

Marisa Michelson &



This resume is an abridged version of my CV and includes a short bio. It breaks down my career into four sections: 1) Constellation Chor; 2) Composing and Performing; 3) Awards, Residencies, Grants and Discography; and 4) Education

MARISA MICHELSON is a singer, improviser, educator, and composer of Musicals, Choral Works, and Music-Theatre.

She is an active and accomplished somatic voice practitioner, performer, and composer with extensive experience in: private studio teaching (over 17 years), with many successful students on Broadway and pursuing other careers in voice; forming and maintaining groups, including *Constellation Chor || an immersion in voice, movement and spirit*, and Core Sounding™, a practice and process for improvisation; and composing, with compositions and musicals which have received substantial grant funding and critical praise.

Constellation Chor has been in residence at the historic Judson Memorial Church, Spectrum and Pioneer Works. The *Chor's* collaborators include Claire Chase, Sarah Hennies, Ash Fure, the New York Philharmonic, the Kitchen, Heartbeat Opera, Harvard Art Lab, Maria Popova, Paola Prestini, and Sara Serpa (among others). Marisa's compositions have been called "exquisite" (*The New York Times*), "otherworldly" (Steven Suskin), "gorgeous...adventurous" (Vox Magazine). Her off-Broadway musicals include *Tamar of the River* (Prospect Theater; two Drama Desk Nominations) and *One Thousand Nights and One Day* (Prospect Theatre, ART NY). *Naamah's Ark*, her oratorio for five choirs starring Victoria Clark (River to River festival in Rockefeller Park) was conducted by Ted Sperling. *Awards & grants include*: Jonathan Larson Award, National Endowment for the Arts, New Dramatists, The Foundation for Contemporary Arts, the inaugural Eric Salzman Award for Music-Theater, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. *Residencies include*: National Sawdust, MacDowell, Ucross, Modern Accord Depot, Blue Mountain Center, New Dramatists. Marisa lives, works and teaches singing in New York City and Hudson, NY.

Constellation Chor || an immersion in voice, movement, and spirit

Founder & Director, Composer

2015-2024

PERFORMANCES & RECORDINGS

Constellation Chor EP and non-formance, Porches at Mass Moca

September, 2023

Audio recording of our improvisations with original and new ensemble members in preparation for an EP and installation; Producer: William Britelle

Reservoir 2: Intrusion, Porches at Mass Moca

May 27, 2022

Audio recording of the piece composed by Sarah Hennies for bass flute and five or more voices for Claire Chase's Density 2036: part vi

Biophony, Brooklyn Botanical Gardens September 18, 2021
Live performances of pieces commissioned by the Metropolis Ensemble

Beneath the Surface, National Sawdust April 21, 2021
Short film produced by National Sawdust and Pioneer Works, co-created with Miriam Parker: Film by Mariam Parker; Music and Performance by Marisa Michelson
Sung and performed by *Constellation Chor*

Tree of 40 Fruit, Pioneer Works October 3, 2020
Music by Paola Prestini written for a tree planting ceremony at *Pioneer Works* initiated and produced by Maria Popova

Claire Chase: Density 2036, part vi, Harvard ArtLab November 7, 2020
- Reservoir 2: *Intrusion* by Sarah Hennies, twenty minute version of the hour-long piece written for Claire Chase and *Constellation Chor*

Vouvoussa Festival, Greece July 17, 2019
Sappho Fragments by Marisa Michelson
Performed by Marisa Michelson and *Constellation Chor*

Reservoir 2: Intrusion, The Kitchen, NYC March 1-2, 2019
Composition by Sarah Hennies for bass flute and five or more voices for Claire Chase's *Density 2036: part vi* (2018-19)

Filament, David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center September 19-25, 2018
Composed by Ash Fure
World premiere with the New York Philharmonic, composed for *Constellation Chor*; conducted by Jaap van Zweden

Desire | Divinity Project Parts I & II, Judson Memorial Church, NYC February 1-3, 2018
Song of Song of Songs and *Sappho Fragments* by Marisa Michelson
Marisa Michelson and Heath Saunders, Lead Performers

OTHER SELECTED COMPOSITIONS & PERFORMANCES

Agrol Agra, Vocal Quartet 2018 - present
Singers: Kinga Cserjési, Deborah Carmichael, Marisa Michelson, Margot Bassett (formerly Sara Serpa)
Singing Hungarian Folk Music and Arrangements of Hungarian Folk Songs by Bela Bartok

