

# HOWIE KENTY

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## ~ *Bio* ~

Howie Kenty is a Brooklyn-based composer and sound designer, occasionally known by his musical alter-ego, Hwarg. His music, called “remarkable” with “astonishing poetic power” by the International Compendium Prix Ars Electronica, is stylistically diverse, encompassing ideas from contemporary classical, electronic, rock, sound art, theatre, and everything in between, occasionally making use of visual and theatrical elements. Throughout all of his creations runs the idea that the experience of a piece is more than just listening to the music; there is a wholeness of vision and an awareness of environment that attempts to fully draw the audience into his works.

Howie's pieces have been presented at numerous international festivals and venues, including Carnegie Hall, Metropolitan Museum of Art, International Computer Music Conference, New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival (NYCEMF), The Stone, le Poisson Rouge (“DJ Spooky presents China + NY”), Kathleen Supové's Music with a View, Electronic Music Midwest, Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, thingNY's SPAM v.3.0, CUNY New Music Festival, Circuit Bridges, Miso Music Portugal Música Viva Festival, 60x60 International Mix, MAKO Theatre (Beijing), Festival Forfest (Czech Republic), Biennial Symposium on Arts and Technology, 12 Nights Festival, Extensible Toy Piano Festival, and Electronic Rainbow Coalition Festival, and appear on the CDs *Clairaudience* and *Questions: Compositions on Cage and Ives* (Bohn Media) and PUBLIQuartet's eponymous debut (Cag Records). His works have been performed by musicians including Todd Reynolds, Argento, the UK Chinese Ensemble conducted by Aaron Cassidy, Kinan Azmeh and David Fulmer, Lynn Bechtold, Adrianna Mateo, TEMPO Ensemble, Unheard-of//Ensemble, Szymon Jozwiak and Anna Zielinska, Lykos, STRIA, Elevator Rose, TIMI Modern Music Ensemble, InnoVox, First Construction, Theresa Rosas, River Guerguerian and Nota Bene, David Mendoza and Jorge Variago, and Rebekah Norris, among others. He has composed music and sound for experimental mixed-media productions including Twisted Roots' *Die Hamletmaschine* and *Outlying Islands* and Deconstructive Theatre Project's *Searching for Sebald*. His *Scherzo; Dance* received an Honorary Mention in Prix Ars Electronica 2008, and his *We Have Less Time Than You Think* was awarded first prize at Shanghai Electronic Music Week 2013, earning a commission for a 2015 premiere. After performing Howie's *An Impetuous Old Friend* in the 2013 Concert Artist Guild Competition, PUBLIQuartet was awarded the Sylvia Ann Hewlett Adventurous Artist Prize and chosen as the New Music/New Places Ensemble. Howie was recently chosen as a 2016-2017 Copland House residency recipient.

Born in 1980, Howie received a BS from Northeastern University in Music Technology/Multimedia Studies with a concentration in Music Composition and minors in Philosophy and Music Industry, studying under Dennis Miller, Anthony De Ritis, and Apostolos Paraskevas. After several years at the music software company Cakewalk in both Technical Support and Quality Assurance, he began working as a creative freelancer with clients such as Paul D. Miller a.k.a. DJ Spooky (with/for artists including Chuck D, the Kronos Quartet, Thurston Moore (Sonic Youth), and many more), Amanda Palmer/The Dresden Dolls, and pipa virtuoso Min Xiao-Fen, on recordings and projects that have been performed worldwide at venues like Lincoln Center, the Acropolis, Tate Modern, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Haus der Kunst (Germany), Zhong Shan Hall (Taiwan), and more. He has composed music and sound for numerous television, web, and video productions for clients including PBS, the National Geographic Channel, the History Channel, Northeastern University, MIT, and the New England Aquarium. He earned his MA in Music Composition at the Aaron Copland School of Music, studying under Jeff Nichols, Hubert Howe, and Bruce Saylor, graduating as the President of the Queens College New Music Group and a recipient of the Leo Kraft Award in Composition/Theory, the George Perle Award, the ACSM Masters Award, and the Discimus ut Serviamus Award. After earning his MA, he taught theory and coached student ensembles at the Kaufman Music Center's Special Music School High School.

Currently, Howie is a Graduate Council Fellow PhD composition student at Stony Brook University, where he studies with Matthew Barnson, Margaret Schedel, Sheila Silver, and Perry Goldstein, and teaches music technology and theory. He is a member of the Executive Committee for NYCEMF, a week-long festival involving hundreds of composers and performers. Howie plays guitar and composes in the progressive rock group The Benzene Ring, who recently released their album *Crossing the Divide*, hailed as “a true masterpiece” and a “gorgeous piece of experimental rock/metal” (Recyclable Sounds; Progarchy).