

# Christopher Witulski

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## EDUCATION

**PhD Candidate: Doctor of Philosophy in Ethnomusicology, University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**

- Research interests include: Moroccan music, popular music studies, African Islam, West African music, the globalization of jazz, American folk music.

**2009: Master of Music in Ethnomusicology, University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**

- Thesis entitled: "Defining and Revising the Gnawa and their Music through Commodification in Local, National, and Global Contexts"

**2005: Master of Music in Music Theory, State University College of New York; Potsdam, NY**

- Thesis entitled: "The Origins and Sources of Post-Bebop Jazz Modality: Influences from Middle Eastern Musical Style"

**2004: Bachelor of Music in Musical and Jazz Studies, State University College of New York; Potsdam, NY**

**Area Studies Coursework (masters and doctoral levels)**

- Anthropology of Modern Africa, Politics of Islam in Africa, Sufism and Islamic Reformism in Africa, Modern Islamic Thought, Seminar in African Studies (African Ethnography), Comparative Mysticism, Modern Middle Eastern Literature

**Language Coursework**

- Arabic: Beginning and Intermediate Moroccan Colloquial Arabic (intensive courses in Fez, Morocco, 2010 and 2011), Elementary Modern Standard Arabic (intensive in Cairo, Egypt, 2004) Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic 1 and 2 (intensive in Fez, Morocco, 2006), Advanced Arabic 1 (2007)  
- French: Accelerated Introduction to French (2007), Intermediate French 1, Intermediate French Conversation 1 (2008), Intermediate French 2 (2010)

## ACADEMIC HONORS

- Alumni Fellowship, University of Florida (4-years PhD funding)  
- Phi Kappa Phi, University of Florida Chapter  
- Pi Kappa Lambda, national music honors society  
- Omicron Delta Kappa, national leadership honors society  
- Kappa Delta Pi, national education honors society  
- Adirondack Scholar, Summit Scholarship, SUNY Potsdam (4 years undergraduate funding)

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

**2007-2011: Alumni Fellowship, University of Florida**

- Fellowship awarded for the completion of a PhD in Ethnomusicology.  
- Covers tuition, health care, and a stipend of \$16,000 per year for four years.

**Fall 2010: Autumn School at the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands**

- Awarded \$1,300 from the UF School of Music, Center for African Studies, and Graduate Student Council for participation in the Autumn School in October, 2010.

**2009-Present: Arabic Orchestra; Gainesville, FL**

- Successfully solicited \$6,500 of funding from the Center for African Studies (\$3,000), the Center for World Arts (\$1,500), and the School of Music (\$2,000) for instruments and guest artists.  
- See "Performance Experience" below.

**Summer 2009: Pre-Dissertation fieldwork grant, Center for African Studies**

- Provided \$1,000 for travel expenses related to pre-dissertation fieldwork.
- See “Research Experience” below.

**Summer 2008: Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Center for African Studies**

- Awarded for Arabic language study and preliminary research of Gnawa music in Fez, Morocco.
- Provided tuition at the Arabic Language Institute in Fez and a stipend of \$2,500.

**Fall 2007: Graduate Student Council, University of Florida**

**Fall 2007: Center for African Studies, University of Florida**

**Fall 2007: Department of Research Programs, University of Florida**

- \$250 each, travel funding to present at the national SEM conference, Columbus, Ohio and to support the Marimba Ayin (Guatemalan marimba band, see “Performance Experience,” below) tour of that region.

**Spring 2005: Graduate Student Council, University of Florida**

- \$250 travel funding to present at the regional SEM conference, Boone, NC.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Fall 2010-Fall 2011: Dissertation research in Morocco**

- Centered in Fez, Marrakech, and Essaouira.
- November-February in language study focused on the Moroccan dialect of Arabic.
- The primary goal of the research will be to document, transcribe, and analyze traditional Gnawa songs.
- The secondary goal will be to expand this work into a more nuanced and documented examination of Moroccan popular music styles based upon Gnawa sources than is currently available.

**Fall 2010: Preliminary research trip to Ghana, Mali, and Senegal**

- Visiting Accra (Ghana), Bamako (Mali), Dakar and St. Louis (Senegal).
- Research will be focused on further study of Mande and Mandinka musical styles with special attention given to potential connections between West African and North African traditions.
- Undertook lessons on the *kora* with Ledye Diabaté (Toumani Diabaté’s brother, substitute in the Symmetric Orchestra) and kora builder in Bamako, Mali.
- Prepared A/V materials and a lecture for the online manifestation of “Introduction to World Musics.”

