
JOHN ANDREW WILHITE, PERFORMER AND COMPOSER

Contact:

+47 967 01 629 (NO)
Teisenveien 3C
0664, Oslo, Norway
JAWilhite@gmail.com
www.johnandrew.no

Nationality:

American
Norwegian

Pronouns:

He/they

Education:

Reed College (BA)
2009-2014
Music (perf/comp)
Advisor: David Schiff

Norges musikkhøgskole (MM)
2016-2019
Bass Performance
Advisor: Håkon Thelin

Norges Musikkhøgskole (MM)
2019-2021
Music Composition
Advisor: Trond Reinholdtsen

Norges Musikkhøgskole (PhD)
2024-2028
Improvisation
Advisors: David Toop, Tanja Orning, Elizabeth Povinelli

Additional studies with Orin O'Brien (Juilliard School), Ira Gold (Peabody Institute), Don Palma (Yale University), Paul Cannon (Ensemble Modern), Anders Tveit (Nmh)

Associations:

Norsk komponistforening*
*member of Nkf valgkomite (vara)
Norsk jazzforum
NyMusikks Komponistgruppe*
Member of NMK board (vara)
CREO

Languages:

English (Native)
Norwegian (Fluent)
Other Scandinavian (Advanced)
Russian (Advanced)
Spanish (Basic)
German (Basic)

DOB: 31/01/1991

Brief Summary & Notable Works:

John Andrew Wilhite (b. 31 January, 1991, Richmond, VA, USA) is a performer (double bass, electronics, and more) and composer, based in Oslo, Norway. Their works often contain improvised or "concrete" elements which invite the outside world to interact with composed materials. These works tend to focus on political and ecological questions. John Andrew's work can be seen and heard regularly throughout Scandinavia, Europe, Asia and North America, at festivals and series such as Ultima, Östersjöfestivalen, Sacred Realism, Barents Spektakel, Meteor, Norway Wave, Berlin Jazz Festival and many others.

Rot Society: Co-production with **Black Box Theater (Oslo)**, **The Kitchen (NYC)** and **RAS (Rogaland)**, with **Asamisimasa**. 4 hour long microtonal open score work. Fall 2026.

Carver: Commission from **Aparte Festival** Fall 2025. For solo double bass

Bristol Silence: Commission from **Motvind Festival** 2023. Dramatic song cycle with soloists Sofia Jernberg and Robin Steitz, with Jazz Big Band and archival tape. Later performances at **Trøndelag Teater, Bergen Jazzforum, and Sildajazz** (2024). Texts adapted by Wilhite-Hannisdal with contribution from Fred Moten. ca. 65 min.

Clouds Have 2 Faces: Commission from **Pinguins Trio** and **Ny Musikks Komponistgruppe**. Work for buried tape machines, performed by solo percussionist (Jennifer Torrence). Premiere fall 2023 at Gamle Rådhus Scene.

Dialectics of the Deep: Commission from **Barents Spektakel** (Kirkenes, 2023). "Open work" made from old fishing boats, where the sounds of cod fish are played through the wood of the boats with transducers. The work is "open" because other musicians are invited to interact with the sounds and installation space. Restaged at **Festspill i Nord Norge** (Harstad, 2023). Workshop version at **Tekniska Museum Stockholm** as part of **Östersjöfestivalen**. To be shown on permanent installation at the coming **National Cod Museum (Skreimuseet)** in Lofoten, from 2026, as well as Nordic Music Days, in Scotland, November 2024. Also shown at **Sound Festival** in Aberdeen, Scotland, produced by **Nordic Music Days**.

Cod Connection: Commission from **NyMusikk**. Premiere at **Only Connect Festival** 2022 at **Munch Museum**, Oslo. Floating sound installation and operatic ritual lament for codfish, performed by singer Andrea Silvia Giordano, with live-electronics by Wilhite-Hannisdal. Subsequent performances at **Torsken Kunstfestival** (Grimstad) and **Passion for Ocean Festivals** (Trondheim, Arendal, Stavanger), **Kunsthalle Exnergasse**, Vienna. ca. 20 min.

The Farewell Score: Performed by **The Kitchen Orchestra**, Stavanger, **Tou Scene**, April 2023. ca. 17 min. Also performed in Trio Version with Espen Reinertsen and Guoste Tamulynaite.

