

**HARRIS EISENSTADT**  
harris@harriseisenstadt.com  
www.harriseisenstadt.com

## EDUCATION

**Jazz Composers Orchestra Institute**, Columbia University, 2010

**Master of Fine Arts**, African American Improvisational Music, California Institute of the Arts 2001  
**Bachelor of Arts**, Cum Laude, English/Music, Colby College, 1998

Private studies with: Wadada Leo Smith, John Bergamo, Alfred Ladzepko, Joe Labarbera, Gerry Hemingway, Barry Altschul, Jalamang Camara, Malick N'gom, Paul Caputo, John Amira

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**State University of New York, Maritime College, Adjunct Professor**, NY 2010-present

- History of Western Music lecture course
- World Music lecture course
- Speech lecture course
- Intro to Technical Writing

**State University of New York, Empire State College, Adjunct Professor**, NY 2011-present

- American Popular Music lecture course
- Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Drumming, Hand Drumming guided independent studies
- History Of Western Music, World Music, Music Appreciation guided independent studies

**New York University, Guest Lecturer**, NY, NY 2010, 2009

**York University, Guest Lecturer**, Toronto, Canada 2008, 2009

**Oxford University, Guest Lecturer**, UK 2006, 2008

**Cambridge University, Guest Lecturer**, UK 2006, 2008

**Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Guest Lecturer**, Wales 2008

**Carleton College, Guest Lecturer**, Northfield, MN 2008

**Cal State University Bakersfield, Guest Lecturer**, CA 2007

**California Institute of the Arts, Guest Lecturer**, Valencia, CA 2003, 2005, 2006

**Mills College, Guest Lecturer**, Oakland, CA 2006

**The College of Santa Fe, Guest Lecturer**, NM 2006

**University of Leeds, Guest Lecturer**, UK 2006

**University of California San Diego, Guest Lecturer**, CA 2006

**Arizona State University, Guest Lecturer**, AZ 2005

- Lecture topics include: composition, African music, jazz, improvisation, theory, musicianship, drumset, percussion

**California Institute of the Arts, Teaching Assistant**, Valencia, CA 1999-2001

- Theory and Rhythm skills

**Weill Music Institute, Carnegie Hall, Lead Teaching Artist / Curriculum Writer, NYC,**  
2007-Present

- Teach and implement curriculum for Weill Music Institute's Global Encounters "Sufi Music of Turkey," Romany Music of Turkey," "Music of India" and "Music of Mexico – Son Jarocho" programs for middle and high school students throughout the New York Metropolitan area, including at risk student populations.
- Lead teaching artist, coaching and evaluating other teaching artists in the classroom.
- Led workshops as a keynote speaker for the Weill Music Institute's "Parents as Arts Partners" program. Taught curriculum in a multi generational forum for high school students and their families.
- Active member of on-going Teaching Artist Collaborative program consisting of monthly workshops designed to strengthen teaching artist skills for effective classroom visits and partnering with classroom teachers and school administrators.
- Wrote and edited curriculum materials for programs covering strategies for successful arts
- Partnerships between students and their families, and curricula for the Global Encounters and Cultural Exchange programs.

**Brooklyn Academy of Music, Teaching Artist / Curriculum Writer, Brooklyn, 2010–present**

- Create curriculum for nine-week African Music Beat program in schools throughout the New York boroughs. Lead pre-performance workshops at select schools before culminating performances.
- Wrote study guide for Project Trio performance/workshop at BAM.

**Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, Teaching Artist / Curriculum Writer, Brooklyn,**  
2007–present

- Compose, create and implement curriculum for ongoing group drumming and piano classes at numerous schools throughout Brooklyn.
- Each session culminates in the creation of student-written compositions and performances of traditional African drumming and original compositions.

**Manhattan New Music Project, Teaching Artist / Curriculum Writer, NYC, 2008–present**

- Create and teach graded drumming elective for high school-aged students focusing on African traditions including West Africa, the Caribbean and Brazil.
- Wrote and edited curriculum materials for world drumming program covering Ghanaian, Brazilian, Cuban, Gambian and Senegalese drumming and culture.
- Collaborated with school and program administrators to create an attendance and grading strategy for the arts enrichment program.

