

Sami Seif

Composer, Music Theorist

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Education

PhD in Composition, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY 2022 – Present

Courses work toward Professional Studies Diploma in composition, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH 2021 – 2022

Bachelor of Music in composition and music theory, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH 2017 – 2021
Graduated with Honors

Teachers and advisors Jason Stwardt, Robert Dick, Bruce Saylor, David Schober, Alan Reese, Keith Fitch, Gerald Teissonnière, Roger Bergs, Julia Victorivna Podsekaeva

Festivals and workshops

“Orchestrating for the 21st Century” studied with Christopher Theofanidis—Albany, NY 2023

Bowdoin International Music Festival studied with Derek Bermel and Andreia Pinto-Correia—Brunswick, Me 2022

Masterclasses

Christopher Theofanidis, Augustin Thomas, Aaron Jay Kernis, Andrew Norman, Stephen Hartke, Melinda Wagner, Ian Shepherd, Angélica Negrón, Jerod Impichchaachonee,

Competitions and awards

Selected work, American Viola Society – Recording Project *Sum (Syriac Flauto 2, Viola Duo Version)* 2024

Winner, Ensemble Metamorphosis – Call for Scores (*Shimashaw Qolo*) 2023

Winner, Earplay – Second Annual Vibrant Shores Competition *Sum (Syriac Flauto 2, Violin and Viola Version)* 2023

Selected work, Allentown Symphony Association – 2023 New Chamber Music Call for Scores (*Rhapsodic Reflections*) 2023

Selected work, Eugene Difficult Music Ensemble New Music Festival – Call for Scores (*Orientalism*) 2023

Selected work, Central Washington University New Music Festival – Call for Scores (*Ya Layl*) 2023

Runner-up, New York Composers Circle – 2023 John Eaton Memorial Composition Competition (*Orientalism*) 2023

Runner-up, One Found Sound – annual Emerging Composer Award 2023

Selected work, Prague Modern Ensemble – International Call for Echoflux *Miniatures from Phoenicia* 2023

Selected work, Society of Composers Inc. – Region V Conference (*Miniatures from Phoenicia*) 2023

Selected, University of Chicago – Midwest Graduate Music Consortium 2023 Conference 2023

Honorable Mention, Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York – Emerging Composer Competition, Orchestral Division (*Harp Concerto*) 2023

Honorable Mention, Society of Composers Inc. – Student Mixtape Call for Recordings (*Orientalism*) 2023

Selected Work, New Music Mosaic (*Miniatures from Phoenicia*) 2022

Selected Work, TEMPO – annual Call for Scores (*Orientalism*) 2022

Selected work, Society of Composers Inc. – Region II Conference (*Miniatures from Phoenicia*) 2022