Kunngjøringer fra pariserkommunen: Commission from **The Norwegian National Opera**. With Bernhard Bornstein and librettist Finn Iunker. For orchestra, chorus, and 2 soloists, with electronic accompaniment. Selections shown at Brecht-Tage 2021, Berlin, Spring 2021. Premiered with video-design by Lesia Vasylychenko at Ultima Festival 2022. Later broadcast on DNOs website. Will be showing in China as part of **Norwegian Embassy's "Norway Wave"** project with Hemark Culture. ca. 60 min. Composer.

Sensing Landmarks: Commission from **Nordic Culture Point**. Multisensory work for dancer, projections, double bass and electronics. Fall 2021, Suomenlinna, Finland. Subsequent version at **Bergen Arkitektthøgskole** produced by **NyMusikk Bergen**, Bergen, NO, fall 2022. ca.120 min.

Torsketromming: Commission from **Notam**, with Balint Laczko. For dancing percussion trio and electronics. Premier **Ultima 2021** by **Pinguins Trio**. Later performed at **Bomuldsfabriken** (Arendal) and **Teatret** (Kristiansand). ca. 14 min.

Tenseless: Collaboration with visual artist Nikhil Vettukatil, research project on non-linear time in music and multichannel sound installation at **Norsk Billedkunstnere (NBK)** and **Bergen elektronisk kunst (BEK)**, 2022 ca. 45 min.

Walter Benjamins død i Portbou: Premier at **Kunsthøgskolen i Oslo** for **Ultimafestivalen** 2017, Oslo. Opera in one act for tenor soloist, orchestra of objects, and tape accompaniment. With Bernhard Bornstein. Restaged at **The Norwegian National Opera**, spring 2018.

Historischer Materialismus: Dramatikkens hus, Oslo. With Finn Iunker. Premiered December 2017. Opera in one act for two tenor solists and jazz ensemble.

Short and Long Piece for 2 musicians and objects, **Ultimafestivalen**, September 2020.

Other experience

2022-Curator for Improverk / Kafe Hærværk, Oslo.

2018-present Co-leader/producer for interdisciplinary project Torsketrokking

2017 Curator/manager at Ila Fysikalske, Oslo

2015-16 New York University for Boris Groys

Notable Awards:

Jazz Scholarship (The School of Jazz)

Rothchild Stipend for Music

Statens diversestipend (Norway)

Etableringsstipend (Oslo kommune)

Dozens of grants from Norwegian Arts Directorate, Music Norway, Nordic Culture Fund, Nordic Culture Point, and other Scandinavian, European, and North American funds. (For extended list, see p.4)

As a performer, John Andrew Wilhite-Hannisdal is known as a double bassist for work both as a soloist and ensemble player of contemporary music, jazz, and other experimental performance, performing at festivals such as Kongsberg Jazz Festival, Arteacts, Oslo World, and many more.

Wilhite-Hannisdal performs regularly with acclaimed composer and multiinstrumentalist Elliott Sharp (both as duo, in Sharp's SysOrchestra and also in the trio "Life is Like a Tooth" with Marcela Lucatelli), and works in jazz and improvising ensembles such as the Andreas Røysum Ensemble, AUK with Henriette Eilertsen, and in a trio with Chris Cutler and Anja Lauvdal. He has performed at high-profile institutions such as Lincoln Center and The Norwegian National Opera, as well as known underground venues like Studio Acht (Berlin), Kafe Hærværk (Oslo), and Zaal100 (Amsterdam). In Norway, he has also performed at contemporary music festivals such as Ultima (Oslo), Oslo Jazzfestival, Copenhagen Jazzfestival, MINU (Copenhagen), Sildajazz (Haugesund), (and many more), theater festivals such as Meteor (Bergen) and Oslo Internasjonal Teaterfestival, as well as interdisciplinary art festivals such as Barents Spektakel.

John Andrew has toured around Europe and the United States solo and with groups such as Cop Tears and Katt Hernandez/John Andrew duo at respected series and venues such as Sacred Realism, Berlin Jazz Festival, Moers, Interpenetration, The Ear Inn.

