

KATHLEEN TAGG

Kathleen Tagg is a South African pianist, composer and producer based in New York since 2001. A 2014 South African Music Awards nominee for best classical album, she has performed on four continents with a host of leading musicians, and the breadth of her collaborations defines her multifaceted career. In the past decade, Tagg's work has focused on identity, ideas of connection and sound exploration. She created her own unique language at the piano, made up of techniques she developed and experimented with to expand the piano into a full electro-acoustic orchestra.

She has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the 92nd St Y and Symphony Space in New York, but is equally at home in non-conventional spaces and theatrical settings. Her performances and numerous recordings range from classical to world music, musical theater to her own music mixing improvisation with fully realized scores. She holds the Helen Cohn Award as outstanding doctoral graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, and degrees from Mannes College and the University of Cape Town. Tagg has performed throughout North America, Europe, Southern Africa, China and India and her recordings have been featured in film and television. Recent recordings include songs of Jake Heggie with soprano Regina Zona (NAXOS, 2014) and *Where Worlds Collide* (Table Pounding Records, 2016) with South African jazz pianist Andre Petersen. Her latest recording, *Breath & Hammer* with clarinetist David Krakauer, will be released in May 2020.

As a composer, she has received commissions to write for the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra and the Marine Band of the Royal Netherlands Navy and arrange work for the New Century Chamber Orchestra and Vienna Jewish Culture Fest. She co-composed and produced her first film score with Krakauer for Eric Steel's feature film *Minyan*, which premiered in February 2020 at the Berlin Biennale. Her musical, *Erika's Wall*, co-written with Sophie Jaff, received a developmental production by The Music Theater Company of Chicago. She was a 2014-2015 fellow of the Dramatist Guild of America and a 2017 Con Ed Exploring the Metropolis Composer in Residence.

For the past six years, she has toured on four continents with David Krakauer in acoustic and electric configurations. In 2017, she and Krakauer created *Keepers of the Flame*, an evening-length theatrical music event for Poland's Borderlands Foundations' annual *Misterium Mostu* festival (Mystery of the Bridge). In 2019 they created a concert-length immersive concert experience with video designer Jesse Gilbert for the Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin, with Kathleen acting as dramaturg, co-creator and producer.

Tagg has produced all of her own albums— from classical and classical-crossover albums to her 2016 album *Where Worlds Collide* with South African jazz pianist Andre Petersen. On the new *Breath & Hammer* album with Krakauer, she has created an album out of tens of thousands of samples of her and Krakauer's playing: what Krakauer refers to as “a medieval tapestry the size of an apartment, made up of fingernail sized samples.”

Following her two decades of work with singers, she created and curated concerts celebrating new work by living composers in California at SongFest at Colburn from 2014-2016. She also produced countless events, including a series of benefit concerts for the ACLU featuring luminaries such as Abraham Inc, Marc Ribot and members of the Silk Road Ensemble. www.kathleentagg.com