

[July 2018]

**John D. McDonald**

Composer and Pianist  
Professor of Music, Tufts University  
Granoff Music Center  
20 Talbot Avenue  
Medford, MA. 02155  
(617) 627-5624  
Fax (617) 627-3967  
Email: john.mcdonald@tufts.edu

***EDUCATION***

D.M.A. Yale School of Music, 1989  
M.M.A. Yale School of Music, 1983  
M.M. Yale School of Music, 1982  
B.A. (cum laude) Yale University, 1981

***FACULTY POSITIONS***

2016-2017 Joseph E. and Grace W. Valentine Visiting Professor of Music, Amherst College [One-Year Appointment]  
2012-2015. Chair, Music Department, Tufts University; Tisch College Faculty Affiliate; Sabbatical Leave, 2015-2016  
2009-Present. Professor of Music, Tufts University  
2000-2003. Chair, Music Department, Tufts University  
1998-2009. Associate Professor of Music, Tufts University  
1992-1998. Assistant Professor of Music, Tufts University  
1990-92. Lecturer in Music, Tufts University  
1990-91 Artist in Residence, M.I.T.  
1989-91. Instructor in Composition, Longy School of Music  
1987-89. Teaching Associate, Boston University  
1986-90. Faculty, Rivers Music School, Weston, MA.  
1986-88. Co-Chair, Piano Department, Longy School of Music  
1985-86. Associate in the Arts, M.I.T.

***SELECTED COMMISSIONS (Since 2004)***

2018 Tufts Youth Philharmonic (TYP): new work for youth orchestra  
2018 Music From Salem/Lila Brown: *First Trio for Three Violas*  
2018 Scott Woolweaver Sixtieth Birthday: *Equinox: The Goldfinch* (contralto and viola)  
2018 Griffis/Jensen Duo *Trio* (flute, viola, bassoon)

2018 Judith Wechsler: Original Music for film *Isaiah Berlin: Philosopher of Freedom*

2017 Louise Toppin/TJ Anderson 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Committee: *Evocation* (soprano and piano)

2017 Colin Gee, movement actor: *Julian's Fasti* (evening-long work based on Ovid; for movement actor and piano)

2017 Parallax Ensemble *Loner Swayed Into Consort*, for solo cello and ensemble

2017 Edith Auner and Thomas Stumpf: two-piano works *Echo Homage*

2017 Lydian String Quartet *Two Alike*

2017 Violinist Joanna Kurkowicz: concert work *Sketched Beneath Trees* for violin, two horns, string orchestra, and harp

2017 Judith Wechsler: Original Music for film *Svetlana Boym: Exile and Imagination*; piano and strings

2017 Rivers Conservatory: [for 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar on Contemporary Music] *Second Sonata for Solo Violin*; *First Cello Octet* (eight cellos); *Arirang Six Times*, for violin and piano

2017 Tufts Center for Cognitive Studies: *Ray's Cor Idea*, for English horn, French horn, and basset horn; for Ray Jackendoff's Retirement Celebration Concert March 10, 2017

2016 Cello e Basso: *Mediated, Monitored*, for cello, double bass, and piano

2016 Erika Volchan O'Connor/University of Colorado Boulder: Original Music for film *Colorado Women Arts Pioneers*; cello and piano score

2016 Pianist Kristofer Rucinski: Scriabin Étude Piano Project (for *Forz, Smorz*, after Scriabin Op. 8, No. 2)

2016 Trio Speranza: trio for Baroque violin, cello, and harpsichord

2016 Back Cove Contemporary Music Festival (Portland Conservatory of Music, Maine): ensemble version of *Echoelliott*

2016 Bowdoin College: *Echoelliott*; piano piece celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of composer Elliott Schwartz

2015 Boston Conservatory/Violinist Sharan Leventhal: *Duet Sextet*, for two violins; *Alexander*, for violin and piano

2015 Rivers Conservatory/Cellist Ronald Lowry: *First Cello Quartet*

2015 Master Singers of Lexington: *Uprights*, for chorus and contrabass

2015 Judith Wechsler: Original Music for *Metamorphosis and Memory*, film on Aby Warburg (1866-1929); solo piano, viola and bassoon, and early flutes/keyboards

2015 Cellist Rhonda Rider, Petrified Forest National Park Artist Residency: *Two Passages, One Place*; *Returns*, for solo cello

2015 Triple Helix Piano Trio/Project STEP: *Two Steps Toward A Project*, for violin, cello, and piano

2014 Trinity College (Hartford, CT): *Something Bold To Start With*; piano work composed for the Inauguration of Joanne Berger-Sweeney as President of Trinity College; Hartford, Connecticut

2014/2013 Zodiac Trio: *Trio About Smoking*; *Hillside Humoresque (Scorpio)*, for clarinet, violin, and piano; commissioned respectively for 2015-2016 USA Tour and November 2013 China Tour

2014 Randall Hodgkinson and Lois Shapiro: *Kindling With Subsongs*, for two pianos; "Prequel" to Stravinsky Firebird arrangement for multiple pianos

2014 Judith Wechsler: Original Music for *The Passages of Walter Benjamin* (short film and full film); premiered November 19, 2014 at Harvard European Center

