

# **SARAH E. BAKER, PH.D.**

Educator, Writer, Composer, Performer

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## **EDUCATION**

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**PH.D.** 2004, Interdisciplinary Studies: Creative Arts: Discourse in Music and Language. Union Institute and University, Cincinnati, Ohio. Dissertation Advisor: Stanford Searl, Jr.

**Dissertation:** *Beyond Impulse: Genesis and Generation of Inneracts: A Quartet of String Theories*, Inter-media Project: Live Performance of Original String Quartet, CD, Video and Contextual Essay based on Virginia Woolf's "The String Quartet." Interdisciplinary Comparative Literature with Stanford J. Searl; Dante and Music with Joseph Meeker; Music History, Composition/Analysis with William T. Johnson and Jeff Langley; Literary Theory, Rhetoric, and Composition with Julia M. Allen.

**MA.**, 1998, Interdisciplinary Studies: Music and Literature, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA. J.J. Wilson, Chair. Studied Virginia Woolf and Bloomsbury with J.J. Wilson, Jazz with Mel Graves, Literary Theory with Martin Blaze.

**Thesis:** *Musical Rites, Archetypes, and the Contemporary Southern Writer.*

**Postgraduate Work** in Voice and Musical Composition: Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee and New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Voice with Mina Pearl Maxwell, Composition with Warner Hutchison, Private Voice with Suzanne Fisher-Menz in Santa Fe.

**BMA**, 1965, Union University, Jackson, Tennessee  
Major: Vocal Performance (Elisabeth Jarrell Fossey, Ann Biggs)  
Minor: Piano and Music Theory

**Senior Honors Thesis:** *The Roots, Idioms and Future of Opera in the United States.*

**Research Interests:** My research and writing interests revolve around education in intersections of Music and Literature: California Studies, Comparative Perspectives in Music and Literature, Rhetoric and Composition, Musical Narrativity, New Music Criticism, Opera as Narrative, American Vernacular Music such as Jazz and Blues, Verbal and Visual Rhetoric, Cultural Studies, Women Writers, Musicians, and Composers, especially African American Composers. It includes original lecture/performances and concerts.

## **AWARDS**

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- Graduate College Scholarship (Union Institute and University)
- California State University Doctoral Incentive Award (CSU Teaching Fellow)
- Presidential Scholar (Sonoma State University)

- Forrest and Ida Benson Scholarship Award (Sonoma State University)
- Nominee for Woman Student Leader of the Year
- Senior Honors Program (Union University)
- Most Outstanding Graduating Senior (Union University)
- Hughes Award for Academic Excellence in Voice (Union University)

## **COURSEWORK**

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Adult Teaching and Learning, Rhetoric and Composition, Literary Theory, Postmodern Subjectivities (Toni Morrison and Ishmael Reed), Dante and the Modern Mind, Virginia Woolf and Bloomsbury, Fiction Writing, Southern Literature, Research Methodologies, American Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Studies. Music History: U.S. and European, Music Composition, Performance Art, New Music Criticism, Opera as Narrative, Vocal Performance, Piano, Jazz theory, Jazz Improvisation, Jazz Piano, Electronic Composition, Small Band Arranging, Music History, Audio Archival, Storage and Retrieval Methods, Jazz Vocals, North Indian Classical Singing, Symphonic Band, Sight singing & Ear training, Orchestration, Music Analysis, Counterpoint, Singer's Diction, French, German. Video Applications in Education

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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1997-Present (Fall, 2005): Lecturer, Sonoma State University: History of U.S. Music, American Roots Music, Introduction to Music, Basic Music Fundamentals, Freshman English Composition, Developmental English, Cultural Analysis, American Music History, Jazz Vocal Improvisation, Music and Gender, Virginia Woolf and Bloomsbury, Southern Literature and Music.

### **English**

English 30: Developmental English (Reading and Writing Skills)  
 English 99: Basic English Composition  
 English 101: Freshman Composition  
 English 200: Cultural Analysis  
 English 280: Introduction to California Studies  
 English 314: Modern World Literature  
 English 315: California Ethnic Literature  
 English 452: Southern Literature (co-taught)  
 English 580: Virginia Woolf /Bloomsbury (taught with J.J. Wilson).

