastern duo, *co-producer, recording engineer*, 2018
Farabee Persian Classical Music Ensemble *co-producer, recording engineer*, [Clarinoodle Productions](#) April 2018
Ghosts Of Zanzibar with [Lara Jai](#), *album producer, multi-instrumentalist* 2016.
Maiden Of Midnight with [Ariana Saraha](#), *album co-producer, multi-instrumentalist, consultant*, 2014-15
King Of Love with [Kate Eaton](#), *multi-instrumentalist, vocalist*, 2014-15
Resonance Meditations with sound healer [Vickie Dodd](#), *album producer, vocalist*, 2013
My Problem Was My Solution with Sufi troubadors [Zevk Ensemble](#) (NM), *album producer, lutes*, 2012
Ariana Saraha- Live at Immersive Studios *producer, mixing engineer*, 2011
Sala Sala (2010) **Opium** (2001) with [Sherefe Balkan and Middle Eastern Ensemble](#) *album producer, vocalist, multi-instrumentalist*
Rest Assured with sound healer [Vickie Dodd](#) (WA) and cellist [James Hoskins](#), *album producer, performer*, 2010.
Vibrational Sound Healing with [Kimba Arem](#), for [Andrew Weil](#), *multi-instrumentalist, co-composer*, [Sounds True Productions](#) 2010.
The Color of Sound produced by [Mickey Houlihan](#), *co-composer, multi-instrumentalist*, 2009.
Bowing With The Flow with Chinese violinist/composer [Kailin Yong](#), *Multi-instrumentalist, consultant*, 2008.
Kuluk Misafir with Canadian/Turkish vocalist [Brenna MacRimmon](#), *co-recording engineer, saz player*, 2008.
Songs From The Second World with [Tigger Benford & Peter Jones](#), *Co-composer, album producer*, 2007.
Unlock The Mystery with singer/harpist [Lara Jai](#). *Album arranger, producer, multi-instrumentalist*, 2007.
Tibetan Meditation Music with Tibetan flautist [Nawang Khechog](#), *Oud player*, [Sounds True Productions](#), 2007.
Gül- Turkish Sufi Songs of Devotion with Sufi troubador [Latif Bolat](#), *multi-instrumentalist, engineer*, 2005.
Dead Sea Strolls with composer [Sheldon Sands](#), *Greek and Turkish Lutes*, 2002.
The Midnight Circus, Lazer Vaudeville, Rainforest, Theater of the Vampires, Mountain Wake, The Stringmaker, Sea Spirits, Golden Sun Collection, Jesse Manno original soundtrack albums, 1990-present.

Selected SPECIAL EVENTS:

Sound Of Solstice, Performance/Ritual series produced by [Lulu Delphine](#), as solo musician, also with musicians [Beth Quist](#) and [James Hoskins](#). [Una Vida](#) and [Congregation Nevei Kodesh](#), solstices, Boulder, 2023-present.

Musical Ambassadors of Peace Volunteer performer for fundraising concerts with Boulder based organization helping refugees in [Gaza](#), [Tijuana](#), [Southeastern Uganda](#), and the [US](#), multiple live events, CO, 2017-2025.

100th Anniversary Celebration of The Turkish Republic hosted by the [Turkish American Cultural Association of Colorado](#), Band leader for an evening of all Turkish Repertoire by [Sherefe](#). [Hyatt Regency Conference Center](#), Denver, CO, October 28, 2023.

Turkish/Syrian earthquake benefit concert Volunteer performer with Sherefe (founding member) and Turkish Massage Owl (led by [Egemen Kesikli](#)), [Muse Performance Space](#), Lafayette, CO, 2023.

Global Water Dances, local manifestation of international event facilitated by [Maren Waldman](#), *composer/improvisor/collaborator*, [Golden Ponds Nature Area](#), Longmont CO, June 10, 2023.

Turkish Cultural Soirees at [NAFSA International Education Conferences](#), commissioned to perform evenings of Turkish music by Istanbul based N.G.O. [CITY NEON](#), [Howard Theatre](#), Washington, DC, [Ritz Carlton](#), Philadelphia, [Belasco Theatre](#), Los Angeles, [Paramount Theatre](#), Denver, 2016-2019.

