

# ALTERNATIVE STYLES

## ELECTRIC VIOLA RESOURCE GUIDE: DISCOGRAPHY AND LIST OF COMPOSITIONS

by **Martha Mooke**

This issue's article continues the exploration of the electric viola with a discography of works and a list of compositions for the instrument (this includes actual electric instruments—of 4 or more strings—or acoustic violas plugged in or miked so the sound is affected, not just amplified). There was some difficulty in selecting works to include, because technically a 5-string violin and 5-string viola can play the same repertoire, and I also have a collection of CDs from 5-string violinists. I have only included works that, as far as I can tell, were created for 5-string viola.

There are a few exceptions to the rule. For example, I included Jean Luc-Ponty because he was the first 5-string violinist that inspired me (in fact, I went out and bought the same Barcus Berry 5-string violin—before I could find any electric violas). I also included Debbie Spring. Though she plays acoustic viola, it's within an electric band (jazz-fusion), and she was one of the first violists I listened to playing something other than classical music). John Cale is the original electric violist (I had the privilege of touring and recording with him in the early 90's). There are more violists that could be included if the article was about violists breaking the mold (like Christian Asplund or Ljova) and Tanya Kalmanovich is a wonderful jazz violist, but mainly in an acoustic environment.

Many of the works on the list of compositions were composed for me and which I also premiered. I have performed several of them many times in subsequent concerts (such as Alvin Singleton's "Mookestueck" which I also recorded for Tzadik, Dave Soldier's "East St. Louis 1968 is a fave, and Tania León's "Hebras d'luz"). I've come across many videos on YouTube and a plethora of electric violists on MySpace (many of whom are jazz/rock or heavy metal), so these are wonderful resources for violists to investigate when searching for electric music. Please feel free to visit my YouTube channel at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/POWERVLA>.

For those of you on Facebook, you are welcome to join a group I created called "[Violas on the Verge](#)" which is an extension of a clinic that I have presented at the American String Teachers Association National Conference and other events to explore and discuss the progressive journey of the viola!

Obviously this is an ever-growing list, by no means definitive, so there may be recordings and compositions that should be included. Please send email with pertinent information to [violist@violasontheverge.com](mailto:violist@violasontheverge.com).

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## Discography

Entries include Artist, CD Title, Year, Ensemble Name, CD Details, Store details, and Artist's Website. CD Details are drawn from liner notes, artists' websites, and store advertisements and are not necessarily the opinion of the compiler of this list.

### **Bultmann, Nils**

*Forgiveness*  
2003

**Ensemble:** Nils Bultmann

**Details:** A unique blend of various styles and sensibilities driven by intense, creative, and extremely energetic viola playing. Solo and multi-track recording featuring guests Andy Ewen on guitar and Noah Onstrud on Didgeridoo

**Available at:** CDBaby.com/iTunes

**Artist's Website:** [www.nilsbultmann.com](http://www.nilsbultmann.com)

### **Cale, John**

*The Velvet Underground and Nico*  
1967

**Ensemble:** The Velvet Underground

**Details:** On electric viola, Cale's sound evoked the terror of Lou Reed's compositions, with the bowed strings screeching like a runaway subway car

**Available at:** Amazon.com

**Artist's Website:**  
[www.rockhall.com/inductee/the-velvet-underground](http://www.rockhall.com/inductee/the-velvet-underground)

### **D'Alberto, Luca**

*Apri gli occhi*  
2009

**Ensemble:** Ex. Wave

**Details:** Luca D'Alberto plays a 6 string Violectra

**Available at:** iTunes

**Artist's Website:**  
<http://www.myspace.com/lucadalberto>

### **Darling, Leanne**

*Spiral*  
2006

**Ensemble:** Leanne Darling

**Details:** Viola and electronics in a mix of modern classical, jazz, blues with a touch of the Middle East and gypsy influences

