

V I J A Y I Y E R

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OVERVIEW

Described by *The New York Times* as a “social conscience, multimedia collaborator, system builder, rhapsodist, historical thinker and multicultural gateway,” composer-pianist **VIJAY IYER** has carved out a unique path as an influential, prolific, shape-shifting presence in twenty-first-century music. He received a MacArthur Fellowship, a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, a United States Artist Fellowship, a Grammy nomination, two German “Echo” Awards, and the Alpert Award in the Arts, and was voted Downbeat Magazine’s Jazz Artist of the Year four times in the last decade. He has released two dozen albums, performed at festivals and concert venues worldwide, received numerous composition commissions, collaborated with a wide range of artists across disciplines, and published and lectured widely in music studies, composition, performance, critical improvisation studies, Black studies, and embodied cognition. He holds a tenured position at Harvard as the Franklin D. and Florence Rosenblatt Professor of the Arts, with a joint appointment in the Department of Music and the Department of African and African American Studies. He founded the Department of Music’s doctoral program in Creative Practice and Critical Inquiry.

This CV is divided into two parts, covering creative work and academic work, respectively.

M U S I C A L V I T A E

DISCOGRAPHY AS A COMPOSER, PERFORMER, BANDLEADER & PRODUCER

UnEasy, Vijay Iyer Trio feat. Linda May Han Oh and Tyshawn Sorey, ECM Records 2021
The Transitory Poems, Vijay Iyer & Craig Taborn, ECM Records 2019
Far From Over, Vijay Iyer Sextet, ECM Records 2017
A Cosmic Rhythm with Each Stroke, Vijay Iyer & Wadada Leo Smith, ECM Records 2016
Break Stuff, Vijay Iyer Trio, ECM Records 2015
Radhe Radhe: Rites of Holi (DVD/BluRay and digital release), Vijay Iyer & Prashant Bhargava, ECM Records 2014
Mutations, Vijay Iyer, ECM Records 2014
Holding It Down: The Veterans’ Dreams Project, Vijay Iyer and Mike Ladd, Pi Recordings 2013
Accelerando, Vijay Iyer Trio, ACT Music + Vision 2012
Tirtha, Vijay Iyer feat. Prasanna & Nitin Mitta, ACT Music + Vision 2011
Solo, Vijay Iyer, ACT Music + Vision 2010
Historicity, Vijay Iyer Trio, ACT Music + Vision 2009
Tragicomic, Vijay Iyer, Sunnyside Records 2008
Door, Fieldwork, Pi Recordings 2008
Still Life with Commentator, Vijay Iyer & Mike Ladd, Savoy Jazz 2007
Raw Materials, Vijay Iyer & Rudresh Mahanthappa, Savoy Jazz 2006

Simulated Progress, Fieldwork, Pi Recordings 2005
Reimagining, Vijay Iyer, Savoy Jazz 2005
In What Language? Vijay Iyer & Mike Ladd, Pi Recordings 2004
Blood Sutra, Vijay Iyer, Artists House Foundation 2003
Your Life Flashes, Fieldwork, Pi Recordings 2002
Panoptic Modes, Vijay Iyer, Red Giant Records 2001
Architextures, Vijay Iyer, Asian Improv Records 1998
Memorphilia, Vijay Iyer, Asian Improv Records 1995

CURRENT & RECENT PROJECTS AS A COMPOSER-PERFORMER

Vijay Iyer Trio *award-winning ensemble in a classic format, 1995-present*

Vijay Iyer & Wadada Leo Smith *collaborative musical dialogues across generations, 2012-present*

Love in Exile *lush, haunting Sufi songs with Arooj Aftab and Shahzad Ismaily, 2018-present*

Vijay Iyer Sextet *contemporary compositions for a group of cutting-edge performers, 2011-present*

Vijay Iyer & Craig Taborn *constructions for two pianos, 2011-present*

Ritual Ensemble *collective in pursuit of the sacred, featuring Ganavya, Yosvany Terry, and Rajna Swaminathan, 2016-2020*

Open City / Blind Spot *joint projects with author Teju Cole, 2013-2018*

Holding it Down / Still Life with Commentator / In What Language? *trilogy of large-scale works with poet-librettist Mike Ladd about post-9/11 American life, created from 2003-2013*

Raw Materials *longstanding duo with saxophonist-composer Rudresh Mahanthappa, 1996-present*

Fieldwork *experimental collective trio with composer-performers Tyshawn Sorey and Steve Lehman, 2002-2019*

Tirtha *trio collaboration with Karnatik guitarist Prasanna and Hindustani percussionist Nitin Mitta, 2007-2016*