**Teak Fellowship, Teaching Artist / Curriculum Writer, NYC, 2007-present**

- Developed curriculum and taught drumming course to 60 gifted high school-aged students, culminating in the creation of student performances of Ghanaian drumming pieces at the end of the summer session.

**SELECTED ENSEMBLES AS A COMPOSER/BANDLEADER/CO-LEADER**

Canada Day, drummer, composer, bandleader, 2007-present  
September Trio, drummer, composer, bandleader (2009-present)  
Saris, drummer, composer, co-leader (2001-present)  
Woodblock Prints, drummer, composer, bandleader (2009-2010)  
Gewel, drummer, composer, bandleader (2007-2008)

The All Seeing Eye Octet, drummer, composer, bandleader (2006-2007)  
Achim Kaufmann/Mark Dresser/HE, drummer, composer, co-leader (2006-2008)  
Jeb Bishop/Jason Roebke/HE, drummer, composer, co-leader (2006-2008)  
Paul Rutherford/Torsten Muller/HE, drummer, co-leader (2004-2006)  
Steve Swell/Rob Brown/HE, drummer, co-leader (2005-2006)  
Kreative Orchestra of Los Angeles, drummer, composer, co-leader (2004-2006)  
The Soul and Gone, drummer, composer, bandleader (2004-2005)

Ahimsa Orchestra, drummer, composer, bandleader (2003-2005)  
Jalolu, drummer, composer, bandleader (2003-2004)  
Boxes of Water, drummer, composer, co-leader (2003-2004)

Sam Rivers/Adam Rudolph/HE, drummer, co-leader (2003)  
Fight or Flight, drummer, composer, bandleader (2002-2003)  
Last Minute of Play in this Period, drummer, composer, bandleader (2000-2001)

#### **SELECTED ENSEMBLES AS A COLLABORATOR/SIDEMAN**

Wadada Leo Smith's Silver Orchestra, drummer/percussionist (2005-present)  
Macbeth, starring Stephen Dillane, percussionist (2004-present)  
Nate Wooley Quintet, drummer (2009-present)  
Jessica Pavone's Army of Strangers (2009-present)  
Sean Moran's Small Elephant, drummer (2008-present)  
Convergence Quartet, drummer (2006-present)  
Jason Kao Hwang's Edge, guest drummer (2009-present)  
Dave Ballou/Herb Roberston Macroquartet, guest drummer, (2009)  
Connecticut Improvising Composers Collective, guest drummer, (2009-2010)  
Steve Beresford's Signals for Tea, guest drummer (2008)  
Jeremiah Cymeran Ensemble (2009-2010)  
Adam Rudolph Organic Orchestra, drummer/percussionist (2002-2010)  
Mike McGinnis Angsudden Ensemble, percussionist (2008-2010)  
Kyoko Kitamura's Go-Zee-Lah, drummer (2009-2010)  
Khabu Young Dog Trio, drummer (2009-2010)  
Ned Rothenberg Trio / Quartet, guest drummer (2008-2009)  
Myra Melford's Happy Whistlings, guest drummer (2008)  
Bill Horvitz Band, drummer (2002-2007)  
Angelica Sanchez Quintet, guest drummer (2006)  
Butch Morris Nublu Orchestra, guest drummer/percussionist (2005-2006)  
Vinny Golia Jazz for Models, drummer (2005-2006)  
Gabby La La feat. Les Claypool (2005)  
Vinny Golia Large Ensemble, guest percussionist (2006)  
Big Black's Senor Juju, drummer (2005-2006)  
Dwight Tribble Ensemble, guest drummer (2005-2006)  
Upstream Orchestra, guest drummer / composer (2004-2006)  
Mark Weaver's Brassum, drummer (2003-2006)  
Wadada Leo Smith's N'da Kulture, guest drummer (2003)

