# Ömer Aziz Kayhan

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### **EDUCATION**

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

M.M in Conducting

2022 - 2024

Dr. William Weinert

Additional study with Prof. Neil Varon, Prof. Brad Lubman, Prof. Timothy Long

Recipient of Eastman School of Music's Robert P. Fountain Scholarship, Graduate Tuition Scholarship

**European American Music Alliance** 

Paris, France

2021-2022

Conducting Program

Dr. Mark Shapiro, conducting.

Dr. Phillip Lasser, counterpoint

Dr. Benjamin Boyle, keyboard harmony

Dr. Kyle Blaha, aural skills

Juilliard Extension Division Manhattan, NY

Conducting, Score Reading, Aural Skills

2020-2022

Dr. Mark Shapiro, conducting and score reading

Dr. Evan Fein, aural skills

Cornell University Ithaca, NY

B.A in Music and Economics (Double Major)

2016-2020

Advisor Dr. Benjamin Piekut

Additional study with Dr. Neal Zaslaw

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

# **Cornell University Wind Ensemble**

Ithaca, NY

Assistant Conductor

2020 - 2021

- Rehearsed with the wind ensemble twice a week
- Conducted ensemble in a semesterly performances
- Assisted in outdoor rehearsal setup
- Oversaw COVID preventative measures for musicians' safety
- Assisted and covered for Prof. James Spinazzola

# **Teaching Assistant: Music on the Brain - MUSIC 1212, BIONB 4200**

Ithaca, NY 2019-2020

Supervisors Prof. Annie Lewandowski and Prof. Ronald Hoy

• Assisted with class setup and provided materials to students

- Led sectionals in working with music software Reaper and Logic
- Held weekly office hours and provided aid for student capstone projects
- Taught basic music theory to non-music degree students
- Provided participation feedback to students and attendance check for faculty

### CHORAL CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE

# **Eastman Repertory Singers**

Rochester, NY

Conductor

2022-Present

- Coach the ensemble in German, Latin, Turkish, AAVE, Italian, French and Transatlantic languages and dictions
- Rehearse 70 person ensemble twice a week in 35 minute sessions
- Recruitment work for orchestral musicians
- Facilitate department wide audition processes for solos
- Coach soloists
- Prepares concert programs for all repertoire

### CHORAL CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE cont'd

Rochester, NY **Eastman Chorale** 

Assistant to Dr. William Weinert

2022-Present

- Rehearsed Samuel Adler's "Of Life and Nature I Sing" for premiere
- Rehearsed Elliott Carter's "Musicians Wrestle Everywhere" with TB choir
- Rehearsed sections of Vaughan Williams' A Sea Symphony in preparation for concert with Rochester Philharmonic

**Rezonans Choir** Istanbul, Turkive

Rehearsal Leader. Conductor Burak Onur Erdem

2021 - 2022

- Conducted sectional rehearsals for German romantic and baroque repertoire in preparation for concert with Frieder Bernius
- Participated in fundraising projects for travel expenses, venue rentals and rehearsal spaces
- Organized transportation and hospitality for guest conductors

Vox Populi Ithaca, NY 2018-2019

Founder and Conductor, supervisor Dr. Stephen Spinelli

- Founded SATB choir for contemporary a cappella choral music as part of Cornell University Chorale
- Oversaw all recruitment efforts, rehearsal scheduling, location, transport, and PR campaigns
- Rehearsed group two hours per week
- Conducted three performances in the first year of its founding
- Taught private voice and musicianship lessons to singers

### ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE

**Eastman Opera Theater** Rochester, NY

Assistant Conductor

2023 - Present

- Conduct singers and piano in coaching sessions
- Rehearse opera choir as choirmaster in English, German and French languages
- Regularly conduct staging rehearsals
- Coach singers privately as designated assistant for Dialogues of the Carmelites
- · Rehearse orchestra as needed
- Cover all shows for Prof. Tim Long

# **Eastman Graduate Students Orchestra**

Rochester, NY

Conducting Studio

2023 - Present

• Regularly rehearses graduate orchestra in classical and romantic repertoire

Film Music Recording Rochester, NY Conductor 2022 Nov

• Rehearsed and recorded original composition by Junwen Wu

• Edited and helped mastered the recording

Conductor

Vienna, Austria 2022 May

• Recorded Mozart Flute Concertos K.313, 314, 315 with flautist James Strauss and project orchestra

- Worked with Prof. Neal Zaslaw for performance practice and decisions
- Wrote out bowings

**United Europe Orchester** 

• Collaborated with concertmaster for style and recording setup

#### **SELECT PERFORMANCES**

# **Choral-Orchestral**

Eastman Bach Cantata Series

Rochester, NY

2023 - 2024

Kilbourn Hall Eastman, Glory House International

J.S Bach: BWV. 100 Was Gott tut das ist Wohlgetan (Feb 2024) J.S Bach: BWV. 20 O Ewigkeit du Donnerwort (Mar 2023)

