

Avner Finberg, Composer / Educator / Violinist

14716 Botany Way, Gaithersburg MD 20878 1-(646)-399-4580

avner.finberg@gmail.com <https://avnerfinberg.com>

CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION:

Manhattan School of Music, New York, NY

Doctor of Musical Arts, composition, with Susan Botti 2015

Mannes College, New York, NY

Master of Music, composition, with Robert Cuckson 2011

The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, Jerusalem, Israel

Master of Music, violin, with Roi Shiloach

Bachelor of Music, composition, with Ari Ben-Shabtai 2009

Bachelor of Music, violin, with Hagai Shaham 2007

TEACHING

TEACHING, ACADEMIA:

Syracuse University, Visiting Instructor, Syracuse NY, 2016

- Taught Harmony II. Material covered functional diatonic chords, figured bass, species counterpoint in four-voice harmonic context, dominant seventh chords and inversions, seventh chords on other scale degrees, Sentence and Period forms, applied chords and diatonic modulation. The textbook used in the class is Tonal Harmony by Kostka/ Payne, seventh edition
- Taught Ear Training IV -atonal ear-training. Textbook - Lars Edlund's *Modus Novus*, with relevant teaching materials from the literature. The teaching of intervals in atonal setting was supplemented with original vocal duets. Rhythm included subdivision of the beat into triplets and quintuplets, irregular meter, metric modulation and introduction to two-voice rhythmic coordination. Systems used: moveable do and fixed do solfege

- Created exams and handouts in addition to existing department curriculum
- Held office hours, supervised teaching assistant

Manhattan School of Music, New York NY, Doctoral Teaching Fellowship, 2011-14

Taught Aural skills I-IV. Taught semesters I and II during 2011-12 and semesters III and IV during 2012-13 and 2013-14. Course instruction included the following subjects:

- Sight-singing: diatonic melodies in treble, bass and alto clef in solfege and moveable do. Intervals up to an octave. Modal melodies using church modes and Pentatonic, Whole Tone, Acoustic, Octatonic modes
- Rhythm: Subdivision of the beat (up to septuplets), syncopation, irregular time signatures
- Dictation: triad and seventh chord recognition, interval recognition, melodic dictation in one and two voices, 12-tone row dictation, rhythmic dictation, harmonic progression, comprehensive listening

Manhattan School of Music, Tutoring Program, 2011-14

- Tutored students in theory and aural skills
- Covered material included counterpoint, harmony, analysis and 20th century techniques in the undergraduate and graduate level

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Music Theory:

- Institute for Music Theory Pedagogy, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, 2014

Composition:

- American Opera Projects “Composers and the Voice” workshop, New York, NY, 2013-14
- FUBIS Music Composition Course with Samuel Adler, Berlin, Germany, 2014
- “Upbeat” composition performance workshop, Milna, Croatia, 2013
- Atlantic Music Festival composition program, Colby College, Waterville, ME, 2010

Technology:

- Introduction to Programming Nanodegree. Online course, Udacity.com. 2015-16

- Programming Max: Structuring Interactive Software for Digital Arts. Taught by Matt Wright of Stanford University. Online course, kadenze.com. April 2018

PRESENTATIONS

- *Live and learn* four-part lecture series on Jewish music. Lecture subjects: Klezmer Music History, Music of Terezin, Jewish Composers of Classical Music, The Music of Israel. Temple Beth Ami, Rockville, MD, August 2022
- Presentation of original compositions. Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. April 2016
- Technical aspects of writing for the violin. Missouri Summer Composition Institute, Columbia, MS. June 2015
- Teaching the major and minor mode in early childhood settings. Summer Theory Institute, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY. June 2014
- Graduate Seminar on Robert Schumann, Manhattan School of Music, New York, NY, 2013.
 - *The War of the Romantics – The Great Debate*
 - *Robert Schumann, Conservative or Progressive? As Seen Through his Ties to Richard Wagner and Felix Mendelssohn*

TEACHING, NON-ACADEMIA

Levine School of Music, 2022-present (current position)

- Teaching private violin and viola lessons
- Teaching Suzuki group violin classes, books 1

Washington Conservatory of Music, 2020-2022

- Taught private violin lessons
- Taught Suzuki group violin classes, books 1 and books 2-5

Ithaca New Music Collective Young Composers Mentorship Program, 2019-2020

- Taught composition to select middle school students at Boynton Middle School in Ithaca, NY
- Developed middle school syllabus, mentored, and taught classes on melody, harmony, orchestration, and music history