Solo piano performance

Compositions *works for soloists, ensembles, and orchestras, commissioned/premiered/recorded by Brentano Quartet, Imani Winds, Parker Quartet, Lydian Quartet, Bang on a Can All-Stars, The Silk Road Ensemble, International Contemporary Ensemble, A Far Cry, So Percussion, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, LAPhil Group for New Music, American Composers Orchestra, The Knights, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and virtuosi Jennifer Koh, Matt Haimowitz, Claire Chase, Shai Wosner, Inbal Segev, Sarah Rothenberg, Mishka Rushdie Momen, and others*

Collaborative performances *with Tyshawn Sorey, Brentano Quartet, Oliver Lake, Reggie Workman, Andrew Cyrille, Henry Threadgill, Zakir Hussain, Moor Mother, Aruna Sairam, L. Subramaniam, Matt Haimovitz, Jennifer Koh, Carrie Mae Weems, Amiri Baraka, Okkyung Lee, Himanshu Suri, David Murray, Aja Monet, Miya Masaoka, Charles Tolliver, George Lewis, Pamela Z, Roscoe Mitchell, Amina Claudine Myers, Billy Hart, Terri Lyne Carrington, Dafnis Prieto, Arturo O'Farrill, Graham Haynes, Darcy James Argue, Matana Roberts, Jason Moran, Mark Turner, and many others*

AWARDS AND HONORS

2021 *Uneasy* named among best albums of the year in *Pitchfork*, *The New Yorker*, *Slate*, *JazzTimes*, *Boston Globe*, *PopMatters*, *NPR*, *Brooklyn Vegan*, others

2018 Jazz Artist of the Year & Jazz Group of the Year, *Downbeat* Magazine International Critics' Poll

2018 Mid-size Group of the Year award for Vijay Iyer Sextet, Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Awards

2017 Jazz Pianist of the Year, *JazzTimes* Critics' Poll & Readers' Poll

2017 Duo of the Year award for Vijay Iyer + Wadada Leo Smith, Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Awards

2016 *A Cosmic Rhythm with Each Stroke* listed among best albums of the year in *Rolling Stone*, *Spin*, *Pitchfork*, *The New Yorker*, *Stereogum*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, NPR

2016 Jazz Artist of the Year, *Downbeat* Magazine International Critics' Poll

2016 Trio of the Year award, Vijay Iyer Trio, Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Awards

2016 United States Artists Fellowship

2015 *Break Stuff* listed among best albums of the year in *Time* Magazine, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Globe*, NPR

2015 German Record Critics' Award (Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik), Album of the Year (*Break Stuff*)

2015 Jazz Artist of the Year, Jazz Group of the Year, *Downbeat* Magazine International Critics Poll

2013 Echo Jazz Award for Best Pianist International

2013 Pianist of the Year, Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Awards

2013 MacArthur Fellowship

2012 Jazz Artist of the Year, Jazz Group of the Year, Album of the Year, Pianist of the Year, & Rising Star Composer of the Year, *Downbeat* Magazine International Critics Poll

2012 Pianist of the Year, Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Awards

2012 Doris Duke Performing Artist Award

2012 Greenfield Prize in the Arts

2011 Rising Star Jazz Group of the year, *Downbeat* International Critics Poll

2011 *India Abroad* Publisher's Special Award for Excellence

2010 Grammy nominee, Best Jazz Instrumental Album (Vijay Iyer Trio, *Historicity*)

2010 MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR, Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Awards

2010 Album of the Year & Rising Star Jazz Group of the year, *Downbeat* Magazine International Critics Poll

2010 ECHO JAZZ AWARD (aka "German Grammy") for Best Ensemble International (Vijay Iyer Trio)

2009 #1 Jazz Album of the Year: *Village Voice* Critics' Poll, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Detroit Metro-Times*, PopMatters, NPR, others

2009 Rising Star Pianist of the Year, *Downbeat* Magazine International Critics' Poll

2007 Rising Star Jazz Artist & Rising Star Composer of the Year, *Downbeat* Magazine International Critics' Poll

2006 Rising Star Jazz Artist & Rising Star Composer of the Year, *Downbeat* Magazine International Critics' Poll

2006 Meet-the-Composer Grant for *Betrothed*, a theater work by Ripe Time Inc.

2006 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship

2005 Rockefeller Foundation Multi-Arts Production Fund Grant for *Still Life with Commentator*

2004 *Jazzwise* Magazine & *Music Magazine* Album of the Year Awards for *In What Language?*

2004 Up & Coming Musician of the Year Award, Jazz Journalists Association's 8th Annual Jazz Awards

2004 Chamber Music America / Doris Duke Foundation: New Works: Creation & Presentation Grant

2003 Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust Grant for *Mutations* (commissioned by Ethel String Quartet)

2003 CalArts Herb Alpert Award in the Arts

2002 (with Mike Ladd) Creative Capital Project Grant for *In What Language?*
2002 New York State Council on the Arts Individual Artists Grant for *Blood Sutra*
2001 (with Mike Ladd) Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust Commissioning Grant for *In What Language?*
2001 (with Rudresh Mahanthappa) Rockefeller Foundation Multi-Arts Production Fund Grant for *Sangha: Collaborative Fables*
2000 (as the Manodharma Trio) Rockefeller Foundation Multi-Arts Production Fund Grant

SELECTED COMPOSITIONS

2021 *Disunities* (16') for clarinet and string quartet. Published by Schott Music. Commissioned by Lydian Quartet, to premiere March 19, 2022 with David Krakauer, clarinet, Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass..