## FESTIVAL AND PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

### 2011

December 16 Wadada Leo Smith Orchestra, Interpretations at Roulette  
December 9 Canada Day, Firehouse 12, New Haven, CT  
December 8 Canada Day, Cornelia Street Café, NY, NY  
December 2-3 Canada Day Octet, Ibeam, NY, NY  
November 6-13 Convergence Quartet UK Tour  
October 23-24 Harris Eisenstadt's Chicago Chamber, Chicago, IL  
August 28 Jessica Pavone's Army of Strangers Jazz Festival Saalfelden, Austria  
June 6 premier of orchestral piece *Palimpsest*, Columbia University, NY, NY  
April 5-14 Canada Day Southeast US tour

### 2010

November 19 Wadada Leo Smith Orchestra, Community Church of NY  
November 29 Canada Day, Cornelia Street Cafe, NY, NY  
October 12 Woodblock Prints Record Release, University of the Streets, NY, NY  
September 10-12 NYC September Trio Ibeam, Brooklyn, NY  
July 3-4 Canada Day, Vancouver International Jazz Festival, Vancouver, BC  
June 4 Rodrigo Amado Quartet Ze de Bois, Lisbon, Portugal  
June 5 Convergence Quartet, Coimbra Jazz Festival, Coimbra, Portugal  
June 20 Canada Day, Red Hook Jazz Festival, Brooklyn, NY  
June 26 Go-Zee-Lah, Vision festival, NY, NY

### 2009

December 2 Nate Wooley Quintet, Cornelia Street Cafe, NY, NY  
October 21 WKCR Musicians Show, NY, NY  
October 24-29 Canada Day Northeast US Tour  
September 16 Canada Day, Clean Feed Festival, NY, NY  
August 9 NYC Jason Hwang's Edge Ensemble, Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival, Queens, NY  
July 4 Harris Eisenstadt Trio, Cornelia Street Café, NY, NY  
July 31 Woodblock Prints, Drom, NY, NY  
May 6 -9 Clean Feed Label, Portugal Tour  
April 25-May 4 Convergence Quartet, UK Tour  
April 5 Korea 21: Music Here and Now, Symphony Space, NY, NY  
April 8 WKCR Musicians Show, NY, NY  
April 10 Jeremiah Cymerman Ensemble, Roulette, NY, NY  
April 20 City of the World Concert: Sounds of Korea, CUNY Graduate center, NY, NY

### 2008

November 11 NY Saris, St. Mark's, NY, NY  
October 22-28 Jeb Bishop / Harris Eisenstadt / Jason Roebke, Europe Tour  
October 2 Myra Melford's Happy Whistlings, Roulette, NY, NY  
May 12 Canada Day, Cornelia Street Cafe, NY, NY  
January 28 On-Air WFMU, Jersey City, NY  
February 19 Jason Hwang's Edge Ensemble, Vision Collaborations Festival, NY, NY

**2007**

August 5 Vinny Golia Trio and Quartet, The Stone, NY, NY  
August 7 Harris Eisenstadt's Guewel, The Stone, NY, NY  
July 20 Tony Malaby Quartet, South Street Seaport, NY, NY  
June 23 Otto Fischer Urb Alt Festival, Faison Theater, NY, NY  
May-June Butch Morris and the Nublu Orchestra, Nublu, NY, NY  
May 27 WKCR Musicians Show, NY, NY  
May 1-7 Bill Horvitz Band East Coast tour  
March 25 Nate Wooley Large Ensemble, New Languages Festival, NY, NY  
February 22 Saris, Spring Reverb Festival, San Diego, CA  
February 19 Steve Beresford Trio, Barbes, NY, NY  
February 7-10 Time Flies Improvised Music Festival, Vancouver, BC  
January 24 LA The All Seeing Eye + Octets CD Release Concert Land Jazz, Los Angeles, CA  
January 17-20 Mark Weaver's Brassum Southwest Tour