Opus Ithaca School of Music, Violin Studio, 2018-2020

- Teaching private students in violin, chamber music classes

- Group violin classes, Suzuki book 1 and pre-twinkle level

Amadeus Music School, Chappaqua NY, 2012-13, 2016-17

- Teaching violin studio, coaching string quartet
- Conducted Amadeus string orchestra, ages 11-17

East-West Music Studio, Violin and Theory teacher, Flushing, 2011

- Taught violin studio, gave piano lessons for beginners
- Taught course to prepare students for ABRSM level 5 theory exam

COMPOSITION

AWARDS:

2019: Honorable mention, The Chelsea Symphony Composition Competition, New York, NY

2018: Finalist, The Banaue International Composition Competition, Manila, The Philippines

2017: Finalist, The American Prize in Composition in Opera and Musical Theater, Professional Division

Winner, Kirkoskammer Composition Competition, Solo Horn Category. Dublin, Ireland

2014: Winner, Kol Emet competition for sacred Jewish choral music, Evanston IL

2013: Honorable mention, Chamber Music Rochester, college level competition, Rochester, NY

2012: Winner, Bard Prize in composition, Manhattan School of Music, New York, NY

2011: Student Orchestra Prize, Mannes College, New York, NY

COMMISSIONS OF ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS:

2018-present: *The Exagoge*, a chamber opera, in collaboration with Untitled Theater Co. #61

2022: Dances in Freyghish, for symphony orchestra, commissioned by The Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes

2019: *Three impressions on The Bureaucrat*, commissioned by Matan Ben Cnaan, Israel

2015: *Letters to Engel*, monodrama for tenor and piano, commissioned by Untitled Theater Co. #61, New York, NY

Maqamat for Cello Solo commissioned by Kate Dillingham

2014: *Patience Impatience*, electronic score, commissioned by ACB Dance, New York, NY

RECITALS OF ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS:

- 2022:** The Four Seasons of Isolation, Album Release Concert. Zion Church of the City of Baltimore
- 2015:** Student Project in Performance: A Taste of Damnation: New opera workshop. Ades Recital Space, Manhattan School of Music
- 2014:** Storylines: Music by Alfred Schnittke and Avner Finberg. Firehouse Space, Brooklyn
- 2013:** DMA composition recital, Manhattan School of Music
- 2011:** Masters composition recital at Mannes Hall, Mannes College the New School for Music

RESIDENCIES, FESTIVALS:

- 2017:** Frontiers Opera Showcase, Fort Worth Opera, Fort Worth, TX
Cisum Ensemble Writing for Percussion Workshop, Brooklyn, NY
- 2016:** Yaddo Composer Residency, Saratoga Springs, NY
- 2014:** Ensemble mise-en, workshop for solo instrumental works, Boston, MA
- 2013:** ISCM New Music Days Vienna in Vienna, Austria
Freie Universität Berlin Summer Composition (with Samuel Adler), Berlin, Germany
- 2012:** UPBEAT International Summer Music School, Milna, Croatia
- 2010:** The Atlantic Music Festival Composition Program, Colby College, Maine
- 2009:** Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival Orchestra (violin), Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Ithaca New Music Collective, Ithaca NY, composer and violinist, 2017-present

- Serves as the resident violinist of the ensembles for all ensemble concerts, 2-3 times a year
- In residence as a composer and composer-performer, writing at least once a year for the ensemble
- Serves on the ensemble board and judging committee on annual call for scores

 PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

VIOLIN

Orchestra member: (partial list)

Binghamton Philharmonic, Binghamton, NY. 2nd violin, 2020-2021

Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, Corning, NY. 2nd violin, 2014-2020

Tel-Aviv Soloists Ensemble, Tel-Aviv, Israel. 1st violin, 2007-2009

Substitute musician, part time and festival orchestras:

Fairfax Symphony, Fairfax, VA. Substitute violinist, 2021-present

Annapolis Symphony, Annapolis, MD. Substitute violinist, 2022-present

Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Tel-Aviv, Israel. Substitute violinist, 2008-2011

Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival Orchestra, Lübeck, Germany. Violinist, 2009

Solo and Chamber Music: (partial list)Recitals:

Spectrum NYC, New York, NY, violin and composition, December 2015

The Firehouse Space, Brooklyn, NY, violin and composition, April 2014

Soloist with Orchestra:

The Jerusalem Academy Student Symphony Orchestra, Mozart, violin concerto no. 5. 2007

Chamber Music Performances:

Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale*, OSFL Chamber Music Series, Rockwell Museum, Corning, NY. 2018

Contemporary Music (partial list)

Missouri Summer Composer Institute, University of Missouri, Columbia, MS. 2015

Tiroler Ensemble für Neue Musik (Innsbruck, Austria), 2007

CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE

The Vet Players performance of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. 2016

Assistant conductor, the opera *A Taste of Damnation*, Manhattan School of Music. 2015

Director of the Amadeus Youth Orchestra, Amadeus Conservatory, Chappaqua, NY. 2012-2014

 WORKS, RECORDINGS AND PRESS

LIST OF WORKS AND PERFORMANCES:

2006: *Windy City* for Saxophone Quartet. 6"

Performances: May 2006, Jerusalem Saxophone Quartet, Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, Israel.

