

Cornelia Zambila

Composer, performer, maker



Guillaume van Haelenlaan 174 bus 19, 1190 Brussels (Forest)

0040758060787 cornelia.zambila@yahoo.com

www.corneliazambila.com



Portofolio <https://linktr.ee/cornelia.zambila>

Profile

My work as a composer and artist focuses on the creative process itself, investigating authentic experience in the space between old and new music and between art media. Using improvisation and non-traditional scores, I develop alternative and collaborative methods of composition. I am designing and contributing to projects for a variety of disciplines, including theater, animation, storytelling, and performance. This approach allows me to work with a wide range of collaborators and reach audiences in diverse communities. I also enjoy working in non-traditional environments, where I can share my experience through creative workshops and performances.

Skills

- Interdisciplinary workshop design
- Composition, improvisation and performance of music for different target groups and projects
- Research & prototyping in non-traditional scores and notation
- Specialisation in HIPP - violin, viola, conducting (XVIIth century, Classical, Romantic, early XXth century)
- Historical improvisation as a method for contemporary composition
- World music instrumentalist (tango, balkan, celtic, klezmer), skills in ethnomusicology field research and transcriptions
- Comedy improvisation (theater)
- Technological skills: videography, audio editing, knowledge management in Obsidian, database prototyping
- installations development and basic scenography skills
- creating soundtracks and/or live music for choreography, storytelling, video art
- Orchestra conducting
- performance art and physical theater
- sensory theater performer
- PhD candidate at Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles & Université Libre de Bruxelles
- Facilitation for creative workshops for diverse and vulnerable groups

Education (academic)

2024-

- **PhD candidate @ Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles & Université Libre de Bruxelles**

Artistic Research - *Between the notes: Creative uses of performance practices through a taxonomy of musicking mechanisms*

• focused on PBR through networked thinking and transdisciplinarity
committee: Marie Alexis Colin, Benoît Laurent, Christophe Levaux, Martin Lorian

2023-2024

- **Specialized Master in Early XXth Century HIPP**

@ Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles

Artistic Research - *A divergent approach to working with Romantic Era recordings: Applications on early XXth century repertoire*

promoters: Margaux Sladden, Benoît Douchy, Mira Glodeanu

• focus on strategies for aural internalization of performance styles
-magna cum laude

2021-2023

- **Master in Early Music, violin&viola
@ Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles**
 - Artistic Research project & thesis: **New Music for Old Instruments: What can HIPP and contemporary composition mean for each other?**
 - committee: Olivia Wahnon de Oliveira, Aldo Platteau, Benoît Douchy, Mira Glodeanu, Laura Pok
 - Critical Edition - Fenaroli: 6 sonatas for Violin and Keyboard (supervisor: Vinciane Baudhuin)
 - courses: chamber music, orchestra, stylistic improvisation and ornamentation, history of early music, philosophy, presentations in research colloquia: "Ospedali Model at the origin of Conservatoria"; "Muffat Florilegium - Bowing Styles"; "Van Eyck's Fluytenlusthof: Diminutions method"; Presentations and workshops for composers and HIPP performers as part of PBR
 - magna cum laudae

2011-2013

- **Joint Master in New Audiences and Innovative Practices @ The Hague Royal Conservatoire**
 - Artistic Research project: **InnerEye - collection of game pieces for non-visual practice. (final sensory performance as collaborative project with 8 composers)**
 - courses: Artistic Research, Workshops Leading&Guiding, Professional Project for Integration, Creative Marketing, visiting courses in ArtScience department , violin (Veera Beths), improvisation, creative labs

2007-2011

- **Bachelor in Composition
Bachelor in Orchestra Conducting
Bachelor in Violin Performance years I-III
@ National University of Music Bucharest**
 - Thesis in Conducting: **Sound and Silence in the Music of Anton Webern** supervisor: Dumitru Goia - magna cum laudae
 - Final work in Composition: **Tachyon - concertante symphony for oboe, viola, piano and orchestra** supervisors: Doina Rotaru, Octavian Nemescu - magna cum laudae
 - Thesis in Violin Pedagogy Module: **Towards an Empathetic Educational System** supervisor: Lucia Costinescu
 - courses: composition, orchestra conducting practice, violin, choir conducting, piano, harpsichord, harmony, polyphony, melodic construction, compositional techniques seminars, analysis, psychology, byzantine psalmody, ethnomusicology, electronic music, multimedia, music theory & ear training, chamber music, opera orchestra, pedagogy modules (up to university teaching)

1995 - 2007

- **Violin, Piano & Music education @ George Enescu Music School, Bucharest**
 - Final Thesis: **Phenomenology of the Tragic in Beethoven's late work** supervisor: Bogdan Voda, Laurentia Onose - magna cum laudae
 - courses: violin, accompaniment, music theory& year training, music history, harmony, forms and analysis, choir, orchestra, chamber music

Additional Education ●

2021 -

- **Harpsichord and Fortepiano**
 - Hooftstedelijke Kunstacademie Brussel - Kris Verhelst
 - Academie de St.Gilles - Fabiola Moscato
 - Ma'Go Antwerpen - Els Element

2024 -

- **Multidisciplinary Atelier for Performance and Installations**
 - Academie des Arts visuels de Molenbeek, Geoffroy Devolder

2024 -

- **Videography and Sound art**
 - Academie voor Beeldende Kunsten Anderlecht, Erik Lamens, Jeroen Uyttendaele

09.2016 - 11.2018

- **Theater @ KunstZ Academy Antwerp (Nl, En, movement, improvisation)**

2019 - 2020

- **Vliegwiel** - Intensive course with Wisper vzw and KunstZ on **workshops design** and **leading** (theater and interdisciplinary), Bart Callebaut

