

## Amy Wurtz— January 2021

### Medium Bio - 300 words

A fervent advocate for new music and the community that surrounds and supports it, Amy Wurtz is a staunch performer, composer, and curator of new music based in Chicago. Her recent album, *Cello Dances at Night*, with the Wurtz-Berger Duo, a cello-piano collaboration with Alyson Berger, features Amy's work *Songs and Dances* and was commissioned by the 2016 Ear Taxi Festival. Originally from California, Amy has lived and worked in the Bay Area, Southern California, throughout the Midwest, South America and Europe. In addition to composing and curation, she is in demand as a solo pianist, chamber and choral musician, teacher, and collaborative pianist.

As a composer, Amy has won various prizes and commissions for her work, including the National Federation of Music Clubs, Illinois Arts Council Grant, and the American Music Project. Her works have been performed by Zeitgeist, the Chicago Composers' Orchestra, and Access Contemporary Music. Currently President of New Music Chicago, Amy has curated and produced the Impromptu Fest, with performances at the Chopin Theater and Guarneri Hall. Amy also curates the New Music at the Green Mill series each Spring, where local performers and audience members gather in this iconic Chicago venue to hear new and experimental music.

With degrees from the University of Redlands and the University of Minnesota, Amy studied piano with Alexander Braginsky and Louanne Long and composition with Judith Lang Zaimont and Alexandra Pierce. Her study of piano has taken her twice to Argentina, where she spent a year of intensive study with Inés Gómez-Carrillo.

Amy currently works in a variety of capacities, running an independent piano studio, serving as Music Director for Hemenway United Methodist Church, and working as lead accompanist for the Sounds Good! and Good Memories choirs, which serve older adults and those with memory loss. [www.amywurtz.com](http://www.amywurtz.com)