

RIZGAR ISMAEL

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OVERVIEW

As an enthusiastic music educator with over two decades of experience, I am committed to student success through innovative curriculum development using digital tools and platforms. I am dedicated to student mentorship in music theory, performance, and digital music production techniques. I value continuous learning and stay up to date with emerging music technologies, pedagogical trends, and hybrid teaching models. I take pride in collaborating with colleagues and local music organizations to foster interdisciplinary projects and student enrichment opportunities.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Musical Arts, Composition

2019 – 2022

Dissertation: “Piramagrun”

(<https://www.proquest.com/openview/3fd3581b1e83881a7c1febcadaf2f47e/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>)

Dissertation advisor: Mark Wilson, Associate Professor, Music Theory and Composition.

Awards and Distinctions:

- Theory/Composition Assistantship (2019 – 2022), taught classes in core music theory.
- Pukazenthi - Varma Scholarship for Composition (2022)
- Maryland Composers Project (2022)

University of Maryland

College Park, Maryland

Master of Arts, Composition

2016 – 2018

Advisor: Erland Freudenthaler, Professor, Music Composition and Conducting.

Anton Bruckner Private University

Linz, Austria

Bachelor of Music, Composition

2010 – 2014

Awards and Distinctions:

- Admissions and Awards (2010 – 2014)
- Ben McPeck Scholarship (2013)
- Robert and Jean Elliott McBroom Scholarship (2012)

University of Toronto

Toronto, Ontario

COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Catholic University of America

Washington, DC

Adjunct Professor, Rome School of Music

2022 – 2024

- **Harmony I-IV** (MUSC- 123, 124, 223, 224)
 - Instructor of undergraduate core theory sequence for music majors, teaching lectures and managing graduate teaching assistants.
- **Form and Analysis** (MUSC- 321)

- Designer and instructor of undergraduate course in form and analysis focusing on the study of formal aspects of music, ranging from smaller structural units to complete movements. Emphasis on music from the common practice period.
- **Analytical Techniques II** (MUSC- 712)
 - Instructor of graduate seminar focusing on the development of music from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. Emphasizes the homophonic music of the nineteenth century.
- **Advanced Orchestration** (MUSC- 381/581)
 - Designer and instructor of undergraduate/graduate course in advanced orchestration focusing on writing for the full orchestra; study of relevant works from the romantic period through the twentieth century; and Orchestration of piano and original music. Demonstration of modern techniques.

University of Maryland
2019 – 2024

College Park, MD

Music Technology Lab Assistant, School of Music
2022 – 2024

- Teaching assistant for music technology courses and coordinator of the music tech lab providing support to undergraduate students engaged with music technology.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, School of Music
2019 – 2022

- **Aural Skills I-IV** (MUSC- 150, 151, 250, 251)
 - Graduate teaching assistant for freshman- and sophomore-level ear training

Instructor of Record, School of Music
Fall 2020

- **Fundamentals of Music** (MUSC140)
 - Instructor of record for music theory and musicianship for non - majors.

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Self-Employed/Freelance

2014 – Current

Private Theory & Composition Teacher

- Private lessons in composition, and music theory (harmony, ear training, and counterpoint)

Harmonic Music Studios

Washington, DC

2022 – 2023

Private Piano, Guitar, Music Theory Teacher

- Private lessons in piano, theory, and guitar for students ages 6-70

International Music Academy

Toronto, ON

2007 – 2009

Guitar/ Music Theory Instructor

- Private lessons in piano, theory, and guitar for students ages 6-70

The National Music Conservatory

Jordan, Amman

2000 – 2006

Guitar Instructor/ Ensemble Instructor

- Taught Classical guitar and conducted the guitar ensemble.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Toronto

Toronto, Ontario

2010 – 2013

Assistant Piano Technician, School of Music

- Maintain music department pianos, harpsichord and fortepiano as assigned by the Piano Technician, or as requested by the faculty.

Mood FM

Amman, Jordan

2005 – 2006

Radio DJ

- Selecting and playing music from 1950s-1990s to suit the audience's taste

The Kurdish Heritage Institute

Kurdistan Region, Iraq

2004 – 2005

Sound Engineer and Studio Manager

- Set up and maintain audio equipment as necessary and edit, mix, and master live and recorded audio

Romantic for Music

Amman, Jordan

1998 – 2000

Store Associate & Music Teacher

- Helping customers find products, answering questions, and providing advice on products and services. Also, taught guitar and music theory to different age groups.

