

Renée Benmeleh

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Present Position: Music Performance/Education

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Over 25+ years' personal experience as a professional vocalist, composer, music educator, and event coordinator.
- More than 20 years' experience helping musicians prepare and perform by handling stage management, coordinating with the music team, and addressing the full range of the artists' concerns.
- Keen attention to detail, warm demeanor, ability to give clear, calm guidance, excellent communication skills.
- Native Spanish speaker; Bilingual English/Spanish.

SPECIALIZATIONS

- Vocal Improvisation
- Jazz Studies: Composition/Vocals
- Arts in Health
- Rhythm Circle Facilitation
- Children's Entertainment

PERFORMANCE MEDIUM EDUCATION

- **Voice:** Molly Holm, Mills College/Private (Jazz/East Indian/Latin)
Faith Winthrop, Mills College/Private (Jazz/Performance)
Ledisi, The Jazzschool (R & B/Soul)
Rachel Valfer-Sills (Middle Eastern)
Adrienne Mehri-Shamszad (Middle Eastern)
Raine Eastman-Gannet, Private (East Indian Raga)
Jennifer Paulino, Private (Classical)
Trelawny Rose, The Jazzschool (Neo-Soul)
Lucy Kinchen, Laney College (All styles)
- **Composition:** Wayne Wallace, Private
Pauline Oliveros, Mills College
Jacqueline Hairston, Mills College
Molly Holm, Mills College/Private
Wendy Reid, Mills College
- **Percussion:** Terri Baruti, Mills College (Congolese)
Bruce Silverman, Private (African styles/Afro-Brazilian/
Brazilian Bateria/Middle Eastern)
Arthur Hull (Drum Circle Facilitation)
Marla Leigh (Frame Drum)
Keith Terry (Body Percussion)

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

ENSEMBLES:

Cantorial Soloist - Bay Area, CA - *BRIAH Ensemble/Torah of Awakening* – Brian Schachter-Brooks leader (2016 – present)

Guest Cantorial Soloist - *Chochmat HaLev*, Berkeley, CA (2008 - present), *Aquarian Minyan* (2017 – present),
Congregation Beth David (2022 – present)

Bay Area Event Performance - Bay Area, CA - *Project Vox* (2019 – 2020)

Bay Area Event Performance - Bay Area, CA - *The Sons & Daughters of Orpheus* (2004 - 2019)

Regular and Guest artist - Flux Ensemble, Mills College, Oakland, CA-Molly Holm, conductor (1997 - 2017)

Cantorial Soloist - Shir Hashirim Ensemble, Shir Hashirim, Berkeley, CA - Hazzan Richard Kaplan, leader (2010)

Alto-Jazz, Gospel, Pop Ensemble, Mills College, Oakland, CA - Jacqueline Hairston, conductor (1998 - 2000)

Guest Vocalist - Qirvah Sacred Music Ensemble, Berkeley, CA (2019 – 2020)

Performer – Theater throughout the Bay Area (1982 – 2022)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS:

Frances Lohr Memorial Piano Scholarship, *Laney College*, 2003

Lucile S. McCracken Scholarship, *Mills College*, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000

Rose Reeves Teale Scholarship, *Mills College*, 1997, 1998

Transfer Incentive Scholarship, *Mills College*, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000

Janet and Peris Coleman Scholarship, *Mills College*, 1999, 2000

Katherine H Cushing Scholarship, *Mills College*, 1999, 2000

**Outstanding Achievement in Drug & Alcohol Peer Education
and The Theater Arts**, *Teens Kick Off*, 1993

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES:

Northern California Drum Circle Facilitators Coalition

National Organization of Arts in Health

RELEVANT COLLABORATIONS:

Sacred Singing and Percussion for Woman Warrior Dance Camp and Sacred Dance of the Heart with
Miriam Peretz: Bay Area, CA (2106 – present) www.miriamdance.com

