

Biography

Luke Cissell (**si**-suhl) writes and records music in a distinctive style that is by turns arrestingly melodic, beguilingly layered, and eminently human, developed out of his roots as a versatile musician at the intersection of classical, bluegrass, and post-rock traditions. Cissell performs nearly every part on each of his [seven albums](#) of original music.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Cissell began playing music at a young age—he was a bluegrass fiddling champion at the age of eight and performed Mozart’s third violin concerto on his first honors recital soon thereafter. He earned a degree in history from Princeton University before establishing himself as a professional musician and composer in New York City, cutting his teeth as a session musician for a wide variety of artists from Ingrid Michaelson to Philip Glass while performing at many of the city’s most well-known venues including Carnegie Hall, CBGB, The Knitting Factory, The Bitter End, Rockwood Music Hall, John Zorn’s The Stone, Bargemusic, Radio City Music Hall, and Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center.

Cissell is a 2017-18 Very Young Composers Teaching Artist with the New York Philharmonic.

Selected Works

- 2018 **Thinking / Feeling** studio album
- 2017 **Three Piano Pieces**
- 2016 **String Quintet** for two violins, two violas, and cello
premiere Odyssey Ensemble, Trier, Germany
- 2015 **Backwoods**
- The Ambassadors** chamber opera (S-Mz-T-T-Ba-B, string quartet, and piano)
- Sonata for Viola and Piano**
- 2014 **Infinite Progress** suite for solo violin / studio album (serialization: [Works & Days Quarterly](#))
- 2013 **Cosmography** studio album
- String Quartet No. 2** premiere: Hudson Quartet, Brooklyn, NY
Frontier Chorales premiere: Brooklyn, NY
- 2011 **Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano**
Five Miniatures for flute, B-flat clarinet, cello and piano
- 2010 **String Quartet No. 1 "Poor Lazarus"** (premiere North River Music Series, New York, NY)

Selected Credits, Appearances, & Honors

- 2017 **New York Philharmonic** New World Initiative; Composition competition honoree
Urban Arts Berlin **Sonic Little Cat** (Various Artists) charity album; Featured artist
- 2016 **The Manhattan Symphonie** Carnegie Hall; 1st violin section (2014 tour Beijing, Shanghai)
New York Session Symphony Concertmaster
- 2015 **Handel Festival Orchestra** Principal 2nd violin; principal viola
- 2014 **The Longest Week** Feature film, Armian Pictures; Violin/actor
Various Artists 2776 Musical-comedy album for charity OneKid OneWorld; Violin, mandolin
- 2013 **CBS Sunday Morning: A Concert of Note**, **Yves Klein "Monotone-Silence Symphony"**; Violin
America's Got Talent (NBC) Live network television finale at Radio City Music Hall NYC; Violin
Tara Hugo sings Philip Glass Studio album, Orange Mountain Music; Violin
- 2012 **Dance Theater Workshop: Juliana F. May "Gutter Gate"** String arrangements, violin, viola
- 2011 **Ian Axel (A Great Big World) "This is the New Year"** Violin, viola
MTV News Cable network solo performance cameo; Violin
- 2010 **Ingrid Michaelson** **Everybody** Violin
- 2009 **Glory at Sea** Short film by Benh Zeitlin (Beasts of the Southern Wild); Violin, viola
The Light Surgeons "True Fictions: New Adventures in Folklore" Violin