2013 Transient Canvas: *Short List* for bass clarinet and marimba

2013 Su Lian Tan/University of Singapore: work for two flutes and piano

2013 ANA Trio/Fredonia University: "singing" trio for soprano, cello, piano

2013 Ludovico Ensemble: *Double Diptych* for cimbalom and piano

2013 Violinist Shem Gibbourn/Musical Ecologies: work for violin and percussion

2013 Rivers Conservatory: *Four Mallets, Single Mind*, for solo marimba

2012 Rivers Conservatory/DeCordova Museum: *Head Motives*, for cello and piano

2012 Equilibrium Ensemble (Masako Kunimoto, percussion): *The First Eight*, for cello, vibraphone, and piano

2012 Gramercy Trio/Consortium: *Trio*, for violin, cello, and piano after a sculpture commissioned “for music”

2012 Harvard Musical Association 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission: variation for septet

2011 The Harlow Ensemble: *Two Trio Vehicles*, for piccolo, soprano sax, and piano

2011 Sarah Pelletier and Lois Shapiro: Settings of Emily Dickinson poems for soprano and piano

2011 Firebird Ensemble/The Walden School/Apple Hill Chamber Music Festival/Meet The Composer: *Seven Album Leaves*, for flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, and piano

2011 A Far Cry Chamber Orchestra: *Gentle But Uneasy Dance Music*, Suite for string orchestra

2011 Bennington Chamber Music and Composers Conference: *Deep Double Duet*, for bassoon, cello, contrabass, and piano

2011 New Gallery Concert Series: *Praise the Worker Bees*, for soprano and piano

2011 Elizabeth Bennett/Tufts University: *The Budbill Seasons*, for contralto and shakuhachi

2011 Bargemusic/Extensible Toy Piano Project: *Four Stand-Ins*, for piano/toy piano

2010 ANA Trio/Fredonia University: *Courbet’s Impromptu Farewells*, for soprano, cello, and piano

2010 Tufts University “All Stars:” *Three-Chord Flourish*, for three trumpets

2010 Pianist David Holzman: *Digital Dance Fetish: An African Allegro*, for piano

2010 Radnofsky/Granados Duo: *Reunion In Solos And Duets*, for flute and alto saxophone

2010 Pianist Debi Adams: Left-Hand Piano Works

2010 Chamber Orchestra of Boston: *Three For Strings*

2010 Wordsong: *Still Clinging*, for soprano and piano

2009 Longy School of Music: *Three Crueler Tangos*, for soprano and ensemble

2009 Judith Wechsler/Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt: *Courbet*, for solo cello

2008 The Mockingbird Trio: *From The Fall Of A Sparrow*, for contralto, viola, and piano

2008 Axis Ensemble: *Trio About Rotation*, for violin, accordion, and piano

2008 Composer/Flutist Su Lian Tan: *Flute On The Bottom*, for flute and piano

2008 Tufts University Music and Language Conference: *One Speaks Of Music*, for speaking voice, basset horn, and piano

2008 Violinist Joanna Kurkowicz: *Airy*, for violin and piano

2007 Dr. Charles Guttman: *New York Wedding Tucket*, for viola and piano

2007 Judith Wechsler/Les Films D’Ici (France): *Monet’s Anguish*, for piano

2007 Massachusetts Music Teachers Association Commissioned Composer 2007: *Stäudlin As Vogl Preamble To A Winter Journey*, for alto saxophone and piano; winning work, Music Teachers National Association-Shepherd Distinguished Composer of the Year Award, 2007

2007 Guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan/The New Lullaby Project: *You Are Alone To Sleep*, for solo guitar

2006 Dr. Charles Guttman: *Tuscan Wedding Promenade*, for piano

2006 Music Worcester/Worcester Chorus (Worcester, Massachusetts): *Ways To Jump*, for chorus, harp, and percussion

2006 Florestan Recital Project: *The Creatures Choir*, evening-long song cycle for voice and piano

2005 Pianist Yoko Hagino: *Hagino Potpourri*, for solo piano

2004 Worldwide Concurrent Premieres: *Transcriptions*, for alto saxophone and string quartet

2004 Master Singers of Greater Boston: *Stafford Diptych*, for chorus and violin solo

2004 Contralto Elizabeth Anker/Poet Power: *The Mockingbird of Mockingbirds*, for contralto, viola, and piano

2004 Bassist Robert Black/The Hartford Commissions: *Second Solo Contrabass Album*

2004 Triple Helix Piano Trio/Tufts University: *Calpentyn Alternatives*, for violin, cello, and piano

2004 Brave New Works/Firebird Ensemble: *Parallel Play*, for two ensembles (fourteen players)

2004 Tufts Goddard Chapel/Organist Libor Dudas: *Goddard Organ Booklet*

### ***GRANTS/AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS/RESIDENCIES***

2018 Guest Composer, Convergence Ensemble, Boston (May 2018)

2018 Guest Composer, Rivers Conservatory Seminar on Contemporary Music for the Young, April 8, 2018

2018 Guest Performer, Dinosaur Annex Harvard Undergraduate Composer Workshop, February 19-23, 2018

2017 Guest Performer/Composer Residency, University of Hartford Hartt School, December 7-8, 2017

2017 Guest Composer Residency, Rice University Shepherd School, September 22, 2017

2017 Arts at Amherst Grant to spearhead the making of two-minute films cataloguing items in the permanent collection of the Mead Art Museum; student film-makers and composers teamed up with the museum staff to complete four initial films (two films completed April 2017)

2016 Scholar in Residence, Tufts European Center, Talloires, France, May 17-July 1, 2016

2016 Guest Composer Residency, Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, April 20-22, 2016

2016 Guest Composer Residency, Music from Salem, Salem, NY [with cellist Rhonda Rider], March 19-20, 2016

2015 Guest Composer/Performer Residency, Olin College, April 24, 2015

2015 Guest Composer Residency, Rice University Shepherd School, April 8-10, 2015

2014 Invitation to contribute to Artists Book, Studio Tomas Saraceno in Berlin. Exhibition in Genova, Italy opening on May 30, 2014. This will be an experimental investigation of Spider and Silk Acoustics in Engineering and Communication. Manuscripts, sketches, and performances of *Spinning Melodies* featured.