### **Music**

Music 342: History of Jazz  
 Music 101: Introduction to Music  
 Music 150: U. S. Music History  
 Music 300: Seminar: American Roots Music  
 Music 490: Women, Music and Aesthetics  
 Music 390: Jazz Vocal Improvisation  
 Music 491: American Roots Music

## **Gender Studies**

WGS 300: Embracing Female Vocality: The Poetry of Blueswomen

WGS 490: Women, Music and Aesthetics

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### **OTHER TEACHING AND LECTURING EXPERIENCES**

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- Spring, 2011 Guest Lecturer, First Year Experience, "Music and Identity."  
Fall, 2010 Guest Lecturer on Blues Music, Theater 101.  
Fall, 2009 Lecture/Performance "New Orleans Piano Night," SRJC.  
Fall, 2005 to Spring, 2010: Served on Teaching Team and Development Committee for First Year Experience Curriculum Development; Sonoma State University.  
1994-2001: Visiting Lecturer, Music and Southern Literature. Institute of Musical Arts; Santa Rosa Junior College; The Sitting Room Library.  
1978-Present: Studio Vocal Teacher, Zone Music and Recording; Performance Workshop Teacher.  
1974-Present: Recording and Performance Artist; bandleader; actor.

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### **Publications and Conferences**

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- Conference Presentation. March, 2006. "Musical Strategies for Teaching the Working Class Student." NCTE, Chicago, Illinois.
- A & H Forum, Sonoma State University, November, 2005. "The Emergence of the Oakland Blues." Multi-media Presentation.
- Conference Presentation: "Virginia Woolf and the Wild Voice." 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Woolf, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon, June, 2005.
- Publication: "Ernest J. Gaines and the Literary Spiritual," *Perspectives of Music and Literature*, Anthology of Essays: Michael Meyer, Editor. Rodapi Press, 2002.
- Published Book Review: "Angela Davis's *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism*." *The Press Democrat*, Santa Rosa CA 1998.
- Published Article: "Music in Virginia Woolf's 'The String Quartet.'" *Virginia Woolf Miscellany*, Spring, 1995.
- Published article: "Jessie Mae Hemphill: She Wolf of Memphis." "Blues Beat," August, 1994.

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### **RECORDINGS**

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As a solo artist (vocalist/songwriter/keys):

- "Go Back to Your Used-To-Be" (Jessie Mae Hemphill) Millineum Records (Pending) 2006.
- "The Lonely Sky" - 1996 Firenze/Venus Records SEB 005. (original compositions)
- "Sarah Baker" - 1990 Firenze Records SEB003, (original compositions)
- "Maybe Someday." 1993 Firenze/Venus Records SEB 004. (Traditional Blues)

As a keyboardist and/or vocalist:

- "WBBH" – Produced by Peter Welker. Take One Records, 1981
- "Patrick Gleeson's Star Wars," composed by John Williams, with Billy Cobham, Patrice Rushen, James Levi. Mercury Records, SRM1-1178, 1977.

As a songwriter:

- "Secrets in Her Heart," recorded by Billy Satellite, Produced by Don Gehman for Capitol Records, (matrix number not available), 1984.

As a Composer/Orchestrator

- Excerpts from *Inneracts: A Quartet of String Theories*, 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Virginia Woolf, Sonoma State University. Video Documentary, Inese Heinzl, Producer.

## **AFFILIATIONS**

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NCTE, Modern Language Association, American Musicological Society, California Faculty Association, ASCAP, NARAS, Society of Ethnomusicology.

## **REFERENCES**

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Dr. J.J. Wilson  
Professor Emeritus (English)  
Virginia Woolf and Bloomsbury, Southern Literature, Irish Literature  
Sonoma State University  
Phone: 707 795 9038  
772 231 5248

Dr. Jeff Langley, Chair (Music Composition and Music History)  
Performing Arts Department  
Sonoma State University  
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Dr. Stanford Searl, Jr., Dissertation Advisor  
Union Institute and University  
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Dr. Joseph Meeker (Dante and the Modern Mind)  
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Professor Will Johnson  
Music Theory and Composition, Music Criticism  
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Dr. Jonah Raskin, Chair  
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