### **SELECTED PERFORMANCES cont'd (Choral - Orchestral)**

Eastman Degree Recital Rochester, NY

Kilbourn Hall Eastman with Eastman Repertory Singers and student orchestra Fanny Hensel - *Hiob Kantata*, Brahms - *Begräbnisgesang* 

2023 Dec

Choral

"An Interfaith Choral Showcase"

Rochester, NY

First Baptist Church, community singers and young professionals

2023 Dec

Samuel Barber - "Reincarnations"

Aspen, CO

Snowmass Chapel, Seraphic Fire Choir and PCI Institute

2023 Aug

**Orchestral** 

Eastman Non-Degree Recitals

Rochester, NY

Eastman Annex, George Gershwin arr. *Grofé* - Rhapsody in Blue (*Nov 2023*)

2023-2024

Eastman Ray Wright Room, Stravinsky - "Dumbarton Oaks" (Mar 2024)

### LEADERSHIP and ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

# **Eastman School of Music ACDA Chapter**

Rochester, NY

President and Conductor

2023-Present

- Work with music education, conducting and voice faculty to help create an ancillary educational tool for students
- Curate logistical and thematic structures for weekly meetings
- · Focus the academic year on inclusivity, diversity and historical performance
- Schedule masterclasses in conducting and voice performance
- · Organize and conduct outreach for guest speakers, community programs in local areas
- Select Workshops Organized:
  - Hannah Duff Movement and Mindfulness for Singers and Conductor (Oct 20 2023)
  - Dr. William Weinert Score Preparation and Study for Conductors and Singers (Oct 27 2023)
  - Dr. Burak Onur Erdem Concert programming and repertoire selection (February 23rd 2024)
  - Dr. Lee Wright Use of spirituals in educational and community choruses (February 9th 2024)
  - Dr. Jason Miller 4 part workshop series on Dalcroze Eurythmics

# **An Interfaith Choral Showcase**

Conductor and Organizer

- Collaborated with two other conductors in organizing a choral showcase of underrepresented music
- Recruited young professionals and students
- Carried out logistical work such as rehearsal and concert location, transportation etc..
- Designed repertoire selection alongside colleagues and presented works from 5 different faiths and 6 different countries

# Rhapsody in Blue - Gershwin

Rochester, NY

Conductor and Director

2023 Nov

- Independently designed and directed three rehearsals and concert of Rhapsody in Blue
- Recruited local students and young professionals
- Arranged rehearsal spaces, setup and instrument transport
- Coordinated with concert office for official non-degree recital concert venues
- Communicated with head librarian Meredith Gangler in edition search and organizational issues
- Marked and distributed all instrumental parts
- Conducted 3 rehearsals and final performance with soloist Saffion Chung and 45 piece orchestra

# ENSEMBLE EXPERIENCE, BARITONE

Voices Rochester, NY

Professional chamber choral ensemble conducted by Dr. William Weinert Regularly sings as paid bass-baritone 2022-Present

#### ENSEMBLE EXPERIENCE cont'd

Rochester, NY **Eastman Chorale** 

Sang baritone in premiere of Samuel Adler's "Of Life and Nature I Sing"

2022-Present

**Eastman-Rochester Chorus** Rochester, NY Sings bass-baritone 2022-Present

**Eastman Collegium Musicum** 

Rochester, NY

Bass-baritone, tenor soloist

2023-Present

First modern performance Carissimi's Usquequo Peccatores and Historia di Jepthe First modern performance Marazzoli's Aita Amanti and La Speranza vuol cosi

First modern performance Michelangelo Rossi's Erminia sul Giordano

**Aspen Music Festival** Aspen, CO 2023 Aug

Mozart's *Idomeneo* w/ Seraphic Fire and Aspen Festival Orchestra Haydn's Die Schöpfung w/ Seraphic Fire and Aspen Festival Orchestra

**Rochester Oratorio Society** Rochester, NY

Mahler Symphony. 2: Aufersteh'n with Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Sung baritone as paid section leader

2023 Jun

**Berkshire Choral International** 

Sang Verdi's Requiem in Verdi Theater as paid section leader

Florence, Italy 2023 Aug

**Pittsford Christ Church** Rochester, NY

Sang as paid baritone and section leader in chamber ensemble on Palm Sunday

**Summerville Presbyterian Church** 

Rochester, NY

2023 Feb

Sung as paid section leader

Sang Baritone solo in Faure's Requiem

2023 Apr

**Norfolk Chamber Music Festival** 

Norfolk, MA

Premiered Daniel Knaggs' O Nata Lux

2022 Aug

Concert with repertoire including compositions by Messanet, Mondonville, Wadsworth, Tallis, Haydn

### **FESTIVALS**

**Norfolk Chamber Music Festival** 

Norfolk, MA

Choral Conducting Fellow (Upcoming)

