## Biographies for Pamela J. Marshall, composer

Short and long biographies for use in concert programs.

Feel free to edit for length.

Contact her at pmarshall@spindrift.com for questions and more information.

www.spindrift.com

## Photos and credits

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## 2021 100 words

### Version 1

Pamela J. Marshall is a Massachusetts composer, improviser, French horn player, web designer, and recording engineer. She studied composition at the Eastman and Yale Schools of Music. Her music for chamber ensembles, chorus, orchestra and even mandolins is often inspired by nature and poetry. She has written music for the Henning Ensemble, Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus, International Horn Society, South Beach Chamber Ensemble, and Master Singers in Lexington, MA. Recordings include chamber music (Ravello), electroacoustic tracks (Spindrift on Bandcamp) and nature soundscapes (Nachursona). Her hobbies, photography and birdwatching, influence her music-making. Find her music at [www.spindrift.com](http://www.spindrift.com).

### Version 2

Pamela J. Marshall studied composition at the Eastman and Yale Schools of Music. She has written music for the Henning Ensemble, Triad: Boston’s Choral Collective, Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus, International Horn Society, South Beach Chamber Ensemble, and Master Singers in Lexington, MA. Recordings include “Through the Mist” on Ravello, Nachursona soundscapes, and electroacoustic tracks on her Spindrift label, available on Bandcamp. Pamela is a composer/conductor in the new-music chorus Triad, plays horn in local orchestras, leads improv workshops, records chamber music and nature soundscapes, and does web design (prosperontheweb.com). Find her music at [www.spindrift.com](http://www.spindrift.com).

## Long narrative biography – January 2021

Pamela J. Marshall (b.1954) studied at Eastman and Yale and has been a fellow at the MacDowell Colony. She has written for chamber ensembles, chorus, orchestra, synthesizers, and mandolin. Her commissions include “Walden at Evening” for the International Horn Society at their Memphis symposium in 2013, South Beach Chamber Ensemble in Miami, Mastersingers of Lexington, MA, Green Mountain Youth Symphony, organist Carson Cooman, Assabet Valley Mastersingers, Unitarian choirs in Massachusetts and Minnesota, the Fisher Foundation, Axiom Duo, Trio Arundel, mandolinist Neil Gladd, and DanceArt. She publishes her music at www.spindrift.com.

At Eastman and Yale, she studied composition, horn, conducting, and electronic music. Her teachers included Jacob Druckman, Joseph Schwantner, Betsy Jolas, Warren Benson, and Samuel Adler in composition; horn studies with Verne Reynolds, Paul Ingraham, Charles Kavalovski, and Jean Rife; and conducting with Arthur Weisberg.

She believes in the benefits and fun of improvisation and encourages classical musicians to try it. You can sign up for her “20 Improv Ideas for Daily Music Practice”, delivered as emails, at [www.spindrift.com](https://www.spindrift.com). She has taught lessons in improvisation and led improv workshops for classical musicians, including at the Northeast Horn Workshop and the Lexington Music Club. With Carroll Ann Bottino, a piano teacher in Lexington, MA, she developed a workshop curriculum that introduces composition and improvisation to music students. She also did a “commissioning” project with those students, resulting in Play Book, a collection of pieces for the students’ recitals.

Ravello Records released a CD of her chamber music titled “Through the Mist” in 2015. Her mandolin music is recorded on Plucked String and Uncommon Strings CDs and chamber music is recorded on the Beauport Classical, Clique Track and Living Artist labels. Her label Nachursona has released two CDs of her nature soundscapes on [Bandcamp](https://spindrift.bandcamp.com/). In 2020 she released her album “Ruminations” of electroacoustic tracks, also on Bandcamp.

Her Christmas arrangements for orchestra “Traditional Christmas” and “Three Appalachian Carols” have been played throughout the United States.

From 1998 to 2005, she was a member of Just In Time Composers and Players, a Boston-area collaborative of composers and performers that presented several concert seasons of beautifully accessible new music. Just In Time presented Ms. Marshall’s chamber music, songs, and excerpts of her opera-in-progress “Melete’s Quest”. She was the group’s director for the 1999-2001 seasons.

Since 2005, the Spindrift Commissioning Guild, with contributions from friends and patrons, has supported several projects for new chamber music and recordings. A major project has been Art-Poem-Music, a collaboration with visual artist Sirarpi Heghinian Walzer and poet Elizabeth Kirschner. She has also written a series of poetry-inspired solos for various instruments.

In 2020 pandemic times, she worked with the Lowell Chamber Orchestra, writing “Believe” for flute and string trio, for on their Mozart-with-new-music-interludes online concert. She helped produce Triad’s online concert in November 2020, with plenty of audio and video editing. That concert featured her new choral works, “spinning” and “Refugees”.

Pamela plays horn in the Carlisle Chamber Orchestra and was a member of the Concord Orchestra horn section for 20 years. She is a composer/conductor member of Triad: Boston’s Choral Collective. She has written music software and developed sounds for Kurzweil synthesizers and written technical documentation about software programming tools. She leads improvisation workshops, records concerts and nature soundscapes, and does photography (www.honeycreeper.com) and web design (prosperontheweb.com). Her interest in birdwatching and poetry influences her music. Find her music online at www.spindrift.com.