2021 *Pilgrimage* (25') suite in tribute to Dionne Brand, for trumpet, piano, and electronics. Composed by Vijay Iyer & Wadada Leo Smith. Commissioned for *Map to the Door of No Return at 20: A Gathering*. Premiered in a virtual performance on November 5, 2021.

2021 *For My Father* (10') for piano. Published by Schott Music. Commissioned by Da Camera of Houston, to premiere May 10, 2022, Menil Collection, Houston, Texas; Sarah Rothenberg, piano.

2021 *Tempest* (70') suite for piano, bass, drums, trumpet, and voices. Commissioned by Celebrate Brooklyn, premiered by Vijay Iyer & ensemble at Prospect Park Bandshell, August 14, 2021.

2021 *Requiem X* (58') suite in honor of Malcolm X, for trumpet, piano, and electronics. Composed by Vijay Iyer & Wadada Leo Smith. Commissioned by ArtPower at UC San Diego. Premiered in a virtual performance on May 18, 2021 (Malcolm X's birthday).

2021 *Equal Night* (10') for cello solo. Published by Schott Music. Commissioned by Matt Haimovitz, premiered 2021 and released on his recording *Primavera I: The Wind* (PentaTone Records, 2021).

2021 *The Window* (10') for cello and piano. Published by Schott Music. Commissioned by Inbal Segev, released on her recording *20 for 2020: vol II* (Avie Records, 2021).

2021 "My Boy (Song of Remembrance)" (6'30") for voices and ensemble. Commissioned by Boston Lyric Opera. Premiered in episode 3 of the tele-opera series *Desert In*, June 2021; Justin Vivian Bond & Davone Tynes, soloists.

2020 *Crown Thy Good* (6') for piano solo. Published by Schott Music. Commissioned for Min Kwon by the Center for Musical Excellence. Premiered 2021 in NYC and online.

2020 *Plinth (for Kwame Ture)* (8') for piano solo. Published by Schott Music. Commissioned for Shai Wosner by The Adele and John Gray Endowment Fund. To be premiered in 2022 by Shai Wosner.

2020 *For Violin Alone* (2'). Published by Schott Music. Commissioned by Arco Collaborative by Jennifer Koh. Premiered online by Jennifer Koh, June 2020, and released on her Grammy-nominated recording *Alone Together* (Cedille Records, 2021).

2019 *Song for Flint* (11') for viola solo. Published by Schott Music. Commissioned by Miller Theatre, NYC. Premiered October 24, Miller Theatre, with Kyle Armbrust, viola.

2019 *Hallucination Party* (8') for piano solo. Published by Schott Music. Commissioned by Mishka Rushdie Momen. Premiered October 16, New York Public Library; Momen, piano. Released on her disc *Variations* (Somm Recordings, 2019).

2019 *Crisis Modes* (18') for strings and percussion. Published by Schott Music. Co-commissioned by LA Philharmonic, Wigmore Hall, and Köln Philharmonie. Premiered January 15, 2019 at Disney Hall, Los Angeles by LAPHil New Music Group; Paolo Bortolameolli, conductor. Revised version premiered at Miller Theatre, October 24, 2019.

2019 *The Transitory Poems* collection of duo-piano music with Craig Taborn, including eight jointly created original works (commercial CD/digital release)

2018 *Jiva* (8') for shamisen solo. Published by Schott Music. Commissioned by Japan Society. Premiered October 5, 2018 by Hidejiro Honjo at Japan Society, NYC.

2018 *How the Spotlight Sounds* (50') for Steinway Spirio player piano and fixed media, with texts by Garnette Cadogan. Published by Schott Music. Premiered at The Kitchen, NYC, June 25-29, 2018.

2018 *Torque* (17') for mallet quartet. Published by Schott Music. Commissioned by So Percussion. Premiered June 22, 2018 at Caramoor.

2018 *The Diamond* (20') for violin and piano. Published by Schott Music. Commissioned by Arco Collaborative. Premiered March 30, 2018 at National Sawdust, NYC by Jennifer Koh & Vijay Iyer.

2017 *The Law of Returns* (18') for piano quartet. Premiered by Vijay Iyer with members of the Lutoslawski Quartet, Center for Music, Wroclaw, Poland, November 2017.

2017 *Asunder* (15') for chamber orchestra. Premiered by Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, NYC, October 2017.

2017 *Trouble* (29') for violin and chamber orchestra. Premiered by Jennifer Koh and International Contemporary Ensemble / The Knights. Commissioned by the Ojai Music Festival, Cal Performances, & Boston Symphony Orchestra, June-July 2017.

