

Artur Akshelyan CV

EDUCATION

Florida State University

- Doctor of Musical Arts (2023-26)

Haute École de Musique, Geneva, Switzerland (2008–2015)

Komitas State Conservatory, Yerevan, Armenia (2002–2007)

AWARDS and HONORS

Fromm Foundation Composer Fellowship – Selected composer (2025) [USA]

- Funded by Harvard University
New work to be premiered by the Conference Ensemble during a two-week residency at Avaloch Farm Music Institute

Florida State University – (2024–2025)

- Composer in Residence Fellowship

Boston New Music Initiative – Winner, 12th Annual Commissioning Competition (2024) [USA]

- New commissioned work to be premiered during BNMI's 15th Anniversary Celebration

Left Coast Composition Contest – Winner (2024) [USA]

- Winning piece, *Sillage* for Voice and String Quartet, programmed for the 2025–26 concert season

8th Brandenburger Biennale – Da Capo Prize (2024) [Germany]

- *Three Pieces for Orchestra* scheduled for performance by the Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra during the 2025–26 season

June in Buffalo – Selected Composer (2024) [USA]

- String Quartet No. 2 “*Deditus*”; recording session with Arditti Quartet

Luciano Berio International Composition Competition Finalist (2022) [Italy]

Basel Composition Competition – 2nd Prize (2021) [Switzerland]

- *Three Pieces for Orchestra* (Award: 28,000 USD)

Premiered by the Basel Symphony Orchestra

Concours de Genève – Workshop with Laureates (2021) [Switzerland]

- Presentation of a new work project

Lawson May Award – Finalist (2020) [England]

- *Tangibly Sky* for Violin and Piano

ManiFeste Academy – Selected Composer (2015) [France]

- *Parallel Waves* for Ensemble,

Premiered by Ensemble Intercontemporain at IRCAM, Paris

Creative Dialogue VII – Selected Composer (2015) [Finland]

- Piano Trio “Sinuous” premiered at Musica Nova Helsinki Festival alongside works by Kaija Saariaho

NEM 12e Forum International des Jeunes Compositeurs – 2nd Prize (2014) [Montreal, Canada]

- *Tushpuea* for Large Ensemble

5th Shanghai New Music Week – Selected Composer (2012) [China]

- Duo for Violin and Cello performed by Ensemble Contrechamps.

Masterclasses with Sofia Gubaidulina

Arditti Quartet Workshop – Selected Composer (2012) [London]

- String Quartet #1 performed at St. Giles Cripplegate concert.

Foundation Kiefer Hablitzel Composition Award – Recipient (2012) [Bern, Switzerland]

- Award: 6,000 CHF

Concours de Genève – Grand Prix Winner (2011) [Switzerland]

- String Quartet in Memoriam (Award: 16,000 USD)

Performed by finalist string quartets as an imposed piece at the Geneva Competition.

International Music and Dance Academy – Domaine Forget (2011) [Quebec, Canada]

- "Ritual in Transfigured Time" composed for Nouvel Ensemble Moderne

Gaudeamus Award – Honorable Mention (2010) [Amsterdam, Netherlands]

- *Lichtfarben* Violin Concerto perf. by Ensemble Insomnio

Jurgenson International Composition Contest for Young Composers – 3rd Prize (2008) [Moscow, Russia]

3rd Pre-Art International Young Composers Competition – 1st Prize (2007) [Zurich, Switzerland]

Sayat Nova International Young Composers Competition – 1st Prize (2006) [Paris, France]

Ghazaros Saryan Competition – Co-1st Prize (2006) [Yerevan, Armenia] *Seas*, for soprano and piano

Georgi Sarajev Contest – 1st Prize (2004) [Yerevan, Armenia]

Composition Award for Choral Music Contest – (2006) [Yerevan, Armenia]
Organized by Komitas State Conservatory and the Armenian Chamber Choir

Benjamin Britten Composition Contest – Co-2nd Prize (2004) [Yerevan, Armenia]

Aram Khachaturian National Composition Contest – 3rd Prize (2003) [Yerevan, Armenia]

COMMISSIONS AND PERFORMANCES (Selected)

New Orchestral piece(s), upcoming commission/project: **Dresdner Sinfoniker**.

Notgir for Pierrot Sextet, commissioned by the **Boston New Music Initiative**
Expected Premiere: Boston, June 2025

Three Pieces for piano; commissioner pianist Hayk Melikyan
Premiered in A.Khachaturyan Philharmonic Hall [Yerevan, September 2024].

Mirare for Large Ensemble, commissioned by **Ensemble Contrechamps** in honor of the 65th birthday of renowned composer Michael Jarrell.
Premiered in Victoria Hall, 2023 [Geneva, Switzerland].