John Andrew Wilhite-Hannisdal has played with classical ensembles such as The Norwegian National Radio Orchestra (KORK), Loft Opera, and Apotheosis Opera. He also performed in experimental opera productions such as Trond Reinholdtsen's The Followers of Ø, has worked with contemporary music ensembles like Alpaca Ensemble, and is founding member of the New York based ensemble Cop Tears, who have received significant attention for their projects critiquing and critically engaging with the ideas and music of John Cage and Theodor Adorno. In April 2024 he will appear as a soloist with The Norwegian National Radio Orchestra in the ABYSS bass quartet.

Selected LP Releases (excluding records as side-man):

Carver (2026, forthcoming)

for bass and soprano, with Sofia Jernberg. Discussions for release with SOFA (Oslo) or Pluritone (Trondheim). Composer and performer. Vinyl LP

Bristol Silence (2025, forthcoming)

Dramatic song cycle with soloists Sofia Jernberg and Robin Steitz, with Jazz Big Band and archival tape. Release with Motvind Records (Lillehammer).

Spatial Data Management (2023, forthcoming)

with Ulla Strauss on Reading Group/Huner Francis (New York/Pittsburgh) co-composer, and performer. Vinyl LP, and DVD with video.

Our Favorite Music (2024, forthcoming)

with Cop Tears on Recital Program (Los Angeles). Arranger, composer, and performer. CD.

Piano Works of Theodor W. Adorno (2021)

with Cop Tears on Reading Group (New York). Arranger and performer. Vinyl LP

Beispiel Kartografi (2020)

with Katt Hernandez on Motvind Records (Oslo). Co-composer and performer. Vinyl LP

Olso (2019)

with Elliott Sharp on Va Fongool (Oslo). Co-composer and performer. CD

13 Harmonies, by John Cage (2017)

With Cop Tears on Reading Group. Reissued on Recital Program (Los Angeles). Arranger and performer. CD

Bicipital Fine (2017)

With Derek Baron, Brad Henkel, and Noah Punkt, on Off Records (Brussels). Co-composer and performer. CD



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Selected Lectures, Workshops, Publications and Radio Programs

- 2023 "Post-Instrumental Music" at **NyMusikk Norway** (Oslo).
- 2023 "Switzerland is Neither Here nor There" reflections on Malevich in Europe, publication **ETH Zurich** (forthcoming)
- 2022 "Loss Puzzles", performance-lecture at **MINU** (Copenhagen).
- 2021 Pre-concert talk at **Brecht-Tage** (Berlin).
- 2021 "Adornorama" with Derek Baron, radioshow on **Radio Tenthaus** (Oslo), rebroadcast by **Cashmere Radio** (Berlin), and **Montez Press** (New York).
- 2021 "Vitenskap, Kunst og Torsketromming" with Rebekah Oomen, at **Arendalsuka** for **Museumforbundet**
- 2021 "Sovjetisk avant-garde musikk" for **NyMusikk** (Bergen).
- 2021 "Still Smouldering" publication on Norges musikkhøgskoles Research Catalogue Portal
- 2019 "Hearing voices from the Paris Commune", panel discussion at VOEX 2019 at **Den Norske Opera**
- 2018 "Hearing Double" publication on Norges musikkhøgskoles Research Catalogue Portal
- 2016 "Hammered" publication in *The Hypocrite Reader* "ISSUE 63 | STRIKE | APR 2016"

Selected Film Scores and Visual Art Exhibitions

- 2019 ***Extended Hours*** with Nikhil Vettukatil at **STRUKTURA-TIME**, presented at **Kunsternes Hus**, Oslo
- 2021-22 ***Aelita Mars as Mirror Mars*** with Guoste Tamulynaite, for **WRAP** (Bergen) and **K4** (Oslo)
- 2021 ***Spatial Data Management*** (Greyory Blake, 2021) with Ulla Straus, for **Huner-Francis gallery** (Pittsburg) and
- 2022 Installation at exhibition "Performing the Impersonal / Manifesting Speculum" curated by Natasha Nadelkova, for **Museum of Contemporary Art Skopje**

