**MICHAEL ALLAN THORN**

22 Pondicherry Avenue, Cape Town, 7806 | 0846265234 | [thorn\_drums@yahoo.com](mailto:thorn_drums@yahoo.com)

Professional musician with experience in performance (classical, jazz and contemporary music on piano, and West African *dunnuba* and *jembe* drums), media composition and education. Extensive experience teaching West African *jembe* drumming ensemble classes at Gaia Waldorf primary school. Collaborated and performed extensively with West African drumming virtuosos Atsu and Prosper Dagadu, Ladji Kante and Abdul Samed Abdul Ala. Other areas of expertise include digital course administration, curriculum development, ethnomusicology, digital cinematic orchestration and composition, media music production, and music mixing. I am proficient in Office 365, Microsoft Teams, Cubase 7.5 and Sibelius 6. My work at AFDA and ongoing music training has always been a springboard for growing a career in motion picture, and my chief aim is to be a successful television and film composer, and work for Netflix, HBO and the BBC. I am currently in finishing a production music track which I am pitching to Mamadance, a well-established South African production music company.

PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

*“The aural and written music traditions: a drumming ensemble case study”*

Journal for the Musical Arts in Africa 2007

*“Giving voice to hope: music of Liberian refugees”*

Journal for the Musical Arts in Africa 2015

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Production Course lecturer (AFDA second year course convener) **current position**

* **Contact 1:** Gordon Bilbrough 0834401282

*Jembe* drumming ensemble teacher at Gaia Waldorf school **current position**

* **Contact 2:** Marlene Schmidlin (021) 4470546

Composed & produced music for short film ‘Janneman’ (Showmax) 2019

SACCOM conference chair 2015

Head of undergraduate media music production (AFDA film school) 2012 – 2016

* **Contact 3:** Douglas Armstrong 0725923657

Undergraduate keyboard competency lecturer (AFDA school of live performance) 2012 - 2016

Composer and bandleader for the Cascade Film Quartet (with Doug Armstrong) 2012 - 2013

Composer and session pianist for ‘The Promise’ (AFDA honour’s film) 2012

Composer for Isuzu corporate video (Produced at AFDA) 2012

Ad hoc lecturer in Ethnomusicology (Stellenbosch University) 2012

AWARDS

Dean’s list (University of Cape Town) 2005, 2006 & 2007

Gunter Pulvermacher prize for best undergraduate essay (University of Cape Town) 2007

Finalist in the Fine Music Radio travel award competition (Jazz performance category) 2005

Interlochen bursary prize (Classical piano, College for the Arts, Namibia)

MUSIC EXPERTISE & TRAINING

Music for the media vol. 2 (Thinkspace Education) 2020

Music for the media vol. 1 (Thinkspace Education) 2019

Composer’s workshop facilitated by Geo Hohn (Insomnia Studios) 2017

Orchestral mixing course (Thinkspace Education) 2016

Cinematic orchestration course (Thinkspace Education) 2015

MMUS in Ethnomusicology (University of Cape Town, passed with distinction)) 2010

BMUS in Jazz piano performance (University of Cape Town) 2008

Certificate of proficiency in sound recording (City Varsity, Cape Town) 1998

Performer’s Licentiate in Classical piano (Trinity College of London) 1994

Grade 8 in Percussion (Trinity College of London) 1994

MUSIC PERFORMANCE AND OTHER RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Pianist for launch of Casper Uys’s debut album 2014

Classical piano and theory of music teacher (Royal Schools) 2006 - 2017

West African drumming facilitator and performer for Team Spirit 2005 - 2010

Eurhythmy piano accompanist for Gaia Waldorf School 2011

Pianist in the Thorn Trio (Jazz standards) 2008

Composed, arranged and performed ‘What Floats your Boat?’ (UCT college of music) 2006

Sound recording studio assistant for Eckhard Volschenk 2003

Roadie for Gearhouse & Hell fire Hire 1999

Live sound engineer for ‘U 4 Ever’ (Chilie & Lime) 1999

Classical piano masterclass with Andrez Jacinski 1997

Performed as percussionist with the Potchefstroom Chamber Choir (Stefanus Grove) 1997

Classical piano masterclasses with Vitaly Margulis (University of Cantabria, Spain) 1996

Percussionist in the Namibian National Symphony Orchestra 1992 - 1994

LANGUAGES

English (excellent), Afrikaans (good)

WEBSITE

www.scoredfromscratch.com