Finalist, ASCAP Foundation, Morton Gould Young Composer Awards (*Meanings*) 2022

Honorable Mention , One Found Sound – annual Emerging Composer Award	2022
Winner , Red Jasper Award – Composition Competition (<i>Harp Concerto</i>)	2022
Winner , Warren County Summer Music School – Promising Young Composers Competition (<i>Orientalism Reflections</i>)	2022
Second Prize , Ensemble Ibis – Composition Competition (<i>Orientalism Reflections</i>)	2022
Winner , Ensemble 126 – Composition Competition	2022
Honorable Mention , Deus Ex Musica – Composition Competition (<i>Shubho Lhaw Qolo</i>)	2022
Winner , Ottawa Sops Orchestra – New Works Initiative Call for Scores (<i>Orientalism</i>)	2022
Honorable Mention , Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York – Emerging Composers Competition, Orchestral Division (<i>Harp Concerto</i>)	2022
First Prize , Cleveland Community Guild – Collegiate Composition Contest (<i>Orientalism</i>)	2022
Honorable Mention , American Prize in Composition—Instrumental Chamber Music (<i>Orientalism</i>)	2022
First Prize , Music International Grand Prix	2022
Finalist , Utah Arts Festival National – Commissioning Program	2021
Honorable Mention , Rhythmic NOTE New Music Festival – Composition Competition (<i>Harp Concerto</i>)	2021
Honorable Mention , Arizona NYC International Composition Contest (<i>Orientalism</i>)	2021
Finalist , Verdant Vibes Ensemble – Call for Scores (<i>Orientalism</i>)	2021
First Prize , Foundation for Modern Music – The Robert Avalon International Competition for Composers, University/ Emerging Artists Category (<i>Orientalism</i>)	2021
Finalist , Classic Pure Vienna – International Composition Competition (<i>Harp Concerto</i>)	2021
Semi-Finalist , Juventas New Music Festival – Call for Scores (<i>Orientalism</i>)	2021
Second Prize , Academia Musica – International Music Competition Vienna/ Austria, Orchestra Category (<i>Shubho Lhaw Qolo</i>)	2021
Second Prize , Academia Musica – International Music Competition Vienna/ Austria, Solo Category (<i>Miniatures from Phoenicia</i>)	2021
Honorable Mention , SOCAN foundation – Young Composers Awards, Solo Music Category (<i>Miniatures from Phoenicia</i>)	2021
Third Prize , SOCAN foundation – Young Composers Awards, Chamber Music Category (<i>Orientalism</i>)	2021
Second Prize , SOCAN foundation – Young Composers Awards, Large Ensemble Category (<i>Harp Concerto</i>)	2021
Finalist , Associazione Amici Della Musica "Guido Albanese" – International Composition Competition "Carlo Sanvitale" (<i>Orientalist Reflections</i>)	2021
First Prize , Stamford Music and Arts Academy – Suzanne Culley Senior Composition Competition (<i>Orientalism</i>)	2021
Honorable Mention , ASCAP Foundation, Morton Gould Young Composer Awards (<i>Orientalism</i>)	2021
Winner , Warren County Summer Music School – Promising Young Composers Competition (<i>Miniatures from Phoenicia</i>)	2021
Winner , Arizona Flute Society – Composition Competition (<i>Miniatures from Phoenicia</i>)	2021
Recipient , Cleveland Institute of Music – Donald Erb Prize in Composition, recognizing outstanding achievements in composition	2021
Recipient , Beth Pearce Nelson Award in Music Theory, Cleveland Institute of Music – recognizing outstanding achievements in music theory	2021

First prize , Ohio Federation of Music Clubs – Collegiate Composition Contest (<i>Miniatures from Phoenicia</i>)	2021
Third Prize , Cleveland Composers Guild – Collegiate Composition Contest (<i>Miniatures from Phoenicia</i>)	2020
First Prize , Ambient Silence – Composition Contest, Solo Piano Category (<i>The Starry Night</i>)	2020
Finalist , Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra – Call for Scores (<i>La'ib an-nard, The Dice Player</i>)	2020
Winner , Sewanee Summer Music Festival – Call for Scores (<i>Shubho Lhaw Qolo</i>)	2020
Winner , Dustin White – Call for Scores (<i>Miniatures from Phoenicia</i>)	2020
Winner , Warren County Summer Music School – Promising Young Composers Competition (<i>Shubho Lhaw Qolo</i>)	2020
Second Prize , Ohio Federation of Music Clubs – Collegiate Composition Contest (<i>Shubho Lhaw Qolo</i>)	2020
Second Prize , Webster University – Young Composers Competition (<i>La'ib an-nard, The Dice Player</i>)	2019
Finalist , Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra – Call for Scores (<i>La'ib an-nard</i>)	2019
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Commissioned Fellowships and Grants	
New Work 10' for Viola Commissioned by Stanley Monopka of The Cleveland Orchestra	2023
Hypnotic Spiral 10' for Flute and Percussion Commissioned by Mark Kay Fink of The Cleveland Orchestra	2023
New Work for Cello Commissioned by Cecelia de Swans	2023
Syriac Fugato 3 5' for Six Low Flutes Commissioned by Dr. Carla Rees, of the Royal Academy of Music, London	2023
Open knowledge Fellowship Academic Fellowship from the CUNY Graduate Center	2023
Travel Grant Received from the CUNY Graduate Center	2022
Wadi Qadisha وادي قاديشا 3-4' for seven flutes Commissioned by Ensemble 126	2022
Student assistance Fund—Composition Student Recordings Grant Granted by Partners for the Cleveland Institute of Music	2021
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Discography	
New Album , pending release by the American Viola Society	2024
New album , pending release by Noémie Chemali, featuring <i>La'ib an-nard (The Dice Player)</i>	2023
Quadrants Vol. 4 , released by PARMA Recordings, featuring <i>Orientalism</i>	2023
Ri Ra , album recording by Dustin White, Mon Hills Records, featuring <i>Miniatures from Phoenicia</i>	2021
Young Composer Competition , CD Recording by Webster University Community Music School Overland Studios, featuring <i>La'ib an-nard (The Dice Player)</i>	2020
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Lectures/Conferences	
CUNY Graduate Center , Art Science Connect Student Showcase — New York, NY "How Time Passes: Musical Time and Clock Time"	22 September 2023
New York Composers Circle Salon , Presentation on <i>Orientalism for String Quartet</i> — New York, NY	17 September 2023
CUNY Graduate Center , Manhattan International Composers Conference (MICC) —	19 May 2023

