

**Michael Ward-Bergeman**

**Hyper-accordionist**

Michael Ward-Bergeman is a passionate performer, songwriter and composer. His sensitive and creative approach to music making has led to performances and collaborations with world-class musicians and composers from across a wide range of genres.

Michael aims to remain faithful to the spirit that unites many of the world's richest music traditions while continuing to develop his own unique voice. On the accordion, he has created innovative performance techniques that work in harmony with his inspired use of 21st century music technology. His vision has reached its culmination in the hyper-accordion, an acoustic accordion with extended range and expressive capabilities.

Michael's composition *Three Roads* premiered at Carnegie Hall in 2007. The piece weaves excerpts from Dante Alighieri, Robert Frost, and Walt Whitman into a sonic tapestry. *Treny* had its premiere at the same venue in 2008, featuring soprano Dawn Upshaw and commissioned by the Terezin Chamber Music Foundation. With Osvaldo Golijov he collaborated on the soundtracks for the Francis Ford Coppola movies *Tetro* and *Youth Without Youth*. 2011's *Damagomi*, commissioned by Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road project, was premiered at Harvard University's New College Theatre.

In 2011 Michael performed at least once a day for an entire year as part of his GIG 365 project. He performed on the streets of New Orleans, in Latin America, and in Europe, anywhere he was invited, whether in prisons or on concert hall stages. The resulting CD recording features collaborations with Romanian Gypsy musicians and drummer Jamey Haddad.

Mr. Ward-Bergeman was born in New York and lives in New Orleans.

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