

# NICKOLAI V. ZIELINSKI

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## **PROFILE**

I am a drummer and sound designer. I explore ways to up-cycle audio artifacts into electro-acoustic sound collages, blending elements of parody and pastiche. Through this process, I aim to unearth moments of meaning, self-reflection, insight, fun, and aesthetic pleasure. My work is driven by a curiosity to challenge conventional musical structures, using custom-built software and unpredictable algorithmic processes to create dynamic and engaging soundscapes.

## **SELECTED CREATIVE WORK**

### **Solo Performance — 2019–present**

Indicative of Drumming

### **Ensemble Performance — 2003–present**

ARP of the Covenant - since 2003

BANZÅT Trio - since 2019

Mantis - since 2019

Night Cow - since 2023

Jeff Erickson Quartet - since 2023

A.S.T.R.O. - since 2023

### **Recordings — 2021–present**

*Your Nuclear Heart Stress Test* - Indicative of Drumming - 2026 (Forthcoming)

*Robot Midwestern* - ARP of the Covenant - 2026 (Forthcoming)

*Eponymous* - Night Cow - 2025

*Eclipse* - A.S.T.R.O. - 2024

*McMansion Folk: Volume 1* - Indicative of Drumming - 2024

*Quarry Songs* - BANZÅT Trio - 2022

*Eponymous* - Mantis - 2021

## **Selected Honors/Awards/Features/Commissions**

Featured Soloist/Presenter @ MOXSonic (Missouri Experimental Sound Festival), March, 2026

National Endowment for the Arts/Iowa Arts Council Project Grant: *Electronic Music in Iowa Schools*, 2025-2026

Featured Soloist/Presenter @ CalArts Experiments in Electronic Sound Festival, September, 2025

Featured Soloist/Presenter @ MOXSonic (Missouri Experimental Sound Festival), March, 2025

National Endowment for the Arts/Iowa Arts Council - Iowa Artist Career Development Accelerator Grant: 2024-2025

Featured Soloist @ MOXSonic (Missouri Experimental Sound Festival), March, 2024

National Endowment for the Arts/Iowa Arts Council Project Grant: *Decorah ArtHaus Improvisor's Orchestra*, 2023-2024

*Seeds and Fields: A,B,X,Y,Z* commissioned by The Black House Collective and The Maroon Trio (Kansas City, MO) premiered on May 20, 2014

Featured Performer with Henry Grimes - *Sudden Sound*, Urbana, IL, 2013

Featured Performer with Thollem McDonas - *Institute for Creative Studies*, Champaign, IL, 2013

Featured Performer with Joshua Abrams - *Sudden Sound*, Urbana, IL, 2013

*Sans Mention*, commissioned by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and premiered on April 17, 2011

## **ACADEMIA**

### **As Teacher**

Instructor - Percussion & Electronics - University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO, 2026

Instructor - Percussion, World Drumming Ensemble, Jazz Combos, Rock and Roll History, Musical Theatre Ensemble - Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Anoka, MN, 2015-2018

Instructor - Percussion, Rock and Roll History, Music of World Cultures - North Hennepin Community College, Brooklyn Park, MN, 2015-2017

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Jazz Drums - University of Illinois Urbana Champaign School of Music, 2012-2014

Instructor - Drums, McNally Smith College of Music, St. Paul, MN, 2006-2012

Interim Instructor - Percussion and Jazz, University of Minnesota, Duluth, 2005-2006

### **As Student**

Master of Music in Improvisation, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Bachelor of Music in Percussion Performance, Minor: Jazz Studies, University of Minnesota, Duluth