Alex Shapiro biography, 593 words, formal:

Composer Alex Shapiro has built an unconventional life interweaving her dynamic musical career with avid pursuits of wildlife photography, non-fiction writing, and a devotion to advocacy for the arts, marine sciences, and social justice. Alex's genre-blind acoustic and electroacoustic works are heard daily in concerts and broadcasts and appear on over forty commercially released recordings from around the world.

Renowned as a lively public speaker and a widely published author, Alex has been a presenter at countless national music conferences and university residencies. She is a frequent webcast guest, noted for engaging discussions on the music business, diversity and equity, copyright, technology, and activism.

Born in New York City in 1962, at age 15 Alex began composition and electronic music studies during summer classes at Mannes College of Music, followed by two summers as the youngest composer at the Aspen Music Festival and School. After her 1980 graduation from The Juilliard School Pre-College Division, Alex studied composition with Ursula Mamlok and John Corigliano at Manhattan School of Music while scoring low-budget projects for local cable television. With her teachers' encouragement she left a year before completing her Bachelor's degree when hired to score a documentary in Hollywood. Alex established her first multitrack studio in Los Angeles in 1983, launching what became fifteen years composing for commercial visual media.

In the late 1990s Alex shifted her focus to the professional chamber music world, inspired after scoring a feature film with a live orchestra rather than synthesizers. Her business and technology skills coincided with the onset of the internet, and helped her globally promote her music and encourage peers to do the same.

A 2008 commission for wind band has since led to Alex's acclaim for changing the landscape of the field with adventurous electroacoustic pieces for all performance levels. With her longtime professional background as a composer and engineer in pop, jazz, film, and concert music, Alex is sought after for her seamless melding of live and recorded sounds for performances which often include striking visual and physical elements.

Ms. Shapiro holds the Symphonic & Concert writer member seat on the Board of Directors of ASCAP and is also an officer of the ASCAP Foundation. She is a board member of the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Music Publishers Association of the United States, representing her company Activist Music LLC. Alex has also served on national boards including the American Music Center, American Composers Forum of Los Angeles, The MacDowell Colony, and the preeminent film music organization, The Society of Composers & Lyricists, of which she was Vice President.

Significantly active in issues beyond music, in the 1990s Shapiro was Vice President of the Board of Directors of the 30,000 member American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California and balanced her composing deadlines with regular appearances as a spokesperson on women's rights. Alex joined the board of the University of Washington's distinguished Friday Harbor Laboratories marine research center in 2008. A certified sailor who has lived at the water's edge most of her life, among the works in Alex's diverse catalog are those with social and environmental messages, often accompanied by her award-winning photography.

Alex relocated to Washington State's remote San Juan Island in 2007, after 21 years in Manhattan and another 24 in Los Angeles. Her holistic approach to a happy life in the arts in which music, nature, technology, multimedia, and business acumen join with her commitment to the wellbeing of others, can be experienced through social media and her website, www.alexshapiro.org.