RECENT COMMISSIONS

- Violist Laura Manko (NYC, New York): Stran 2024
➤ <http://www.lauramankosahin.com/>
- Violinist Madeleine Jansen (College Park, MD): Wellen 2021
➤ <https://www.madeleinejansenviolinist.com/about>
- New music festival (Leicht über Linz) , 2017, Bruckner University, 2017
Linz, Oberösterreich: Sengal
➤ https://www.bruckneruni.ac.at/fileadmin/user_upload/14_News/2017_WS/HORCHESTER_Programmfolder.pdf
➤ <https://www.bruckneruni.ac.at/de/ueber-uns/aktuelles/news/detail2/festival-leicht-ueber-linz>
- International Tag der Blasmusik , 2017, Vöcklabruck, Oberösterreich: 2017
Kurdish Dances for brass quintet
➤ <https://www.dorftv.at/video/28639>
- Let's Wood It Trio (Linz, Austria) 2017
➤ <https://www.tips.at/nachrichten/eferding/land-leute/427977-benefizkonzert-im-schloss-starhemberg-in-eferding>

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- The Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN)
- Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio (ACTRA)

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- Student Composer's Concerts, University of Maryland, 2019-2021, College Park, MD
 - <https://www.dorftv.at/video/28639>
- New Music Festival (Leicht über Linz) , 2017, Bruckner University, 2017, Linz, Oberösterreich
 - https://www.bruckneruni.ac.at/fileadmin/user_upload/01_Institute/IKD_Komposition_Dirigieren_Computermusik/Festival_LEICHT_UEBER_LINZ_2017.pdf
- International Tag der Blasmusik, 2017, Vöcklabruck, Oberösterreich
 - <https://www.salzi.at/2017/09/internationale-tage-der-blasmusik-voecklabruck/>
- Student Composer's Concerts, Szenen XI & XII, Bruckner University, 2016-2018, Linz, Oberösterreich
 - <https://www.bruckneruni.ac.at/de/ueber-uns/aktuelles/news/detail2/szenen-xi>
- Student Composer's Concerts, University of Toronto, 2010-2014, Toronto, ON
- Men's Chorus, University of Toronto, 2011-2012, Toronto, ON
- Guitar Orchestra, University of Toronto, 2010-2011, Toronto, ON
- Jazz Band Ensemble, Humber college, 2009-Toronto, ON
- 2006/ Concert with NMC Orchestra and Summer Watson, 2006 Amman, Jordan
- Darat El Finon (East meets West) Along with virtuoso Oud player Raed Khoshaba, 1998, Amman-Jordan

LESSONS AND MASTERCLASSES

Steven Mackey, Andres Hillborg, Vinko Globokar, Freddie Bryant Jad Azkoul, Jason Vieaux, John Clayton, David Occhipinti, Jeffery McFadden.

DISCOGRAPHY

- Soundscape by Innova, a recording label of international reputation specializing in new music, Piano Suite (Phrygian Journey) 2022, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, link: <https://www.innova.mu/albums/music-university-maryland/soundscapes>
- Baghdad with Aws Al-Nayb & Rizgar Ismael, 2006, Amman, Jordan
- East meets West, Oud & Guitar Duo, 1999, Amman, Jordan

SELECTED PERFORMING EXPERIENCE

- Choral Arts Society of Washington (bass II) *2024 – Current*
- Men's Chorus, University of Toronto (bass II) *2010 – 2012*
- Free lance guitarist/keyboardist *1998 – 2012*

LANGUAGES

- Kurdish – Mother tongue, completely fluent
- English – completely fluent, principal language of study; used for research and study

- Arabic – completely fluent, principal language of study; used for research and study
- German – conversational, advanced level

KEY COMPETENCIES AND SKILLS

- Composition
- Piano
- Guitar
- Music Theory
- Educational Technology
- Curriculum Development
- Student Mentorship
- Project Management

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

- Finale
- Garageband
- Noteflight
- Cubase
- Protools
- MS Office