Anthos for 8 musicians, commissioned by **Radio France** and performed by Ensemble Maja.
Premiered at **Festival Présence 2023**, alongside Unsuk Chin as the guest composer [Paris, France].

Sillage for Soprano and String Quartet, commissioned by the **UCLA Armenian Music Program** thanks to a generous contribution by Lina Melkonian, with assistance from Dilijan Chamber Music Series and Lark Society.
Premiered at USLA, 2024 [Los Angeles, USA].

Iter for sextet, commissioned by the “**Crossroad Festival**” in Yerevan, Armenia, 2020.
The project was implemented within the "Pilgrimage to Beethoven" festival, where Ensemble Assonance presented 9 pieces aligned with Beethoven's symphonies, composed specifically for this project.

Accordion Concerto, commissioned by the organization Pre-Art with the support of the **Ernst Von Siemens Foundation**.
Premiered by Ensemble Vertigo, 2017 [Bern, Switzerland].

War Scenes commissioned in collaboration with the “**Flagey Festival**,” based on the silent film *Maudite Soit La Guerre*. Composed for both “Musiques Nouvelles” (Brussels) and “Ensemble Divertimento” 2016 (Milan).

Music for Trio for Saxophone, Cello & Accordion, commissioned by the **ORPHEUS-Swiss Chamber Music Competition** (Switzerland).

The piece is regularly performed in various festivals around the world by the Trio SÆITENWIND .

Mihr II performed in the frame of the **Rondo Festival** in Milan by Ensemble Divertimento.

Sinuous for piano trio, performed at the **GAIA Music Festival**, 2015 [Switzerland].

Tushpuea for Large Ensemble, commissioned by **Foundation Minkoff** 2014 [Geneva, Switzerland].

Palimpseste, composed in collaboration with **Orchestre des Pays de Savoie**, featuring multiple performances during the 2013/14 season [Switzerland].

Premiered in Victoria Hall in Geneva.

Concerto for Violoncello, composed for Gestème, an interdisciplinary project at Haute Ecole de Musique de Genève, studying the links between the body, gesture, and music.

Mihr II for octet, commissioned and performed by **Ensemble Moderne Lemanic** 2013, [Neuchatel, Switzerland].

The piece received its premiere in the Amadeus Academy.

Ashkharums Akh Chim Kashil (I Would Not Sigh in this World) Commissioned by **AGBU** (Armenian General Benevolent Union).

Premiered at Carnegie Hall, [New York, USA].

Lichtfarben II, piano concerto, created in collaboration with **Ensemble Insomnio** in Utrecht, Netherlands.

Premiered during the Gaudeamus Festival Week (2011).

Chamber work commission from the *Armenia Foundation* for the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide 2010 [Geneva].

LABELS

New Focus Recordings: *Sillage* for Voice and String Quartet, featured on *Serenade with a Dandelion: Armenian Chamber Music, Old and New*, USA (2024).

Amara LLC: *When The Farthest Starts Sink Down* for piano solo artist: by Hayk Melikyan).

VDE-GALLO Production and distribution of compact discs. Music publishing: Mosaïque for two flutes.

RECORDINGS/ CD Releases (Selected)

2022: *Waves* for piano, featured on the CD *Akshelyan: Saryan: Khachaturian*. Released by Amara, Armenian National Music. Performer Hripsime Aghaqaryan
Available on Amazon, Spotify, Apple Music and other platforms.

2022: *Crossroads Contemporary Music Days in Armenia*. Released by ANM, Quarter Tone. Chamber works conducted by Artur Akshelyan.

2021: *Iter* for sextet, released on the CD album *Nine Comments on Beethoven's Symphonies*, alongside works by other composers. Album's works conducted by Artur Akshelyan.
Available on Amazon, Spotify, Apple Music and other platforms.

2020: *Waves* for piano, featured on the CD *Akshelyan: Saryan: Khachaturian*. Released by Amara, Armenian National Music. Performer Hripsime Aghaqaryan
Available on Amazon, Spotify, Apple Music and other platforms.

2019: *Flying with Butterfly* for piano, featured on *Crossroads 2019: Contemporary Music Days in Armenia*.
Available on Spotify, Apple Music.

2013: *Asana* for piano, featured in *1900+: Armenian Contemporary Piano Music*, by Hayk Melikyan.

EDITIONS PUBLICATIONS

Present: Scores published by **Babel Scores**, a contemporary music platform representing an online library for contemporary music (France/Spain).

