

ELISE WITT

SINGER • COMPOSER • EDUCATOR • RECORDING ARTIST • COMMUNITY ACTIVIST
P.O. Box 148 • Pine Lake GA 30072 • (404) 297-8398 • elisemwitt@gmail.com •
www.EliseWitt.com

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Born 1953 in Bern, Switzerland
- B.A. in French, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1976
- Diplôme de Français, Université de Lyon, 1972
- Professional development in vocal improvisation, world music, and vocal production: [Bobby McFerrin](#), [Dr. Ysaye Barnwell](#), [Rhiannon](#), [David Darling](#), [Sam Rivers](#), [Dr. Fred Onovwerosuoke](#), [Barbara McAfee](#)

LANGUAGES

Fluent • German • French • Italian • Spanish • English
For Singing • Kiswahili, • Kikongo • Japanese • Greek • Russian • Hebrew • Portuguese • Arabic • Sign

INSTRUMENTS

- Voice (main) • Guitar (accompaniment) • Piano & Kalimba (composing & accompaniment)

PERFORMANCE

Representative U.S. performance venues • Lincoln Center • Vanderbilt University • Carnegie Hall
• Cambridge Multicultural Center • Kennedy Center • NC Museum of Art • Habitat for Humanity
• Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change • Mabel Dodge Luhan Arts Center
• Strathmore Center • Lake Eden Arts Festival • Clearwater Hudson River Revival • Falcon Ridge Festival
• Emory University • Rialto Center for the Arts • Savannah Music Festival • Georgia Folk Festival
• ROOTS Fest • Eddie's Attic • Bluebird Cafe • Passim • Folkway • LEAF Lake Eden Arts Festival
International Tours • South Africa • Italy • Nicaragua • Switzerland • China • Bosnia

HONORS, DISTINCTIONS & AWARDS

- Recipient, Music Composer Award, [National League of American Pen Women](#), 2017
- Recipient, [William L. Womack Creative Arts Award](#), 2015
- Fellow, [Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts & Sciences](#) – since 2002
- Fellow, [Atlantic Center for the Arts](#) with jazz composer Sam Rivers, 2006
- Best of Atlanta, Critics' Pick, Creative Loafing Atlanta
- Representative for the State of Georgia at the [Kennedy Center's](#) 25th Anniversary
- International Cultural Ambassador: South Africa, Italy, Nicaragua, Switzerland, China, Bosnia
- Artistic Assistance Grants from [Alternate ROOTS/Ford Foundation](#) - 2004, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2016
- Artistic Director, Sing & Swing Week, [The Swannanoa Gathering](#) – 2000-2007
- Keynote Speaker: Massachusetts Childcare Conference; Save the Children Foundation National Meeting
- Keynote Speaker: East Tennessee State University Conference on Early Childhood Education
- Panelist: Southern Arts Federation, Mid-Atlantic Arts Consortium, Georgia Council for the Arts, City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs, Fulton County Arts Council, Alternate ROOTS

TEACHING & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Music Director, [Global Village Project](#), Decatur GA (mid. school for teenage refugee girls) since 2009
- Teaching Artist - Elementary, Middle & High Schools, Colleges, Universities, Arts Councils - since 1988
- Workshop Leader at Festivals, Conferences, Universities, Arts Camps –since 1977
- Vocal Teacher for professional singers, artists in other disciplines, and community groups – since 1977

CHORAL & SYMPHONIC

- Composer - [Elise Witt Choral Series](#), Arrangements by Michael Holmes Current
- Guest Clinician/Director/Composer - choruses & choirs nationwide Current
- Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus & Chamber Chorus - Robert Shaw, conductor 1980-2000
- Robert Shaw Chamber Singers: Resident Choir - Spivey Hall, Carnegie Hall 1990-2000
- * Carolina Choir - Tour of Austria/Yugoslavia – Lara Hoggard, conductor 1971-1975

RECORDINGS

Solo Recordings

- [We're All BORN SINGING](#) • [Valise](#) • [Love Being Here](#) • [Open the Window](#) • [Mezzanine](#)

Recordings with Elise Witt & Small Family Orchestra

- The Premiere Album • Having a Great Time • Live at WREK • Holding On • Farewell Concert

Recordings with other artists

- Fields of War and Peace / Campos de Guerra y Paz (Mauricio Amaya)
- Harmonies from the Hill (Highlander Center 75th Anniversary) • The Big Silly (Eric Litwin)
- Every Burden Shall Be Rolled Away (The Divas) • Food for the Long Haul (Jesse Palidofsky)
- Natural Rhythms (Terry Garthwaite & Becky Reardon)

FILMS (Documentaries about Elise Witt, and Elise Witt music used in films)

- [203 Days](#) (2007 CINE Golden Eagle Award) by Bailey Barash • [One Night at the Rialto](#) by David Zeiger
- [Who's That Stranger](#) by George King • [Notes From Nicaragua](#) by George King
- Walk in Peace by Jubilee Partners • Waiting Children by Carol Burch Brown

PUBLICATIONS (Articles by and articles about Elise Witt)

- [Connections](#) (publication of Music for People, the improvisers' network) 2016
- [Public](#) (international journal of higher education community engagement) 2015
- High Performance Magazine (national publication of innovative community art making)
- Pass It On! (national publication for arts education)

ROSTER ARTIST

- National Endowment for the Arts: Alternate ROOTS Tour Program
- State Arts Councils: • Georgia Council for the Arts • Tennessee Arts Commission • South Carolina Arts Commission • North Carolina Arts Council • Alabama State Council on the Arts • Florida Division of Cultural Affairs
- Local arts agencies across the US and abroad

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Federation of Musicians – [Local 1000](#)
- [Alternate ROOTS](#) (Southeast US coalition of artists working at the intersection of arts and activism)
- [ASCAP](#) (American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers)
- [Music for People](#) (international improvisers' network)
- [Children's Music Network](#) (national consortium of artist/educators)
- [Highlander Research and Education Center](#)

ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS & MULTI-MEDIA PROJECTS

- Composer/Performer: [Marsh Suite](#) (Inter-media collaboration) Martinsville VA, 2017
- Natural Rhythms: Performance trio w/ [Becky Reardon](#) & [Terry Garthwaite](#) 2010-2017
- Presenter, [Cucalorus Film Festival](#), Wilmington NC 2016
- Director, One Voice Community Chorus for ROOTSFest, Baltimore MD, 2011
w/[Dr. Fred Onovverosuoke](#) (African Musical Arts), [Darryl Moch](#) (Charm City Labor Chorus), Tony Winston (Payne Memorial AME Church)
- Composer/Performer: [Singing Darwin](#) (24 hr. multi-media performance) Blacksburg VA 2009
- [SOAW](#) School of the Americas Watch, Musicians Collective 2008-2015
- *Five Women from the South* (commissioned by New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center) w/ [Paula Larke](#), [Linda Parris-Bailey](#), [Jo Carson](#), [Celeste Miller](#)
- Solo Theatrical Performances directed by [Celeste Miller](#)
Trilogy: The Time of Cherries, Earbone, The Girl with the Loose Llama
- *Hair Hands & Feet* w/rhythm dancer [Ann Kilkelly](#) & cross cultural percussionist [Beverly Botsford](#)
- Founding Member: [Theatrical Outfit](#), experimental theater company, Atlanta GA 1977-1980