2017 *City of Sand (Speculative Dunhuang)* for pipa, tabla, clarinet, percussion, + string orchestra. Commissioned & premiered by Silk Road Ensemble and A Far Cry.

2016 *Cute, Zany, Interesting* (4') for solo violin. Premiered by Jennifer Koh, May 2016.

2016 *Emergence* (23') for trio and orchestra. Premiered by Leopoldinum Chamber Symphony & Vijay Iyer Trio, Wroclaw, Poland, April 2016.

2016 *A Cosmic Rhythm with Each Stroke* (40') jointly composed with Wadada Leo Smith. Commissioned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC and premiered at the Met Breuer, March 2016.

2015 *Run* (8') for solo cello. Commissioned and premiered by Matt Haimovitz, Miller Theater, October 2015.

2015 *Meta-Études* (10') for solo piano. Commissioned by San Francisco Performances, premiered at SFJazz Center, May 2015.

2015 *Bridgetower Fantasy* (20') for violin and piano. Commissioned by Jennifer Koh and Shai Wosner, premiered at UC Santa Barbara, April 2015.

2014 *Combat Breathing* (15') for solo piano & dancers. Commissioned by Brooklyn Academy of Music, premiered at BAM Next Wave Festival, December 2014.

2014 *Bruits* (20') for wind quintet and piano, premiered at La Musica International Chamber Music Festival, Sarasota, April 2014. Greenfield Prize commission. Recorded on their Grammy-nominated album *Bruits* (Bright Shiny Things, 2021).

2014 *Time, Place, Action* (35') for string quartet and piano, premiered at Da Camera of Houston, February 2014.

2013 *Suite for Trayvon (and thousands more)* (20') for quartet. Premiered at Birdland (NYC) by Trio 3 + Vijay Iyer, August 2013.

2013 *Radhe, Radhe: Rites of Holi* (35') for chamber ensemble, with film by Prashant Bhargava. Commissioned by Carolina Performing Arts, premiered at UNC Chapel Hill, March 26, 2013.

2012 *Rimpa Ephemera* (10') for chamber ensemble. Commissioned by Bang on a Can All-Stars. To premiere December 8, 2012 at Japan Society, NYC.

2012 *Dig the Say* (8') for string quartet, commissioned by Brooklyn Rider. To premiere in Winter Park, FL in November 2012.

2012 *Holding It Down: The Veterans' Dreams Project* (80'), song cycle/documentary concert, with poet Mike Ladd. Commissioned by Harlem Stage.

2012 *Playlist for an Extreme Occasion* (16') commissioned by Silk Road Ensemble. Premiered September 30-October 1, 2012 at UNC Chapel Hill.

2011 *UnEasy* (15') collaboration with choreographer Karole Armitage, commissioned by Central Park Summerstage, premiered July 15-16, 2011

2011 *Mozart Effects* (6') string quartet, commissioned by Brentano String Quartet

2010 *Release* (12') installation work, jointly with Bill Morrison, commissioned by Eastern State Penitentiary historical site

2009 *Bright Lights* collection for jazz quintet (38') commissioned by ESPN

2008 *Redemption Chant 2.0* (4') electronic work with text by Mike Ladd. Featured on the compilation *Mendi + Keith Obadike Present: Crosstalk* (Bridge Records)

2008 *Far from Over* (50') commissioned work for Chicago Jazz Festival

2007 *Teza* (70') original score for a feature film by Haile Gerima, jointly with J. Mesfin

2007 *Betrothed* (50') original score to 75-minute theatre work created by Rachel Dickstein & premiered by Ripe Time Theater Company at Ohio Theater, NYC

2007 *Interventions* (15') for chamber orchestra, improvising pianist & electronics. Commissioned by American Composers Orchestra

2005 *Mutations I-X* (35') for string quartet, piano & electronics. Premiered by Ethel string quartet + Vijay Iyer at Merkin Hall, NYC, Jan 28, 2005

2002 *Sangha: Collaborative Fables* (70') suite of eleven pieces for piano & saxophone, jointly with R. Mahanthappa. Premiered by Raw Materials (Iyer/Mahanthappa duo) at The Jazz Gallery, NYC, May 11, 2002

2000 *Three Episodes for Wind Quintet* (12'). Premiered by Imani Winds, NYC.