2014 Guest Composer, Bennington College (brief residency)

2014 Guest Composer, National University of Singapore Yong Siew Toh Conservatory (brief residency)

2013 Winner, Zodiac Trio: Across the Universe (Call for Scores, Ten-City China Tour November 2013); performances of *Hillside Humoresque*

2013 Fourth Nomination for American Academy of Arts and Letters Awards in Music

2013 Guest Composer, Portland Conservatory Contemporary Music Festival (April 2013)

2013 Resident Composer, Wordsong/Rivers Conservatory/DeCordova Museum (April 2013)

2012 Resident Composer, SUNY Fredonia Music School (with the ANA Trio; October 2012)

2012 Resident Composer, Bennington Chamber Music Conference and Composers Forum of the East

2011 NSF Grant Proposal (Second Round as of February 2012): Biomaterials/Spider Silk Project with musical “modeling” (interdisciplinary)

2011 Composer Residency with The Firebird Ensemble, New Hampshire (The Walden School, Apple Hill Chamber Music Festival)

2010 The Waring Prize, Western Reserve Academy (highest alumni award from the school)

2009 Faculty Research Grant-in-Aid Award (for Violin and Piano Retrospective Recording)

2009 Lillian and Joseph Leibner Award for Distinguished Teaching and Advising, Tufts University

2009 Guest Artist, Midsummer Adult Piano Institute, Williams College

2008-2009 Guest Composer in Residence, Longitude Contemporary Ensemble, Longy School of Music

2008 Music Teachers National Association-Shepherd Distinguished Composer of the Year, 2007

2008 Short Residency, Adelphi University

2006-2008 Tisch College Faculty Fellowship for Civic Engagement (two-year fellowship)

2006 Faculty Summer Research Award, Tufts University (for recording *Piano Album 2005*)

2005, 2004, 1992 Guest Composer, Composers in Red Sneakers

2004 Faculty Research Grant-In-Aid Award, Tufts University (for *Parallel Play*)

2004 Duke University Composer/Performer Residency

2003 Faculty Research Grant-in-Aid Award, Tufts University (for *Inventious Network*)

2002 American Composers Forum Community Partners Grant (Boston Chapter) (for *The Veldt Of Night*)

1999-2000 Composer-in-Residence, Performing Arts Youth Symphony Orchestra of Massachusetts

1999 American Composers Forum Project Grant (Boston Chapter) (for *Three Ways To Make A Living*)

1998 Composer Residency, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (two full concerts of original music)

1998 Finalist, Auros Group for New Music Competition

1998 Faculty Research Grant-In-Aid Award, Tufts University, for promotion of “The Piccolo Project”

1997 Performance Award, Culver Chamber Music Series (California)

1997 First Prize, Leo M. Traynor Competition for Music for Viols, Viola da Gamba Society of America

1996 Mellon Research Fellowship, Tufts University (residency in Zurich, Switzerland)

1995 National Endowment for the Arts Duo Recitalist Grant (tour of West Coast)

1995 United States Information Agency Cultural Specialist and Residency, Musical College and University in Ulan Bator, Mongolia; premiere of *Music for Piano and String Orchestra* with the National Orchestra

1995 Pro Musicis Foundation Tour and Four-Week Residency in France (seven towns and cities)

1994 United States Information Agency Artistic Ambassador (with soprano Karol Bennett; tour of Korea, Taiwan, Mongolia)

1992 Medicine Wheel Artists Retreat Fellowship (Gardner, Massachusetts)

1991 Residency/Tour in Moscow, Russia; part of Making Music Together Exchange (Sarah Caldwell, Artistic Director)

1991 Honorary Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Chapter (Tufts University)

1990-91 Artist in Residence at M.I.T. (duo with soprano Karol Bennett; nine months)

1987 St. Botolph Foundation Grant-in-Aid

1984-86 Member, Underground Composers (Boston)

1984 Cummington Community of the Arts Fellowship

1983 Koussevitsky Foundation Fellowship, Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood

1982 Norfolk Chamber Music Festival (Week for Singers and Pianists)

## ***DISCOGRAPHY***

### **As Composer:**

In progress Dedications: Retrospective of Piano Music by John McDonald (2001-2018) Thomas Stumpf, piano. Projected Winter 2019 release with Bridge Records.

In progress What Kind of Person Are You?: Works for Soprano and Piano and Solo Piano by T.J. Anderson, Jr. Projected 2018 Release with Albany Records

In progress Collected Works for Shakuhachi by John McDonald. Elizabeth Reian Bennett, featured soloist. Projected 2018 release with Centaur Records.

In progress At All Device: Retrospective of Piano Music by John McDonald (2002-2017). David Holzman, piano. Projected Summer 2018 release with Bridge Records.