2024 Aug

**Aspen Music Festival** Aspen, CO

Choral Conducting Fellow

2023 Aug

- Conducted rehearsals with Grammy nominated Seraphic Fire choir as part of PCI Institute
- Prepared and co-conducted final performance with Seraphic Fire
- Engaged in masterclasses with UCLA's Dr. James Bass and founder Patrick Dupre Quigley
- Participated in professional development sessions in 501(c) 3's, grant application writing, vocal pedagogy, professional singing and fundraising

**Mostly Modern Festival** Saratoga, NY Orchestral Conducting Fellow 2023 Jun

- Assistant conducted contemporary group the American Modern Ensemble
- Conducted three world premieres in rehearsal and performance with American Modern Ensemble
- Conducted two orchestral readings for composition fellows with 80 piece orchestra and solo theremin
- Participated in professional development and conducting sessions with JoAnn Falletta, Aram Demirjian and David Amado in varying repertoire

### **Berkshire Choral International**

Florence, ITALY

Conducting Apprentice

2023 Aug

- Engaged in week long rehearsal and concert process as paid apprentice with historic BCI
- Rehearsed sections from Verdi's Requiem
- Assisted conductor Heinz Ferlesch in rehearsal setup
- Sung baritone as bass section leader

#### **Norfolk Chamber Music Festival**

Norfolk, MA

Baritone

2022 Aug

# **CONFERENCES and PRESENTATIONS**

### **Eastman ACDA Chapter**

Rochester, NY

Presenter

2024 Mar

- Presentation title: "Tools in Exploring Turkish Choral Music Through Poetry"
- Official guest speaker at Eastmans ACDA chapter
- Lectured on the history of poetry in Anatolia through examples from Seljuk Turks, Ottoman "Divan" poetry and contemporary day Türkiye
- Analyzed three poems via tools of rhythm, rhyme, meter and form
- Provided musical examples from the compositions of Hasan Uçarsu, demonstrated the use of meter and its significance in text setting in the composition "Sevgilerde"

Context Conference 2023 Rochester, NY

Attendee

2023 Nov

- Broadening the Music Theory Curriculum: Concepts, Repertoire and Pedagogical Approaches
  - Elephants in the Room: Teaching What We Were Not Thought by Prof. Betsy Marvin and Jane Clendinning
  - SAI Sponsors Women in Music Leadership: "The Good, The Bad, The Ugly" Prof. Mellasenah Morris, Abra Bush, Lauren Tian Machado and more
  - Singing in the Gospel Style: Performing Black Music Authentically by Prof. Raymond Wise

# **NY ACDA Collegiate Conference 2023**

Ithaca, NY

Attendee

2023 Oct

- Contemporary A Cappella is for EVERYONE! Evan Powers
- Gesture Oriented-Masterclass Dr. Eric Rubinstein and the Ithaca College Choir
- Rehearsal Process-Masterclass Dr. Khyle Wooten and the Ithaca College Choir
- Advice from New Teachers Jenna Stufkosky and T.J. Barnes
- Building the Ensemble through Collaborative Circle Activities Across Middle & High School Jameelah Taylor
- Get Off the Score with Gospel Music: Increasing Choral Singers' Aural Skills Using an Oral Tradition Dr. Jason Thompson
- Applying to Teach and the Interview Process Gina Costanza, Deepak Marwah, Adam

### **Eastman ACDA Chapter Conducting Workshop**

Rochester, NY

Masterclass leader

2022 Nov

- · Observed and gave feedback to two undergraduate conductors on Rachmaninoff's All Night Vigil
- Worked with student conductors on gesture and pattern
- Created Russian translation and transliterations

# RESEARCH PROJECTS and INTERESTS

# A Cross-section of Hasan Uçarsu's Musical Universe

Rochester, NY

Author

2022 Dec

- An analysis of contemporary Turkish composer Hasan Uçarsu's musical language through four of his choral compositions
- Illuminates Uçarsu's diverse musical training in the USA and Turkey

### RESEARCH PROJECTS and INTERESTS cont'd

### A Cantata for All Seasons: BWV 100

Author

- Compares and contrasts several Bach cantatas and the Lutheran hymn Was Gott tut das ist wohlgetan
- Explores the techniques of composition Bach utilizes in BWV 100
- Extrapolates and applies written and unwritten articulations between the two cantata's
- Demonstrates the significance of the compositional choices Bach has made in creating BWV 100 in order to argue that he intended it to be performed in all seasons and occasions

# **GUEST APPEARANCES**

Eastman Treble Chorus Rochester, NY

• Coached 40 person treble voices choir (SSAA) in Turkish music and diction

- 2023 Mar
- Conducted sing throughs of Aşık Veysel's Uzun İnce Bir Yoldayım, arr Volkan Akkoç
- Taught history of bard singing traditions in Anatolia

Orfe ChoirIstanbul, TurkeyGuest Conductor2022 Apr

- Guest conducted 15 person choir in German and Turkish repertoire
- Taught diction, warm up techniques, injury prevention and IPA systems