2000 *Conjectures* (70') suite for piano, saxophone, and Indian percussion, jointly w/ R. Mahanthappa & T. Sankaran. Premiered by Manodharma Trio (Iyer/Mahanthappa/Sankaran) at Chicago Cultural Center, January 2000

SELECTED RECORDINGS AS A FEATURED PIANIST

with Rez Abbasi Quintet:

- *Suno Suno* (Enja, 2011)
 - *Things to Come* (Sunnyside, 2009)
 - *Unfiltered Universe* (Whirlwind, 2017)
- with Greg Tate's Burnt Sugar, The Arkestra Chamber
- *All Ya Needs That Negrocity* (2011)
 - *More Than Posthuman: Rise of the Mojossexual Cotillion* (2006)
 - *If You Can't Dazzle Them With Your Brilliance, Then Baffle Them With Your Blisluth* (2005)
 - *Not April in Paris: Live from Banlieus Bleues* (2004)
 - *Black Sex Yall Liberation & Bloody Random Violets* (2003)
 - *The Rites: Conductions Inspired by Stravinsky's Le Sacre du Printemps* (2003) [with Butch Morris]
 - *That Depends On What You Know* (2001)
 - *Blood on the Leaf: Opus No. 1* (2000)

with Steve Coleman

- *The Ascension to Light* (BMG France, 1999)
- *The Sonic Language of Myth* (BMG France, 1998)

- *Genesis* (BMG France, 1997)
- *Myths, Modes and Means: Live at Hot Brass, Paris* (BMG France, 1995)
with Mike Ladd
- *Mike Ladd Presents Father Divine* (ROIR, 2005)
- *Negrophilia: The Album* (Thirsty Ear, 2005)
- *The Nostalgialator* (IK7, 2004)
with Rudresh Mahanthappa Quartet
- *Code Book* (Pi Recordings, 2006)
- *Mother Tongue* (Pi Recordings, 2004)
- *Black Water* (Red Giant Records, 2002)
with Roscoe Mitchell and the Note Factory
- *Far Side* (ECM Records, 2007)
- *Song for My Sister* (Pi Recordings, 2002)
with Wadada Leo Smith
- *A Love Sonnet for Billie Holiday* (Tum Records, 2021) (Wadada Leo Smith / Vijay Iyer / Jack DeJohnette)
- *Spiritual Dimensions* (Cuneiform, 2009) (Wadada Leo Smith's Golden Quartet)
- *Tabligh* (Cuneiform, 2008) (Wadada Leo Smith's Golden Quartet)
- *Eclipse* (concert film, 2005) (Wadada Leo Smith's Golden Quartet)
with others
- Ivo Perelman, *Brass and Ivory Tales: Tale Nine* (Fundacja Słuchaj, 2021)
- Ralph Peterson's Aggregate Prime, *Dream Deferred* (Aggregate Prime, 2016)
- Dave Douglas, *Orange Afternoons* (Greenleaf, 2011)
- Arturo O'Farrill, *The Offense of the Drum* (Motéma, 2014)
- Trio 3 (Oliver Lake, Reggie Workman, Andrew Cyrille), *Wiring* (Intakt, 2014)
- Pete Robbins, *Pyramid* (Hate Laugh, 2014)
- Das Racist, *Sit Down, Man* (Greedhead / Mad Decent, 2010)
- Steve Lehman, *Demian as Posthuman* (Pi, 2005)
- Amiri & Amina Baraka, *The Shani Project* (Brown Sound, 2004)

SELECTED RECORDINGS AS A FEATURED COMPOSER

- *The Window* for cello and piano, performed by Inbal Segev and Vijay Iyer on *20 for 2020, vol II* (Avie, 2021)
- *For Violin Alone*, performed by Jennifer Koh on *Alone Together* (Cedille, 2021)
- *Equal Night*, performed by Matt Haimovitz on *Primavera I: The Wind* (Pentatone, 2021)
- *My Boy (Song of Remembrance)*, performed by Justin Vivian Bond as part of *Desert In*, a - collaborative tele-opera released as a limited television series by Boston Lyric Opera, 2021
- *Bruits* for wind quintet and piano, performed by Imani Winds and Cory Smythe on *Bruits* (Bright Shiny Things, 2021)
- *The Diamond* for violin and piano, performed by Jennifer Koh and Vijay Iyer on *Limitless* (Cedille, 2019)
- *Hallucination Party* for piano, performed by Mishka Rushdie Momen on *Variations* (Somm, 2019)
- *Run* for solo cello, performed by Matt Haimovitz on *Overtures to Bach* (Oxingale, 2015)
- *Dig The Say* for string quartet, performed by Brooklyn Rider on *Brooklyn Rider Almanac* (Mercury Classics, 2014)
- *Playlist for an Extreme Occasion* performed by Silk Road Ensemble on *Playlist Without Borders* (Sony Classical, 2013)

- *Playlist One (Resonance)* for solo violin, performed by Cornelius Dufallo on *Journalin* (Innova Records, 2012)

SELECTED RESIDENCIES

2019-2020 Composer-in-Residence, Wigmore Hall, London

2018 Artist and curator in residence at The Kitchen, NYC, June 2018, as part of *On Whiteness*, a series convened by Claudia Rankine's Racial Imaginary Institute.