2017 Reflections on Time and Mortality. Thomas Stumpf, piano. Featuring Works by Schubert, Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, Bartok, Rakhmaninov, Wyner, McDonald, Stumpf, Biggs. February 2017 Release on Albany Records (Troy 1959/60). (review by Robert Carl, 2018: *Of all the new works, two composers seem to hold pride of place (interestingly enough in the first and second CDs respectively): John McDonald and Yehudi Wyner. The former has devoted himself largely to composing for the piano (he's a truly formidable performer on it), and the majority of his pieces are shorter. There must be something in the Boston water that encourages prolificity, because like his fellow composer Carson Cooman, his output is astonishing. The most recent work on this collection is Op.541, no.94! But what is even more remarkable is how consistently strong and penetrating his music is. McDonald has an ability to focus in on an idea/motive/gesture and work it for all it's worth. While not traditionally tonal, the music is always clearly focused by an idea, motive, or gesture. McDonald's music is astringent and economical. It says what it needs to and that's that. I've come to think of him as "the American Kurtág", as he shares with that elder a taste to brevity, intensity, clarity. His Mort and Temp bookend the first disc; the latter with its piquant progressions, seems a fitting benediction upon the whole enterprise)*

2016 Dreamtime: Zodiac Trio "Across the Universe." Works by Danielpour, List, Mackey, and Twelve Short Pieces by Twelve Composers (including McDonald *Hillside Humoresque [Scorpio]*). January 2016 Release on Blue Griffin Recordings (BGR 391).

2015 Cadenza: Modern American Music for Clarinet/Basset Horn and Piano. Ray Jackendoff, clarinet and basset horn; John McDonald, piano. Works by Berger, Carter, Copland, McDonald, and Wyner. November 2015 Release on Albany Records (Troy 1598).

2014 Ascend: A Collection of New Music. Elizabeth Erenberg, flute and piccolo. Solo Flute Spinning Melodies by McDonald; R. Steinberg Fantasy (McDonald at the piano; CD Baby, September 2014).

2014 Keypunch: Music for Piano, Four Hands by Claman, McDonald, Vigil. July 2014 Release on Albany Records (Troy 1498)

2013 Airy: Retrospective of Violin and Piano Music by John McDonald. Joanna Kurkowicz, violin soloist; John McDonald, piano. September 2013 Release on Bridge Records (Bridge 9402)

2013 Grand Theft and Other Felonies: Flute Music (with piano, selected other accompaniments) by McDonald, Su Lian Tan, others. Spring 2013 Release on Arsis Records (Arsis CD 178)

2012 Piano Piece "Abraham;" Hungarton Recordings BR-0048-59 (Budapest); Mariann Abraham, piano.

2010 Guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan New Lullaby: 14 Enchanting Ways to Fall Asleep (McDonald Work: *You Are Alone To Sleep, Op. 430*)

2009 (May): Pianist Andrew Rangell plays Nielsen, Ives, and John McDonald's *Meditation Before A Sonata: Dew Cloth, Dream Drapery, Op. 406*; Bridge Records 9295

In progress Music for Cello and Piano; Emmanuel Feldman, cello, John McDonald, piano; Works by Frazin, List, McDonald, Schuller

In progress McDonald: Barrier Music; Central Air. Kenneth Radnofsky, saxophone; Boston Records (edited; awaiting funding)

In progress McDonald: *Khayyam Quatrains* (with Liza Lehmann's "In a Persian Garden") (GM Label)

2008 (January) McDonald: *Piano Album 2005*; John McDonald, piano. (Double CD Set released through Third Floor Press with score; to be released on Albany Records)

2004 McDonald: *The Mockingbird Of Mockingbirds*; Elizabeth Anker, contralto; Scott Woolweaver, viola; John McDonald, piano; part of Poet Power: A Celebration of New England Music, Poetry, and Art (Live Recording)

2001 McDonald: *Sonatina for Soprano Saxophone and Piano, "Big Crunch;"* Kenneth Radnofsky, saxophone; John McDonald, piano; Boston Records (BR 1043)

2000 McDonald: *Works for Solo Cello*; Thomas Rutishauser, cello; CRS label; (Live Concert Recording, Jordan Hall, Boston)

1999 McDonald: *Ricercata*; VdGSA Label (Viola da Gamba Society of America)

1998 McDonald: *Duetto for Piano*. Jeffrey Jacob, piano. New Ariel Recordings (AE 004)

#### **As Pianist/Composer:**

In progress: Music for Soprano and Piano and Piano Solo by David Claman

In progress: Six Preludes by Margaret McAllister (as solo pianist)

In progress: Film/Audio Recording of New Works for Two Flutes and Piano; with Carol Wincenc (Julliard School), Su Lian Tan (Middlebury College); Music by McDonald, Tan, young composers. Weixiong Wang Studios, Brooklyn.

2016 The Complete Songs of Virgil Thomson for Voice and Piano; Florestan Recital Project  
New World Records 80775-2 [3 CDs] (McDonald's recorded percussion debut on Disc 2, Tracks 22-26)  
Interviews with performers appear on [www.florestanrecitalproject.org](http://www.florestanrecitalproject.org)

2015 Hypnagogia: Music by Marti Epstein. Ludovico Ensemble Edition 2. (McDonald is pianist on all but one track)

2014 Parallel Universe: Music by Arthur Levering. McDonald performance in Bagatelles for two pianos; Drinking Songs for voice, two harps, two pianos. With pianist Donald Berman. February 2014 Release. New World Records 80750.

2013 Robert Carl: Shake The Tree. Music for Piano. Pianist John McDonald featured in *Shake the Tree (2005)*, for piano four hands. With pianist Donald Berman. Spring 2013 Release. Innova Records 857.