**2006**

December 3 Adam Rudolph Organic Orchestra, Roulette, NY, NY  
December 5 Steve Beresford Signals for Tea, The Stone, NY, NY  
December 16 LA Dwight Tribble Ensemble, Lucy Florence Theater, NY, NY  
November 3-11 Convergence Quartet UK Tour  
November 15 Angelica Sanchez Quintet, Barbes, Brooklyn, NY  
October 26-28 Jeb Bishop / Jason Roebke / Harris Eisenstadt Europe Tour  
October 21-24 Harris Eisenstadt Quintet Japan Tour  
October 30 Franziska Baumann / Matthias Ziegler / Harris Eisenstadt, Dampfzentrale, Bern, CH  
September 22 Adam Rudolph Ensemble, The Stone, NY, NY  
September 29 Vinny Golia Sextet, Jazz Bakery, LA, CA  
August 13 Dwight Tribble Ensemble, Jazz Bakery, LA, CA  
July 8 Ralph Jones Quartet feat. California Poet Laureate Al Young, Calarts, Valencia, CA  
June 16-17 Sonic Courage Festival composer-in-residence, Halifax, NS  
May 14-18 Mark Weaver's Brassum Southwest Tour  
April 1 Vinny Golia Large Ensemble, REDCAT, LA, CA  
March 1-18 Macbeth starring Stephen Dillane, percussionist, Adelaide Festival, Australia  
February 2 Ensemble-in-residence, Lafayette Elementary, Oakland, CA  
February 6-28 Macbeth starring Stephen Dillane, percussionist, Sydney Theater, Australia  
January 20-30 Paul Rutherford / Torsten Muller / Harris Eisenstadt West Coast Tour

**2005**

December 1-3 "Wet," opera by Anne Lebaron, REDCAT, LA, CA  
November 10-18 The Darts, California Tour  
Oct 16-Nov 6 Macbeth starring Stephen Dillane, percussionist Almeida Theater, London, UK  
October 10 Achim Kaufmann / Harris Eisenstadt Duo, Kraakgeluiden, Amsterdam, Holland  
October 11 Michael Moore / Harris Eisenstadt Duo, Zaal 100, Amsterdam, Holland  
October 13 Achim Kaufmann / Harris Eisenstadt Duo, Loft, Koln, DE  
October 15 David Ryan/ Harris Eisenstadt Duo, Spithall's Bridge, London, UK  
October 22-23 Tyneside Jazz Festival, Newcastle, UK  
September 13 Kenny Wollesen's Himalayas, Zebulon, NY, NY  
September 19-27 Saris, Chicago and Midwest tour  
June 25-26 Butch Morris Ensembles, Zebulon and Nublu, NY, NY  
June 4 Anthony Braxton 60th Birthday Concert, 21 Grand, Oakland, CA  
June 3 ART Fest Soundshift, Los Angeles, CA  
May 15 Spring Fever Festival, Halifax, NS

April 7-9 Mark Weaver's Brassum, southwest tour  
April 4-5 Carole Kim performance / video installation, Arizona Sate University, Phoenix, AZ  
April 12-27 Gabby La La featuring Les Claypool, US tour  
February 14-17 Achim Kaufmann / Harris Eisenstadt Duo, West Coast Tour

#### **2004**

November 17-December 14 Macbeth starring Stephen Dillane, percussionist, REDCAT, LA, CA  
October 15-31 Artist In Residence, Tambacounda, Senegal  
October 5-7 The Soul and Gone concerts, Chicago, IL  
October 9 High Mayhem Festival, Santa Fe, NM  
October 27-30 The Diplomats, East Coast Tour  
September 5-30 Saris, European Tour  
June 24-27 Bill Horvitz Band, Northern California Tour  
June 19 Art and Hellenism Festival, Loyola Marymount University, Westchester, CA  
June 14-15 ROVA, Intersection for the Arts, SF, LA  
June 13 Art and Hellenism Festival, Loyola Marymount University, Westchester, CA  
April 30 Upstream Orchestra, Halifax, NS  
April 22-26 Mark Weaver Brassum, Southwest Tour  
March 26 Ahimsa Orchestra, The Jazz House, Berkeley, CA  
February 16 Line Space Line Festival of Improvised Music, LA, CA  
February 18-21 Boxes of Water, California tour  
January 28-30 KOLA, California Tour  
January 15-25 Bill Horvitz Band, West Coast Tour