New York, NY

"How Time Passes: Some Thoughts on Musical Time"

Pennsylvania State University, International New Music Festival and Symposium — 25 March 2023

State College, PA

"How Time Passes: Some Thoughts on my Musical Time"

University of North Georgia, Research on Contemporary Composition Conference 30 October 2021

(Rockledge) — Dahlonega, GA

"How Time Passes: Some Thoughts on my Musical Time"

Teaching

State College

Fundamentals of Music

Fall 2023

Cleveland Institute of Music

Teaching assistant, Music Theory

Fall 2021

Spring 2021

Press (selected) Carla Krieger — Review in the *Program Journal of the British Flute Society of* March 2023

Review *Miniatures from Phoenicia*

Jessie Nudd — Review of Airs album by Dustin White, featuring *Miniatures* June 1, 2021

Review *from Phoenicia*

Leslie Woobe — Final Student Honored in National Young Composers Competition January 30, 2020

Writings

New Article on my composition *Shubho Lhaw Qolo*, to be published by the *Journal of the* 2023-
American Viola Society 2024

How Time Passes: Some Thoughts on Musical Time. Music theory major undergraduate thesis. 2021

How Time Passes: Some Thoughts on my Musical Time. Presented at the University of North Georgia 2021

Online Score Publications

BabelScores

Nkoda, featuring *Harp Concerto*, *Orientalism*, *Miniatures from Phoenicia*, and *Shubho Lhaw Qolo*

UCLA Music Library, featuring *Shubho Lhaw Qolo*, *Miniatures from Phoenicia*, and *La'ib an-nard (The Dice Player)*

Professional Affiliations

SOCAN for Canadian performances, represented by **ASCAP** for United States performances

Society of Composers, Inc, Member

American Composers Forum, Member

National Association of Composers/USA (NACUSA), Member

College Orchestra Directors Association, Student Member

Boston New Music Initiative, Member

Canadian League of Composers, Member

Abundant Silence music publishing company, Composer Member

Administrative Experience

Ensemble Phoenicia , Founding Member	2023
Manhattan International Composers' Conference , Co-director, Communications	2023
Director, member, CUNY Graduate Center	
Programming Advisory Committee , Cleveland Institute of Music, Member	Spring 2022 Fall 2021
Language Agency , Arabic, French, and English	
Software work , Beta Tester , Avid Sibelius	Since 2023

Solo Performances

- Meanings* | معاني (2022) 6' Arranged For Tenor Saxophone Alone
Performed by Drew Mosley, International Conference on Saxophone Pedagogy and Performance, (Online)
February 25 2023
- ... *Sondern nach dem G...* (2021) For Piano Alone
Performed by Jonas Amiller, Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH December 10 2021
- Meanings* | معاني (2021) 6' For Cello Alone (Cello arrangement of *Song for a Friend*)
Performed by Gabriel Ramos, Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH April 24 2022
Performed by Gabriel Ramos, Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH April 27 2022
- Ya Layl* | يا ليل (2021) 5' For Viola Alone (Viola arrangement of *Song for a Friend*)
Upcoming performance at the Central Washington University New Music Festival, October 7 2023
Performance by August DuBeau, Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH May 1 2022
- Song for a Friend* (2021) 6' For Bass Alone
Online National Conference – Society of Composers Inc. Online Broadcast, June 4 2023
Recorded by Stephen Castiglione, Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH May 14 2021
Recorded by Stephen Castiglione, Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH August 14 2021
- Miniatures from Phoenicia* (2020) 9' for Flute Alone
Performance at Society of Composers Inc, 2023 Region V Conference, Ohio University, Athens, OH
November 2-4 2023
Performance by Prague Modern Ensemble, Echofluxx 2023 Festival, St Clements in Nový Jičín, Prague,
Czech Republic September 12 2023
Performances by Ana Suhaila in France, venues and dates TBA
Performance by Noah Livingston—Artist Diploma recital—Memorial Room, Smith Memorial Hall,
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, IL May 2 2023

