

## James B. Maxwell

Composer James Maxwell was born in Vancouver, Canada. He is Co-Artistic Director of Restless Productions, together with long-time collaborator, choreographer Claire French. Restless is focused on exploring and deepening the relationship between dance and music in performance. A new full-length piece, under the working title *Moment of Forgetting*, is currently in the early stages of development, with a proposed premiere in Fall 2012.

James studied composition in Vancouver with Owen Underhill and David MacIntyre, and in Prague with Ladislav Kubik. In 2001 he completed his MFA in Interdisciplinary Studies at Simon Fraser University. His work has been broadcast on CBC's "West Coast Performance" and "Two New Hours", and has been performed internationally. In the summer of 2000 he received the audience prize in Vancouver New Music's BC Emerging Composers Competition. He has worked collaboratively in contemporary dance, theatre, and film, creating music for choreographers Claire French and Helen Walkley, for director Mallory Catlett, and for film makers Alex Williams and Alison Beda. He is also interested in wider and more diverse collaborations, working with visual artist Kathleen Ritter on *Call to Order* for Modern Fuel Artist Run Centre in Kingston, Ontario, with writer Caleb Johnson on the Western Front's *Intersections* project, and with Berlin-based artists Hadley+Maxwell on their *Standing Wave Séance*, for the Seattle Art Museum's "Kurt" exhibit.

In 2011 Victoria's Aventa Ensemble premiered his work *vovere*, a concerto for flute and ensemble, featuring flute virtuoso Mark McGregor. His work *diffusus*, for flute choir with solo alto flute, was recorded by McGregor for his 2009 CD release *Different Stones*. Recent works for dance include *Outside Out* and *Inside Outside In*, by Claire French, and *How is Sleep Beautiful* by choreographer/performer Helen Walkley. James is currently collaborating with writer Alex Ferguson on a new one-act chamber opera, based on Chekhov's short story *The Little Apples*. The work is being created as a 'companion piece' for Maxwell's 2001 one-act opera *Sleepyhead*, weaving the two stories into a single evening's performance under the working title *Little Crimes*.

James is also active as a researcher and programmer in the field of computer applications for interactive music composition. He is currently a doctoral student at Simon Fraser University, where he is exploring the design and development of computer-assisted composition tools, with a focus on using intelligent, cognitively-inspired systems as compositional "collaborators." He has presented/published his research in Canada, the USA, Japan, Ireland, and Italy.

In 2007, while living in the UK, he established "mr. wheet", an electronica-inspired side-project, integrating elements of his concert music language with his musical beginnings as a kit drummer. The debut CD, "*What to do when you find yourself in Brighthouse*", was released in December 2008.

**James B. Maxwell** (short)

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