Dec 9, 2009: Mannes Saxophone Quartet: Mannes College The New School for Music.

April 9, 2012: Manhattan School of Music

2009: *Spain of the Heart*, a song cycle after Pablo Neruda's poems for soprano and ensemble (percussion, trumpet, guitar, string quartet). 30"

Performed: June 19, 2009: Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

Sonata for Violin and Piano. 23"

Performed: Dec. 8, 2010: Mannes College The New School for Music.

April 10, 2011: Mannes College The New School for Music.

Accidental Music, for flute / piccolo, clarinet, violin, bass trombone and double bass. 12"

Performed: Dec. 9, 2009: Mannes College The New School for Music.

July 30, 2010: The Atlantic Music Festival.

2010: *Ulysses* for symphony orchestra. 11"

Performed: Dec. 16, 2010: The Mannes Orchestra, David Hayes, Conductor.

Mannes College The New School for Music.

Anfractuous Songs, a song cycle after poems from the collected works of John Updike for Mezzo Soprano and ensemble (flute\piccolo\alto flute, clarinet in A\Bass Clarinet in B, violin, cello, piano). 12"

Performed: April 30, 2010: Composer-in-Residence Chamber Ensemble, Mannes Contemporary Music Festival 2010.

April 10, 2011: Mannes College The New School for Music.

2011: *Kinah* for pierrot ensemble (flute, clarinet in B, violin, cello, piano). 10"

Performed: October 3, 2011: Meitar Ensemble, Israeli Music Days, Rappaport Auditorium, Haifa, Israel.

November 12, 2013: Platypus Ensemble. Schubert Saal, Weiner Konzerthaus.

November 9, 2019: The Boston New Music Initiative, Resounding bodies and spirits, Longy School of Music, Boston, MA

Recorded and released by *Ablaze Records*, August 2018.

2012: *Dixies* for brass quintet. 13"

Performed: February 13, 2012: Big Apple Brass Quintet, Manhattan School of Music.

Ka for viola, percussion and piano. 5"

Performed: July 26, 2012: Milna, Croatia.

Polyrhythmus for percussion quartet. 10"

Performed: October 22, 2012: Manhattan School of Music.

Fossilization for symphony orchestra and saxophone quartet. 8"

Performed: February 22nd, 2013: MSM Philharmonia, conducted by David Gilbert.

2013: *A Pestiary*, cabaret for soprano, piano and barbershop quartet. Text: Herb Shapiro. 15"

Performed: April 1, 2013: Manhattan School of Music.

Fantasy for Solo Horn. 5"

Premiered at the Great Synagogue in Berlin, Germany in July 2013.

Workshop recording by ensemble mise-en in May 2014.

Irish Premiere: Dublin, Ireland. Artist: Hannah Miller

American Premiere: Ithaca, NY. Artist: Alex Shuhan

Concerto for Saxophone and orchestra. 20"

Performed: Manhattan School of Music, December 7th, 2013

Hashkivenu, for choir and organ, from the Friday night service. 6"

Performed: Beth Emet Synagogue in Evanston IL in June 2014.

Anonymous, aria for dramatic soprano and piano. Text by Jeanette Simpson. 3"

Performed: November 4, Composers and the Voice workshop.

I don't mind, aria for bass-baritone and piano. Text by unknown. 3"

2014: *The Jabberwocky*, aria for soprano and piano. Text by Lewis Carroll. 5"

Robert's Lament, aria for baritone and piano. Text by Jeanette Simpson. 4"

A Clear Midnight, aria for tenor and piano. Text by Walt Whitman. 4"

Performed: American Opera Project's First Glimpse night, South Oxford Space, May 2014

Scene I from *A Taste of Damnation*. Libretto by Edward Einhorn. 15"

Performed: AOP's Six Scenes concert, South Oxford Space, September 2014.

Patience-Impatience, electronic dance piece.

Premiered: Manhattan Movement Center and University of San Jose, November 2014.