Performance by Stephen Todd—University of Chicago Midwest Graduate Music Consortium Conference—
Logan Center Performance Penthouse, March 31, 2023

Performance by Noah Livingston—New Music Mosaic— Rose Bowl Tavern, Urbana, IL, February 28 2023

Performance by Lana Stafford at Society of Composers Inc, 2022 Region II Conference, Park Central
Presbyterian Church, Syracuse, NY, November 4 2022

Performed by Mary Kay Fink of The Cleveland Orchestra, Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music,
Cleveland, OH May 2 2021

Performed by Dustin White, West Virginia University MM recital, April 17 2021

Performed by Dustin White, West Virginia University Flute Studio Recital, February 2021

Commissioned by Mary Kay Fink of The Cleveland Orchestra, Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music,
Cleveland, OH November 2020

Recorded with Whopped at Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH February 2020

Studio recording by Justin White (Mon Hill Records) 2020

Uploaded on YouTube by Robin Meiksins (1st movement only)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6VZTaI>

***The Starry Night* (2017) 7' for Piano Alone**

Performed by Morgan Flanagan, Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH May 6 2022

Performed by Zack Wu, Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 2019

Performed by Zack Wu, Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 2017

Small Ensemble

***Syriac Fugato 2* (2022) 5' arranged for Violin and Viola**

Performance by Earplay, 2024, CA, specific date and venue TBA

***Hypnotic Spiral* (2023) 10' for Piccolo and Percussion**

Commissioned by Mary Kay Fink, expected premiere by Mary Kay Fink and Dylan Moffitt in Cleveland, OH
2022-2023 season

***Syriac Fugato 3* (2023) 5' for Six Low Flutes**

Premiered by Rarescale Ensemble led by Carla Rees, St Mary's Church, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, UK,
September 5 2023

***Syriac Fugato 2* (2022) 5' for Two Violas**

Upcoming performance and recording by Talla Rouge Duo 2023-2024 season

Recording by Joseph Skerik and Brian Isaacs, New Haven, CT, December 17 2022

Performed by Natalie Clarke and Dominick Douglas at Studzinski Recital Hall, Bowdoin International
Music Festival, Brunswick ME, July 31 2022

Performed by Natalie Clarke and Dominick Douglas at Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick ME,
July 30 2022

Syriac (2022) 5' for Flute, Piano, and Two Violins

Performed by Nicolas Rodriguez (Flute), Kelsey Payne and Jeremy Foster (Violins), Vicky Cai (Piano) at
Sudzinski Recital Hall, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Brunswick ME, July 2 2022

Wadi Qadisiya | وادي قادييسا (2022) 4' for Seven Flutes

Performed by Ensemble 126 at The Assembly Hall at Temple Square 50 S Temple, Salt Lake City, UT,
March 15 2023

Performance by Ensemble 126 at Snow College, 150 College Ave E, Ephraim, UT, March 14 2023

Performed by Ensemble 126 at Brigham Young University Provo, UT, March 13 2023

Performed by Ensemble 126 at University of North Florida Flute Choir Day, UNF Fine Arts Center,
Jacksonville, FL, February 3 2023

Recorded by Ensemble 126, Chicago, IL, August 15 2022

Performed by Ensemble 126 at the National Flute Association Convention, Chicago IL, August 13 2022

Commissioned by Ensemble 126, premiered at the National Flute Association Convention, Chicago
IL, August 11 2022

Orientalism (2020, rev. 2021) 14' for String Quartet

Performance by the Foundation for Modern Music, venue approximate TBD

Performance by Eugene Difficult Music Ensemble 2nd Annual New Music Festival, Venue TBA, Eugene, OR,
October 13-15 2023

Performed at Golden Hornet's String Quartet Showcase 8, Alamo Dunes House South Lamar,
Austin, February 25 2023

Performance by TEMPO Ensemble, California State University, Northridge Business Recital Hall,
Northridge, CA, February 5 2023