Boulder Balkan Bash, Featured vocalist and instrumentalists in three bands- Sherefe, Barbelfish, and The Bitovniks, Semi-annual tradition, [Avalon Ballroom](#), Boulder, CO. 2016-2025.

"Le Cirque" Benefit soiree for [Attention Homes](#), French language/Middle Eastern /rap/opera version of [Aladdin](#) and the [Magic Lamp](#), and other original music, [Glenn Miller Ballroom](#), CU, Boulder, May 2015.

Legislative Intercultural Dialogue Dinners Featured performer of Turkish, Greek, Israeli and Armenian music for State Governors, State Senators, other politicians, business leaders. Presented by West America Turkic Council and Multi-Cultural Mosaic Foundation, CA, AZ, WY, CO State Capitols, 2011-2014.

Ubuntu African Festival Sound Designer/Engineer for 100+ performer Dance and Music event directed by Nii Armah Sowah, Glenn Miller Ballroom, CU Boulder, April 2014.

Come To Your Senses Closing event musician and DJ, 16th annual Los Angeles Art Show, with aerial dancers The Stebens Twins, Turning The Wheel, Timothy Yarger Fine Art. Cooper Design Space, Los Angeles CA, 2011.

A Collection of Keepers Culminating performance for The Museum of Outdoor Arts “Design and Build” program, percussion/vocal score, directed by Lonnie Hanzon, Englewood Cultural Center, July, 2008.

The Gathering Of Waters Ice Sculpture ceremony with co-composers James Hoskins and Dave Willey, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Eco Arts, Boulder, CO, 2007.

Museum After Dark- a party of Jurassic Proportions Two musical performance installations celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Prehistoric Journey exhibit. Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver, CO, 2005

A Night on the Silk Road multimedia performance produced by Ken Green for the Golden Sun Foundation. In collaboration with Kitaro, Nawang Kechog, Beth Quist, Ty Burhoe, James Hoskins. Boulder Theater, 2003.

Hong Kong Sovereignty Ceremony composition; integrated sound design for 40 foot dancing dragon designed by Lonnie Hanzon for Government Handover Ceremonies, Pacific Place, Hong Kong, Mar-June 1997.

Island Place Grand Opening composer, music director, week long performance/installation collaboration with Peter Davison (of Airjazz), Berg and Prince (of Blinky’s Fun Club), and Hong Kong City Dance Company. Directed by Lonnie Hanzon for Swire Properties Ltd., Hong Kong, March, 1997.

Denver International Airport Grand Opening site-specific piece with Jan Justis/Carmela Weber. Mayor’s Office of Art, Culture, and Film (performance cancelled due to construction delays, schedule conflicts) 1995.

Falling Sky Event (with co-composer David Corell) 45 min. site-specific outdoor skydiving trapeze/dance/motorcycle event directed by Mel Wong. CU Boulder outdoor quad, 1989.

COMMISSIONED ORIGINAL SCORES

From 30+ evening length works and 200+ shorter works for Dance Theater, Film, Multimedia.

Selected FILM/VIDEO soundtracks:

Five 3 minute student films, all directed by Paloma Torres De Lozano and selected for International Screening in the Right Here Right Now Global Youth Climate Summit (a U.N. program), commissioned by Beth Osnes-Stoedefalke for CU Boulder’s Spike Center for Sustainability, 2026.

Quantum Qi- The Taoist Art of Nurturing Life, co-composer, multi-instrumentalist, co-producer of audio, documentary film directed by Sharron Rose for Sacred Mysteries, Inc. with original soundtrack by Manno, Hoskins and Quist, edited and produced by Michael Verdick. Winner of Best Soundtrack award at 8 film festivals internationally, 2025-6.

Terra: Oh, The Places Art/Dance film by Amanda Benzin and Matthew Schlieff, premiered at Life In Motion Festival, Mesa State University, CO, and Body Mind Centering Association Conference, Denison University, 2022/3.

Eleven Masks Site-specific dance film, Director, Composer, and co-Choreographer, with cinematographer and editor elle hong, FRESH performance, CU Boulder, Dec. 2020.

