

Ben Krasner, Ieshy

Santa Cruz, California

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(they/them)

EDUCATION

Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia — Artist Diploma/Post Graduate, Piano Performance and New Music

2018 - 2020

Full scholarship, Mark E. Rubenstein Fellow. The only Artist Diploma admitted in 2018. Concentration in piano performance, New Music performance and techniques (in collaboration with the Composition Department), chamber music, and new music ensembles. Assisted in archiving at the music library. Primary Teacher/Advisor: Jonathan Biss, Ignat Solzhenitsyn

Yale University, Yale School of Music, New Haven — Masters of Music, Piano Performance

2016 - 2018

Full Scholarship. Concentration in Impressionist, Expressionist, and mid-20th century piano music, contemporary performance practices/techniques, and chamber music. Teaching Assistant for undergraduate lessons and Studio Class, and Chamber Music Coach in 2018. Primary Teachers/Advisors: Boris Berman, Wei Yi Yang

California State University Northridge, Los Angeles — Bachelors of Music in Piano Performance; Bachelors of Science Economics (Double Major)

2014 - 2016

Graduated Magna Cum Laude. Primary Teacher/Advisor: Dmitry Rachmanov

Pierce College, Los Angeles - Associates Degree in Music

2012 - 2014

AWARDS, ACHIEVEMENTS, and SCHOLARSHIPS

- Graduated Magna Cum

Laude from CSUN

- Full Scholarship at Yale

School of Music (MM),

Graduation Recital in 2018

- Full Scholarship and Mark E.

Rubenstein Fellow at Curtis

Institute (post grad),

Graduation Recital in 2019

- Virtuoso Belcanto

International Music Festival

Lucca, Italy - 2017, 2018

- The International Holland

Music Sessions (TIHMS) -

2016, 2017

- SIPO International Piano

Festival Obidos, Portugal

2016/2017

- SIPO Antena 1 Competition, 1st Prize, and radio broadcast

- Numerous solo piano and chamber music performances, radio appearances,

conferences, masterclasses,

and placings in state, national,

and international competitions from 2007 - 2014 (youth

circuits)

EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT

[Rivendell Music Academy](#), Santa Cruz — *Teacher*

2024 - PRESENT

- Private lessons with students of all ages.
- Piano (all genres), sight reading and chart reading, music production and technology, electronic music, applied music theory and musicianship, applied music history and appreciation, extended techniques, and much more

[Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History](#), Santa Cruz — *Gallery Preparator*

January 2024 - PRESENT

Installation and deinstallation, audio/visual installation, technician, fabrication, art handling

[Indexical](#), Santa Cruz — *Audio/Visual Technician*

November 2023 - PRESENT

Manages and executes all aspects of event production –

- Artist correspondence, sound check, light check, a/v technical needs, live sound and light engineering, a/v recording and mixing, set up and take down, installation/deinstallation and maintenance of the sound and light systems in the space and any visual art and new media projects
- Curation of workshops and events with SCUM and other artists – read about SCUM and affiliated projects below
- Gallery preparator

[Minnow Arts Gallery](#), Santa Cruz — *Gallery Manager*

February 2023 - PRESENT

- Communications, artist correspondence, website design, installation and deinstallation, wall repair, art handling, event coordination and planning, bookkeeping, sales, etc.
- SCUM events and workshops

Freelance Audio Engineer and Technician, Santa Cruz, San Francisco

2022 - PRESENT

- Currently employed by Indexical.

SKILLS

Music Education: advanced pedagogy in – piano performance (classical, jazz, new music), chamber music and ensembles, composition, improvisation, music theory, music history, applied musicianship, music technology, electronic music, and related fields; creative lesson planning and curriculum design, excellent and experienced with students of all ages; centering decolonial thought and underrepresented historical narratives.

Performance: excellent performance skills as a pianist, chamber and collaborative musician, session musician; excellent skills and experience in composition, arrangement, notation, improvisation, extended techniques, and electroacoustic systems.