2012 John Aylward: *Compulsive Loves*, for alto saxophone and piano; Fall 2012 Perspectives of New Music Milton Babbitt Memorial Festschrift (Mary Joy Patchett, saxophone; John McDonald, piano)

2011 American Music for Contrabass and Piano, 1940-1970 (with Robert Black, bass); "Modern American Bass;" New World Records; Released December 2011

2011 Piano Concertos and other keyboard works by Alan Hovhaness, with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Gil Rose, Music Director (Hovhaness *Song of the Sea* recorded in 2007 in Distler Hall, Tufts University; John McDonald, piano soloist; BMOP Sound, Released November 2011

2010 Armand Qualliotine: Music for Vibraphone, Marimba, and Piano; soloist in *Quasi Gemelli* and *D-Flat Hypnosis* (Albany; Troy 1229)

In progress – Songs of Brahms, Schumann, McDonald, Wolf with soprano Karol Bennett

In progress - Robert Carl: *Surge*, for bass and piano (with Robert Black, contrabass), and three solo piano works

In progress - Gunther Schuller: *Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano* (with Kenneth Radnofsky, saxophone); forthcoming on Boston Records

In progress - *Das Marienleben* by Paul Hindemith (with Karol Bennett, soprano)

In progress - Piano Music by Gardner Read, John McDonald, soloist (with Lydian String Quartet)

2008 Arthur Levering: *Tesserae*, for viola and piano (with Scott Woolweaver, viola); New World Records (NW 80662-2)

2007 Armand Qualliotine: Chamber Music; McDonald appears as pianist in three works; Albany Records (Troy 935)

2007 Andrew List: *Duo*, for violin and piano (with Frederic Bednarz); Berklee College of Music Recordings 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Faculty Composers Series

2006 Robert Carl: *Violin Sonata No. 2* (with Katie Lansdale, violin); New World Records (NW 80645)

2003 All In Your Mind: Music of Julia Werntz and John Mallia; McDonald performs Werntz's *Piano Piece* (1992) Capstone Records. (CPS-8730)

2000 George Antheil *Ballet Mécanique*; Live Performance at University of Massachusetts, Lowell; Electronic Music Foundation Recordings (CD 020)

1999 Songs by Gardner Read (collaboration with D'Anna Forunato, Mezzo-Soprano); Albany Records (Troy 336)

1998 Compositions by Armand Qualliotine (1993-96); Nepenthe Recordings

1996 John Harbison: *Simple Daylight* (song cycle with Karol Bennett, soprano); Archetype Records (60104)

1994 George Walker *Five Fancies* (with Videmus; Vivian Taylor and Eric Thomas); Albany Records (Troy 136)

1994 Donal Fox *Dialectics* (with Videmus; Vivian Taylor); New World Records (NW 80423)

1991 Music of Olly Wilson, Peter Lieberon (with Boston Musica Viva); Neuma Records (450-80)

1990 Jonathan Harvey: *From Silence* (with Karol Bennett, soprano, and ensemble); Bridge Records (9031)

### ***PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE***

2018 Featured Composer/Performer, Phi Beta Kappa Honors Ceremony, Tufts University (April 29, 2018)

2018 Composers Forum Performer, Berklee College of Music (February 26, 2018)

2017 Principal Keyboardist, Workshop for Boston Lyric Opera Production of Tod Machover's opera *Schoenberg in Hollywood* (November 26-29, 2017)

2009-Present.. Principal Keyboardist, ART/MIT/BMOP Production of Tod Machover's Opera *Death and the Powers*. Performances in Monte Carlo (September 2010), Boston (September 2009 and March 2011), Chicago (April 2011), Recording, Merrimack College (September 2011), Dallas (February 2014)

2004-Present. Pianist, The Mockingbird Trio (contralto, viola, piano); with Elizabeth Anker and Scott Woolweaver; 2011-12 Season performances of "334 Bunnies," a chamber opera by Francine Trester

1990-2011. Co-Director of NME (New Music Ensemble at Tufts)

1994-Present. Director, Pianist of Tufts Composers Series; devoted primarily to the performance and promotion of advanced compositional work at Tufts, featuring striking faculty, graduate, and undergraduate works; more than 120 concerts of new work presented, often with featured guest composers from around the world

1989-91. Pianist, Boston Musica Viva (Richard Pittman, Director); performed subscription series in Boston and on tours of California and Ontario, Canada



1988-2003. Composer/Performer/Co-Director, Extension Works Composer/Performer Consortium, Boston; 60 Concerts presented over a 15-year period

1983-Present. Freelance Pianist, Boston. Performances with Alea III, Arden String Quartet, Boston Composers String Quartet, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Boston Pops, Boston Symphony Orchestra, , Brave New Works, Collage, , Dinosaur Annex Music Ensemble, The Firebird Ensemble, Florestan Recital Project, Lydian String Quartet, New World Quartet, QX (String Quartet), Radnofsky Saxophone Quartet, Videmus, Vienna Saxophone Quartet, solo recitals and collaborations with many artists including soprano Karol Bennett (duo partners from 1981 to the present), shakuhachi player Elizabeth Reian Bennett, pianist Donald Berman, bassist Robert Black, mezzo soprano Jessica Bowers, contralto Dorothea Brinkmann, pianist Winston Choi, soprano Phyllis Curtin, flutist Doriot Anthony Dwyer, cellist Emmanuel Feldman, mezzo soprano D'Anna Fortunato, violist Raphael Hillyer, baritone Robert Honeysucker, pianist Veronica Jochum, saxophonist Carrie Koffman, violinist Joanna Kurkowicz, , violinists Dana and Yuri Mazurkevich, saxophonist Kenneth Radnofsky, pianist Andrew Rangell, percussionist Robert Schulz, saxophonist Philipp Stäudlin, pianist Vivian Taylor, violist Scott Woolweaver, and many, many others

1981-Present. Collaborator with Soprano Karol Bennett (as pianist/composer)

*"When Karol Bennett and John McDonald met, it was a red-letter day for composers."* -John Harbison

1980-83. Pianist, Yale Contemporary Ensemble (Arthur Weisberg, Director)

1980-Present. Pianist specializing in new music solo performance. Premieres of more than 500 new works by more than 300 composers over close to thirty years. Venues include Jordan Hall, Carnegie Hall (Weill Recital Hall), colleges and universities throughout the country and abroad.