**Available at:** CDBaby.com/iTunes

**Artist's Website:** [www.leannedarling.com](http://www.leannedarling.com)

### **Dreyfuss, Michael**

*Nice & Queasy*  
2006

**Ensemble:** Michael Doc Dreyfuss

**Details:** Amazing instrumental rock by a founding member of McKendree Spring and a master of the electric viola

**Available at:** CDBaby.com/iTunes

**Artist's Website:**  
[www.myspace.com/michaeldocdreyfuss](http://www.myspace.com/michaeldocdreyfuss)

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**Frendin, Henrik**

*Viola con Forza*

2003

**Ensemble:** Henrik Frendin

**Details:** A portrait album with music written by Swedish composers exclusively for the artist

**Available at:** [www.phonosuecia.com](http://www.phonosuecia.com)

**Artist's Website:** [www.frendin.com](http://www.frendin.com)

**Golani, Rivka**

*Viola Nouveau*

1983

**Ensemble:** Rivka Golani

**Details:** An album of contemporary works for viola, including Jaeger's *Favour* for electric viola

**Available at:** Amazon.com

**Artist's Website:**  
[www.mgam.com/artists/golani/biography.html](http://www.mgam.com/artists/golani/biography.html)

**Haken, Rudolf**

*Rudolf Haken: Concerto for Five-String Viola*

2007

**Ensemble:** Rudolf Haken

**Details:** "Ordinary boundaries do not fence Rudolf Haken in.... He flaunts his fiddling capabilities in a Concerto for Five-String Viola—four wacky but well-crafted movements..." Selected as American Record Guide Critics' Choice 2007

**Available at:** Amazon.com

**Artist's Website:** [www.rudolfhaken.com](http://www.rudolfhaken.com)

**Mooke, Martha**

*Enharmonic Vision*

1997

**Ensemble:** Martha Mooke

**Details:** Playing a space-age five-string viola, using digital effects to sound like everything from a swarm of insects to a Hendrix power guitar ... startlingly original

**Available at:** CDBaby.com/iTunes

**Artist's Website:** [www.marthamooke.com](http://www.marthamooke.com)

**Mooke, Martha**

*Bowing: Café Mars*

2003

**Ensemble:** Bowing

**Details:** Electric viola & electric guitar; Jimi Hendrix meets Maurice Ravel meets Terry Riley

**Available at:** CDBaby.com/iTunes

**Artist's Website:** [www.marthamooke.com](http://www.marthamooke.com)

**Mooke, Martha**

*Klezmer Concertos and Encores*

2003

**Ensemble:** Rocketekya

**Details:** Features "Rocketya" by Osvaldo Golijov. Written for and performed by David Krakauer (clarinet), Alicia Svigals (violin), Martha Mooke (electric viola), and Pablo Aslan (double bass)

**Available at:** Amazon.com

**Artist's Website:**  
[www.osvaldogolijov.com/wd32.htm](http://www.osvaldogolijov.com/wd32.htm)

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**Mooke, Martha**

*Somehow We Can*

2002

**Ensemble:** Martha Mooke

**Details:** Chamber works by Alvin Singleton. Features "Mookestueck" composed for and performed by Martha Mooke

**Available at:** Amazon.com

**Artist's Website:** [www.alvinsingleton.com](http://www.alvinsingleton.com)

**Novog, Novi**

*Songs from the Home Planet*

2008

**Ensemble:** String Planet

**Details:** Re-imagines pop music from "Lady Madonna" to "Sukiyaki" and de-constructs the classics: Prokofiev, Saint-Saens, and Edvard Grieg

**Available at:** CDBaby.com/iTunes

**Artist's Website:** [www.stringplanet.com](http://www.stringplanet.com)

**Novog, Novi**

*String Planet*

2004

**Ensemble:** String Planet

**Details:** Bela Fleck meets Prokofiev meets Esquivel—light-hearted instrumental fusion with a touch of classical around the edges

**Available at:** CDBaby.com/iTunes

**Artist's Website:** [www.stringplanet.com](http://www.stringplanet.com)

**Novog, Novi**

*Freeway Philharmonic*

1977

**Ensemble:** Freeway Philharmonic

**Details:** Creative and quirky instrumentals with Chapman Stick, viola (Novi), and acoustic guitar

**Available at:** CDBaby.com/iTunes

**Artist's Website:**

[cdbaby.com/cd/freewayphilharmonic2](http://cdbaby.com/cd/freewayphilharmonic2)

**Ponty, Jean-Luc**

*A Taste For Passion*

1979

**Ensemble:** Jean-Luc Ponty

**Details:** Recorded in 1979 in Los Angeles. First recording where Ponty is using a five-string blue Barcus-Berry violin

**Available at:** Amazon.com

**Artist's Website:** [www.ponty.com](http://www.ponty.com)

**Seidenberg, Danny**

*Alto Logic*

2008

**Ensemble:** The Unbande (with Novi Novog)

**Details:** A pop/jazz/classical crossover instrumental concoction for two violas and a Chapman Stick, created by Danny Seidenberg, long-time violist of the Turtle Island String Quartet, and Novi Novog and Larry Tuttle of String Planet and Freeway Philharmonic.

