

Andrew Tholl // Artist Statement

Composer and writer Ned Rorem once said "Why do I write music? Because I want to hear it - it's simple as that. Others may have more *talent*, more sense of duty. But I compose just from necessity, and no one else is making what I need." In many ways I feel the same sense of "necessity" as Mr. Rorem.

As a performer, I try and choose the music I play based on the fact that I want to hear it and that no one else will play it (or at least no one else will play it the way I think it should be done). As a composer I write the music that I hear in my head and want to hear in the air around me. As a performer/composer I am blessed with the gift of self-sufficiency; I can hear exactly what I want, when I want to hear it.

My life as a violinist has involved years of traditional classical training, but what I am most interested in is a pursuit towards the development of new music. I find excitement in being the first person to realize a composer's vision and feel that I have more to express about a piece of music that is of our time rather than something from the standard repertoire. I am interested in the interaction between musicians, the collaborative process between myself and other composers, and the development towards new sounds and methods of playing.

In my role as a composer, I feel that many of the pieces I write are really a way of investigating and coming to terms with my own personal experiences and thoughts. I see my compositions as musical diary entries; they are very much a snapshot of a particular time, place, and feeling. Additional concepts that I explore in my music include the passage of time, the physicality of making music, fragmentation, noise, nostalgia, mutation, and the merging together of radically diverse musical styles. Additionally, there is a substantial social aspect to the music I write; the works that are not written for myself are always written for close friends and performers with abilities and musicianship I respect and admire. Without the personal

relationship between composers and performers, I feel that a great deal becomes lost in the ether.

Although my primary means of musical expression is usually as a violinist or composer, I don't particularly like being strictly referred to as either one. Although I am less trained and skilled as a drummer, guitarist, and keyboardist, I still find performance through these mediums and others just as valid and I am open to using any means that are at my disposal as a way of expressing myself musically. For this reason, rather than being referred to as a violinist or composer or performer, I would prefer to be considered simply a musician.