## ***PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES, RELATED ACTIVITIES***

### ***Music***

-Noteworthy Sheet Music, LLC ([www.noteworthy.sheetmusic.com](http://www.noteworthy.sheetmusic.com)) (2012); signed contract for publication of flute scores (solos and chamber music); potentially hundreds of titles; two works circulating (as of 2016)

-Encore Music Publishers (1990-2002); scores now unavailable except from the composer: *Little Duet for Two Flutes*; *Oracular Miniature for Solo Cello*; *Menuetto Fantastico for String Orchestra*; *Lyrical Study for String Quartet*; *Four Etudes for Solo Flute*; *Spirewise for Solo Piccolo*; *Self-Referential Solo No. 4 for Solo Piccolo*; *Sonatina for Piccolo and Piano*; *Album for Solo Piccolo*; others

-Viola da Gamba Society of America Edition: *Ricercata*, for Three Bass Viols (1998); No. 9 of "Thirteen Contemporary Consorts"

-League ISCM Boston Piano Book: *Three-Page Suite* (1993)

### ***Book [Forthcoming 2018-2019]***

-Borik Press; *Stirring Up the Music: The Life, Works, and Influence of Composer T(homas) J(efferson) Anderson*

### ***Articles***

-In Narratology: Co-Author with Jarmila Mildorf (University of Paderborn, Germany), *Pictures into Sound: Aural World-Making in Art Gallery Audio Guides* (April 2015; features McDonald concert work *Courbet's Impromptu Farewells*)

-In NANO Today: Materials Science—Merging Proteins and Music (November 2012 online article; interdisciplinary collaboration with scientists, mathematicians, choreographer; Tufts, Boston University, Tufts; McDonald contribution: "Four Spinning Melodies" for solo flute, based on peptide sequence diagrams; second author)

### ***Collaborations***

-With Stephen M. Fuchs, Assistant Professor of Biology; Music Composition Component (with faculty and students) for Repetitive Amino Acid Sequences Project (beginning Spring 2018)

-Art Filmed and Sounded: student film-makers and composers team up with the museum staff to complete four initial hundred-second films of permanent collection art works in Tufts/SMFA Galleries online catalog. Tufts pilot of project similar to Mead Museum (Amherst College). With Jennifer Burton (Drama/Dance/FMS), four composers, four film-makers. (Spring 2018)

### ***Film Scores***

Music composed and performed for Ten Films by Judith Wechsler: 2018 *Isaiah Berlin (in progress)*; 2017 *Svetlana Boym: Exile and Imagination*; 2016 *Metamorphosis and Memory* (Film on Aby Warburg); 2014 *The Passages of Walter Benjamin*; 2009 *Gustave Courbet: Dreaming the Modern*; 2006 *Le Dessein des Nympheas* (L'Orangerie Muesum, Paris); 2003 *Rachel de la Comedie-Francaise*; 1999 *Honore Daumier: One Must Be of One's Time*; 1998 *Adolphe Braun, Photographer*; 1991 Short Film for The Louvre Museum, Paris

Music composed and performed for films by Erika Volchan O'Connor: Projected 2018 Film on Gem Carver Vasily Konovalenko; 2016 *Colorado Women Arts Pioneers*

### ***Interviews and Discussions/Analyses of My Music***

Fanfare Magazine, "Fruits of Friendship: The Remarkable—and Unlikely—Jackendoff/McDonald Duo;" Ronald E. Grames; November 2015 Interview and Recording Reviews forthcoming in March/April 2016 Issue

Fanfare Magazine, "Three Heads, Six Hands;" Robert Schulslaper; Winter 2014 Interview and Recording Reviews published in Jan/Feb 2015 Issue

Fanfare Magazine, "The Violin Music of John McDonald;" David DeBoor Canfield; Winter 2013 Interview and Recording Reviews published in Jan/Feb 2014 Issue

American Music Teacher Magazine, June/July 2008, interview

Tufts Magazine, Winter 2007, "Why Music?" "Composers on Composing," Interview/Discussion with Composers T.J. Anderson and John McDonald

Worcester Telegram and Gazette, June 14, 2007, "Composer Has A Ribbeting New Piece," by Richard Duckett (preview article to premiere performance of "Ways To Jump")

Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service—Monthly Newsletter, October 2006, "John McDonald: Confronting With Music"

Boston Sunday Globe, March 10, 2002, "Six Months Later: Artists Reflect On How Their Work Has Been Affected By 9/11," by Catherine Foster

Tufts Journal, December 2001, "McDonald Confronts His Audience With Music Of Our Times," by Bob Bochnak

Flute Talk Magazine ("Let's Talk Picc" Column; Jan Gippo, Coordinator); various issues 1998-2002:

February 2002 "Performance Tips for John McDonald's *Sonatina for Piccolo and Piano*," by Jennifer Odell Cadwell

May/June 1998 "Eight John McDonald Compositions," by Tammy Kirk

April 1998 "John McDonald's Piccolo Solos," by Tammy Kirk

February 1998 "Two Piccolo Solos by John McDonald," by Tammy Kirk

November 1996 "A Concert of Piccolo Music," by Diane Boyd

Tuftonia Magazine, Fall 1998 "Brave New Music," pp. 12-18

### ***Film Appearances***

2002 "Bad Boy Made Good," Documentary including complete premiere performance of George Antheil's *Ballet Méchanique* in Paul Lehrman's Reconstruction (I appear as performing pianist)

1995 Documentary on Pro-Musicis Tour with soprano Karol Bennett; French Television 3

### ***Some Conference Presentations and Guest Lectures/Lecture Recitals***

December 2017 James Sellars Memorial Music Festival, Hartt School, University of Hartford; performed two works

September 2017 Festival Internacional Camerata 21, Universidad Vereacruzana, Xalapa, Mexico. Inaugural recital in new Xalapa concert hall; Karol Bennett, soprano; John McDonald, piano. Premiere of new songs in Spanish by McDonald alongside other works.