Selected Music for Theater/Dance Performances

- 2023 ***Push Pull Matters*** by Yohei Hamada, music composition, performance (movement and instrumental) and sound design. BIT-Teatergarasjen, Carte Blanche, Bergen Dansesenter co-production at Fiskerimuseum
- 2023 ***the imaginary theater*** with Charlotte Day at ETH Zurich/In:dépendance, Switzerland
- 2023 ***Batty Bwoy*** *Sound design (substitute for Jassem Hindi)* by Harald Beharie. Arendal Kulturhus.
- 2022 ***Somnambulist*** by Magdalene Solli and John Andrew Wilhite-Hannisdal. Music composition, research, and sound design First version presented at Performing Arts Forum 2022, currently in research and preproduction phase supported by Kulturdirektoratet.
- 2021 ***Gold All in My Veins*** by Carima Neusser, Sara Gurevitsch, Carola Uehlken and J.A. Wilhite-Hannisdal. Music composition, performance and sound design, at Old Mine, Outukumpu, Finland
- 2020 ***Our Need for Cosolation*** with Vision Forum, at Medical Museion, Energiverket, and C.Off, København, Vaasa, Stockholm, music composition and performance.
- 2018 ***På tå hev*** presented by The Norwegian National Opera at Sentralen, with Fredrik Rasten and Michaela Antalova. Music composition, sound design, and performance
- 2017 ***Føniks 4*** by Finn Iunker, at METEOR festival, BIT-Teatergarasjen, Bergen. Music composition and sound design
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Selected Grants, Honors, and Awards (past 4 years, not including institutional commissions):

2024:

Norsk Jazzforum — musikerstipend (solo kontrabass)
CREO vederlagsfond — innspillingsstøtte til *Bristol Silence*
Norsk Kulturfond — Tverrfaglig virksomhetstøtte— *Torsketromming*

2023:

Oslo Kommunes etableringsstipend
Norsk kulturfond — Turne og Virksomhetstilskudd— *Bristol Silence*
Norsk Kulturfond — Komposition og Produksjon av Musikk — *Bristol Silence*
Fond for lyd og bilde — Prosjektstøtte — *Bristol Silence*
Bergesenstiftelsen — Prosjektstøtte — *Bristol Silence*
FFUK — Prosjektstøtte — *Bristol Silence*
Office for Contemporary Art, Norway — International Support — *Rot Society (at Oregon Contemporary Museum)*
Norsk kulturfond — Forprosjekt fri scenekunst — *Somnambulist*
Norsk komponistforening— Innspillingsstøtte — *Bristol Silence*
Komponistenes vederlagsfond— *clouds have 2 faces*

2022:

Statens Diversestipend
Norsk-Finsk Kulturfond— Prosjektstøtte — *Cod Connection*
Bergen kommune— Prosjektstøtte — *Sensing Landmarks*
Norsk kulturfond— Komposisjon og produksjon av musikk — *Tenseless*
Norsk kulturfond— prosjektstøtte visuell kunst — *Cod Connection*
Norsk kulturfond— prosjektstøtte ande musikktiltak — *Cod Connection*
Norsk komponistfond— *Bristol Silence*

2021:

Tone Glow top 10 albums of the Year 2021 (Matthew La Barbera) — *Cop Tears, Theodor Adorno*
Nordisk Kulturfond — Prosjektstøtte *Sensing Landmarks*
Nordisk Kulturkontakt — Nordic Arts Lab— *Sensing Landmarks*
Norsk kulturfond — Prosjektstøtte tverrfaglige tiltak — *Cod Connection*
FFUK — Prosjektstøtte — *Torsketromming*
Norsk kulturfond — Forprosjekt fri scenekunst — *Loss Puzzles*
Arendal Kommune Prosjektstøtte — *Torsketromming*
Oslo kommune — Prosjektstøtte — *Torsketromming*

2020:

Nordisk Kulturfond — Opstart — *Cod Connection*
Nordisk Kulturfond — Prosjektstøtte — *Gold All in my Veins*
Fond for Lyd og Bilde —Prosjektstøtte— *Torsketromming*
Norsk komponistfond — *Torsketromming*

Other smaller grants and support for concerts, tours, travel, bearbeiding av verk, albums, and artistic practice development from: Norsk jazzforum, Bergen Kommune, Oslo Kommune, Arendal Kommune, Trondheim Kommune, Barentskult, New York Foundation for the Arts, Norsk komponistforening, FFUK, Music Norway, Office for Contemporary Art Norway, and more.