**Available at:** CDBaby.com/iTunes

**Artist's Website:** [www.dannyseidenberg.com](http://www.dannyseidenberg.com)

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**Spring, Debbie**

*Ocean Drive*

1990

**Ensemble:** Debbie Spring

**Details:** Contemporary jazz recording featuring Spring's vocals and expressive viola playing

**Available at:** Amazon.com

**Artist's Website:**

**Wallace, David**

*Nahum / What a Friend*

2004

**Ensemble:** David Wallace

**Details:** Electric Viper-Viola instrumentals performed by a Juilliard virtuoso. Ranging from celestial to raging, Wallace's hair-raising compositions deliver an emotional and spiritual punch

**Available at:** CDBaby.com/iTunes

**Artist's Website:**

**Wood, Mark**

*Voodoo Violince*

1991

**Ensemble:** Mark Wood

**Details:** Mark's first release on Guitar Recordings. Featuring Dave Lewitt on drums, Gerald Veasley on bass, Laura Kaye and members of New Voices of Freedom on vocals.

Time Magazine calls this record "Funk metal violin at its best!"

**Available at:** iTunes

**Artist's Website:** [www.markwoodmusic.com](http://www.markwoodmusic.com)

**Wood, Mark**

*Favorite Things*

2001

**Ensemble:** Mark Wood

**Details:** A compilation of the best of Mark Wood's hard-rock violin catalogue, with highlights including material such as a new hip version of "Eleanor Rigby" with vocals by Laura Kaye and a smoking rendition of Jimi Hendrix's "Purple Haze"

**Available at:** iTunes

**Artist's Website:** [www.markwoodmusic.com](http://www.markwoodmusic.com)

**Wood, Mark**

*Portrait of an artist*

**Ensemble:** Mark Wood

**Details:** Inspired by the paintings of his father Paul Wood, these modern classical compositions by Mark Wood for double-string quartet, percussion, and voice (vocalist Laura Kaye) are lushly melodic and hauntingly beautiful

**Available at:** [www.markwoodmusic.com](http://www.markwoodmusic.com)

**Artist's Website:** [www.markwoodmusic.com](http://www.markwoodmusic.com)

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## Compositions for Electric Viola

Entries include Composer, Composition title, Medium, Duration, Publisher, Discography, and Contact information.

### **Bond, Victoria**

*Insects*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and electronics

**Duration:** 5:00

**Publisher:** Protone Music

**Discography:**

**Contact Information:** [www.victoriabond.com](http://www.victoriabond.com)

### **Bultmann, Nils**

*Driven*

**Medium:** Viola and looping device

**Duration:**

**Publisher:** Nils Bultmann

**Discography:**

**Contact Information:**

[www.nilsbultmann.com/info/](http://www.nilsbultmann.com/info/)

### **Burwasser, Daniel**

*Voila!*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola

**Duration:** 9:00

**Publisher:** Daniel Burwasser

**Discography:**

**Contact Information:** [dbur@nyc.rr.com](mailto:dbur@nyc.rr.com)

### **Cornicello, Anthony**

*Loops, Drones and Riffs*

**Medium:** Electric viola and computer

**Duration:** 10:00

**Publisher:** Anthony Cornicello

**Discography:**

**Contact Information:** [cornicello@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cornicello@sbcglobal.net)

### **Festa, Fabrizio**

*Urban Dances*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and CD

**Duration:** 15:00

**Publisher:** Fabrizio Festa

**Discography:**

**Composer's Website:** [festafab@yahoo.com](mailto:festafab@yahoo.com)

### **Frendin, Henrik/Emilson, Fredrik**

*Soft Christ*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and tape

**Duration:** 5:26

**Publisher:** Protone Music

**Discography:** *Viola con Forza*

**Contact Information:** [www.frendin.com](http://www.frendin.com)

### **Frisk, Henrik**

*drive*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and computer

**Duration:** 6:00

**Publisher:** dinergy music

**Discography:** *Viola con Forza*

**Contact Information:** [www.henrikfrisk.com](http://www.henrikfrisk.com)

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**Haken, Rudolf**

*Concerto for 5-string Viola and Orchestra*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and orchestra

**Duration:** 18:00

**Publisher:** Rudolf Haken

**Discography:** *Rudolf Haken: Concerto for Five-String Viola*

**Contact Information:** [www.rudolfhaken.com](http://www.rudolfhaken.com)

**Leon, Tania**

*Hebras d'luz*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and electronics