The Thief Of Baghdad (1924 version, 140 min.) silent film by Raoul Walsh starring Douglas Fairbanks. New music with collaborator [James Hoskins](#), commissioned by [Trident Coffee House's](#) "Silent Trident" series, August, 2015.

Buster Keaton's Birthday Party at The Roxy One Man Band live music for [Buster Keaton](#) films **The General** (78 min.) and **Sherlock Junior** (45 min.) commissioned by [The Roxy Theater](#), [Missoula MT](#), October, 2013.

Birdwatchers (78 min.) independent feature film written and directed by [Thomas Wingerd](#), [Soulless Cinema](#), Premeired at [Boedecker Cinema](#), [The Dairy Center](#), [Boulder CO](#), September, 2013.

Freeing the Bird of Prana, and **River Flow** with [Ty Burhoe](#), Yoga Instructional videos by [Tias Little](#), 2004-2006.

Williams Carillon Tower Design and Realization, documentary by [Ken Miller and Mike McMahon](#), [University of Colorado Denver](#), 2006.

I, Dancer TV production including dance piece with developmentally disabled performers. Prof. [Nora Zuniga Shaw](#) (OSU dance) and [Mary Rathke](#) ([Ohio PBS](#)), directors. [Columbus, OH](#), 2005.

Mothers Acting Up 10 min. inspirational documentary film for the eponymous organization produced by [Beth Osnes](#) and [Robert Schaller](#), [Ontos Media](#), August, 2005.

Once Before a Time 35 min. wordless fairy tale filmed in rural France by [Nancy Spanier](#) and [TellStarr Video](#). Original score for voices, concertina, lutes, cello, drums, strings. Premiere: [Sarlat Film Festival](#), [Sarlat, France](#), 2004.

Lonnie's World Co-composed with [James Hoskins](#) and others, television pilot episode produced by [Hanzon Studios](#) featuring the design work of [Lonnie Hanzon](#). Produced by [Jefferson Arca](#), Spring 2003.

The International Channel Contributing composer for [International Channel CATV network](#) i.d. spots directed by [Jean Kopeck](#) and produced by [Kip Kuepper](#) at [Coupe Studios](#), [Boulder, CO](#), Fall 1999.

The Industrial North Original soundtrack for educational CD rom on North American History, commissioned by [Digital Creators, Inc.](#) ([Mark Schroeder](#)) for [KRMA Denver PBS](#), Fall, 1997.

Environments (with co-composer David Corell) 30 min. site-specific dance video production choreographed and directed by [Mel Wong](#), produced by [TellStarr Video](#), [Boulder](#), 1990.

Selected THEATER soundtracks:

Moment In Time, an evening length, wordless, completely grayscale puppetry, shadow, mask, projections and physical theatre performance piece by [Betsy Tobin and Michael Gunst](#). Premeired at [Dairy Arts Center](#), [Boulder](#), 2023, New York premiere at [The Tank](#), [NYC](#), USA. January 11-14, 2024.

Hecuba by [Euripides](#). Live original score for new evening length production, directed by [Tamara Meneghini](#). Translator: [Diane Rayor](#), Masks: [Jonathan Becker](#), [CU Roe Green Theatre](#) November, 2018. Awarded a [Kennedy Center American College Theatre Association](#) certificate of Merit for Musical direction.

Comedy of Errors, by [Shakespeare](#), evening length score co-performed with Theatre students, directed by [Kevin Rich](#), set in Ephesus, Greece, [CU Loft Theatre](#), March 2017. Awarded a [Kennedy Center American College Theatre Association](#) certificate of Merit for Musical direction.

The Auspicious Adventures of an Improbable Princess, 75 min. live soundtrack for Bali-inspired shadow puppet play by [Betsy Tobin](#). [Multiple Colorado Venues](#), and [Dixon Place](#), [New York City](#), November 2015-2017.

Twelfth Night ([Shakespeare](#)) All new music for a 1940s Carriibbean setting directed by [Robert Cohen](#) (CA); 30 min. for steel drums, guitar, cello, voices and percussion. [Colorado Shakespeare Festival](#), [Boulder, CO](#), Summer 2005.