2017-2018 Resident Artistic Director, SFJazz

2017 Musical Director, Ojai Music Festival

2017 Artist-in-Residence, Molde Jazz Festival, Norway

2017 Curator/Artist-in-Residence, Wigmore Hall, London

2015-2016 Artist-in-Residence, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

2014 Artist-in-Residence, Middelheim Jazz Festival

2010-2015 Artist-in-Residence, San Francisco Performances

SELECTED INTERVIEWS AND FEATURES

2021 Aslid, Vilde, with Vijay Iyer. "Between You and Not-You: A Conversation with Vijay Iyer." In *Jazz and Culture* Vol. 4, No. 1, 87-97.

2021 [Lutz, Phil. "Vijay Iyer's Combat Art!" *Downbeat* magazine cover story, June issue, 2021.](#)

2021 [LeGendre, Kevin. "Vijay Iyer: 'Just the simple fact of being is some form of resistance.'" *Jazzwise \[UK\]* magazine cover story, June issue, 2021.](#)

2021 [Enos, Morgan. "Vijay Iyer on his new trio album *Uneasy*. American identity, and teaching Black American music in the 21st century." *Grammy.com*, March 30, 2021.](#)

2021 [Simonini, Ross. "Vijay Iyer wants you to feel your spine." *Believer*, March 24, 2021.](#)

2020 Fischlin, Daniel, with Eric Porter and Vijay Iyer. "'Opening up a Space that Wouldn't Exist Otherwise': *Holding it Down* in the Aftermath." In Fischlin & Porter, eds., *Playing for Keeps: Improvisation in the Aftermath* (Durham: Duke University Press), 81-93.

2019 [Kelley, Robin D.G., with Vijay Iyer. "Ally: From Noun to Verb. Vijay Iyer interviewed by Robin D.G. Kelley." *Boston Review*.](#)

2017 [Smith, Steve. "Vijay Iyer: Taking Stock of the Ojai Music Festival Experience." *National Sawdust Log*.](#)

2017 [Russonello, Giovanni. "Just the right time for a 'non-denominational leader' in music." *The New York Times*, June 7, 2017.](#)

2016 [Obadike, Mendi + Keith. "Vijay Iyer interviewed by Mendi + Keith Obadike." *BOMB*, March 15, 2016.](#)

2016 [Sriram, Aditi. "Vijay Iyer: Beyond Objects, Beyond Scores." *Guernica*, April 1, 2016.](#)

2016 [Wilkinson, Alec. "Time is a Ghost: Vijay Iyer's Jazz Vision." *The New Yorker*, Feb. 1, 2016 issue.](#)

2014 Lewis, Krishna. "Spellbound and Sacrosanct." *Transition*, No. 115, pp. 130-142.

2012 Hoffman, Jascha. "Q+A: Vijay Iyer, Jazz Experimentalist." *Nature*, March 2012, Vol. 483, p. 157.

BOOK CHAPTERS ON IYER'S MUSIC

2019 Beuttler, Bill. "Vijay Iyer," in *Make it New: Reshaping Jazz in the 21st Century* (Amherst, MA: Lever Press), 53-92.

2018 Chinen, Nate. "Infiltrate and Ambush," in *Playing Changes: Jazz for a New Century* (New York: Pantheon Books), 137-155.

Please visit vijay-iyer.com for more information on creative work. CV continues on next page.

ACADEMIC VITAE

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2014-present: Franklin D. and Florence Rosenblatt Professor of the Arts, Department of Music & Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University. (Hired with tenure)

2013-2021: Artistic Director, International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music (annual 3-week program at the Banff Centre, Alberta, Canada)

2010-2013: Adjunct professor, Manhattan School of Music

2007-2011: Adjunct assistant professor, New York University, Steinhardt School, Department of Music & Performing Arts Professions

2005: Faculty member, Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music, Alberta, Canada

2003-2013: Adjunct faculty, New School University, Jazz Studies

2002: Adjunct assistant professor, New York University, Department of Performance Studies

EDUCATION

1998 Ph.D, University of California at Berkeley special interdisciplinary program in Technology and the Arts, with a critical focus on music cognition and cultural studies.

1994 M.A., University of California at Berkeley Physics

1992 B.S., Yale University Mathematics & physics, magna cum laude; member, Phi Beta Kappa

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

2022 "Approaching Black Speculative Musicalities," forthcoming in Kelly, M, and M. Roelofs, eds., *Black Aesthetics*, Northwestern University Press [as part of "Critical Insurgencies," a book series of the Critical Ethnic Studies Association].

2021 "What's not music, but feels like music to you?" *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* Volume 44: e79.

2021 "The Law of Returns: Muhal Richard Abrams and Vijay Iyer in Conversation." In Oja, Carol, and Charles Hiroshi Garrett, eds., *Sounding Together: Collaborative Perspectives on U.S. Music in the 21st Century*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

2020 "The Deft, Quiet Shout of Her Hands: Geri Allen's Speculative Musicalities." *Jazz and Culture* vol. 4.