Technology, Engineering, Production, and Audio/Visual Technology: great skills in music technologies and familiarity with multiple DAWs (Ableton, Logic, etc); basic knowledge in object based music programming languages (MaxMSP, Pure

- A/V engineer and technician for all SCUM events
- Worked with Paul Geluso (Director of NYU Electronic Music Department, Harvestworks Digital Media Arts) at Woodstockhausen Festival 2024
 - Set up and break down of quadraphonic audio systems, live mixing, stagehand assistance. Read more below.
- Experience with Quadraphonic Audio Systems
- Has worked with electroacoustic, experimental, and multimedia artists such as: Lea Bertucci, JJJJerome Ellis, Jay Afrisando, Anna Friz, Ann Alstatt, Michelle Moeller, Matt Robidoux, Mitch Stahlmann, Michael Masaru Flora, Tatsuya Nakatani, Stephanie Cheng Smith, Lucy Liyou, Claire Rousay, Kevin Corcoran, Werner Dafeldecker, John Davis, Ryan Smith, and many more.

Music Teacher and Educator, Santa Cruz, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, New Haven

2018 - PRESENT

- Currently employed by Rivendell Music Academy and programming workshops and classes through SCUM, Minnow Arts, and Indexical.
- 5+ years of experience in private and employed music teaching positions in various fields, capacities, and for a wide range of ages, abilities, and situations.
- Works with children and adult students from ages 6–30.
- Has led numerous workshops and classes on a variety of topics: electroacoustic performance practice, prepared instrumentation, synthesis, improvisation/composition, field recording, DIY contact microphones, deep listening, and more.
- Has worked with undergraduate and graduate students in studio class, ensembles, one-on-one settings, and as a Teaching Assistant during graduate and post-graduate work.

SubRosa Community Space and SCUM, Santa Cruz **— Freelance Events Coordinator, Curator, Facilitator, and Organizer**

2022 - Present

Hosts and often participates in more than 50 events per year in the experimental music and arts communities of central and southern California

- Santa Cruz (SubRosa Community Space, Indexical, Minnow Arts), Bay Area, and Los Angeles
- Experimental music, movement, visual art/new media group shows and installations, DJ performances, screenings, readings, workshops, and more.

Data); extensive knowledge of field recording technologies, methods, and applications; live sound engineering, recording, and mixing for performance and recording environments; good knowledge of basic DMX lighting systems (QLAB).

Gallery Prep, Art Handling:

Fabrication, de/installation, a/v technologies, communications, artist correspondence, website design, (Wix, Squarespace, Cargo, etc.); detail oriented, careful and attentive, great at working and leading in teams, great communication, great problem solving skills, accurate and fast with completing tasks, self motivated, thorough and thoughtful, patient

Events Coordination, Curation, and Community Organization:

excellent communication, planning, coordination, and curatorial skills and taste; attention to detail, long term foresight and planning, multitasking, managing and directing a crew, working with varieties of artists with different backgrounds.

Piano Performance and Chamber Music, United States and Europe

2015 - 2020

While in university for Piano Performance, 2012-2020, maintained a steady career as a performing pianist

- solo performances, chamber music, orchestras, recording sessions, radio performances, throughout the US and Europe. (See "Awards, Achievements, and Scholarships")

PROJECTS, CLASSES, PERFORMANCES, COLLABORATIONS ETC.

S.C.U.M. (Santa Cruz Underground Music)

is the revival of an old anagram to rekindle a collectivized effort towards performance and skill-share across various experimental art spaces and mediums. (Santa Cruz, CA 2022 - Present)

Instagram

SCUMsessions - workshops, skillshares, classes:

2024

- Intro to Field Recording [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) at Indexical, with Anna Friz and Doug Murray
- Improvisation, Composition, and Performance Workshop at SubRosa Community Space - with Kevin Corcoran, Eliot Burk, Rodrigo Barriga
- [Contact Mic Workshop](#) at Indexical - with Lucas Ehster
- [Granular Synthesis Workshop](#) at Indexical- with Michael Masaru Flora
- Listening Lounge at Indexical and SubRosa (recurring media share and music appreciation event)
- Screenings and Readings at SubRosa (monthly recurring text based and visual media presentations, performances, and collaborations, co-hosted with Livia Charman. Previous artists include: Ivanna Baranova, Indigo Britton, Madeleine Barbieri, and more

