

BIOGRAPHY

Christian Swenson has an extensive background in dance, mime, voice and improvisation. He is known for his pioneering work in what he calls "Human Jazz", a global fusion of dance/drama/music for body and voice.

In 1977 he received a BA in Theater from the University of New Hampshire and moved to Seattle to work with the Bill Evans Dance Company. Further training has included work with Tony Montanaro; Diane Schenker; Ruth Zupora; Korean shaman, Hi-ah Park, and with the late Pakistani master-singer, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. He has performed with Bill Irwin, The Seattle Symphony Orchestra, and The Jay Clayton/Jim Knapp Collective and in Europe with Jim Nollman of Interspecies Communication Inc. He presently teaches in the Theater programs at Seattle University and Bellevue Community College.

For the past 25 years he has been performing creations for the body and voice searching for a more global aesthetic. Since 1980 he has been a touring artist visiting communities and schools in the Northwest and beyond. He has performed and taught throughout this country, as well as in Europe, Japan and Nepal. Christian released his first compact disc, "Off-Road Vocals" in 2000.

As a guest artist he has been seen as: The Monster in The Minnesota Opera's production of "Frankenstein", at New York's "Serious Fun at Lincoln Center" and "The New York Improvisation Festival", with The Flying Karamazov Brother's "New Old Time Chautauqua" " and the 2002 "Rolling Thunder Down Home Democracy Tour" and has been heard on National Public Radio's "Sandy Bradley's Potluck. He was a teacher/performer at the 2005 American College Dance Festival in Buffalo, NY and at the 1998 "Body & Soul Northwest" Conference. For two years he has been a Vocalist with the Integrated Music Program at two Seattle hospitals and is a founding member of the improvisational ensemble "Molten Vocals".

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HUMAN JAZZ

Christian has received Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington State Arts Commission and Artist Trust of Washington. He resides happily in Seattle with his wife, Abigail, and two children.

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