My Magdeline (with co-composer [Beth Quist](#)) a new biographical play and video production about Mary Magdeline by [David Tresemer](#) and [Laura Lea Cannon](#). Premiere at [Nomad Theatre, Boulder](#), March, 2000.

The House Not Touched By Death a full length play by [Janna Goodwin](#) about death and denial. Premiere: [Colorado Shakespeare Festival](#), 1997, [Hospice centers throughout New England](#), 2001-2002.

Selected DANCE/DANCE-THEATRE, MULTI-MEDIA soundtracks:

the color of the ocean after a heavy rain, 11 min. unconventional ballet piece for 30 dancers choreographed by [Erika Randall](#), premiered in The Current, [Roe Green Theatre, CU Boulder, CO](#)

Resonance, 10 min. new work for Aerial dance artist [Betsy Tobin](#) Premiered in Resonance, [The Mariposa Collective](#) Creative Arts Music/Dance performance series, [Dairy Arts Center, Boulder, CO](#) January, 2026.

The Law Of Equivalent Exchange, 8 min new work for Aerial dance artist [Nancy Smith](#) of [Frequent Flyers Productions](#). Premiered in Momentum, [The Mariposa Collective](#) Creative Arts Music/Dance performance series, [Dairy Arts Center, Boulder, CO](#). January 31-February 2nd 2025.

Into Out Of Body, performance installation with [Jeanine McCain](#) (dance) and [Brian Hapcic](#) (projection design), [Sans Souci Dance Cinema Festival](#) Premiere Screening event, [Museum of Boulder](#), Aug 29-31, 2025.

Gravity and Bone, original story telling with original music, soiree with performer [Julia Horn](#), presented by [The Threshold Collective](#), [The New Local](#), Downtown Boulder, October 2023.

Learning To See in The Dark performance of live original music accompanying [Chris Hoffman](#), Poet, reading from his eponymous new book. [Community United Church of Christ](#), Boulder, August 2023.

A Better Person 12 minute Dance/Musical Theatre new work with choreographers [David Dorfman](#) and [Lisa Race](#), [Bates Dance Festival](#), [Lewiston, ME](#), August 2022.

Composer/choreographer/curator of several CU Boulder dance faculty members' work to create Freshman Seminar performance pieces, "**Mashup Moving Company** 2022, "**Our House**" 2019, "**POPpourri**" 2018. [CU Dance](#).

ProW 15 min. work for voice, woodwinds, piano, synth, sound effects on the theme of Migration with Mexican choreographer [Claudia Lavista](#), premiered April 2018, [CU Dance](#), [Redline 48 hr Festival](#) (Denver Aug. 2018), [ACDA conference](#) ([University of Utah](#), Mar. 2019).

Verge 6 min. score for electronics, woodwinds, percussion for dance piece by [Leah Woods](#), [CU Dance](#), 2019.

The Elision Project II, new works for percussion, cura, voice, accordion, for [Third Law Dance Theatre](#), choreographed by Katie Elliott, [The Dairy Center, Boulder, CO](#), April, 2017.

Communicating (With), 7 min score for strings, voice, water sounds for dance piece choreographed by [Andrea Olsen](#). Premiered at the [Middlebury College Symposium on Mindfulness](#). September, 2016.

Altar, 7 min piece for Kanun, Duduk, voice, and electronics for [Zikr Dance Ensemble](#), [David Taylor](#), Artistic Director/Choreographer. [Lakewood Cultural Center](#), multiple other venues, CO, 2016 and 2017 seasons.

The Profession Of Poetry, 12 min. Dance work by [Chris Aiken](#) and [Angie Hauser](#), of Smith College, with co-composer [Carl Landa](#), [Schaeffer Theatre](#), [Bates Dance Festival](#), [Bates College, Lewiston, ME](#), August, 2016.

Belline, 6 minute piano work commissioned by [Danielle Garrison](#) for a section of an evening length Aerial Dance work. [Santa Barbara Floor to Air Festival](#), [Lobero Theatre, Santa Barbara, CA](#), March, 2016.

