

# J. Simon van der Walt FLCM

Composer - Performer - Teacher

## Personal information

**Johannes Simon van der Walt**  
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Date of Birth 11th May 1961  
Nationality British

## Education

- 2005 P/T Research in Composition at RSAMD, towards PhD
- 2002 P/T study in electroacoustic composition at Glasgow University  
**TQFE** (Teaching Qualification in Further Education) University of Dundee
- 1999 **FLCM** in Composition
- 1990-1992 Napier University **LLCM(TD)** in Trumpet and **LLCM(TD)** in Composition. Winner of Course Medal and Composition Prize
- 1978-1981 Edinburgh University. Studies towards BSc Biological Sciences (Psychology)
- 1978 Claremont High School, East Kilbride. Five Highers, all A. Dux of school

## Career

### Composer

- 2005 Commission for *Just Act* by the **Esquire Saxophone Quartet** (Holland), with financial support from the **Scottish Arts Council**
- 2004 Commission from **Paragon** for interactive online composition, with programmer Simon Yuill
- 2003 Three month residency at **Banff Centre for the Arts** in Alberta, Canada with the support of **Arts Council of England**.
- 2002 Première of *There's always one* by **Paragon Saxophone Quartet**  
Première of *Hanc marginis...* by **Orlando Consort** at Dartington International Summer Festival  
Première and second performance of *Ha!* for strings by **Goldberg Ensemble**  
Two new works performed by **Paragon Ensemble**  
Première of *Peroration* for organ in Leeuwarden, Netherlands
- 1998-2002 Writing extensively for own 11-piece amplified group **Invention Ensemble**

- 2001      **Stichting Calliope** (Netherlands) commission *de straalvleugel* for marimba and flugelhorn; also perform other recent works
- Televised première of *Seven Lies Regarding the Nature of Existence* by **Het Fries Saxofoon Kwartet**
- Two works shortlisted by the **Society for the Promotion of New Music**
- Performances of *Dialog* for didgeridu & band in USA & Glasgow
- 2000      **RNCM commission** *Surprising Natural Phenomena* for flugelhorn, didgeridu and minidisk
- 1999      Contributed music to **Glasgow Year of Architecture** CD ROM
- 1998      Collaborated on sound installation for ArtMaze, Glasgow Green
- Wrote & recorded music for *Assipatle & the Sea Serpent* under-5's movement project
- 1997-1998      Writing music for **Naga Mas** the Glasgow Gamelan Group, with SAC funding
- 1996      Recorded & released three celtic crossover tracks with **Tartan Amoebas**
- 1995      20-minute work for **Napier University Chamber Orchestra** completed with the aid of SAC funding

See <http://www.jsimonvanderwalt.com> for complete catalogue of compositions, including in many cases scores, programme notes and recordings

### **Invention Ensemble**

- 1998-2002      With two others, joint **Artistic Director** of Invention Ensemble, 11-piece Glasgow based new-music group
- 2001      Instigated collaboration with director Adrian Osmond leading to *Touch Bass*, devised music theatre piece for **Arches**, Glasgow
- Organised and wrote for highly successful performance at **Tramway**, incorporating electroacoustics and performance art
- 2000-2001      Took responsibility for co-ordinating and organising group. Established not-for-profit constitution, designed website and reorganised accounts. Successful funding application to PRS
- With two other composers, wrote & recorded music for short film *Timelapse 2000*

### **Performer**

- 2003      Acting role in *The Voices* with **Forced Entertainment** at Tramway
- 2002      Working with Javanese dhalang **Joko Susilo** on traditional and contemporary gamelan and wayang kulit
- 1988-2002      Freelance trumpet player; also trombone, didgeridu, guitar, and world percussion. Session and gigging work with a wide variety of pop, jazz and world groups, including Salsa Celtica, Tartan Amoebas, Eliza Carthy and Brian McNeil. Played at numerous major venues and festivals, UK and worldwide
- 2001      Devised street band/performance art project for Glasgow's Summer in the City; spoof brass quartet *The Society for High Art Music*
- 1999-2001      With **IOU Theatre** as performer/musician/sound designer on award-winning show *Cure* in Halifax and Manchester
- 1995      Work as performer/musician with **Northern Stage** in *They Shoot Horses Don't They* and with **Communicado Theatre Company** in *A Place with the Pigs*

## Teacher

- 1993-2005 Lecturer in Music **Stevenson College**, Edinburgh. Specialist in composition, also theory, aural, improvisation, sound recording, midi, harmony and history
- 2000 Working with schoolchildren in Campbeltown to devise music for junk recreations of ancient celtic instruments
- 1999 Project worker with **IOU Theatre**, Halifax. Developed site-specific work in Fleetwood with local drama students and amateurs
- Devised & led creative music-making workshops for Primary school music teachers
- 1998 Gamelan workshops for schoolchildren in collaboration with **Naga Mas** the Glasgow Gamelan Group
- 1993-1996 Director, Napier University Big Band

## Other work

- 2003 Freelance web design for Comrie Golf Club
- Beta testing for major UK software company
- Temporary work at Scottish Music Information Centre, research for new database/website
- 2002 Freelance web design for Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre
- 2000 Research work on websites for SFEU Virtual Learning Centre
- 1994-1995 Part-time driver for West of Edinburgh Development Group, in connection with music group for adults with learning disabilities
- 1998 Temp. Clerk, Bank of Scotland New Issues, rising to Supervisor
- 1981-1987 Unemployed, casual jobs

## General skills

Clean driver's licence, own car

A little French, German, Spanish and Dutch

Highly computer-literate; word-processing, spreadsheet, database, web authoring

Touch-typist

Extensive experience of music technology, both computer-based & stand-alone, including designing & building electronic musical instruments

Other interests include current affairs, sci-fi and birdwatching

## Referees

**Ken Thomson** (employer) Stevenson College, Bankhead Avenue, Edinburgh, EH11 4DE 0131 535 4600 kthomson@stevenson.ac.uk

**Colin Broom** (personal) 3 Caird Drive (Flat 2/1), Glasgow G11 5DZ 0141 337 2833 colin\_broom@yahoo.co.uk