2019 "Beneath Improvisation." In Rehding, Alex, and Steven Rings, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Critical Concepts in Music Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press.

2014 "Improvisation, Action Understanding, and Music Cognition With and Without Bodies." In Lewis, George E., and Benjamin Piekut, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Critical Improvisation Studies*. New York: Oxford University Press.

2013 Miller, Paul D. and V. Iyer. "Improvising Digital Culture." In A. Heble and R. Wallace, eds., *People Get Ready: The Future of Jazz is Now!* (Duke University Press, 2013), 225-243. Reprinted from *Critical Studies in Improvisation* 5(1), 2009.

2010 "Strength in Numbers." in Pitici, M., ed., *The Best Writing on Mathematics 2010* (Princeton University Press).

2009 "Improvisation: Terms and Conditions." In Zorn, J., ed., *Arcana IV: Musicians on music*, Hips Road.

2009 "A Listening Questionnaire." *Shifter* 14: 20.

2008 Book review of Butler, M., *Unlocking the Groove: Rhythm, Meter, and Musical Design in Electronic Dance Music*. In *Journal of the Society for American Music* 2(2): 269-276.

2008 "On Improvisation, Temporality, and Embodied Experience." In Miller, P., ed., *Sound Unbound: Sampling Digital Music and Culture*, MIT Press.

2006 "Sangha: Collaborative Improvisations on Community." *Critical Studies in Improvisation / Etudes critiques en improvisation*, Vol 1, No 3.

2004 "Improvisation, Temporality, and Embodied Experience." *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 11(3-4): 159-173.

2004 "Exploding the Narrative in Jazz Improvisation." In O'Meally, R., B. Edwards & F. Griffin, eds., *Uptown Conversation: The New Jazz Studies*. New York: Columbia University Press, 393-403.

2002 "Being Home: Jazz Authority and the Politics of Place." *Current Musicology* 71-73: 462-476.

2002 "Embodied Mind, Situated Cognition, and Expressive Microtiming in African-American Music." *Music Perception* 19(3): 387-414.

1998 *Microstructures of Feel, Macrostructures of Sound: Embodied Cognition in West African and African-American Musics*. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of California, Berkeley. <http://3.ly/iyerThesis>

1997 Iyer, V., Bilmes, J., Wright, M., and Wessel, D. "A Novel Representation for Rhythmic Structure." *Proceedings of the 1997 International Computer Music Conference* (San Francisco: International Computer Music Association), 97-100.

1996 "Steve Coleman, M-Base, and Musical Collectivism." Published at <http://www.cnmat.berkeley.edu/~vijay/toc.html>

ACADEMIC TALKS

2021. ["Rethinking Music\(ality\)." Talk delivered as part of a symposium, "Music, Identity, and Social Bonding: Moving Beyond the Lab," hosted by Center for Science and Society, Columbia University, October 18, 2021.](#)

2021. "Toward a Critical Musicalities." University of Chicago Music Colloquium, February 18, 2021.

2020. "Toward a Critical Musicalities." Peabody Musicology Colloquium, November 10, 2020.

2020. "The Deft Quiet Shout of Her Hands: Geri Allen's Speculative Musicalities." Feed the Fire: A Symposium for Geri Allen. Co-hosted by University of Pittsburgh & Columbia University, November 5, 2020.

2020. ["On Musicality and Musical Experience: Vijay Iyer and Georgina Born in Conversation." Public lecture & podcast. Wigmore Hall, London, January 11, 2020.](#)

2019. "Our Musicalities." Talk presented at the annual meeting of the American Musicological Society, Boston, MA, as part of a panel I co-organized on the topic "Musicality." October 31, 2019.

2019. "Our Musicalities," Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, June 2019.

2019. "Against Improvisation." Paper delivered at Black Sound and the Archive symposium, Yale University, February 8, 2019.

2018. ["The What of the World: A Defiant Living." Talk and artistic presentation delivered at "On Whiteness: Symposium," hosted by Claudia Rankine's Racial Imaginary Institute, at The Kitchen, NYC, June 30, 2018.](#)

2018. "Difference/Resonance/Intervention: Creative Practice and Critical Inquiry." February 1: Inaugural NYU / American Musicological Society Lecture. In conversation with Prof. Daphne Brooks.

2018 "Beneath Improvisation." UCLA Musicology Distinguished Lecture, April 26.

2018 "Against Musicality." Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, Frankfurt, Germany: Conference on Cross-Cultural Research in Music Cognition: Methodologies, Pitfalls and Practices.

2018 "How we are together in time: Musicality as praxis, or listening past the category of the human." Yale University: Musical Pasts Consortium meeting.

2017 "Resistance as Music." Artists at the Center lecture series, Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Columbia University.

2016 "Reassembling the Temporal." Keynote. Making Time in Music. Conference, Oxford University.

2016 "Movement in Relation." GIDEST Seminar, The New School.

