

Robert Alexander

### Artist Statement

Though my attraction to sound and music was apparent at an early age, I developed chronic childhood ear infections that threatened my hearing. I was fortunate enough to grow out of these ear infections, until last year when I awoke with searing pain and rushed to the emergency room. I remember awakening the next day to a completely new sonic space, one in which my fluid-filled right ear severely distorted all sounds. This came at a time when my academic career demanded the most of me. My entire sense of balance had shifted overnight. As my ear began to recover, I garnered a keen awareness of the unexplored sonic space existing between a pair of headphones. I began to place each one of my compositional elements in the stereo field very purposefully.

My path towards re-establishing my center was one of self-discovery. I crafted electronic sounds that swirled around the head, and soundscapes built from source recordings from a binaural head. While working on a piece, I would periodically reverse my headphones, inverting the stereo field to gain a new perspective. As I explored new ways of listening, I discovered new methods of composing.

Once I imagined the life of an artist to be a steady ascension towards a creative summit. I've come to realize that my journey has included as much lateral motion in re-evaluating my personal aesthetic. I try to supplement my creative output with an equal devotion to active listening. My recent influences include the Hindustani slide guitar work of Debashish Bhattacharya, the chamber works of John Adams, and the electronic soundscapes of Simon Posford.

My early electronic compositions have explored ways of subtly guiding the attention of the listener. The most attentive listener will find underlying layers of intricacy and connectivity in any given song. Conversely, the distracted listener will find an engaging quality to the surface of my music. I have come to see my compositional abilities as a gift, which I have actively shared on the local, national, and international level.