"Helene" 12 minute Dance piece by [Robert Moses](#), [Bates Dance Festival](#), [Maine](#), August, 2015.

The Here and Now 10 min. original score for choreography by Jennifer Salk, [Florida Dance Festival](#), June, 2015.

The Lady Of The Lake, 8 min. original score for [Zikr Dance Ensemble](#) incorporating works by Chopin and Debussy. Choreographer [David Taylor](#), premiered at [Englewood Cultural Center](#), April, 2015.

Almost Nothing 45 min. dance performance by [Julia Ziviani/DANCABERTA](#) (from Brazil) [CU Dance](#), May, 2015.

Utopia Parkway 70 min. multimedia homage to visual artist [Joseph Cornell](#). Directed by [Chris Aiken](#) and [Angie Hauser](#), premiered at [Dance Improvisation Fest](#), [Columbia College, Chicago, IL](#), with [Ty Burhoe](#); [CU Boulder Irey Theatre and Mendenhall Center](#), [Smith College, MA](#) with [Tigger Benford](#), 2011-2014.

Unsettled 60 min. Dance piece by [David Dorfman](#) and [Korhan Basaran](#) commissioned by [Dance Motion USA](#), *collaborator* with Composer [Sam Crawford](#), [Brooklyn Academy of Music Fisher Hall](#), [Brooklyn, NY](#), August, 2014.

Settle 50 min. Dance/Theatre piece choreographed by [Rachel Oliver](#), premiered at [Atlas Black Box Theatre](#), [CU Boulder, CO](#) January 2014, [University Of Montana PARTV Center](#), April 2014.

The Space Between These Lines- Not Dedicated 45 min. Dance/Theatre piece based on Bosnian war stories, choreographed by [Kate Speer](#), [CU Boulder Irey Theatre, CO](#), November, 2013.

Metaphor 70 min Multimedia Performance work directed by [Betsy Tobin](#), [Now or Never Theatre Co](#), Premiered at [The Dairy Center, Boulder CO](#), June, 2013.

Junk 45 min. Circus Arts/Dance piece by [Peter Davison](#), [The Dairy Center, Boulder CO](#), and [Lawrence KA](#), 2013.

Lazer Vaudeville 90 min. score for performance with Lasers, juggling, black light, indoor kites, directed by [Carter Brown](#), featuring [Cindy Marvell](#). presented at [Lamb's Theater and John Houseman Theatre Off Broadway, NYC](#) most of 2005. Extensive touring in [USA](#), [Canada](#), [Taiwan](#), [Saudi Arabia](#) 1998-2014.

Cirque De Minuit (The Midnight Circus) 90 min. Aerial dance/Theatre work directed by [Nancy Smith](#), [Frequent Flyers Productions](#), premiered at [The Dairy Center, Boulder, CO](#), April, 2012.

Rainforest Quadraphonic 65 min. multimedia ballet for [David Taylor Dance Theatre](#). [Denver Auditorium Theatre](#). Extensive touring and educational outreach, [CO](#), [CA](#), [WY](#), [LA](#), [MT](#), [SD](#) 1996-2014.

Stardust and Water (2015-25) **I Knew That Once** (2011-13) **Nearly Invisible** (2005-8), **The Stringmaker** (2003-6), **Confetti Conspiracy** (2000-2), **I Dreamed 100 Owls** (1996) **Paper Doll Shadows** (1993), **Who's There** (1991), Evening length Intergenerational Dance Theatre pieces for [Turning The Wheel, Inc.](#) Director: [Alana Shaw](#), performed in [Seattle and Port Angeles, WA](#), [San Francisco and Los Angeles CA](#), [NC](#), [MA](#), [MT](#), [IA](#), and [CO](#).

Come, and Back Again *Music director, arranger, performer*, 12 min. dance theater piece exploring the life and work of Patti Smith. Choreographed and directed by [David Dorfman](#), [Bates Dance Festival](#), [Maine](#), 2011.

You and Me, An Evening of Intimacy 60 min. Site Specific Dance/Theatre Installation with [James Hoskins](#) and [Dave Willey](#). Directed by [Tara Rynders](#), Premiered [Denver, CO](#), 2011.