2023

- [Deep Listening Workshop](#) and Forest Walk at Indexical (offsite)
- Free Improvisation Workshops at SubRosa, Minnow Arts, and Indexical (recurring monthly)

Poor Clares

Poor Clares is the duo project of Ben Krasner and Caleb Gomes. They incorporate electroacoustic processes to achieve a refractive dialogue

and explore the possibilities of (de)compositional structures, graphic scores, and free improvisation in the live setting. Using a variety of found sounds and objects, ceramic percussion (handcrafted by Ben), and various synthesis/processing methods, they find radical potential in the sounds of the mundane and the unfamiliar, alike. They have been active in various art spaces and venues in Santa Cruz and the Bay Area since 2022.

Performances, Residencies, Collaborations, Curation:

(Upcoming 2024)

- October 11: Leshy opening for [Olivia Block](#) at Indexical
- July 27: Sonic Happenings: *Play Date* - a “performance game” where a group of visual artists will present objects and sculptural pieces, and a time-based performance group (sound, movement) will respond, interpret, and improvise with/through each visual piece in turn.
- July - October: various performances in support of artists at SubRosa and Minnow Arts

2022-2024

Performance:

- Quadraphonic Performance at Indexical with Anthony Janas and Connor Tomaka
- Quadraphonic Performance at [Woodstockhausen](#) Festival in Bloomville, NY. - Experimental music festival founded in the late 90’s in Santa Cruz. Now held annually in Bloomville on an old dairy farm. 20 artists, 20 minute sets, 2 days. - Co-organizer, Performer, DJ
- 2 week Quadraphonic Sound Artist Residency at Indexical, Santa Cruz: in residence to work on a 4-channel piece, with direction and feedback from Michael Masaru Flora.
- Mitch Stahlmann, Celica, Tobias Banks, and Leshy at SubRosa
- Inner Alignment and Leshy at SubRosa
- Village of Spaces, Big Kitty, and Leshy at SubRosa
- Village of Spaces, Ruth Garbus, and Leshy at Dan’s House
- Ian Macphee and Leshy at SubRosa
- Rodrigo Barriga Ensemble, Grump, Sticker, and Leshy at SubRosa
- Poor Clares and Bridge Gamble, art by Goldstarconner at Redwood Records
- Earth Day Fest at SubRosa with Olivia Ronan, Livia Charman, Syksound, and more
- Opening Reception Performance with Olivia Ronan for her solo show at Minnow Arts
- Michael Masaru Flora, Folding Men, Volvo240dl, and Leshy at SubRosa and The Warehouse (SF)
- The Judy Bloom Septet, Live Scoring of Maya Deren’s Meshes

of the Afternoon, Harry and the Nightgown

- [Poor Clares at Indexical, Santa Cruz 2022](#), with the Nathan Cleavenger Trio

Curation:

- Michelle Moeller, RISA (Mitch Stahlmann and Brendan Glasson), Matt Robidoux - “Mills after Mills cont.” At SubRosa (Previously Mills after Mills at the Lab, San Francisco)
- “Special Smudge” at Minnow Arts - Print and Zine Group show from local Bay Area artists
- SCUM: Sonic Happenings at Minnow Arts – a recurring performance and art event series, centering queer artists, experimental music performances and visual art installations
 - [Poor Clares](#), [Tatsuya Nakatani](#), and [Poor Clares + Tatsuya Nakatani](#)
 - Nico Georis and Spencer Hartling present “In C”, with Poor Clares
 - Rodrigo Barriga Ensemble, Matt Robidoux, YlangYlang, Leshy
 - Volvo 240DL (Albert Peacock and Grace), Poor Clares, Clare Bathum, and more