2015: *A Taste of Damnation*, opera in 1 act. Libretto by Edward Einhorn. 45"
 Performed as a student project in performance in Manhattan School of Music.
 First act premiere: Fort Worth Opera Frontiers Showcase, May 3, 2017.

Letters to Engel, a short cabaret. Libretto by Edward Einhorn. 7"
 Performed: Here Arts Center, New York, NY. Untitled Theater Company #61.
 March-April 2015

Maqamat, solo cello. 6"
 Premiered: Spectrum NYC. Kate Dillingham, cello in May 2015

2016: *Escape Velocity*, for large chamber ensemble. 6"
 Performed: Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. Syracuse University New Music
 Ensemble, April 2016

Ofan for choir, on text by Ohev Ben-Meir Hanasi (11th century). 7"

2017: *Knock on Wood*, For percussion quartet. 7"
 Premiere: Scholes Street Studio, Brooklyn. Cisum Percussion. October 8th, 2017

Ascensions, for violin and live electronics. 6"
 Premiere: Ithaca New Music Collective, September 4th, 2017

Once Upon a Midnight..., for violin, live electronics and reader. To be played with the
 poem *The Raven* by Edgar Allan Poe. 10"
 Premiere: Ithaca New Music Collective, October 30th, 2017

2018: *Pugaw*, a symphonic poem. For symphony orchestra. 15"
 Premiere: Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila, The Philippines. Orchestra of
 the Banaue New Music Composition Competition. July 25, 2018

The Thin Sound of Silence. For violin and live electronics. 5"
 Premiere: Ithaca New Music Collective, February 12th, 2018

The Exagoge, a new opera/play, with libretto by Edward Einhorn. Scenes two and three.
 15"

I Felt a Funeral in my Brain, for soprano, oboe, vibraphone, violin, and double bass. Text
 by Emily Dickinson. 5"
 Premiere: Argo's Warehouse, Ithaca, NY. October 28, 2018

The Miracle of Hanukkah, For SATB choir and symphony orchestra. 6"

Premiere: Clemens Center, Elmira, NY. Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes.
December 9, 2018

2019: *Twitterbot*, a new opera (excerpt). For soprano and INMC ensemble. 5"
Premiere: Argo's Warehouse, Ithaca, NY. Ithaca New Music Collective. March 2019

Sphere for violin and live electronics

Premiere: Argo's Warehouse, Ithaca, NY. Avner Finberg, violin. April 25, 2019

2020: *Three impressions on The Bureaucrat*. For violin, cello, and live electronics. 10"
Premiere: The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel. Meitar Ensemble. July 2021

The Exagoge, a new opera/play, with libretto by Edward Einhorn. 50"

Workshop performances:

Guildhall musicians at Goodenough College, London, United Kingdom. June 15, 2018

Triad Theater, New York, NY. Untitled Theater Company #61. June 29, 2019

National Opera Center, New York, NY. Untitled Theater Company #61. June 2, 2022

The Jabberwocky. For INMC Ensemble. 6"

2022: *The Four Seasons of Isolation*. For violin and live electronics. 40"
Premiere: Zion Church of the City of Baltimore, December 10, 2022

Dances in Freyghish. For symphony orchestra. 11"

Premiere: Clemens Center, Elmira, NY. The Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes.
December 3, 2022

DISCOGRAPHY:

2023: **Wheels of Heaven**, 30-minute choral album. Includes *Ofan* and *Hashkivenu*.
(forthcoming)

2022: **The Four Seasons of Isolation**, 50-minute solo album of original works for violin and electronics. Released with Ravello Records.

2020: **The Electric Sound**, music by Ithaca Electroacoustic Composers. Includes *Sphere*

2018: **Pierrot Ensemble Series Vol. 2**, with Chang Seok Choi, Joshua Marquez, Kyong Mee Choi, and Julián Brijaldo. Includes *Kinah*. Released with Ablaze Records

PRESS AND MEDIA:

Niles, Laurie. "For the Record, Op. 218: Midori and Thibaudet; Kavakos, Ax and Ma; Nemanja Radulovic; Avner Finberg." (Press release, quoted re: The Four Seasons of Isolation) *Violinist.com*, Nov. 13, 2022, <https://www.violinist.com/blog/laurie/202211/29426/>

Clarke, Colin. "Pierrot Ensemble Series, Vol. 2." (CD Review, comments on Kinah) *Fanfare Magazine*, July/Aug 2020.

Snyder, Bill. "Celebrating 100 Years of a Musical Work and Premiering a New One." (Radio Interview) *WSKG*, 24 Oct. 2018, <https://www.wskg.org/arts/2018-10-23/celebrating-100-years-of-a-musical-work-and-premiering-a-new-one.>