**Duration:** 8:00

**Publisher:** Iroko Music

**Discography:**

**Contact Information:**

[tlfproductions@gmail.com](mailto:tlfproductions@gmail.com)

**Jaeger, David**

*Favour*

**Medium:** Electric viola and electronics

**Duration:** 5:42

**Publisher:** David Jaeger

**Discography:** *Viola Nouveau*

**Contact Information:** [info@musiccentre.ca](mailto:info@musiccentre.ca)

**Mooke, Martha**

*News*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and electronics

**Duration:** 3:00

**Publisher:** Vener Music Publishing

**Discography:** *Enharmonic Vision*

**Contact Information:** [VenerMP@aol.com](mailto:VenerMP@aol.com)

**Jenkins, Leroy**

*A Social*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola AND electronics

**Duration:** 9:00

**Publisher:**

**Discography:**

**Contact Information:**

**Mooke, Martha**

*as the phoenix*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and electronics

**Duration:** 8:00

**Publisher:** Vener Music Publishing

**Discography:**

**Contact Information:** [VenerMP@aol.com](mailto:VenerMP@aol.com)

**Karpman, Laura**

*Common Tones*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and electronics

**Duration:** 8:00

**Publisher:** Laura Karpman

**Discography:**

**Contact Information:** [www.laurakarpman.com](http://www.laurakarpman.com)

**Mooke, Martha**

*Winds of Arden*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and electronics

**Duration:** 5:00

**Publisher:** Vener Music Publishing

**Discography:** *Enharmonic Vision*

**Contact Information:** [VenerMP@aol.com](mailto:VenerMP@aol.com)

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**Mooke, Martha**

*Fanfare*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and electronics

**Duration:** 1:00

**Publisher:** Vener Music Publishing

**Discography:** *Enharmonic Vision*

**Contact Information:** [VenerMP@aol.com](mailto:VenerMP@aol.com)

**Shapiro, Alex**

*Evolve*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and CD

**Duration:** 7:35

**Publisher:** Activist Music

**Discography:**

**Contact Information:**

[www.alexshapiro.org/Evolvepg1.html](http://www.alexshapiro.org/Evolvepg1.html)

**Mooke, Martha**

*Terminal Baggage*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and electronics

**Duration:** 5:00

**Publisher:** Vener Music Publishing

**Discography:** *Enharmonic Vision*

**Contact Information:** [VenerMP@aol.com](mailto:VenerMP@aol.com)

**Singleton, Alvin**

*Mookestueck*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and electronics

**Duration:** 9:00

**Publisher:** Schott Helicon Music

**Discography:** *Somehow We Can*

**Contact Information:** [info@eamdlc.com](mailto:info@eamdlc.com)

**Mooke, Martha**

*Virtual Corridors*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and electronics

**Duration:** 8:00

**Publisher:** Vener Music Publishing

**Discography:**

**Contact Information:** [VenerMP@aol.com](mailto:VenerMP@aol.com)

**Söderberg, Fredrik**

*Wrong Music*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola, chamber orchestra, and tape

**Duration:** 13:00

**Publisher:** Protone Music

**Discography:** *Viola con Forza*

**Contact Information:**

<http://www.myspace.com/wrongmusicospace>

**Paranosic, Milica**

*Seek or Sneak*

**Medium:** Electric viola and computer

**Duration:** 9:00

**Publisher:** Milica Paranosic

**Discography:**

**Contact Information:**

[milicaparanosic@milicaparanosic.com](mailto:milicaparanosic@milicaparanosic.com)

**Soldier, Dave**

*East St. Louis 1968*

**Medium:** Electric or acoustic viola and CD

**Duration:** 8:00

**Publisher:** Dave Soldier

**Discography:**

**Contact Information:**

[www.davesoldier.com/scores.html](http://www.davesoldier.com/scores.html)



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**Soley, David**

*Laberinto IV*

**Medium:** 5-string electric viola and electronics

**Duration:** 12:00

**Publisher:** David Soley

**Discography:**

**Contact Information:**

**Wallace, David**

*Nahum*

**Medium:** 6-string electric viola

**Duration:**

**Publisher:** David Wallace

**Discography:** *Nahum / What a Friend*

**Contact Information:** [daviola@aol.com](mailto:daviola@aol.com)

*Martha Mooke, composer/electro-acoustic violist, a pioneer in the field of electric five string viola, transcends musical boundaries by synthesizing her classical music training with extended techniques, digital effects processing and improvisation. She is a Yamaha Artist and leading clinician on electric and alternative approaches to string playing.*