Pre 2020

- Graduation Recital - Curtis Institute of Music
- Graduation Recital - Yale School of Music
- Performance of *Sonata for Two Pianos and Two Percussion* by Bela Bartok at Curtis Institute 2019
- Performance of Tchiakovsky’s Piano Trio No. 1 at Curtis Institute
- Debut orchestral performance with the New West Symphony Orchestra, C. Saint Saens Piano Concerto No. 2

BIOGRAPHY AND ARTIST STATEMENT:

Ben Krasner is an interdisciplinary sound artist, instrument builder, pianist, and educator. Their work is playful and inquisitive, propelled by a childlike curiosity and a desire to stretch the senses. Their material practice involves hand-building ceramic percussion objects and incorporating found objects into their electroacoustic processes: open source electronics, field recording, synthesis, and various time-based systems. Composing under the name ‘leshy’, they explore echolocation, diffused temporality, feedback, queerness, anticolonial theory, ripples, rocks, texture, and process. They aim to develop a language that allows them to integrate the shapes and patterns that are replicated in nature, circuits, and psyche.

Krasner spent 8 years in universities and music conservatories — Bachelors of Music (Piano Performance) and Bachelors of Science (Economics) from California State University Northridge (2016), Masters of Music from Yale School of Music (2018), Artist Diploma (post graduate) at Curtis Institute of Music (2020) — a long period of technical training, study, and collaboration under the tutelage of some of the best pedagogues in the

country (Boris Berman, Wei Yi Yang, Jonathan Biss, Ignat Solzhenitsyn, Dimitry Rachmanov). They had a successful run of several international festivals and competitions from 2016–2018. Krasner had an affinity for 20th century and New Music, often collaborating closely with the composition departments at Yale and Curtis Institute. Eventually, after graduation and a period of experimentation and self-education during COVID lockdown, they threw themselves into the anonymity of improvised electro-acoustic music and instrument building. There they will remain for the foreseeable future, chasing threads of micro/macro emergence and obscurity.

After moving to Santa Cruz (2021), Krasner began working in music education, live audio/video engineering, audio systems, and events coordination/curation. During their time as Indexical's A/V technician in collaboration with Santa Cruz Underground Music (SCUM), they have curated and led many successful workshops under the umbrella of Sound Studies—from DIY Contact Mics to Field Recording to Granular Synthesis. In their own journey as an educator, Krasner seeks to find the interstitial zone between the classical music tradition they were raised in and the generative creativity of composition, jazz, extended music theory, and performing arts. Often utilizing facets of Deep Listening and tapping into the innate intuition of a young mind, they try to appeal to their students' natural curiosity and inclination to learn, tailoring lesson plans to the individual's capacity, abilities, and interests. They find that the avant garde can be a setting for stimulating thought experiments and creativity for young people. Krasner is an active community arts organizer, solo curating as many as 50 events a year – including but not limited to experimental music, visual arts and new media group shows, workshops, screenings, readings, and site specific works – across various spaces in Santa Cruz, Bay Area, and Los Angeles.

Ben resides and works in the Santa Cruz mountains and bay area as an educator, community/arts organizer, Audio/Visual technician, gallery manager, and freelance farm worker/arborist.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Santa Cruz Clay, Santa Cruz - *Work-trade Studio Technician*

March 2024 - PRESENT

Kiln loading/unloading, general maintenance, recycling clay

Freelance Arborist, Santa Cruz - *Groundsman, pruning, groundskeeping*

2022 - PRESENT

Assistant to Hod Hulphers, pruning, chipping, groundskeeping, tree maintenance, etc.

Full Steam Dumpling, Santa Cruz — *Prep Cook*

October 2022 - Summer 2023

Cosmic Dance Farm, Corralitos — *Nursery Manager, Orchard Care, Garden Care*

March 2022 - October 2023 (work trade)

Permaculture/biodynamic farm with multiple gardens, greenhouse, and terraced orchard- Full time care of the nursery, watering/fertilizing, up-potting, pruning, planting, irrigation, organization, soil making/compost etc. Co-managed the main orchard - drip irrigation, planting trees, pruning, maintenance, harvest etc. Other farm duties involved - building projects, making compost/fertilizer, garden care, planting, harvesting, fire prevention and controlled burns, etc.