#### **2003**

November 1 Matthew Sperry Memorial Concert, LA, CA  
November 14 Wadada Leo Smith's Creative Orchestra, Calarts, Valencia, CA  
November 9 Wadada Leo Smith and N'Da Kulture, Pierce College, LA, CA  
October 25-30 Harris Eisenstadt's Jalolu, East Coast Tour  
September 1-11 European Tour with various European musicians  
September 19 Adam Rudolph Percussion Ensemble, 33 1/3 Gallery, LA, CA  
September 18 Wadada Leo Smith's Carbon System, Calarts, Valencia, CA  
June 20-27 Vancouver International Jazz Fest, Vancouver, BC  
May 13 Harris Eisenstadt's Nu SFAlt Fest, 21 Grand, Oakland, CA  
January 1-28 Research trip to The Gambia to study Mandinka drumming

#### **2002**

December 6-31 Research trip to The Gambia to study Mandinka drumming  
November 2 'Fight or Flight' CD Release, Rocco, LA, CA  
September 4-9 Stelpurnst, California Tour  
July 26 Earjam III Festival, LA, CA  
April 5-12 Biggi Vinkeloe, West Coast Tour  
March 21-24 Boxes of Water, Northern California Tour  
March 16-20 African Ensemble, CalArts Spring Music Festival, Valencia, CA

## **DISCOGRAPHY AS LEADER**

Harris Eisenstadt: Canada Day II (Songlines) 2011  
Harris Eisenstadt: September Trio (Clean Feed) 2011  
Harris Eisenstadt: Woodblock Prints (No Business) 2010  
Harris Eisenstadt: Canada Day (Clean Feed) 2009  
Harris Eisenstadt: Guewel (Clean Feed) 2008  
Harris Eisenstadt: The All Seeing Eye + Octets (Poobah) 2007  
Harris Eisenstadt: Ahimsa Orchestra (Nine Winds) 2005  
Harris Eisenstadt: The Soul and Gone (482 Music) 2005  
Harris Eisenstadt: Jalolu (CIMP) 2004  
Harris Eisenstadt: Fight or Flight (Newsonic) 2003  
Harris Eisenstadt: Last Minute of Play In This Period (Questionable) 2001

## **DISCOGRAPHY AS CO-LEADER**

Convergence Quartet: Song/Dance (Clean Feed) 2009  
Achim Kaufmann/Mark Dresser/Harris Eisenstadt: Starmelodics (Nuscope) 2008  
Jeb Bishop/Jason Roebke/Harris Eisenstadt: Tiebreaker (Nottwo) 2008  
Convergence Quartet: self-titled (FMR) 2007  
Paul Rutherford/Torsten Muller/Harris Eisenstadt: The Zone (Konnex) 2006  
The Diplomats: We Are Not Obstinate Islands (Clean Feed) 2006  
The Darts: self-titled (EMR) 2005  
Jonas/Deane/Eisenstadt: High Mayhem Fest Compilation (High Mayhem) 2004  
Sam Rivers/Adam Rudolph/ Harris Eisenstadt: Vista (Meta) 2004  
Harris Eisenstadt/David Rothbaum: self-titled (EMR) 2004

## **DISCOGRAPHY AS SIDEMAN**

Nate Wooley Quintet: Hands Together (Clean Feed) 2011  
Jessica Pavone: Army of Strangers (Porter) 2011  
Adam Rudolph Organic Orchestra: Thought Forms (Ruby Red) 2009  
Build An Ark: Dawn (Shaman Work) 2007  
Tin/Bag Quartet: And Begin Again (Evander) 2007  
Mark Weaver's Brassum: Live (pfmentum) 2006  
The Wedding Crashers (New Line Cinemas film soundtrack) 2005  
Ian Smith/Simon Fell/Harris Eisenstadt: K3 (Bruce's Fingers) 2005  
This Side of North (Siren Music Productions) 2004  
Mark Weaver's Brassum: Warning Lights (Plutonium) 2003  
Nathan Hubbard: Skeleton Key Orchestra (Circumvention) 2003  
Adam Rudolph Organic Orchestra: In the Garden (Meta Records) 2003  
Boxes of Water: self titled (Evander) 2003  
Kraig Grady: The Stolen Stars (AOA) 2003  
The Hebrew Hammer (film soundtrack) 2003  
Adam Rudolph Organic Orchestra: Web of Light (Meta) 2002  
Dahmer, The Mind Is A Place of Its Own (film soundtrack, InfinityLand) 2002  
AMH Trio: Live at Field and Frame (Plutonium) 2001  
Adam Rudolph Organic Orchestra: self-titled (Meta) 2001  
Siren: nr1 (Siren Music Productions) 2001  
Pan (I.C.) Trio: West Coast Tour (Questionable) 2000  
Matt Richelson: So I Was (Questionable) 1999  
Travis Just: Don't Panic (Questionable) 1999

