

# John S. Levis

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## Composer-Accompanist

### Highlights of Qualifications

- Employment as composer and accompanist in area dance schools since 1981
- Ability to work in a diversity of styles
- Experience in independent projects as solo artist and in collaboration with area musicians

### Musical Education

University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Music Degree 1980

#### **Relevant Coursework**

- Composition
- Theory
- Piano
- Ear Training

#### **Selected Achievements**

- Studied under Andrew Rudin, Susan Starr, Frances Fanelli, Donald Chittum and Jan Kryzwicki in earning my degree
- Gained entrance into Honors Theory Program after a rigorous selection process.
- Achieved Dean's List status every semester.
- Had a number of compositions selected for student recitals.
- Tutored fellow students in Music Theory and other subjects.
- Gained recognition in "Who's Who Among Students at American Colleges and Universities."
- Graduated magna cum laude

#### **Private Study**

- Studied Theory and Composition under Joseph Franklin, founder of R el ache Contemporary Music Ensemble (1971–1973)
- Studied trumpet under Sigmund Herring and Louis Opaleski prior to matriculation at the University of the Arts (1965).

### **Public Performances**

*Work as a composer and producer was recognized in the following public performances:*

- Composed and produced music for "A Bit of Kinship and Exoticism for Milton Myers as part of Phiadanco's 35 anniversary at the Kimmel Center, Philadelphia, Pa. 2004

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- Composed and produced “The Bourne” for independent choreographer Brian Sanders (formerly of Momix), Philadelphia Arts Bank, 1998
- Transcribed, arranged, and produced in personal MIDI studio musical score for “The Night Before Christmas” for Dance Fusion, original music by Ed Strauman, Movement Theater International, 1995.
- Composed and performed music for the lecture demonstration portion of the Lester Horton Retrospective in collaboration with James Truitte and Ana Marie Forsythe, Painted Bride Arts Center, 1995.
- Composed and produced the music for “Burning”, Koresh Dance Company, Movement Theater International, 1993.
- Composed and performed the music for “Song of Glory” for Milton Myers, University of the Arts Concert, Merriam Theater, 1992.
- Composed and Performed with area musicians Jim Hamilton and Joe Bryant “Once Again,” Collaboration with Beth Hirschaut-Iguchi, University of the Arts Spring Concert, Merriam Theater, 1991.
- Composed and performed the music for “Hacienda,” in collaboration with Manfred Fischbeck, University of the Arts Concert, Merriam Theater, 1990.
- Composed the music for “Dream Village,” in collaboration with Manfred Fischbeck, University of the Arts Concert, Merriam Theater, 1989.
- Composed “The Photon’s Journey,” R el ache Contemporary Music Ensemble, Mandell Theater, 1981.
- Composed “Sonata in the Affirmative,” R el ache Contemporary Music Ensemble, The Painted Bride Arts Center, 1981.
- Composed “Piano Fantasia,” Philadelphia Composers Series, Trinity Memorial Church, 1980

### **Professional Employment Experience:**

**University of the Arts School of Dance, Philadelphia , PA**

1982-present

*Class accompanist/composer*

Since beginning employment at the University of the Arts School of Dance in 1982, I have distinguished myself as class accompanist and composer. I have also been teaching and counseling dance students in matters pertaining to music and its relationship to movement. In all these areas I have developed a respected reputation both in and outside Philadelphia.

#### **Key Accomplishments**

- Composed and recorded music for the third instructional video of Lester Horton Technique under the direction of Ana Marie Forsythe and Marjorie Perces with dancers from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. November 2002
- Composed and recorded music for the second instructional video of Lester Horton Technique under the direction of Ana Marie Forsythe and Marjorie Perces with dancers from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. October 2001.
- Accompanist to Jennifer Binford (formerly of the Martha Graham Company) and Kim Bears (formerly of Philadanco)
- Accompanist to Terese Capucilli for company class for the Martha Graham Dance Company March April 2000
- Accompanist to Katherine Crockett for master class in Martha Graham Technique March 2000
- Served as class accompanist for Gabriel Masson, Ruth Andrien, Milton Myers, Patricia Thomas-Ingram and Ed Taketa.