Present: Scores published by **Armenian National Music** (an organization dedicated to advancing Armenian music and sharing it with audiences worldwide)

2010: Two piano pieces featured in *Anthology of Piano Pieces by Modern Armenian Composers*, compiled by Artur Avanesov. Published by Drazark Edition [USA].

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Guest Composer, Masterclasses on Music Composition
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) | 2024

Invited to deliver masterclasses on music composition, mentoring emerging students in advanced compositional techniques.

Shared expertise in integrating complex forms, innovative orchestration, and cross-cultural influences within actual music practices.

Graduate Assistant

Florida State University College of Music | 2023 – Present

Teaches *music theory* and *music composition* courses to both music majors and non-majors, supporting students in their understanding of fundamental and advanced concepts.

Guides students in mastering fundamental and advanced concepts, including harmonic analysis, counterpoint, and creative composition techniques.

Instructor of Music Composition and Related Courses

Yerevan State Conservatory after Komitas,

Department of composition and Music Theory | 2018 – 2022

Taught *music composition* courses, guiding students through the process of writing for diverse instruments and exploring contemporary techniques. Mentored composition students, offering individualized feedback and helping them refine their musical ideas and technical skills.

Led various lectures on 20th- and 21st-century advanced *music notation* and *music history*, with emphasis on critical listening and auditory experience.

Instructor of Theory and Music Appreciation classes

American University of Armenia

College of Humanities & Social Sciences (CHSS) | 2022 – 2023

Developed and taught a comprehensive *music appreciation* course, designing syllabi that introduced students to the fundamental principles of classical music, historical context, and listening analysis.

Introduced basic *music theory* to non-music majors at the College of Humanities & Social Sciences (CHSS), with a primary focus on foundational concepts, enabling students to develop skills for further musical study.

Teaching Assistant

American University of Armenia

College of Humanities & Social Sciences (CHSS) | 2019 – 2021

Assisted in teaching basic theory and music appreciation courses aimed at non-music majors, emphasizing foundational concepts such as notation, harmony and rhythm.

Supported students in developing musical skills, fostering both academic success and personal enrichment in music.

Conducting (Selected performances & recordings)

Ensemble Polymorphia

Ensemble Polymorphia is the resident ensemble of Florida State University College of Music, dedicated to performing new works by students and guest composers.

2024 – Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Du Yun: *by, of ... Lethean* for Ensemble conducted by Artur Akshelyan at Opperman Music Hall during the New Music Festival, Florida State University College of Music.

2024 – Featured guest composer Sungji Hong: *Piano Concerto* conducted by Artur Akshelyan at Opperman Music Hall, Florida State University College of Music.

Ensemble Assonance

Founded in 2017 with a group of composers and music enthusiasts, Ensemble Assonance seeks to promote new music within the Armenian community and internationally. Artur Akshelyan served as the first conductor, leading the ensemble in fulfilling its mission to foster innovation and collaboration in contemporary music.

2019-23 – Conducted and recorded Ensemble Assonance as part of the *Crossroad Festivals* concert series held in Yerevan, Armenia.

2023 – Conducted “*Wind, Ash gloomy and Rain after the last battle*” by featured composer Yuri Kasparov at Arno Babajanyan Music Hall, Yerevan, Armenia.

2020-21 – Led a series of online concerts (during the COVID pandemic) featuring works by L. Belcastro, Y. Yerkanyan, A. Avanesov, and others.

2018 – Conducted *Eindruck-Audruck III* by V. Tarnopolski at Komitas Chamber Music Hall, Yerevan, Armenia.

PRESS Review

“Anthos d'Artur Akshelyan offre ensuite la plus belle surprise de ce concert” – *AltaMusica*, 2023

“..la réussite de l’ouvre tient à sa solide articulation, à son efficace dramaturgie qui culmine dans la transe jubilatoire avant de se dissiper dans de mystérieux faux-fuyants.” – *Le Monde*, 2023

“..Daring in conception and design, Sillage draws upon a panoply of gestures, from string groans and declamatory vocalizing to cryptic whispers and spidery pizzicato, with its delicate “IT” movement exuding an at-times beautiful Górecki-like quality..” – *Textura*, 2024

“..pointillistic timbral contrasts, virtuosic moments in individual instruments, and poignant simplicity” – *Fanfare Magazine*, 2024

“..The use of voice with string quartet is highly engaging; the central piece, “Ablaze,” is remarkable in its wide-ranging vistas..” – *Fanfare Magazine*, 2024

Press Coverage (Selected)

Tribune de Genève

Nasha Gazeta (Switzerland)

Artzakank - Echo (Switzerland)

Nouvelles D'Armenie (France)

Le Monde (France)

The times (England)

The Classical Music Network (Los Angeles/Paris)

Asbarez

Cultural.am