

James B. Maxwell

James Maxwell is a composer of concert music and music for contemporary dance, theatre, film, and media, and is Artistic Co-Director of Restless Productions. His music has been presented by leading organizations including Aventa Ensemble, Continuum New Music, Fight With a Stick Performance, Music on Main, Redshift Music, Standing Wave, Turning Point Ensemble, Vancouver Pro Musica, Vancouver New Music, and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

He has worked collaboratively with choreographers Claire French, Rachel Meyer, Joe Laughlin, Simone Orlando, and Helen Walkley, theatre artists Mallory Catlett, Alex Ferguson, and Caleb Johnson, filmmakers Alex Williams and Alison Beda, and visual artists Kathleen Ritter and Hadley+Maxwell. Recent works include *Many Worlds* and *Magicalcada*, by choreographer Rachel Meyer, *blocking* for Helen Walkley, *Migration* and the series *The Refrain: Getting in Sync with the World*, for Fight With a Stick performance, *The Razor Hiss of a Whisper*, for Turning Point Ensemble and Couloir, and *Finding itself [it] deviates*, for Standing Wave.

Upcoming and in-progress works include a new score for Helen Walkley, a new commission for Tempest Flute Ensemble, a new film score for Fight With a Stick Performance, and a new interdisciplinary performance project with Restless Productions and Rachel Meyer. When not organizing sounds James hits things as the drummer of post-/avant-rock quartet Square.

James is also an active researcher, developer, and entrepreneur in the field of computer applications for interactive music composition. His doctoral work explored the design and development of computer-assisted composition tools, with a focus on using intelligent, adaptive systems as compositional “collaborators.” In 2016 he co-founded Sqliqs Intelligent Media Inc., a startup focused on the development of interactive tools for music creation and collaboration.

OPTIONAL: In 2016 he co-founded Sqliqs Intelligent Media Inc, a startup focused on the development of interactive tools for music creation and collaboration, and in 2023 co-founded Musical AI, a start-up focused on rights management for generative music, enabling ethical use of human musical content in the training and development of generative AI through the use of sophisticated licensing and attribution tools. Today his focus is entirely on music and creativity.

SHORT:

James Maxwell is a composer of concert music and music for contemporary dance, theatre, film, and media, and is Artistic Co-Director of Restless Productions. Recent works include *Migration*, for Fight With a Stick performance, *Mama, do we die when we sleep?*, by choreographer Rachel Meyer, *The Razor Hiss of a Whisper*, for Turning Point Ensemble and Couloir. Upcoming and in-progress works include new collaborations with Fight With a Stick Performance and Helen Walkley, a new work for Tempest Flute Choir, and a new interdisciplinary performance project with Restless Productions. When not organizing sounds James hits things as the drummer of post-/avant-rock quartet Square.

James is also an active researcher, developer, and entrepreneur in the field of Computational Creativity. His doctoral work explored the design and development of computer-assisted composition tools, with a focus on using intelligent, adaptive systems as compositional “collaborators.”

OPTIONAL: In 2016 he co-founded Spliqs Intelligent Media Inc, a startup focused on the development of interactive tools for music creation and collaboration, and in 2023 co-founded Musical AI, a start-up focused on rights management for generative music. Today his focus is entirely on music and creativity.

EXTRA SHORT (< 75 words) — *MUSIC:*

James is a composer of concert music and music for dance, theatre, film, and media. Recent and upcoming works include the final episode, *Cabin in the Woods*, of the “podcast”/soundwork, *The Refrain: Getting in Sync with the World* with Fight With a Stick performance, the score for Helen Walkley’s *blocking*, and *kwelfaeld* for 2 alto flutes, bass flute, and electronics for the Tempest Flute Choir.

DOUBLE-XS SHORT (<160 chars):

James is a composer of concert music and music for dance, theatre, film, and media. He’s also a technologist in the field of AI for musical creativity.

ROCK!

James Maxwell started his musical life as a drummer at the age of 10. He spent the next 28 years rehearsing, songwriting, recording, gigging, and touring, both as a regular member and as a stand-in/session player for **4th Floor**, **Grabby Oaks**, **Big See**, **Emily Stop**, **Rotorcloud**, **Belter**, **Ottöbon**, **Jakalope**, **Booti Dharma**, **Rajas**, and **Mr. Wheet**. In his late teens, inspired by an obsession with the music of Mozart, he decided to try his hand at composition. Since that time, he's built a career as a composer of concert music and music for contemporary dance, theatre, film, and media, and co-founded **Restless Productions** with long-time partner Claire French. Recent works include *and Magicicada*, by choreographer **Rachel Meyer**, *The Razor Hiss of a Whisper*, for **Turning Point Ensemble** and **Couloir**, and *Finding itself [it] deviates*, for **Standing Wave**. The feather in his proverbial cap today is his post-rock-punk-prog quartet **Square**, with composers Ed Top and Alfredo Santa Ana and bass madman/vocal fiend Nathan Dillon (Another White Male): <https://www.squaremusic.ca/>. Album number two is on the way!

Restless Productions

Claire French and James Maxwell are Co-Artistic Directors of the newly established non-profit dance and music organisation, **Restless Productions**. Restless is currently developing two large scale projects: *The Moment of Forgetting*—a full-length dance/music work premiering in October 2012, and *Little Crimes*, an evening of two New Opera/Music Theatre works. Restless will be Artist in Residence at The Shadbolt Centre for the Arts in 2012.

French is an independent choreographer and teacher. Over the past fifteen years her work has been presented in Europe, the UK, and Canada. French has also taught internationally. She is currently involved in a wide array of artistic and educational projects in Vancouver. She is an interdisciplinary fiend.

Maxwell is a freelance composer and PhD candidate at Simon Fraser University. His work has been performed internationally. While maintaining an active concert music career, Maxwell has also worked in contemporary dance, theatre, film, and visual/media arts, in collaborations with Claire French, Helen Walkley, Mallory Catlett, Alex Ferguson, Allison Beda, Kathleen Ritter, and Hadley+Maxwell, among others.