Vocal Improv Facilitation at Sing for Your Life and OneVoice Circle Singers – Dave Worm: Bay Area, CA
(2014 – present) www.circlesing.org

Finding Your Authentic Voice in the World - Warrior School for Women (online) – Tina Meyers (2020 – present)
www.womenadvocatesrising.com/warrior-school

**Percussion for Biodanza: Voice of The Soul - An Experiential Workshop
exploring Biodanza with Voice and Percussion** - with Director of the
San Francisco School of Biodanza, Belisa Amaro:

Guernville, CA - October 2012
San Francisco, CA - January 2013 & February 2013
www.biodanza.us

Percussion/Voice for Women's Circles with Ritualist/Breathworker Ashanna Solaris:
Bay Area, CA (2011- 2013) www.ashannasolaris.com

Vocal Improvisation/Drum Circle Facilitation for *River Guidess Adventures* with Gail Orchier:
King's River/Stanslaus River, CA (2008 – 2014) www.riverguidess.com

Vocal Improvisation for *Mystic Dance Café* with Elizabeth Moriarty:
Sebastopol, CA (2012 – 2014) <http://sacredministry.com/events/mystic-dance-cafe.htm>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Arts In Health / Bay Area 2022 – present

- Facilitate in person staff music wellness circles.
- Facilitate youth online music and wellness sessions.
- Facilitate in person patient music wellness circles.

Music Performance / Education / Bay Area 2001 – present

- Facilitate Vocal Improvisation and Rhythm Circle groups throughout the Bay Area.
- Experience with the essential aspects of performance and sound recording as a vocalist in a variety of professional settings.
- Make lesson plans within a set curriculum and teach music to groups of children aged birth to age 4 with their caregivers in various Bay Area locations.

Direct Artist Support 1997 – 2021

- Help vocalist prepare for rehearsals and performances, including organize and complete set list and charts, and distribute programs.
- Coordinate communications among music team, purchase and deliver refreshments and other necessities for musical team, and distribute marketing materials.

Performance Management 1997 - 2021

- Assist individual performers with various aspects of stage management, including time management, venue setup/takedown, staff communications and overseeing resolution of sound and technical issues.
- Create, organize, and facilitate music activities for community and private events, managing projects from planning through setup and breakdown, to client follow-up.

WORK HISTORY

Self Employed: Sound Nourishment 2001- present
Bay Area, CA

- Arts in Health
- Group Music Event Facilitation: private events, rhythm circle Facilitation, and vocal improvisation.
- Stage management/artist support for personal events.
- Professional original and world music performance creation and management.

Early Childhood Music Specialist/Administrative Assistant 2001- 2016
 East Bay Music Together, Berkeley

- Early childhood group music education with families and caregivers.
- Administrative support to owner including customer service, and inventory management.

Performance/Stage Management 1997- 2021
 Professional Vocalist Berkeley, CA

EDUCATION

Vocal Improv Facilitation Training, Oakland, CA 1997 – present
 Various Members of Bobby McFerrin’s Voicestra and SoVoSó

Bay Area Video Coalition, San Francisco, CA 2013
 Video Production

Village Music Circles - USA
 Rhythmic Alchemy Play-shop, Oakland, CA 2011
 Basic Drum Circle Facilitator’s Training, Los Angeles, CA 2008

Music For People - Storydrum, Albany, CA 2010

Women’s Initiative for Self-Employment, Oakland, CA 2009
 Business Planning

Five Souls in Song, Berkeley, CA 2009
 An Experiential Intensive in Jewish Mystical Singing
 with Hazzan Richard Kaplan

California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA 2008
 Certificate in Sound, Voice, and Music Healing

Orff-Schulwerk, Oakland, CA 2001
 Teacher’s Training-Level I

Music Together, Santa Cruz, CA 2001
 Teachers Training/Certification Level I

Mills College, Oakland, CA 2000
 B.A., Music; Specialization in Vocal Performance