

# J. Anthony Allen

**Composer, Producer, Songwriter**

Web: <http://www.janthonyallen.com>

Email: [j@janthonyallen.com](mailto:j@janthonyallen.com)

Short bio: [133 Words]

J. Anthony Allen has worn the hats of composer, producer, songwriter, engineer, sound designer, DJ, remix artist, multi-media artist, performer, inventor, and entrepreneur. Allen is a versatile creator whose diverse project experience ranges from works written for the Minnesota Orchestra to pieces developed for film, TV, and radio. An innovator in the field of electronic performance, Allen performs on a set of "glove" controllers, which he has designed, built, and programmed by himself. When he's not working as a solo artist, Allen is a serial collaborator. His primary collaborative vehicle is the group Ballet Mech, for which Allen is one of three producers.

J. Anthony Allen teaches at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, is the founder of Slam Academy in Minneapolis, and is an Ableton Live Certified Instructor.

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Longer bio: [327 Words]

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Two major internal forces have fueled Allen's professional development: a hunger for the provocatively progressive and a commitment to the contextually relevant. His pursuits have been grounded in the idea that advances in composition must explore the unknown, but always with an acute respect for music as a social creature, one that cannot thrive in isolation. He strives to keep the lines of artistic communication open and engaging, and the expansion of his musical portfolio has been a result of an ongoing dialog, drawing on new developments in all music communities.

Born and raised in Michigan, Allen has worked with many forms of interactive media including audio, video, installation and dance. Mr. Allen's work has been experienced all over the world, and has been called "a study in ominous sound and motion,"(Baltimore Sun) "An aural hallucinogen," (Minnesota Public Radio) and "A beautiful and engaging use of technology. " (Cogapp: The Art and Science Blog). In 2003 Allen joined the team of the Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Art where he was the assistant director and lead producer through 2009.

(If you run into him on the street, he goes by J. – as in, Jay.)

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Super Long Bio: [913 words]

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Allen's music has been performed by the Minnesota Orchestra, Aspen Conductors Orchestra, and Peabody Conservatory Orchestra. Additionally, Allen's work has been presented at International Computer Music Conferences, Society of Electro- Acoustic

Music in the United States (SEAMUS) national conferences, Society of Composers (SCI) national student conference, Electronic Music Midwest festivals, Spark Festivals of Electronic Music and Art, (Minneapolis), Music at the Anthology festival (MATA, New York City), June in Buffalo Festival, and the Aspen Music Festival, for which he received the Susan and Ford Schumann Award in 2004 and 2005. Allen is a recipient of the Prix D'Ete award (first prize, Peabody Conservatory), Macht Orchestral Prize and P. Bruce Blair Award (Peabody Conservatory). He was a regional winner of the SCI/ASCAP Student Commission Prize, recipient of two Peabody Institute Career Development Grants, an Arts Quarter Collective Grant (University of Minnesota), Meet the Composer Creative Connections grant, many ASCAP Standard Awards, and several grants from the American Composers Forum. Recent paper publications have appeared in Organized Sound (Cambridge University Press), The Living Music Journal, Proceedings of the third annual Spark Festival, and ComposersOnline.Org. Allen has studied with prominent teachers in the United States while at the Peabody Conservatory and University of Minnesota. Additionally, Allen has studied electro-acoustic music at the Centre de Création of Music Iannis Xenakis (CCMIX) in Paris, France. In 2008 he was awarded the first ever Distinguished Young Alumni award from his alma mater, Grand Valley State University.

Allen performs extensively both as a guitarist and on wearable sensor controllers built and designed by himself. He has performed at the Guitar Foundation of America National Conference, given numerous solo concerts and recitals, as well as professional studio work. He has performed on electronic devices on several occasions including performances with members of the Zeitgeist Contemporary Music Ensemble, in New York City at the MATA festival, Miami, FL., Minneapolis, MN., and recurring performances with the improvisation group Ballet Mech. His music has been performed throughout the United States and Europe, including Denmark, the Netherlands, Hungary, the Czech Republic, France and Italy.

Allen has been the lead Producer for the international Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Arts since 2003. In 2004 Allen co-founded the "Salon3136" Concert Series which hosts concerts and other events with the intention of dismantling the exclusivity of concert music.

Recent teaching appointments include: The Universiteit van Amsterdam (Amsterdam, Netherlands), Teaching Associate for the Computer Music Department of the Peabody Conservatory of Music of the Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD), Instructor positions at the University of Minnesota (Teaching Advanced Notation and Introduction to Music Software and MIDI), as well as various Teaching Assistantships at Peabody and elsewhere. Additionally, he has taught classical, jazz, folk and rock guitar at academies and institutions throughout the Midwest. Mr. Allen holds degrees from the Peabody Conservatory of Music (MM composition, MM computer music), and Grand Valley State University (BA, music). Mr. Allen is currently a PhD candidate in music composition with a minor in visual art at the University of Minnesota under the tutelage of Judith Lang

Zaimont and Douglas Geers, where he has held the Lloyd Ultan Advanced Composition and Electronic Music Fellowship, and the Harvey V. Berneking Graduate Fellowship, and the prestigious Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. His primary composition instructors have been Judith Lang Zaimont, Douglas Geers, Christopher Theofanidis, Bruno Amato, McGregor Boyle, Kurt Ellenberger, Benjamin Broening, Pieter Snapper and Robert Schectman.

Mr. Allen currently teaches at McNally Smith College of Music in St. Paul, Minnesota. His music can be found on the Innova, SEAMUS, and Panacea3 labels.

More information can be found on his website. <http://www.janthonyallen.com>

Email: [j@janthonyallen.com](mailto:j@janthonyallen.com)