

Mazz Swift is a violinist, composer, conductor, singer, bandleader and educator. As a violinist and singer, she has performed on stages including Royal Albert Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, Müpa Budapest, and David Geffen Hall, Alice Tully Hall and Damrosch Park at Lincoln Center. As a composer, Swift's works include commissions by The Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity, Neues Kabarett, New Harmony Music Festival and the Blaffer Foundation. As an educator, Swift has performed and taught workshops in free improvisation and "conduction" (conducted improvisation) on six continents and is a performing member and teaching artist with the acclaimed Silkroad Ensemble. She is also a Carnegie Hall teaching artist, where she leads professional development workshops on improvisation for symphony orchestra members and their students, writes and records lullabies with incarcerated mothers and mothers-to-be at Rikers Island, and coaches the inmates at Sing Sing Penitentiary on string studies and composition.

Her current collaborations include the INVISIBLE(s) Project with fellow Silkroad artist, bagpiper and pianist Cristina Pato—a project that commissions new works for the multi-instrumental duo on the topic of invisibility; and an ongoing collaboration with the improvisational string trio HEAR in NOW, with whom she won the MacArthur Foundation's International Cultural Exchanges Grant for a two-year collaboration with the Ethiopian band QWANQWA. Swift is a Jerome Hill Artist Fellow, currently working on a series of projects that involve conducted improvisation and center protest, spirituals, and the Ghanaian concept of 'Sankofa': looking back to learn how to move forward.