Fall and Spring 2017-2018 Are We There Yet? First Rides for New Musical Vehicles. Tufts Composition Practicum: curated concerts/workshops/discussions (two each semester)

March/April 2017. Are We There Yet? First Rides for New Musical Vehicles Three-Part Series (informal concerts/discussions curated for Amherst College).

March 2017 Arts At Amherst Faculty Showcase, Mead Art Museum. Performance of four new piano miniatures.

February 2017 Stirring Up the Music: The Life and Works of Composer T.J. Anderson (Lecture/Demonstration); Center for Humanistic Inquiry (Frost Library), Amherst College (February 20, 2017)

October 2016 Amherst College Special Concert: Different Duos. Music by John McDonald and Eric Sawyer

August 2016 National Flute Association Conference, San Diego, CA. West Coast premiere of *All Together Now* for two flutes and piano; Carol Wincenc, Su Lian Tan, flutes; John McDonald, piano; McDonald played

June 2016 Scholar-in-Residence Talk: John McDonald (Talloires, France, June 2, 2016): Can A Composer Double As Biographer?

March 2014 Bennington College Brief Residency; premiere of *Ingrained from Childhood*

January 2014 National University of Singapore/National Conservatory: Recital and Residency

August 2013 Lincoln Laboratories, Lexington, Massachusetts, on *Spinning Melodies*

October 2012 New England Conservatory; SUNY Fredonia: "Influences Across Time" Lecture/Recital featuring original piano music and music by early English composers

February 2012 NEPTA (New England Piano Teachers Association): Lecture/Recital: Returning to Simplicity with New Music

October 2011 MMTA (Massachusetts Music Teachers Association Regional Conference): Panel and Short Lecture/Recital (Distler Hall, Tufts)

July 2011 The Walden School (Dublin, New Hampshire): Moderator, Composers Forum; Composer in Residence with Firebird Ensemble

July 2011 New England Conservatory Summer Piano Institute: Lecture/Recital on Liszt and Modern Music

June 2011 Bargemusic: Toy Piano Project (recital participant)

October 2010 Longy School of Music Composers Forum

October 2010 Film "Courbet: Dream of the Modern" by Judith Wechsler premiered in Frankfurt am Main, Germany (Schirn Kunsthalle): McDonald Cello Suite "Courbet" used for museum guide and for film (McDonald in attendance)

October 2008 Tufts University: Festival/Symposium for Composer T.J. Anderson's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday (Co-Organizer and Participant/Performer)

September 2008 Tufts Lifelong Learning Program "Lunch and Learn" Lecture/Recital of Original Compositions entitled "Influences Across Time"

July 2008 Tufts University: Music, Language, and the Mind Conference; new composition premiered; performance with Ray Jackendoff, clarinet and basset horn; ensemble performance of work by Fred Ier Dahl organized; session moderator

April 2008 Music Teachers National Association Conference, Denver: Composer of the Year Presentation

March 2008 University of Arizona: Composers Forum Presentation  
February 2008 Boston University: Composers Forum Presentation  
August 2007 Composer in Residence, Tufts in Talloires Chamber Music Workshop (Talloires, France)  
September 2006 Longy School of Music: Piano Recital presented as Composers Forum  
February 2006 Harvard University Extension School: Composer Presentation  
February 2006 Berklee College of Music: Composers Forum  
November 2005 Clark University: Extensible Toy Piano Festival,; featured soloist/composer playing piano/toy piano  
October 2005 First International Bass Clarinet Convention, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
November 2004 Hartt School, University of Hartford: Composers Forum  
October 2004 New England Conservatory: Guest Lecture on My Piano Music  
June 2004 American Composers Alliance American Music Festival 2004, Flea Theater, New York; Performer  
March 2004 Longy School of Music: Shared Recital with Andrew List and Arlene Zallman  
September 2004, 2003 Longy School of Music Septemberfest: Appearances in consecutive years as guest performer  
May 2004, 2003 Hosted Brave New Works Ensemble in two ten-day New Music Festivals at Tufts University  
October 2003 Shanghai Conservatory of Music: Clarinet and Saxophone International Conference; presented an hour-long recital with Kenneth Radnofsky, featuring my *Sonatina "Big Crunch"*  
April 2003 Rivers Music School Seminar on Contemporary Music for the Young, Commissioned Composer Performance  
January 2003 University of Rhode Island: Composers Forum  
September 2002 Gordon College; Guest Composer; Half-Recital with Ken Steen, Hartt School  
January 2002 Gunther Schuller curates The Third Sound Archive Concert at The Harvard Musical Association, featuring my *Khayyam Quatrains* as one of the selections  
January 2001 Short Invited Residency, City of Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Performer/Composer appearance at "The Red Hat" Concert Venue with D'Anna Fortunato, mezzo soprano and Peter Cokkinias, clarinet  
October 2000 Participant/Presenter (as performer and composer), Havana 15<sup>th</sup> Contemporary Music Festival, Havana, Cuba  
August 2000 Presenter, European Piano Teachers Association International Conference, Liszt Academy, Budapest, Hungary  
June 2000 Performer, Montreal (L'UQAM) International Saxophone Conference (played Gunther Schuller's *Saxophone Sonata* with Kenneth Radnofsky)

