

Corey Mwamba

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Statement

I am a musician, arts programmer and presenter, and doctoral researcher from Derby. My research interests cover jazz and improvised music studies; practice research; and practice research methodologies.

I have worked or collaborated in the fields of vibraphone performance, instrumental practice studies, and British jazz and improvised music history. I use a mixture of formats to disseminate this work, including the use of music, drama, and web technologies.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2016 – 2019 **PhD in Jazz Studies, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (passed, awaiting confirmation of amendments)**

how the vibraphone can be a mouth

- Practice/research portfolio (music recordings, creative critical writing) exploring the ways in which personal sound is constructed and experienced by the vibraphonist in jazz and improvised music.
- Funded through the AHRC Midlands3Cities Doctoral Training Partnership.

2014 – 2015 **MRes in Humanities (Music), Keele University (distinction)**

new dark art

- Practice/research portfolio (music recordings, scores, analysis, commentary) that explored and demonstrated the ways in which improvising, notational and conducting practices used in European medieval music can inform and extend my practice in composing for creative musicians.
- Funded by a Keele University AHRC studentship.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed articles

Jan 2020 Mwamba, Corey. 'The Second Masking'. *Jazz Research Journal* 12, no. 2 (2018): 237–41. <https://doi.org/10.1558/jazz.40105>.

December 2019 *Everyone's music? Explorations of the democratic ideal in jazz and improvised music*, written with Guro GravemJohansen. In *The World into Higher Music Education*, edited by Sidsel Karlsen and Siw Graabræk

Nielsen. NMH-publikasjoner

April 2018 *non-performance*. In Riffs Special Edition—Surge in Spring II edited by Sarah Raine, Craig Hamilton, and Juice Aleem. BCMCR, Birmingham.

Book chapters

January 2020 *The Mistake as Material*. In *The Aesthetics of Improvisation* edited by Andy Hamilton and Lara Pearson. Bloomsbury, London.

Cited, non-peer-reviewed articles

2016 **Way of Seeing Coltrane (IV)**
<http://www.coreymwamba.co.uk/rambles/1474444749>

2014 **Way of Seeing Coltrane (III)**
<http://www.coreymwamba.co.uk/rambles/1388998291>

Contrafacts in Jazz: Language, Myth, Method and Homage
<http://www.coreymwamba.co.uk/mres/contrafacts/essay.html>

2013 **Way of Seeing Coltrane (II)**
<http://www.coreymwamba.co.uk/rambles/1388289138>

Way of Seeing Coltrane
<http://www.coreymwamba.co.uk/rambles/1388150764>

Cited technical articles

2010 **Dev.Opera — CSS3 :Target Based Interfaces**
<https://dev.opera.com/articles/css3-target-based-interfaces/>

Dev.Opera — Showing and Hiding Content With Pure CSS3
<https://dev.opera.com/articles/css3-show-and-hide/>

CONFERENCES AND TALKS

- 11 May 2019 **Translating, transferring (and maybe transcending) musical knowledge**
The Uses of Musical Knowledge Symposium, Goldsmiths College
roundtable discussion with Anne Danielsen, John Harries, and Tom Perchard
- 25 Apr 2019 **The Practising Practice of an Improvising Musician**
Research in Music Education conference, Bath Spa University
drama/video presentation with Guro Gravem Johansen (NMH, Oslo)
- 19 Mar 2019 **How The Vibraphone Is A Mouth**
RBC Public Research Seminar Series, Birmingham City University
paper/website based presentation
- 31 Jan 2019 **how the vibraphone can be a mouth**
Performance in Research Seminar, Birmingham City University
performance/website based presentation
- 22 Jan 2019 **how the vibraphone can be a mouth**
Research in Music series, Goldsmiths College, London
performance/website based presentation
- 19 Jan 2019 **Everyone's music? Explorations of the democratic ideal in jazz and improvised music**
Documenting Jazz, DIT Dublin
joint paper, presented with Guro Gravem Johansen (NMH, Oslo)
- 18 Jan 2019 **The Rhizome: Documenting Expansions and Representations in British Jazz and Improvised Music**
Documenting Jazz, DIT Dublin
paper/website based presentation
- 6 Oct 2018 **the mistake as material**
The Aesthetics of Improvisation Symposium, Newcastle (organised by the University of Durham)
paper presentation
- 14 Sep 2018 **Sociality, expansions and representations in British jazz and improvised music**
SPARC Symposium 2018: Socio–Sonic, City, University of London
paper/web-based presentation
- 17 May 2018 **We All Have to Deal with Gary Burton: Representations of and Turnings Away from a Singular Voice in Jazz Vibraphone Performance**