I, Disappear 12 min. modern dance work for laptop, Turkish Saz, and vocals, choreographed by [Michael Foley](#). Commissioned by [Bates Dance Festival](#), [Bates College, Maine](#), 2010.

Rounds 23 min. all vocal score for playful contemporary ballet with circus props choreographed by [Peter Davison](#), Artistic Director of [Boulder Ballet](#). Premiered at [Dairy Center for The Arts, Boulder](#), March, 2010.

Spirit of Adventure Performance sections on Egypt, Greece, India, and Nepal for travel photographer [Mike David's](#) multimedia shows. [Gates Concert Hall, Newman Center, Denver](#). Annually, 2002-2012.

I Am Still Waiting- 12 min. post modern work choreographed by [Heidi Henderson](#), [CU Boulder](#), 2009.

Within Us 60 min Afro-modern dance work by [Onye Ozuzu](#), [Naropa Institute](#) BFA program, 2009.

The Escape Artist by composer, vocalist & Cellist [Robert Een](#) (of Meredith Monk ensemble), *Collaborating performer*, [World Festival of Sacred Music](#), [Redcat Theatre](#), [Los Angeles, CA](#), October, 2008.

The Thirteenth Tipping Point- Day of the Dead performance/procession event with [Michelle Ellsworth](#) and [Bobbe Besold](#). Co-composers James Hoskins, Dave Willey. [Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art](#), 2007.

The Monkey Saddle Post modern dance/theatre piece by [Michelle Ellsworth](#) with co-composers [Michael Theodore](#) and [Dave Willey](#). Premiered in [NYC](#) at [National Performance Network](#) Showcase, other NPN venues 2006-7.

Kiva: What Do We Hold Sacred? 30 min. work with [Speaking Of Dance](#), [Mesa Verde National Park](#)'s 100th Anniversary; co-composer [Michael Stanwood](#). Performed onsite and at [Colorado History Museum](#), Summer 2005.

Crushed Velvet 8 min. modern dance piece by [Christina Briggs](#) and [Edward Winslow](#), [Debaun Auditorium](#), [Stevens institute of Technology](#), NYC, 2005.

Sweetwater River Rise by [Onye Ozuzu](#), 13 min. work for Kanun (microtonal lap harp), cello, 2 voices, Frame drum, and mbira; several Denver area venues, 2005-6.

Duct Tape Post modern dance piece by [Marianela Boan](#) ([Havana, Cuba](#)), 8 min. work for concertina, drums, violin and electronics commissioned by [Bates Dance Festival](#), [Bates College, Maine](#), August, 2004.

Mountain Wake Evening length surround sound score for contemporary butoh piece by [Onye Ozuzu](#) and [Darrell Jones](#) of [Skeleton Dance Works](#). [Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art](#) performance series, October, 2003.

Intimacy in Transito with co-composer [Mike Vargas](#). 10 min. Post modern piece by choreographer [Chris Elam](#), [Misnomer Dance Theatre](#). Premiered at [P.S. 122 performance space](#), NYC, November, 2003.

Soaring Contemporary ballet inspired by Colorado's wild birds choreographed by [William Starn](#) of [Ballet Nouveau Colorado](#) in collaboration with [The Audobon Society](#). 25 min. work for birdcalls, woodwinds, cello, soprano, percussion and guitar. Continued regional touring and educational outreaches, 2001-2003.

Peristyle Afro-modern-butoh dance piece by [Onye Ozuzu](#), 12 min. work, [CU Boulder](#), March, 2002.

To Lie Tenderly Collaborating performer, 35 min. work with [David Dorfman Dance](#) and [Amy Denio](#). [BAM Next Wave Festival](#), [Brooklyn, New York](#), December 2000. Continued touring in [ME](#), [NC](#), [CO](#), [AZ](#), 2001.

Let It Be For Naught [Elizabeth Barrett Browning](#) poems choreographed by [William Starn](#), [Ballet Nouveau Colorado](#), 20 min work for 2 cellos, soprano, keyboard. Multiple [Denver metro area](#) venues, 2000-2001.