Performance Carnegie Hall, New York, NY, June 29 2022 (cancelled)

Performance by The Ottawa Pops Orchestra at McKay United Church 39 Dufferin Rd, Ottawa, Canada
May 21 2022

Performance by the Elless Quartet at Cleveland State University's Drinko Recital Hall, Cleveland, OH
February 27 2022

Performance by the Elless Quartet at the Kent State University, Fine Arts Building North Campus, Kent,
OH, February 24 2022

Performance by the Odin Quartet, Forest Grove United Church Toronto, ON, Canada, February 19 2022

Recorded by the Elless Quartet in Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH, September 13
2021

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH May 2 2021

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 2020

Orientalist Reflections (2021) 12' for String Quartet (12-minute reduction of *Orientalism*)

Orientalism Reflections (2021) 10' for String Quartet (10-minute reduction of *Orientalism*)

Rhapsody Reflections (2019) 5' for Oboe and Piano

Performance by the Allentown Symphony Association (violin and piano version), Easton Area High School

Auditorium 2601 William Penn Hwy, Easton, PA October 24 2023

Version arranged for Violin and Piano performed by Megan Lin (Violin) and Morgan Flanigan (Piano),

Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH May 13 2023

Performance by Elise Laineau, accompanied by the composer Kulas Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music,

Cleveland, OH November 20 2019

La'ib an-nard | لاعب النرد (2019) 12' for Violin, Cello and Doublebass

CD Recording by Noémie Chenet (Violin), Raffi Boden (Cello), and Kebra-Seyoun Charles (Doublebass)

CD Recording by the Webster University Community Music School (Overland Studios) October 2020

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 17 2019

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH February 2019

Hannibal Barca: Imilce's Love (2018) 6' for Flute, Harp, Cello and Percussion

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 2018

Hannibal Barca: I Will Either Find a Way, or Make One (2018) for Flute, Harp, Cello and Percussion

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 2019

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH May 2018

Hannibal Barca: The Vow (2018) 7' for Vibraphone and Cello

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH February 2018

Large Ensemble

Harp Concerto (2021) 14' For solo Harp, Three Percussions and Strings

Recorded in Kulas Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 14 2021

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 14 2021

Kulas Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH May 2 2021

Shubho Lhaw Qolo (2019) 8' for Solo Viola, Two Violins, One Viola, Two Cellos, Doublebass, Two Percussion, and Harp

Upcoming performance by Ensemble Metamorphosis with Saša Mirković as the soloist in Belgrade, Serbia.

More details TBA

Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, featuring Arturo Ziraldo as the soloist under the baton of Maestro Julian

Kalamazoo, Michigan, October 21 2023

2022 Sewanee Summer Music Festival, Summer 2022 (canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic)

Kuiper Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH April 30 2021 with Stanley Konopka of The

Cleveland Orchestra as the soloist

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, featuring Alyssa Warcup as the soloist under the baton of the

composer, Cleveland, OH November 24 2019

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, featuring Alyssa Warcup as the soloist under the baton of the

Composer, Cleveland, OH November 17 2019

Communion (2019) 5 Violins, Two Violas, Two Cellos, Doublebass, Two percussion and Harp

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 24 2019

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 17 2019

Selected Performance Experience

Percussion

Marsias - Mario Lavista

Gamper Festival, Brunswick, ME July 2022

Conducting (own compositions)

Shubho Lhaw Qolo

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 24 2019

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 17 2019

Communion

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 24 2019

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 17 2019

Piano (own compositions)

Rhapsodic Reflections

Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH November 20 2019

Singing

Case Western Reserve University Concert Choir

Church of the Covenant, Cleveland, OH November 15 2019

Church of the Covenant, Cleveland, OH December 8 2019

Arrangements

Hanna el Sekran | حنا السكران (2022)

Comp. Nouhad Wadie' Haddad (Fairouz); Arranged for flute and piano

Suite per violoncello solo (2023)

Comp. Oscar Cassadó; arranged for viola solo

Nehal Wel Amal Aran | نحننا و القمر جيران (2022)

Comp. Nouhad Wadie' Haddad (Fairouz); Arranged for string quartet

Clair de Lune (2021)

Comp. Claude Debussy; Arranged for orchestra

Performed at the Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH April 2019

La Fille aux cheveux de Lin (2021)

Comp. Claude Debussy; Arranged for orchestra