## FEATURE INTERVIEWS/PROFILES/PODCASTS

The New York Times 2010  
NPR Weekend Edition 2010  
NPR A Blog Supreme 2010  
Time Out New York 2008, 2010  
Point of Departure.org 2010  
El Intruso (Spain) 2010  
The Jazz Session.com 2010  
Taran's Free Jazz Hour 2010  
New World Radio.org 2010  
All About Jazz New York 2010  
All About Jazz.com 2009  
The Globe and Mail (Canada) 2007  
Paris Transatlantic Magazine 2006  
Signal to Noise 2006  
Santa Fe New Mexican 2005  
LA Weekly 2005  
One Final Note 2004  
All About Jazz Los Angeles 2004  
Jazz Weekly 2003

## SELECTED PRESS QUOTES

"Harris Eisenstadt, a drummer and composer originally from Toronto, takes a fixer's approach to music making, looking for ways to fit the pieces together. He works along jazz's progressive fringe but doesn't generally set out to make a ruckus. In his own music especially, he often seems intent on extracting consonance from dissonance or forging ungainliness into grace."  
(Nate Chinen, *The New York Times*)

"One of the new generation's leading comosers."  
(Troy Collins, *AllAboutJazz.com*)

"Strong proof that jazz is still young and growing."  
(Greg Burk, *L.A. Weekly*)

"Vital and increasingly influential."  
(Glenn Astarita, *jazzreview.com*)

"One of the most creative and skilled musician/composers incorporating traditional material to create new and vital improvised music."  
(Robert Iannapolo, *AllAboutJazz - New York*)

"He's perpetually building new ensembles to suit the variety of music he hears in his head—that's what composers do."  
(Jim Macnie, *The Village Voice*)



"Over the past decade, drummer, bandleader and composer Harris Eisenstadt has been a force in improvised music, active in both Los Angeles and New York (where he now resides). It's a testament to his creativity and energy that his ensembles have run the gamut from free-bop in the vein of post-Blue Note small groups, to orchestral works and the recasting of traditional Senegalese popular song into improvisational vehicles."

(Clifford Allen, *All About Jazz- feature article*)

"Ellingtonian in scope, Eisenstadt breathes fresh life into the small ensemble."

(Steven Loewy, *Allmusic.com*)

"Then, there's Eisenstadt, whose timbral invention is matched by his penchant for rhythmic subversion. He's equally facile with brushes and sticks, sometimes making it difficult to tell which is which. In the Tony Williams tradition (but not a slave to it), he sets up a pulse or groove only to shake it loose and discard it, the sudden dynamic shifts keeping every gesture fresh. Precision and spontaneity make every gesture simultaneously soloistic and supportive as the structures wend their complex but catchy ways forward. He's the lynchpin of an exciting aggregate."

(Marc Medwin, *Dusted Magazine*)

"Eisenstadt never uses his West African inspirations in traditional ways, he has paid them the highest possible respect by using them in the most authentic way possible — to create music true to himself and his musical conception."

(Ed Hazell, *Point of Departure*)

## **GRANTS, AWARDS & HONORS**

American Composers Orchestra, Jazz Composers Orchestra Institute readings, 2010

Brooklyn Conservatory Knutson Faculty Development Grant 2010

Rising Star, Composer, Downbeat Critics Poll, 2009

Up & Coming Artist of the Year, Jazz Journalists Association, Nominee, 2009

Meet the Composer Global Connections Grant 2007

SOCAN Composer-in-Residence, Sonic Courage Festival, Halifax, Canada 2006

American Composers Forum Subito Grant 2004, 2006

Durfee Foundation Grant 2003

California Institute of the Arts Tuition Scholarship (1999-2001)

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

Apple and PC platforms

Fluent with the Microsoft Office, Adobe and Macromedia Suites