12th International Jazz Research Conference Graz: Jazz Voices, Institute for Jazz Research, University of Music and Performing Arts, Graz

paper/website based presentation

25 May 2017 **as_the_tex(t): body**
Midlands3Cities Research Festival, University of Leicester
performance presentation

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2020 **Birmingham City University**
Delivery of Postgraduate Certificate of Education alongside Charlie Sarson and Bobbie-Jane Gardner

2019 – present **Goldsmiths College, London**
Sessional delivery of "What Is Jazz?" module alongside Tom Perchard

1 Oct 2019 **Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham**
Guest lecture on music practice

18 Mar 2018 **Norwegian Academy of Music, Oslo**
Guest lecture on vibraphone practice and British jazz and improvised music

13 Nov 2009 **Salford University, Salford**
Guest lecture on music practice

In addition, I have run workshops on improvised music across the U.K. for the last twenty years, in various community, festival, and educational settings.

ARTISTIC PRACTICE

Selected Discography (as leader)

Jan – Dec 2019 **systems, sutras**
digital download series, 12 parts
vibraphone, dulcimer, swarmandal, beak flute, Yamaha PSR-280, voice, glockenspiel, piano, objects, audio processing and looping

2 Jul 2019 **NTH (Discus Music)**
CD, digital download
Laura Cole: piano; Andy Champion: bass; Johnny Hunter: drums; CM: vibraphone, beak flute, glockenspiel

Jan – Dec 2018 **(s)kin**
digital download series, 13 parts
vibraphone, dulcimer, swarmandal, beak flute, Yamaha PSR-280, voice, glockenspiel, piano, objects, audio processing and looping

20 Oct 2017 **baby/people (Two Rivers)**
digital download

with yana (Dave Kane: bass; Joshua Blackmore: drums)

3 Mar 2014

one and other

digital download

with Rachel Musson: tenor saxophone

28 Jan 2013

don't overthink it

digital download

with yana (Dave Kane: bass; Joshua Blackmore: drums)

1 Dec 2012

orrery

digital download

Joshua Blackmore: drums; Graham Clark: violin; Deborah Jordan: voice; Dave Kane: bass; Tony Kofi: baritone saxophone; Jan Kopinski: tenor saxophone; Julian Siegel: bass clarinet; Alex Suckling: trumpet; CM:—vibraphone, conducting

7 Mar 2011

the worm

digital download

Alex Bonney: trumpet; Arun Ghosh: clarinet; Ntshuks Bonga: alto and soprano saxophones; Dave Kane: bass; Joshua Blackmore: drums; CM:—vibraphone, conducting

30 Sep 2009

City of Skopje Museum

digital download

Sean Carpio: drums; Diego Cofone: tenor saxophone, washing pipe; Greg Felton: piano; Branko Ilievski: trombone; Danilo Loiacono: tenor saxophone; CM: vibraphone, conductor; Cormac OBrien: bass; Aidan O'Donnell: fiddle; Ciaràn Ó Maonaigh: fiddle; Nolwenn Donnet–Descartes: voice

21 Mar 2009

hear us listen

digital download

with yana (Dave Kane, bass; Joshua Blackmore, drums)

4 Sep 2008

Songs for the New Folk

CD, digital download

dulcimer, ocarina, live processing and looping, vibraphone

9 Jun 2008

Popular Delusions

CD, digital download

vibraphone, mbira, beak flute, Yamaha PSR-280, voice, live audio processing and looping

17 Nov 2006

Sipping Rioja at Home

CD, digital download

audio processing, vibraphone, dulcimer, guitar, flutes, bottles, exercise ball, keys, Indian hand bell

1 Jan 2006

Aurorae

digital download

24 Sep 2005	audio processing images of a verdant land digital download
14 May 2001	piano BioChem CD, digital download with Walt Shaw (percussion)

Tours

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 3 Feb – 23 Mar
2019 | NTH quartet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour of the north of England with NTH (Andy Champion, bass; Laura Cole, piano; Johnny Hunter, drums) • Performances in Sheffield, Newcastle, Manchester, and Derby |
| 7 May – 19 Apr
2015 | Renga <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour of England with yana (Dave Kane, bass; Joshua Blackmore or Johnny Hunter, drums) • Performances in Derby, London, Newcastle, Sheffield, and Leeds • Supported by Arts Council England |
| 31 Jan – 7 Feb
2015 | Soundtrips #23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour of the North Rhine–Westphalia region (Germany) with Rachel Musson (tenor saxophone), featuring guest musicians • Performances in Hagen, Bielefeld, Düsseldorf, Köln, Wuppertal, Essen, Münster, and Bochum • Supported by NRW Kutur Sekretariat, a. o. |
| 19 Jan – 22 Feb
2010 | hear us listen tour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour of England and Wales with yana (Dave Kane, bass; Joshua Blackmore, drums) • Performances in Stratford upon Avon, Reading, Cardiff, London, Leeds, and Derby • Supported by Jazz Services |

