

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.

Ward-Bergeman started his musical training on piano and violin, but it was his devotion to the accordion and music technology that led him to create a 21st century version of the instrument he dubbed the *hyper-accordion*. He is currently designing a reimagined acoustic "accordion." The air is pumped from a pair of *bellowshoes* through a keyed *airbox*. Whistles, reeds in gourd resonators, bells and other objects driven by the air are set into motion and sound by the directed "wind" exiting tubes connected to the airbox. Everything hangs from the player's body, as if perched on the branches of a walking tree. With parts manufactured for him around the globe, the instrument is being born in his hometown of New Orleans, LA.