

Alex Shapiro: Composer Biography

Alex Shapiro has become one of the Pacific coast's most familiar composers of acoustic and electroacoustic chamber music. Performed and broadcast weekly across the U.S. and internationally, her music is lyrically expressive, dramatic and often rhythmically driven. Published by **Activist Music**, Ms. Shapiro's scores are widely distributed, and found in libraries and universities nationwide. Alex's music has been recorded by many artists and is available on CDs from **Cambria Master Recordings, Innova Recordings, Crystal Records, DC Records, Centaur Records, Quindecim Recordings, Move Records, Oehms Classics** and others.

Born in New York City in 1962 and raised in Manhattan, Alex began composing at age nine. She was educated at **The Juilliard School** and **Manhattan School of Music**, where she was a composition student of Ursula Mamlok and John Corigliano. Earlier composition studies from age fifteen were with Leo Edwards at **Mannes College of Music** and with Michael Czajkowski and George Tsontakis at the **Aspen Music School**. An accomplished pianist, Ms. Shapiro was a student of New York recitalist Marshall Kreisler, and she is an active guitarist as well.

Ms. Shapiro is the recipient of national honors and awards including those from the **American Music Center, ASCAP, the American Composers Forum, Meet the Composer** and **Mu Phi Epsilon**, and she has been awarded artist fellowships from **The California Arts Council** and from **The MacDowell Colony**, for which she now serves as an advisor.

An enthusiastic leader in the new music community, Alex is a strong advocate for other artists through her speaking appearances and her published articles. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the **American Music Center**, is the recent President of the Board of Directors of the **American Composers Forum of Los Angeles**, and sits on the **Composing/Arranging Craft Committee** for the **Grammys**. Alex has served as an officer on the boards of other national music organizations including **NACUSA, The College Music Society**, and **The Society of Composers & Lyricists**. Her volunteer activism also encompasses three terms she served on the Board of Directors of the **ACLU of Southern California**, including two years as the 30,000-member affiliate's Vice-president, and she is a Board member of the University of Washington's renowned marine science research facility, the **Friday Harbor Laboratories**.

Articulate, passionate and entertaining, Ms. Shapiro appears regularly as a speaker at a wide variety of music events, including **NARAS' Grammy® in the Schools**, the **Los Angeles Philharmonic's First Nights series, IAWM's International Congress of Women in Music**, the **National Performing Arts Convention** in Denver, Colorado, and each of **ASCAP's I Create Music Expos** in Hollywood. Since 2000 Alex has interviewed over 100 composers as the moderator of the popular **Los Angeles Composer's Salon series** as well as **ACF/LA's Composer to Composer series** at Walt Disney Concert Hall, and she is a familiar guest lecturer at many colleges and universities, including being the Keynote speaker at the **Society of Composers, Inc. 2006 National Conference**.

A longtime resident of Malibu, California, Alex now resides on Washington State's San Juan Island, and when she's not composing she can often be found sea kayaking, or communing with the sea life at the tide pools, evidence of which can be found on her widely read blog, **Notes from the Kelp**.