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- Accompanied master classes by Carolyn Adams, Jeanne Ruddy, Mary Anthony, Ralph Lemon and Reginald Yates.

**Gwendolyn Bye Dance Center**, Philadelphia, PA

1991-2002

*Class accompanist/Part Time*

#### **Key Accomplishment**

- Served as class accompanist for Mary Anthony and Colin Conner.

**Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival**, Lee, MA

1995-2007

*Instructor/Class Accompanist and composer*

#### **Key Accomplishments**

- Accompanist to Milton Myers, Robert Moses, Banu Ogan and Pam Pribisco
- Accompanist to Milton Myers, Lisa Viola, Cynthia Riesterer and Pam Pribisco, July 2006
- Accompanist to Lynn Glauber, Graciela Kozak, Milton Myers, Sue Bernhardt and Nina Watt for daily technique classes. Composed and performed music for Inside Out Theater for Milton Myers and Nina Watt, July 2005.
- Accompanist to Milton Myers and Pam Pribisco for daily technique classes, July 2004
- Accompanist to Milton Myers for daily technique classes in Horton Technique-accompanist for Robert Battle master classes-Contemporary Traditions Workshop 2003. Also composed and performed music for demonstration of Horton Technique for Inside/Out.
- Accompanist to Milton Myers for daily technique classes in Horton Technique July 2002
- Accompanist and composer (for Inside/ Out Performances) for Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and Francesca Harper-Modern Traditions Workshop July 2001.
- Accompanist to Milton Myers, Pam Pribisco and Robert Battle-Modern Traditions Workshop July 2001.
- Accompanist and composer for Ruth Andrien -2000 Modern Traditions Workshop.
- Accompanied technique classes for Milton Myers, Terese Capucilli, Doug Varone, Robert Battle, Pam Pribisco and Beatrice Rodriguez in June-July 1999 for Modern Traditions Workshop.
- Composed and recorded music for the Inside Out performances for Terese Capucilli and Ruth Andrien June-July 1999 for Modern Traditions Workshop.
- Accompanist to Donald McKayle for instruction of technique during Modern Traditions Workshop in August of 1998.
- Instructor on how to work with musicians in classroom settings as part of Teacher's Workshop, August 1995..
- Accompanist to Milton Myers in daily technique classes.

**Philadanco**, Philadelphia, PA

1992-present

*Accompanist(part-time employment)*

#### **Key Accomplishment**

- Served as accompanist to Mary Hinkson for summer program-August 2001
- Served as Accompanist to Milton Myers for training and company classes.
- Served as accompanist to Denise Jefferson for both training company and company class.

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**Shirley Rock School of the Pennsylvania Ballet**, Philadelphia, Pa

2000-present

*Accompanist (part-time employment)*

### **Key Accomplishment**

- Accompanist for ballet classes during regular school year.
- Accompanist for ballet classes during summer workshop July-August 2000-2002

**Temple University**

1982-1990

*Accompanist (part-time employment)*

### **Key Accomplishment**

- Served as accompanist for master class taught by Takako Asakawa.

**Susan Hess Modern Dance**

1981-1987

*Accompanist (part-time employment)*

## **Independent Work**

- While engaged as a composer and accompanist for various schools and independent dancers and choreographers-I have continued to compose and record original musical compositions both in my home electronic studio and acoustic piano recordings at various area recording facilities.
- At present I have a dual processor Macintosh with Digital Performer 4.61, Reason 3.0 and MachFive (software sampler) . Musical scoring and arranging of my music is done on Sibelius 4.01. The studio has high end effects processing-a digital mixer with complete automation and an assortment of midi devices for playback. At present I am engaged in creating a series of cds and scores for dance instruction and choreography.