Junkwrath Choreography by [Gabriel Masson](#). 12 min. work for four musicians playing a specially designed sculpture comprised of used car parts. [Bates Dance Festival](#), [Bates College, Maine](#), August, 2000.

In Darkness and In Light 25 min. modern dance piece about domestic violence choreographed by [Deborah Reshotko](#)- [Speaking Of Dance](#). Commissioned by the [Mizel Museum](#), [Denver](#), 1999.

Merci a Dieu 8 minute work for pipe organ, cello and SATB chorus commissioned by organist [Robert Moore](#), [National Guild of Organists National Festival](#), [Saint James Episcopal Church Denver](#), Fall 1998.

Workspace 55 min. modern dance/theatre piece by [Nancy Seitz-McIntyre](#) for [Desperate Figures Dance Theatre](#). [Germany and The Netherlands](#), various cities, 1997-98.

The Gathering (with co-composer [James Hoskins](#)) university/community authentic movement collaboration directed by [Liz Lerman](#). [CU Boulder](#), 1995.

Bytes In Flight computer animation video piece directed by [Felicia Dryden](#) and [Nancy Smith](#) with live aerial dance performance by [Frequent Flyers Productions](#), [Space For Dance](#), Boulder, 1995.

Maintain! Climbing the Walls (composer and dancer) rock climbing/modern dance- theatre. [Carmela Weber](#) [Vertical Dance](#), [Denver Auditorium Theatre \(DCPA\)](#), [Mackay Auditorium](#), [CU Boulder](#), 1994-5.

Mir Zienen Doh (with co-composer Mike vargas) modern dance/theatre work based on WW II holocaust survivor stories. [Jan Justis Dance Co.](#), [Schwyder Theater](#), [Denver](#), 1994.

Second Breakfast 55 min. post modern dance/theatre by [Nancy Seitz-McIntyre](#) for [Desperate Figures Dance Theatre](#). [Germany](#), [Holland](#), various cities, and at the [Edinburgh Fringe Festival](#), [Bedlam Theatre](#), 1992-3.

Encontre 13 min. modern dance piece by [Kim Robards Dance](#). Performances throughout Colorado and at [Merce Cunningham studio theatre](#), NYC, 1992.

Theater Of The Vampires 30 min. aerial dance/theatre piece by [Nancy Smith](#) for [Frequent Flyers Productions](#), premiered [Boulder Theater](#), ongoing reprises, [Boston](#), [New Orleans](#), CO, 1990-2018.

Round Seven 10 min. rhythm tap/modern dance by [Bill Evans](#); [Colorado Repertory Dance Co](#), multiple venues, 1989-94.

Don't Fear the Fire 15 minute dance work inspired by the AIDS crisis, choreographed by [Jeff Slayton](#), Colorado Repertory Dance Company ([CO](#), [WY](#), [NY](#)) 1988-89.

[**Note:** Among works not listed are numerous original scores commissioned by faculty and Graduate Students at the University of Colorado Department of Theatre and Dance dating back to 1984. Those collaborators include [Nada Diachenko](#), [Toby Hankin](#), [Larry Southall](#), [David Capps](#), [Aaron Smith](#), [Gwen Ritchie](#), [Leah Woods](#), [Rachel Dodson](#), [Ashley Hartka](#), [Bailey Anderson](#), and many others]

AWARDS:

Best Original Soundtrack Award at six festivals for the documentary film *Quantum Qi* (*recording engineer, multi-instrumentalist, composer*), directed by [Sharron Rose](#) and co-created with her, [James Hoskins](#), [Beth Quist](#), and arranger/producer [Michael Verdick](#) 2025-26:

[Shanghai Indie Film Festival](#)

[Zepstone International Film and Music Festival](#)

[London Women Film Festival](#)

[Denver Movie Awards](#)

[Universal Martial Arts Film Festival](#)

[Santa Barbara International movie awards](#)

[Global Music Awards](#) (Silver Medal)

Colorado Legend In Dance award, given by [The Dance Archive](#), Denver, CO. (The only musician to ever receive this dance community honor). October 15, 2023, [Cleo Parker Robinson Theatre](#), [Denver](#), CO.

