

free feral

New Orleans, LA

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Skills	Instruments: Viola, cello, guitar, upright bass; arrangement and composition/ scoring; improvisation; songwriting; film editing; audio editing, podcast production; creative writing: non-fiction, poetry, fiction; teaching artist
Software	hindenburg, ableton, garageband, final-cut pro
Education	<p>BM Oberlin Conservatory 2008</p> <p>I created my own major: "Improvisation, the Creative Process, and the Art of Storytelling". While my degree comes from the conservatory, this path of study included coursework in drawing, Sculpture and Installation, Video production, New Media/ internet arts, and poetry</p> <p>Center for Documentary Studies at Duke: Certificate in Documentary Studies (in process)</p>
Ensembles	<p>Violist, backup vocals @ the Leyla McCalla Trio – 2015-2017</p> <p>Toured throughout the US and Canada, as well as in France, Belgium, Switzerland, UK, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy, Poland, the Czech Republic, Haiti, Martinique, Cape Verde, and Israel.</p> <p>Cellist, singer, composer, collaborator @ Les Cenelles - since 2018</p> <p>Les Cenelles is an ensemble exploring the Creole diaspora through all findable forms of melody and memory to honor our cultural ancestors and preserve the plurality of their experiences through a prismatic and contemporary lens. We revive and reimagine creole songs and poetry and create original material through individual and collective processes. Other Artists are Sultana Isham, Mx.Mun, Dr. Denise Frazier, Cory Diane, Peter J. Bowling, and Joe Darrensborg.</p>
Grants and Awards	<p>CDS Storytellers Scholarship 2017 - \$1500</p> <p>I was one of three people awarded with this scholarship at the Center For Documentary studies. The money comes in the form of credit to pay for my courses in pursuit of a certificate.</p> <p>Alternate Roots: 2018 Artistic Assistance Project Development Grant \$5000 -We, the Promised Land - see podcasts</p>

Music As Medecine Project Magnolia Grant \$300 - January 2019

“The Magnolia Grant provides funding for up and coming musicians in the American Folk & Roots music scene. We support artists who work at the intersection of arts and activism, and we focus on financially supporting those who are descendants of generations of systemic oppression. Through this grant, we give thanks to these artists whose work offers vital nourishment in our time, working at the intersection of the Great Unraveling and the Great Turning to bring positive change to the world.”

Fellowships

Found Sound Nation's OneBeat Program September/October 2019

25 musicians from 17 countries under the age of 35 all gathered for a residency at the Atlantic Center for the Arts in Florida. There, we took workshops and made new music for 2 weeks. We then toured the Southeastern United States for 2 weeks sharing our new compositions with audiences and doing community engagement activities such as youth workshops and performances in fragile care communities. OneBeat is a collaboration between Found Sound Nation and The US State Department Office of Cultural Affairs.

Notable Performances

Southern Sonic Festival at CACNO, May 11, 2018 - Sing, River, Shout: a Reparations Ritual
previously Black in the Nation (2015) - film editor, composer, sound designer, performer

A remix of the 1915 film, *Birth of a Nation*, that reclaims the story for the Black characters in the piece. Each black face character is embodied on stage by a black performer. This was a work in process showing. The first iteration (in 2015) featured poet, A Scribe Called Quess, and dancer, Jeremy Guyton. For the second, I focused on the music that underscores the lover storyline. The piece includes live score and sound installations.

Closing Event for “Empire” at Newcomb Art Museum w/Dr. Courtney Bryan - cellist, improviser
This was a site specific piece for three string players scored by Dr. Courtney Bryan in conversation with the Empire exhibit curated from the Tulane University Archives by Fallen Fruit. The score was a series of instructions and time stamps delineated which art pieces and musicians to interact with in what ways, such as have a conversation with this or tell a story about that. Some portions included solo work, some were duos, some trios. The other two musicians were Dr. Denise Frazier and Tarrah Reynolds.

KindHumanKind@ CACNO, March 2019 w/Aurora Nealand and Goat in the Road Productions - singer, violist, performer

Goat in the Road Productions is leading a process of devising live theatrical performance to enhance Aurora Nealand's The Monocle album “KindHumanKind”. The performance features tracks, live band performance and with live vocals and movement from Aurora Nealand, Alexis Marceaux, Tiffany Lamsen, and myself.