- **Additional academic studies**

KASKA DKO - **Scenography** studies: costumes, dramaturgy, set design

Koninklijk Conservatorium Antwerpen - Ma 1 **Composition**, **Wim Henderickx**

Listahaskoli **Island** - Erasmus periods 2012, 2013 - Siggurdur Haldorsson

Gent Conservatorium - Erasmus year in **Composition**, **Octaaf van Geert**

- **Scholarship at Kodaly Institute Kecskemet**

+module in Kokas Method

- **Selected masterclasses, intensive workshops**

Inclusive Theater - Pierre de Lune asbl, 2025

Forum Theater - Les Polymorphistes asbl, 2023

Sensory Poetics - Teatro de los **Sentidos**, Antwerp, 2016

Etnokamp, Serbia - **ethnomusicology** workshop&symposium, 2012, 2013

International Impro Intensive - The Hague, 2013

summer 2013

Artistic & Research ● projects

COMPOSITION

- **Soon to be premiered**

- **Kaspar, ou les vibrations d'un corps qui n'a jamais dansé** - soundtrack and live music for choreography performance 20th September KultKom Eupen, with Cie Baejahn
- **L'importance Bruxelloise** - acoustic rap for duo Folkistan (violin, double bass, voices, 14th October **Cabaret Milmoul** CCLJ Brussels
- **Child of Yesterday**, for soprano, scordatura violin and tape - commissioned by Jan Staruch for project Sounds of Time - 11th October 2025 @ **Vocal Music Days, Gdynia**, Poland.
- **The Reason I** - audiovisual performance with **Duo Chrisalydes** (violin/viola, harp, electronics, video) - 11th October 2025 @**Musiques Femmes Festival**, Brussels
- **Byzantine Chants** - game piece for ensemble and audience to be premiered on the 25th of November at Ursulines Chapel - during **Ricercare Cycle: La Sagrada Musica**
- **Insomnii** - song for soprano and harpsichord on lyrics by Ion Vinea, written for Sonia Lardy and Fabiola Moscato - **Festival Osmose**, 29th November 2025
- Dithyrambe - trio for flute, violin and piano, written for Trio Manestri - **Festival Osmose**, 20th November 16h

ENSEMBLES (ONGOING)

- **Contemporary music / improvisation / world music**

- **Folkistan** Duo - comedy, balkan, klezmer, tango, dada, **experimental lab for absurd and cultural humour**
- **Latido** Trio - tango, free **improvisation, sensory theater lab**. Developing "Mission Tango" interactive theater for children
- **Chrysalides** Duo - celtic, sephardi and Eastern European music, **improvisation lab with electronics and videography** with Luisa Maria Alvares Armesto - harp and composition
- **Die Freylachs aus Brisl** - klezmer, early music and contemporary arrangements - with Katja Katanova
- **BBB** - **sensory installations, sensory modification** **performance design and workshops** - with Anna Godzina

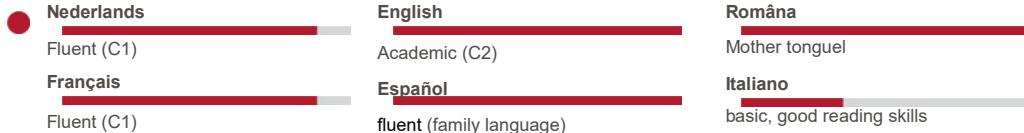
● Early Music, HIPP / Contemporary Music

- **Ricercare Collective** - dedicated to applying historically informed performance practices in creating new works.
with composers: Juan Albarracin, Pablo Lascano, Penelope Maravalhas, Luisa Maria Alvarez Armesto, Jimena Martinez Saez
Instruments: strings orchestra, harpsichord, fortepiano, cornetto, lirone, recorders consort, strings consort, classical oboe, violone, viola da gamba, baroque harp, traverso, timpano, chalumeau
- **Sturm! Collective** - daring musics from Emfindsamkeit till today (Graun, CPE Bach, W.Kennis, Sterkel, Mozart, Schubert C quintet, Brahms clarinet quintet)
with Vasco Perreira - harpsichord, fortepiano, Sanna Gillerfors, Gala Lozynska - cello, Hilla Heller - viola, Akiko Okawa - violin
- **Ariadne Duo** - music & video projects (video art, cartoons) & sensory performances - in development with Dynam'autes asbl
- **Philomena's Consort** - interdisciplinary projects with video and choreography on Renaissance and contemporary consort music (violin, tenor violin, viola da gamba, violone)
- **Uto-Uto** - violins & traverso flutes duo, repertoire from Van Eyck to Hoffmeister, Bartok and contemporary music - with Machi Kikuoka
- **Les Reveuses** - clasical and romantic HIPP string trio (Mozart, Haydn, Jadin, Pleyel) - S.Gillerfors - cello, H.Heller - viola

COLLABORATIONS

- **Storytelling live soundtracks** - with E.Rosiers, Zinderding vzw, M.Verbeelden (Verbeelding in Verhalen), B. Stappaerts
- **Music for theater, film, choreography** - Cie Baejahn, Yuni Collective, KunstZ, Montserrat Mancilla a.o.
- **Period Orchestras** - Le Concert Bourgeois, Iris Ensemble a.o.
- **Research projects collaborations**
Adilia Yip - Inventing New Marimba Performances from the African Balafon Music Practice, **PhD** project @ ARIA, Orpheus - composition InnerSight Etudes (2015-2016)
Anna Godzina - Sound in Space, Space in Movement (2020-21), Sonifying Landscapes (2023-2025), **research projects** @ KASKA -performances, scores transcription, composition collaboration, co-leading 2 workshops @ In Situ: **Sculptural Soundscapes** (2022), **Sensory Poetics** (2025)

Languages



PORTOFOLIO

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