### ***Some Boards and Memberships***

2013-present Board of Advisors, Equilibrium Ensemble  
2010 Member, Chromatic Club of Boston  
2009-2013 Scoreboard Member (Board of Composers), Boston Modern Orchestra Project  
2008-present Board of Directors, pulsoptional Ensemble  
2008-present Board of Directors, Signal Ensemble  
2006-present Member, American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies  
2004-2007 St. Botolph Club Associate in the Arts (presented many performances at the club during this period)  
2004-present Board of Directors, American Composers Forum New England

2004-present Board of Directors, Worldwide Concurrent Premieres, Inc.  
2002-2005 Board of Advisors, SARID (South Asia Research Institute for Development)  
2000-present Member, Harvard Musical Association, Boston  
1989-present Composer Member, Broadcast Music, Inc.

***TUFTS UNIVERSITY SERVICE (Since 2002)***

**(Departmental; Inter-Departmental)**

**2018** Preparator, Tenure Case (Frank Lehman, Assistant Professor of Music; music theorist)

**2017-2018** Coordinated Review Process for PT Lecturers; performance and events faculty subcommittee member

**2015** Part-Time Searches: Composition Replacement Position; African Music performance Position

**2014** Part-Time Course Replacement Search (Psychology of Music)

**2013** Chair, Music Theory Search Committee; Chair, two Part-Time Music History Searches

**2012-2015** Department Chair (second term); Transfer of Credit Advisor/Representative

**2012** Conductor/Director of Orchestral Activities Search; Preparator, Departmental Promotion Case; Search Committee, Part-Time Ethnomusicology/Musicology Position; Staff Assistant Search Committee; Tufts Distinction Award Nominator; Chair, Search Committee for Part-Time Ethnomusicology Position; Transfer Credit Advisor/Representative

**2011-2012** Orchestral Director Search Committee

**2010-2011** Choral Search Committee; Director of Graduate Music Studies to September 2010 (served 2000-2003; 2006-2010)

**2009-2010** Director of Graduate Music Studies, Chair of Graduate Program Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee, Performance Committee, Building Committee

**2008-2009** Director of Graduate Music Studies, Chair of Graduate Program Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee, Performance Committee, Building Committee

**2007-2008** Director of Graduate Music Studies, Chair of Graduate Program Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee, Performance Committee, Building Committee, Search Committees for Conductor (Spring 2007) and Sabbatical Replacement (Fall 2007), Curriculum Committee (Chair, Composition Curriculum Subcommittee)

**2006-2007** Director of Graduate Music Studies (resumed after two-year hiatus), Chair of Graduate program Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee, Performance Committee, Building Committee, Piano Selection Committee!

**2005-2006** Graduate Admissions Committee, Music Building Inaugural Program Committee, four departmental search committees (two musicology searches, two ethnomusicology searches)

**2004-2005** Transfer of Credit Advisor, Departmental Building Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee

**2003-2004** Department Chair (until September 2003), Director of Graduate Studies, Graduate Admissions Committee, Search Committees: Choral Director, African-American Music position

**2002-2003** Department Chair, Director of Graduate Studies, Graduate Admissions Committee, Ensemble Directors Planning Committee, Music Building Planning Committee, Curriculum Review Committee, Search Committee for Interim Director of Choral Activities, Sesquicentennial and Inauguration Committees (2001-2002)

**(University-Wide)**

2017-2018 Work/Life Balance Committee

2013-2015 Work/Life Balance Committee Co-Chair (new university committee, 2013-14)

2010-2011 Library Committee Chair, Summer School Committee Chair; Library Director Search Committee

2009-2010 Library Committee Chair, Summer School Committee Chair

2008-2009 Library Committee, Summer School Committee, Graduate Policy and Programs Committee

2007-2008, Library Committee, Summer School Committee, Graduate Policy and Programs Committee

2006-2007 Library Committee, Summer School Committee, Graduate Policy and Programs Committee

2005-2006 University Art Collections Committee

2004-2005 Faculty Research Awards Committee, University Art Collections Committee

2003-2004 Faculty Research Awards Committee, University Art Collections Committee

2002-2003 Faculty Research Awards Committee, Graduate Policy and Programs Committee, Faculty Research Awards Committee

**(Other University Activities Since 2002)**

Strategic plan Subcommittee, Summer 2013; composed *Strategic Plan Prelude* for piano

In 2011 and 2012, Liebner Award Selection Committee

President, Tufts Chapter of AAUP (American Association of University Professors), 2007 (Sabbatical Spring 2008; resuming in Fall 2008, until June 2010); member of Executive Committee since 2000; resuming 2012

Organized composition component of Music Department-sponsored Chamber Music Week at the European Center in Talloires, 2007

Participant in Summer West African Music Workshop, 2007

Advisory Board Member, Institute for Global Leadership, 2006 to present

Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service Faculty Fellowship, 2006-2008

Performances at Gallery Openings: 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007

Phi Beta Kappa Faculty Committee, 2002 to 2011

Goddard Chapel Noon Concert Series (annual participant and supporter since 1990)

Compositions made for University functions: graduation ceremonies; memorials; inaugural music; gallery openings and installations; dance programs; Parents Weekend presentations; Building dedications; more