American College Theatre Conference Kennedy Center Awards

Two Meritorious Achievement Awards for Original musical scores for new productions of:

[Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors](#), Dir. Kevin Rich, 2018, and [Euripides' Hecuba](#), Dir. Tamara Meneghini, 2019.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW PRESS QUOTES partial list:

The New Yorker "a catchy soundtrack really moves things along" (re: Lazer Vaudeville Off Broadway).

The New York Times 'A Search For Reconciliation From the Mideast To America' "The music beguilingly blended Western and Middle Eastern styles and instrumentation." Review by **Brian Seibert** (re: Unsettled at **BAM**).

Lovedancemore.org "Manno's vocal undulations along with his accordion accompaniment are bold, brilliant and swell the empty space" review by **Belle Baggs** (re: Chris Aiken and Angie Hauser at SaltDance Festival, Salt Lake City)

Rocky Mountain News "Jesse Manno's quadraphonic score flirts with (Rainforest sound) effects but moves far beyond cliché, nimbly blending all manner of real and electronic sonic splashes, all remaining in perfect sync with the onstage action. The sound is unforgettable." **Marc Shulgold**, (re: David Taylor Dance Theatre's Rainforest).

Habibi Magazine "Legendary...an extraordinary group of musicians...Jesse's vocals soared in Turkish and Arabic...his expert commentary throughout the evening was delightful...lines between musician and dancer blurred...an irrepressible standing ovation demanded Sherefe's return." (re: Sherefe in Santa Fe, NM).

Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany "Sophisticated sound tapestry, lively and refreshing" (re: Second Breakfast).

Mainzer Rhein Zeitung, Germany "Mystical, Penetrating, unconventional music." (re: Foreign Body).

Westword "Unbelievably surreal and beautiful. The songs are delightfully bent, pulsing celebrations that ring like calliope music from a primitive, otherworldly dimension." (re: The Stone Ensemble with **Tom Wasinger**).

MEDIA FEATURE STORIES/INTERVIEWS partial list:

Shout Out Colorado profile article, Voyagedenver.com, Spring 2025.

<https://shoutoutcolorado.com/meet-jesse-manno-composer-musician-improvisor>

Why I came to America (Neden Geldim Amerika'ya? Amerika'da İz Birakan Türkler), a book by **Anil Sural**, Turkey's White House Correspondent, profiling Turkish Immigrants to the US, including a profile of honorary "Turkish" musician (Jesse). Mr. Sural is the first Turkish author to be promoted by **Barnes and Noble**. 2022.

Healingourearth.com -a **London** based organization, Celebrating International Dance Day livestream event, interviewed by **Dr. Honey Kalaria** on "The Power of Multi-Cultural Dance Music" May 2, 2021.

Forum USA/Once Vatan (Predominant Turkish American newspaper/website)

Broadcast/podcast/print feature article and live interview by **Anil Sural**, editor, focusing on the connection with Turkish Cultural Groups in the USA to play Turkish folk music at their national events, Washington D.C. June, 2019.<https://www.oncevatan.com.tr/roportaj/jesse-manno-h163582.html>

Boulder Daily Camera

"Night Circus Takes Flight" review/interview by **Lyn Rinehart** "Impressive. If the book The Night Circus had a soundtrack it would be the score to Cirque de Minuit composed by Jesse Manno", April, 2012.

Istanbul Star Pazar (major Turkish newspaper)

"Sıradaki Türkümüz Johnathan'dan" by **İnci Döndaş**. Interview; feature on notable non-Turks who play Turkish Music. Profiled along with **Ross Daly**, **Hilde De Clercq**, **Bob Beer**, and **Brenna MacCrimmon**. July, 2010.

Metro Beat TV, Denver

Interviewed in home studio for "Local Legends" segment on **David Taylor Dance Theatre's** RAINFOREST piece (also interviewed: collaborators **David Taylor**, **George Peters**). Aired April, 2007.

Colorado Public Radio- Colorado Matters

Interviewed by **Dan Drayer** on creation of score for SOARING with **Ballet Nouveau**, April 2002.

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