

Kira Weiss

University of California, Santa Barbara
Department of Music

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Education

University of California Santa Barbara, MA/PhD	Expected Graduation: 2026
Ph.D. Candidate in Ethnomusicology Global Studies Doctoral Emphasis MA Thesis Title: <i>“The Cello in Arab Music, 1920s–2020s: Egyptian Cultural Policy, Cultural Security, and Performer Perspectives”</i>	
Middlebury Institute of International Studies Intensive (Arabic)	June–August 2019
Humboldt State University, Bachelor of Arts	Graduation: Spring 2018
Major: Music; Second Major: International Studies Study Abroad: Universidad de Granada: Language and Cultural Studies, Internship	2016

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

The Robert Anderson Trust (London), Visiting Scholar	November 2024
American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), Doctoral Fellow	August 2023 – September 2024
Fulbright U.S. Student Program (Egypt), Grantee	September 2022–August 2023
Critical Language Enhancement Program, Award Recipient	
UC Santa Barbara Public Humanities, Fellow	2021
Evely Laser Shlensky Social Action Award, Award Recipient	2022
Critical Language Scholarship (Advanced Arabic), Scholarship Recipient	June–August 2021
UC Santa Barbara Center for Middle East Studies, Award Recipient	2019, 2021
Eastern European Folklife Center, Fellow	2018
Humboldt State University, Presidential Scholar	2015–2018

Publications

“Ears First, Fingers Follow: A Cellist’s Guide to Playing Arabic Music,” <i>Strings Magazine</i>	2023
Review of <i>Egypt at the Crossroads</i> , <i>Middle East Librarian’s Association (MELA) Notes</i>	2022
“Holographed Heritage,” UC Santa Barbara Public Humanities Fellows Blog	2022
“Janissary Music in the Western Classical Idiom,” <i>The Ambassador (HSU Student Journal)</i>	2017

Teaching Experience

UC Santa Barbara Department of Music Teaching Assistant	2018–2022
Led discussions sections for music courses and delivered lectures.	
Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning Course Lecturer	2018
Organized an Arabic music concert and taught two single-day prefatory classes at Cal Poly Humboldt.	
Humboldt Music Academy Cello Teacher	2011–2018
Taught private and group lessons to students of many ages, abilities, and skill levels.	

Academic Service

- UCSB Beyond Academia Conference** *Program Committee Member* 2021
Served as the humanities representative and recruited speakers for a student-run conference.
- Society for Ethnomusicology (SCHC)** *Web Editor* 2018–2021
Edited website and managed listserv for the Southern California and Hawai'i Chapter.
- American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress** *Research Assistant* 2017
Worked with reference staff on source identification and digitization.

Academic Presentations

- “Negotiating Authenticity in Arab Music”** 2024
Guest lecture at the American University in Cairo (AUC)
- “Orchestrating Egypt: Cultural Politics and the Adoption of New Musical Instruments in Egyptian Arab Music”** 2023
Lecture-concert at the American Research Center in Egypt
- “*Idkbāl alāt jadīda fi-l takht fi-l ‘ashrīnāt wa-l-thalāthīnāt al-qarn al-‘ashrīn fī maṣr: al-munāqashāt wa-l-natāij*”** 2023
32nd Annual Arab Music Festival and Conference, Cairo (*Cancelled due to war in Israel/Palestine)
- Bridges and Strings: Negotiating the Role of the Cello in Egyptian *al-Mūsīqā al-‘Arabiyya* (1920s–2020s)** 2023
International Council for Traditions of Music and Dance (ICTMD): Mediterranean Music Studies
- “The Indigenization of the Cello in Egyptian Arab Music: Issues of Heritagization and Modernity”** 2022
American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) Annual Conference
- “The Controversy of the Cello in Arab Music”** 2022
Presentation for International Education Week at California Polytechnic Humboldt
- “Music of the Mediterranean: Sephardic Songs,” “Singing the Diaspora”** 2021, 2022
Lecture-recitals on Sephardic music at Humboldt Jewish Music and Culture Festival
- “Old School Egyptian Style Meets the Avant-Garde”** 2021
Conference presentation at Society for Ethnomusicology CA and Hawai'i Chapter
- “More Than a Sound Bite: Creative Engagement through SoundCloud”** 2019
Graduate Teaching Symposium at UC Santa Barbara
- “Classical Music in the Near East”, “Intro to Arab Music”** 2018
Lectures for Osher Institute of Lifelong Learning at Cal Poly Humboldt

Certifications

- Smithsonian Folkways Certification in World Music Pedagogy** 2017
- Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish and English** 2013

References

Dr. Scott Marcus
Music (UCSB)
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Dr. Dwight Reynolds
Religious Studies (UCSB)
dreynold@religion.ucsb.edu

Dr. Paul Amar
Global Studies (UCSB)
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