

Michael Sy Uy

Associate Professor of Musicology and Director of the American Music Research Center, CU Boulder

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EDUCATION

Harvard University Cambridge, MA

PhD in Historical Musicology, Presidential Scholar

May 2017

Dissertation: “The Big Bang of Music Patronage in the United States: The National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Ford Foundation”

Committee: Carol Oja and Anne Shreffler (co-supervisors), Kay Kaufman Shelemay

University of Oxford, Merton College

Oxford, UK

MPhil in Historical Musicology

June 2011

Thesis: “Nations of Cultural Barbarianism? Overcoming Cultural Inferiority and the Development of Government Patronage of the Arts in the United States and Great Britain”

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA

BA, double major in Political Economy of Industrial Societies and Music (Honors)

December 2007

High Honors, Phi Beta Kappa, Regents and Chancellors Scholar

Thesis: “The Baroque Viola and Improvisational Style”

EXPERIENCE: TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

University of Colorado, Boulder

Boulder, CO

Associate Professor of Musicology and Director of the American Music Research Center

2024-

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

Allston Burr Resident Dean and Assistant Dean of Harvard College, Dunster House

2017–2023

- Oversaw the academic progress and well-being of 450+ students and supervised 20 resident tutors and an Academic Coordinator; member of the College’s Administrative Board
- Working Groups: University Health Services, Urgent Care, Executive Committee BGLTQ Office, Covid-19 Community Council
- Secondment, FAS Development and Alumni Affairs (2023)

Lecturer in Music

2017–present

- Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies (2020–22)
- Teaching Awards:
 - Oscar S. Shafer Prize (2016)
 - Harvard Foundation, Distinguished Faculty Award (2018)
 - Curricular Innovation Award, Mindich Program in Engaged Scholarship (2018, shared)
 - Special Commendation Extraordinary Teaching in Extraordinary Times (2020)
 - Derek Bok Center, Excellence in Teaching Award (2018, 2019, 2021, 2022)

Teaching Fellow

2013–2015

Courses Taught: Music History and Repertory: Medieval to Baroque; Introduction to Western Music from Beethoven to the Present; First Nights – Five Performance Premieres; Theory IB (second-semester advanced theory)

University of Oxford

Oxford, UK

College Tutor

2010–2011

Taught undergraduate tutorials at New College, St. Hugh’s College, and Exeter College

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

- 2023 **ACLS Fellowship (\$67,500)**: To support full-time research and writing for *Endowing Equity: The NEA, Minority Artists, and the Battle for Arts Funding*
- 2016 **Oscar S. Schafer Prize (\$16,000)**: For excellence in teaching, from the Harvard Music Department
- 2015 **Mark Tucker Award**: Outstanding student paper at the Society for American Music conference
- 2012 **Leverhulme Trust International Network Grant (£118,000)**: For the Hearing Landscape Critically Network; served as a networking partner under primary investigator Daniel Grimley
- 2009 **Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Fellowship (\$50,000 per year, for six years)**: To pay for the cost of graduate school; used for an MPhil at the University of Oxford and a PhD at Harvard University
- 2008 **Judith Lee Stronach Baccalaureate Prize (\$20,000)**: Yearlong post-bachelor's fellowship to analyze Venezuela's *El Sistema de Orquestas* and its Application to the Los Angeles-based *Harmony Project*
- 2007 **Library Prize for Undergraduate Research (\$1,000)**: To a senior honors thesis, including an exhibit at the University Doe Library
- 2006 **Haas Scholars Fellowship (\$12,600)**: Yearlong fellowship to pursue an independent research project titled "The Baroque Viola and Improvisational Style" under the supervision of Davitt Moroney
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PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

- 2020 *Ask the Experts: How Ford, Rockefeller, and the NEA Changed American Music* (Oxford: Oxford University Press)
- 2025-6 *Musical Capital: Sound and Power in Washington, D.C.*, with co-eds. Daniel Boomhower and Emily Abrams Ansari (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, under contract)
- In progress: *Endowing Equity: The NEA, Minority Artists, and the Battle for Arts Funding*

ARTICLES (PEER-REVIEWED)