Performances at the Hungarian House, NYC

Upcoming "The Owl" in Brooklyn, Metabee Farm in Hawthorne Valley, NY

One Thousand Nights and One Day, Prospect Theatre Company, NYC April 1-30, 2018
Book and Lyrics by Jason Grote
Music and Vocal Philosophy by Marisa Michelson

Naamah's Ark: A retelling of Noah's Ark from his wife's point of view

Music and Additional Text by Marisa Michelson

Text by Royce Vavrek

An Oratorio for 200 singers (Professional SATB Choir, Gospel Choir, Children's Choir, Hispanic Choir, Soloist, Barbershop Quartet, Drummers with Disabilities) and Chamber Orchestra

Commissioned by Ted Sperling's *MasterVoices*, Conducted by Ted Sperling

Headlined the River to River Festival in Rockefeller park, starred Victoria Clark 2018

University of Southern Utah, Salt Lake City for the National Opera Association 2019

Premiered at Anche Chesed Synagogue, NYC 2016

Tamar of the River, Prospect Theater Company, NYC

September - October, 2013

Conception, Music, and Book by Marisa Michelson

Book and Lyrics by Joshua H. Cohen

For 13 mixed voices, piano, violin/viola, cello, hammered dulcimer, percussion: djembe, conga, udu, glockenspiel, and vibraphone

The Other Room, a one-woman opera

Libretto by Mark Campbell

Composed by Marisa Michelson

The Studios of Key West, starred Molly Ranson 2020

Arbeit Opera Theatre, Minneapolis, starred Victoria Vargas 2019

Inner Voices, NYC, starred Phoebe Strole 2014

Voice Becoming, Basilica in Hudson, NY and then toured to the Goetheanum, Switzerland

2012

Co-creators and Performers: Marisa Michelson and Faye Shapiro

Meredith Monk's Songs of Ascension, Brooklyn Academy of Music

2009

Chorus Section Leader and Singer

Edith Stein, an opera based on Arthur Giron's play, St. Peter's Church, NYC

August, 2007

Music by John Andrew Tarbet

Words by Jonathan Gilbert

Edith Stein sung by Marisa Michelson

Ophelia: Opera in Blue, Prospect Theatre Company, NYC

May, 2007

Composed by Sergei Dreznin

Ophelia performed by Marisa Michelson

Still Life with Toe Shoes

Music and Co-Book by Marisa Michelson

Lyrics and Co-Book by Joshua H. Cohen
90-minute original musical for 8 female voices, piano and 1 silent male dancer

Emerson College 2011
Old Deerfield Productions, MA 2008

AWARDS, RESIDENCIES, GRANTS & DISCOGRAPHY

RESIDENCIES

Judson Memorial Church Residency, NYC 2016 – Present
Weekly *Constellation Chor* practice at Judson every Friday morning
Pioneer Works Residency March 2021
Modern Accord Depot Residency April 2021
Spectrum Residency, Brooklyn, NY 2019
National Endowment for the Arts 2018
For Marisa Michelson's *One Thousand Nights and One Day* (Prospect Theater Company)
MacDowell Colony 2015
Ucross Foundation 2015

AWARDS & GRANTS

Virginia B. Toulmin Fellow, National Sawdust x CBA (Center for Ballet Arts) 2021
Awarded to Chor Director Marisa Michelson
Eric Salzman Award for New Music-Theater Composition 2018
Awarded to Chor Director Marisa Michelson
Creative Engagement Award, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council 2017
For Marisa Michelson's *Desire | Divinity* Project
Jonathan Larson Award Winner 2011
American Musical Voices Project: the Next Generation 2009
Commission from the Shen Family Foundation to create an original full-length musical for the Tony-Award Winning Signature Theatre (Arlington, VA)

DISCOGRAPHY

Tamar of the River 2014
Music by Marisa Michelson
Off-Broadway Cast Album Recording with *Yellow Sound Label*

EDUCATION

BFA, Musical Theatre performance, NYU Tisch School of the Arts 2001 - 2004
Certificate in Integrative Somatic Trauma Therapy (Embody Lab) 2021
[Liberio Canto School for Singing](#) - Twenty years practice as a student and apprentice under Deborah Carmichael and full-time teacher for the past 17 years
New Dramatists Composer-Librettist Studio 2008