

# shannon morrow

percussionist, improviser, rhythm circle facilitator and community teaching artist



Shannon Morrow has been focusing on creative music for more than 15 years. Her early training in visual art (BFA Painting 1992) inspires her search for spontaneity and expressiveness in music and sound.

Shannon is an improviser, Soundpainter, Deep Listening Instructor, and rhythm circle facilitator. She is also a creative reuse visual artist. Her current focus in visual art is using discarded materials to create interactive installations in outdoor public spaces. She combines her visual practice with her interest in sound, music, and improvisation to create a variety of multi-arts projects.

Shannon believes strongly that the foundation of creative sounding begins with the practice of listening. She is certified to lead workshops and courses in Deep Listening, a creative practice developed by new music icon Pauline Oliveros.

Shannon Morrow is founder and artistic director of Triangle Soundpainting Orchestra. Living in Chicago from 1999-2006, she was introduced to Soundpainting, the universal live composing sign language created by New York composer Walter Thompson for musicians, dancers, actors, poets, and visual artists working in the medium of structured improvisation. Returning to her native North Carolina in March of 2006, Shannon created her own Soundpainting Orchestra as part of a larger mission to promote creative and forward thinking music the Triangle area. The current ensemble is composed of 11 regional musicians playing a variety of wind, percussion, and stringed instruments. The orchestra is now in its second year and has performed at a variety of venues from the CCB Plaza during Art Walk to small nightclubs around the Triangle. Triangle Soundpainting Orchestra regularly collaborates with artists of other disciplines to create multi-arts performances.

Shannon is also the founder of Scene of the Crime Rovers rag-tag community roving band – a local group of street musicians who assemble to play music on the streets of Durham and at community gatherings such as SEEDS Annual Garden Party, Threshold Wall of Hope Community Mural Project, and Durham Rising street festival. In 2008, Scene of the Crime Rovers were featured as one of “The Great 8” bands to see by The Raleigh News and Observer, and were invited to showcase their music at the international Honkfest street music festival in Somerville, MA.

In 2008 Shannon received an Emerging Artists grant from the Durham Arts Council to create “The Whirligig Music Project and The Listening Garden,” a public art installation/musical composition in Durham Central Park. She also received an Arts Award from the Independent Weekly for her work creating inclusive community based music experiences for musicians and non-musicians alike.

Shannon currently works with children and adults at Music Explorium of Durham, and at The Scrap Exchange, where she facilitates creative reuse workshops.