- 2012 "Venezuela's National Music Education Program *El Sistema*: its Interactions with Society and its Participants' Engagement in Praxis." *Music and Arts in Action* 4, no. 1 (2012): 5–21.
- 2016 "Music and Landscape: Introduction." Special Issue (eds. Jonathan Hicks, Michael Uy, Carina Venter) *Journal of Musicology* 33, no. 1 (2016): 1–10.
- 2017 "The Recorded Anthology of American Music and the Rockefeller Foundation: Expertise, Deliberation, and Commemoration in the Bicentennial Celebrations." *American Music* 35, no. 1 (2017): 75–93.
- 2017 "Staging Catfish Row in the Soviet Union: The Everyman Opera Company and *Porgy and Bess*, 1955–1956." *Journal of the Society for American Music* 11, no. 4 (2017): 470–501.

BOOK CHAPTERS (PEER-REVIEWED)

- 2021 "Finding Success Inside and Outside the Academy," with Naomi André, in *Sounding Together: Collaborative Perspectives on U.S. Music in the 21st Century*, eds. Charles Hiroshi Garrett and Carol Oja (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2021): 310–333.

In submission:

"Seed Funding Black Theatre: Rockefeller Support of the Morehouse College and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Premiere of Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*," in *Black Identities on the Operatic Stage*, eds. Naomi André, Elizabeth Keathley, and Kristen Turner (Oxford University Press).

JOURNAL ISSUES (PEER-REVIEWED)

- 2016 Co-editor for a Special Issue on "Music and Landscape" in *Journal of Musicology*.
- 2025 Editor for a Colloquy on the "Musicology PhD Job Market" in *American Music*.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

New Course Taught:

- Fall 2024: MUEL2752 Music in American Cultures, including a complete revision of the course

American Music Research Center Graduate Students:

- Johnette Martin, 2024–
- Elizabeth Romero, 2024–
- Jameson Foster, 2024–

Courses Previously Taught:

- Introduction to Western Art Music: Bach to Beyoncé
- Social Engagement Through Music
- Music and Philanthropy
- Post-Tonal Analysis
- Stravinsky
- Musical Thought and Scholarship

Committee Participation:

- Isaac Johnson, PhD Musicology, Committee member, 2024–
- Nicholas Felder, DMA Composition, Committee member, 2024–
- Joel Ferst, DMA Saxophone, Committee member, 2024–
- Phillip J. Montaño, PhD Performance as Public Practice, UT Austin, Committee member, 2024–

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Director of the American Music Research Center (AMRC), 2024–

- Lead the center's archival collection and management, working with the University Libraries' Rare and Distinctive Collections
- Organize monthly programs and events with nationally renowned guest artists and scholars
- Promote American music research through award fellowships and serving as editor of *Americas: A Hemispheric Music Journal*, published annually
- Supervise cohorts of graduate student TAs working for the AMRC

Co-organizer, Symposium: "Washington, D.C.: Music-Political Center" (2023), with Emily Abrams Ansari and Daniel Boomhower

- Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C. (2023)
- Expected co-edited volume to be published by Harvard University Press

Co-organizer, Symposia: "Hearing Landscape Critically" (2012–2016), with Jo Hicks and Carina Venter

- "Sense, Text, Ideology," Oxford, UK (2012)
- "Music, Place, and the Spaces of Sound," Stellenbosch, South Africa (2013)
- "Music, Place, and the Spaces of Sound, Part II," Cambridge, MA, USA (2015), and local chair
- "Music, Place, and the Spaces of Sound, Part III," Oxford, UK (2016)

Committee on Race and Ethnicity Mentor: Society for Music Theory (SMT), 2020–2022

Panelist: National Endowment for the Arts (Design and Creative Placemaking), 2020–2021

Committee on Cultural Diversity: American Musicological Society (AMS), 2021–2022

Co-founder, Inter-University Working Group: Equitable Arts Infrastructures, 2021–present

- Partner schools: Harvard University, Duke University, University of Texas, Austin, Brown University, University of Pittsburgh, Point Park University, University of Washington

Editorial Board: Journal *American Music*, 2023–present

Series Editor: *Arts in Context: Critical Performance Infrastructures*, University of Texas Press, 2023–present, with Charlotte Canning, Paul Bonin Rodriguez, and Sarah Wilbur