2016 "Movement in Relation." Keynote. If You Have to Ask: The Cultural and Cognitive Underpinnings of Improvisatory Behavior. Conference, McGill University.

2016 "I Feel You: Music, Empathy, and Embodied Cognition." University of Arkansas.

2016 "I Feel You: Music, Empathy, and Difference." Hutchins Colloquium, Dept. of African and African American Studies, Harvard University.

2015 "Holding Space: Convening as Creative Music." Vision Festival Conference, Columbia University.

2015 "I Feel You: Music, Empathy, and Embodied Cognition." University of Ghent, Belgium.

2015 "Insidious Embrace: Performing while Brown in 2015." Asian American Studies Conference, Yale University.

2014 "Complicity with Excess." Keynote, Yale Asian American Alumni Reunion.

2014 "Music Cognition With and Without Bodies." Featured talk, Hearing Modernity seminar, Harvard University.

2013 "Music with and without bodies: A view from the field." Keynote, Integrated Composition/Improvisation/Technology Conference, University of California, Irvine.

2011 "It's This 1 Thing that Got Me Trippin': Hearing Bodily Hexis." Distinguished Lecture, University of Oregon.

2010 Keynote Panel (joint with Peter Sellars), Americans for the Arts conference.

2009 Music and the Brain (joint w/ A. Patel). SciFoo '09, Googleplex, Cupertino, CA.

2008 "Improvising Digital Culture." Joint keynote with Paul D. Miller. Jazz Festival and Symposium, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

2008 "A Questionnaire for Music Makers and Listeners." Brilliant Corners: Jazz & Its Cultures. SUNY Stony Brook.

2005 Panel respondent, Music, Performance, and the Racial Imagination, New York University.

2004 Keynote address: "Reimagining Community: Making *In What Language?*" Crossroads: Critical Issues in Community-based Research Partnerships, Hartford, Connecticut.

2003 Keynote address: "The Musician-Scholar: Musicking and the World of Ideas." Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology (MACSEM) Annual Meeting, Mahwah, NJ.

2001 "Performative Strategies in Asian American Jazz." Society for Ethnomusicology, Detroit, MI.

2000 "Sounding the Body, Hearing the Body." Society for Music Perception and Cognition, Toronto.

2000 "On the Role of Embodiment in Music Cognition." Biological Foundations of Music Conference, Rockefeller University, New York City.

2000 "Exploding the Narrative in Jazz Improvisation." Jazz Studies Symposium, Columbia University, New York City.

1999 "Instances of Expressive Microtiming as Sonic Traces of Embodiment and Culture," & "Meter Perception, Physical Embodiment, and Sociocultural Situatedness." Annual Meeting of the Society for Music Perception and Cognition, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

1999 "African-American Improvised Musics and Embodied Cognition." Improvising Across Borders Conference, University of California at San Diego.

1997 "Representing Groove: Rhythmic Structure in Interactive Music Performance." Invited talk at the Annual Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, San Diego, California.

1997 "Cognition of Musical Rhythm and Form in African-derived Musics." Annual Meeting of the Society for Music Perception and Cognition, MIT, Cambridge, Mass.

1995 "Thelonious Monk, Rhythmic Expression, and Musical Meaning." Annual Meeting of the Society for Music Perception and Cognition, University of California at Berkeley.

WRITINGS FOR A GENERAL AUDIENCE

2021 Album liner notes for Hafez Modirzadeh, *Facets* (Pi Recordings, 2021)

2019 Album liner notes for Sun Ra, *Monorails and Satellites vol. I-III (Solo Piano)* (Cosmic Myth Records, 2019)

2018 Album liner notes for *The Art Ensemble of Chicago and Associated Ensembles* box set (ECM Records, 2018)

2017 Album liner notes for Billy Childs, *Rebirth* (Mack Avenue Records, 2017)

2015 Album liner notes for Adegoke Steve Colson, *Tones For* (Silver Sphinx Records, 2015)

2013 "Are Cities Music?" Published by Red Bull Music Academy.

2013 Album Review: Boards of Canada, "Tomorrow's Harvest." *The Talkhouse*.

2013 Album Review: Flying Lotus, "Until the Quiet Comes." *The Talkhouse*.

2013 "Meditation on the music of Roscoe Mitchell." *Table and Chairs*.

2012 "Parallel Universes." Guest column in *JazzTimes* vol 41, no. 1.

2011 "ICONS: Zakir Hussain." *GQ India*, November 2011, 155-160.

2010 "Ode to a Sphere." Guest column in *JazzTimes* vol. 40, no. 1.

2009 "Strength in Numbers." *The Guardian*, London, October 16, 2009: 13.

2008 "Epiphanies: Cecil Taylor." *The Wire* issue #293 (July 2008): 98.

2008 "Concerning Late Style in Composers and Improvisors." Program notes to Brentano Quartet Carnegie Hall "Late Style" concerts.

Please visit harvard.academia.edu/vijayiyer to access publications