Works and commissions

body (#asthetex_t) (2017)

- score for vibraphone, optionally with multiple players
- stemmed from doctoral work
- commissioned by LUME Festival in 2017
- Performed in London, Leicester, and Bucharest

new dark art (2014)

- score and theoretical treatise for multiple instruments
- stemmed from Master's degree work
- Performed at Commonwealth Games Closing Celebrations, Glasgow (2014), Derby (2015), London (2015)

orrery (2012)

- score for eight musicians
- commissioned by Derby Jazz to celebrate Joseph Wright anniversary
- Performed in Derby

Everybody's Reading (2011)

- score for vibraphone, bass, and drums
- commissioned by Everybody's Reading Festival
- Performed at the Everybody's Reading Festival, Leicester

Argentum (2007)

- score for five musicians
- commissioned by Derby Jazz for celebrate Derby Jazz's 25th anniversary
- Performed at Derby Jazz Festival, Wirksworth Jazz Festival, and London Jazz Festival

Festival appearances

LUME Festival, London (2017)

Surge into Spring II, Birmingham (2017)

Bucharest Jazz Festival (2016)

#4Jazz Festival, Coventry (2015)

UberJazz Festival, Hamburg (2015)

Brighton Alternative Jazz Festival, Brighton (2015)

GIOFest, Glasgow (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

Marsden Jazz Festival, Marsden (2013, 2017) Gateshead International Jazz Festival, Gateshead (2013)

FORMAT Festival, Derby (2013)

Manchester Jazz Festival (2011, 2014)

Derby Jazz Festival, Derby (2007)

Wirksworth Festival, Wirksworth (2005, 2007, 2015)

London Jazz Festival, London (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

Stratford Upon Avon Music Festival, Stratford Upon Avon (2005)

Artistic Programming (selected)

- 2 Nov 2019 – present **Presenter: "Freeness", BBC Radio 3**
Host of weekly radio programme, focusing on jazz and improvised music
- 2016 – present **Artistic Director: Derby Jazz, Derby**
Programming regular twice-monthly jazz performances for thirty-year-old non-profit arts organisation.
- 2016 – present **Founder and project lead: Out Front!, Derby**
Programing and fundrasing for a monthly programming of improvised music, electronica, and chamber music for family audiences; and a festival within the programme. Supported by Arts Council England.
- 2014 – 2015 **Founder: The Family Album, Derby**
Programming and fundraising for a series of ten concerts for all ages that explored jazz, modern creative and totally improvised music. Supported by Arts Council England and the Two Rivers Foundation.
- 2012 – 2013 **Founder: One Note Sunday, Derby**
Programming a monthly series of music concerts, experimenting with "single note" pricing.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Studentships

- 2016 – 2019 AHRC Midlands3Cities Doctoral Training Partnership (based at Birmingham University)
- 2013 – 2014 AHRC Master's Degree Studentship (based at Keele University)

Awards and Nominations

- 2009 – 2019 **Downbeat Critics Poll**
Rising Star Vibraphone (nomination top ten)Rising Star, Vibraphone (nomination, top ten)
- 2008 **BBC Jazz Awards**
Best Innovative Album (nomination)
- 2006 **PRS/Jerwood Foundation**
"Take Five" Artist Development Award

Trustee and Advisory Board positions

- 2020 – National Jazz Archive
- 2020 – Jazz in Education (Access and Diversity board, chairperson)
- 2014 – present Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester (Advisory Board)
- 2005 – 2010 Arts Council England East Midlands (Advisory Board)

Selection Panels

- 2019 **Documenting Jazz 2020**

Conference paper selection panel committee

- 2019 **Goldsmiths College BAME Master's bursary scheme**
Candidate selection panel
- 2018 **New Voices Artist Development Programme (Sound And Music)**
Artist selection panel
- 2016 **Pathways Artist Development Programme (Sound And Music)**
Artist selection panel
- 2016 – present **University of Leicester Student Music Scholarship**
Audition panel

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.