Homecoming Project: Water, April 2019 w/Junebug Productions - Cellist, composer, writer, performer, video production, sound design

This was a piece of devised theatre made in collaboration with Sunni Patterson, Frederick “Wood” Dellahoussaye, Jeremy Guyton, and Kesha McKey. We explored themes of collecting, water, and black people’s various relationships with water in the American South, in light of the trauma of enslavement and other state violence.

Podcasts

Creating Place: An Audio Exploration of Creative Placemaking in the US South - Podcast producer, editor, co-host, score; w/ Alternate Roots and Bonnie Gabel (2017)

4 pieces highlighting artists and projects that take creative placemaking beyond the funding terms to provide creative, spiritual and community space. Each piece is 40-50 minutes and uses interviews conducted by Bonnie Gabel

Last Call Podcast - season 1: 2015-2016; season 2 (2018-2019) Producer, editor, composer/musician, co-host

Podcast based on an Oral History Project of the New Orleans dyke bar scene in the 70’s through the ’90’s. 8 episodes ranging from 10-30ish minutes in length organizing stories of some the most popular bars around themes such as coming out, racial segregation in the lesbian community, and theories as to why Lesbian bars are becoming fewer and fewer. Season two, produced in collaboration with Laine Kaplan-Levenson, focusing on “Stories of Queer Resistance,” was released 2/14/19 ended 4/25/19

We, The Promised Land (in process 2018-present)
producer

This is a documentary project exploring inheritance in black families and communities. We are the afterlife of our ancestors. What do you The first family to be part of this investigation is the Hollowell family in Waterford, MS who have kept an 80 acre plot in the family for 100 years. Bill’s dad, Albert, bought the land in 1918 for less than \$500 and Bill and his wife Annie have been hosting a juke joint, blues festival, and events space there for the last 10 years. Now their daughter, Annette, is taking on the responsibility of programming the space with a renewed intention to create space for black connection and black healing. We follow her on the journey to the fruition of this goal and investigate the responsibilities endowed by inheritance in this and other black families.

Film projects

“Valuable” and “I Got a Right” 2017 (3 minutes each)

both these films were made for a Performance curated by Stephanie McKee at Junebug productions called “The Power of the Black Feminine” both pieces use public domain and creative commons footage together with audio sampled from Audre Lorde, June Jordan and a story circle comprised of local black women in New Orleans led by Wendy Moore O’Neal. I scored these pieces as well.

film and theatre scores

Short Film: New Country - 2019

w/Marshall Brown Projects. Marshall Brown is an architect and filmmaker. New Country is a 4 minute film that showcases his design work and proposes a new model for community land use,

returning to the establishment of commons and mutual aid networks. This film was purchased for the permanent collection at The Art Institute of Chicago Department of Architecture and Design.

Short Film: Artist in Exile - 2018

w/visible productions. This is documentary piece following New Orleans poet Sunni Patterson, her family history in the city, her exile in Atlanta after Katrina, and the complications of returning home. The portion of the piece that is scored is Sunni's stunning poem about the experience of being separated from her home.

Short Film: Come Home - 2017

With Visible productions. This piece centers a poem of the same title by Frederick "Hollywood" Delahoussaye

Short film: America, What's in Your Name? - 2016

with foster bear films. This piece centers a poem of the same title by A Scribe Called Quess. Music made in Collaboration w/ Denise Frazier.

Dreamers Often Lie: Live Score for theatre - 2015

Yamil Rodriguez, Director. Billed to Audiences as a "Queer, silent *Romeo and Juliet*," this play was actually an exploration of failure as the play the audience expected fell apart at the seams and finally collapsed before them. Cory Ashby (Saxophone, vocals) and I collaborated on and performed the score.

Man with a Movie Camera - 2007

score for 8 piece jazz ensemble set to the 1929 silent Film *Man With a Movie Camera* by Dziga Vertov

Appears on
(Musical Recordings)

OneBeat Mixtape 2019

viola, vocals, cello, songwriting

Leyla McCalla - A Day For The Hunter A Day For The Prey, 2015; Capitalist Blues, 2018

viola, backup vocals

Fever Dreams - Crescent Femme 2016

viola, backup vocals

Shine Delphi - 2016

viola