

Helen Sherrah-Davies - mid-length bio (approx 320 words):

After many years as a noted classical performer and educator in her native Britain, five-string violinist and composer Helen Sherrah-Davies relocated to Boston, graduated from Berklee College of Music and is currently pursuing her Masters in Contemporary Improvisation at the New England Conservatory. *StarStuff*, her debut recording as a leader, is the fruit of her remarkable transatlantic quest, the fulfillment of a vibrant and seasoned artistic vision.

Helen's original works are trans-stylistic, jazz-infected, with a dynamic electric and acoustic mix. Her musical landscapes focus on storytelling, bathing the listener in prisms of sound. Darol Anger, acclaimed fiddler, has described Helen's music as "so strong, it approaches the status of a new sentient being.... Even in the most thorny, complex episodes, we are moved to care, laugh and rejoice, washed by waves of melodic love."

Helen began playing piano at age four, violin at age six. At age eight she won a scholarship to the prestigious Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, England. By 19 she earned performing diplomas on both instruments. She went on to an MA and PGCE at Cambridge University. Along with her activities as an educator, Helen pursued freelance orchestral work and regular string quartet engagements, appearing in many prestigious venues, performing at the wedding of "Posh Spice" Victoria to David Beckham in Ireland and leading a string quartet for Jon Lord (of Deep Purple) while performing his music in Switzerland.

Her current focus on improvisation came about after hearing jazz fiddler Mike Piggott in a Sussex pub. She earned a Certificate and Diploma in Jazz and Popular Studies from Goldsmiths College, began performing with jazz and popular artists and then came to Boston, where she won praise from Mimi Rabson as "one of Berklee's most original voices." Her stateside performing credits include Christiane Karam's Middle Eastern fusion band ZiLZALA, the Underground Jazz String Quartet, the drumming group Inanna and many other collaborations at venues and festivals around the Northeast region.