**Summer 2009: Pre-Dissertation fieldwork in Fez, Morocco**

- Continued research on Gnawa musical styles and intensive lessons on the hajhuj from earlier trips.
- Began significant research into Sufi organizations throughout Fez (Hamadcha, Aïssawa).
- Funded by a Pre-Dissertation grant from the Center for African Studies at UF.

**Summer 2008: Pre-Dissertation fieldwork in Fez, Morocco**

- Conducted research on the ritual and secular musics of the Gnawa and Aïssawa brotherhoods.
- Studied the hajhuj (gimbri) with Abd ar-Rzaq, a Gnawa ma’alem in Fez.

**Summer 2006: Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship**

- Awarded for 6 weeks of intermediate Arabic language study.
- Began preliminary research on Gnawa music (both sacred and secular) in Fez, Morocco.

**Spring 2004: Study abroad semester in Cairo, Egypt at the American University in Cairo**

- Gave a series of presentations on American musical styles from old-time fiddling to jazz.
- Studied the social and political aspects of 20th century history on Egyptian culture.
- Studied intensive beginning Arabic language over 5 months.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**2007-Present: Alumni Fellow, University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**

- Instructor for “Popular Music in the United States,” Summer 2010.
- Instructor for “Introduction to World Musics,” Fall 2008, Spring, Summer, Fall 2009.

- Founded the Arabic Orchestra by recruiting musicians, running rehearsals, and acquiring funding for guest artists leading to the first student-run Arabic concert at UF. (See Performance Experience).
- Guest lecturer on West African and Moroccan music for world music, Arabic, and study abroad courses.
- Currently building multimedia materials on West African music for an online course (Fall 2010).
- Proficient in the use of Microsoft PowerPoint, Apple Keynote, Macromedia Dreamweaver (and other web design software), Apple iMovie, Windows MovieMaker, and Microsoft Excel for classroom instruction.

**2005-Present: Orchestral Musician in Florida and Georgia**

- See "Performance Experience" below

**2005-2007: Graduate Assistantship, University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**

- Teaching Assistant for "Popular and Traditional Music of Africa" and "Introduction to World Musics."
- Assistant Principal viola in the University of Florida Symphony Orchestra.
- Rehearsal assistant and performer for the African and Brazilian music ensembles.

**2005: Arabic Instructor and Teacher's Assistant, SUNY Potsdam; Potsdam, NY**

- Taught Arabic 101 as an independent study course.
- Supported future study abroad students through instruction in the Egyptian dialect of Arabic, cultural issues, and basic Middle Eastern history.

**2004-2005: Graduate Residence Hall Director, SUNY Potsdam; Potsdam, NY**

- Operated a building of 150 residents of ages varying from freshmen to graduate.
- Supervised and promoted dramatic growth within student staff of 6 Residence Assistants, guiding them in the fields of programming, community development and discipline as well as organizing responsibilities, meetings, and duties.
- Presented at RA training on University resources, creativity in event programming, and team building.

**2001-2004: Resident Assistant, Center for Campus Life, SUNY Potsdam; Potsdam, NY**

- Developed hall-wide community using social and educational programming.
- Held a disciplinary role while remaining a valuable and friendly resource.
- Presented during RA training on topics including programming, off campus programming, and creativity in programming events for students.
- Worked as a weekend summer camp counselor.

**CONFERENCE AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

**Summer 2011: Invited Lecture, Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad; Fez, Morocco**

- Presenting "Creativity and Collaboration: Gnawa Music and Globalization in the 20th Century."

**Fall 2010: Participant, Autumn School at the University of Amsterdam; Amsterdam, Netherlands**

- Secular Sounds, Islamic Sounds: The Politics of Listening in Secular-Liberal Nation-States

**Summer 2010: Invited Lecture, Valdosta State University; Valdosta, GA**

- Presented "Creativity and Collaboration: Gnawa Music and Globalization in the 20th Century."

**Spring 2010: Lecture Recital, University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**

- Presented "Creativity and Collaboration: Gnawa Music and Globalization in the 20th Century."
- Led an ensemble in performing examples of traditional and popular variations of Gnawa music.

**Spring 2009: Invited Lecture (SASA Lunch), Center for African Studies; Gainesville, FL**

**Fall 2008: African Studies Association, National Conference; Chicago, IL**

- Presented "Discussing Islam: Interactions between the 'Aissawa, Tijaniyya, and Gnawa in Fez."

**Fall 2008: Society for Ethnomusicology, National Conference; Middletown, CT**

- Presented "Symbolic and Social Power: The Gnawa of Morocco."

**Fall 2007: Society for Ethnomusicology, National Conference; Columbus, OH**

**Spring 2007: Boston University Graduate Conference in African Studies; Boston, MA**

- Presented "Solving Contradiction: The Place of Commodified Gnawa Music in Moroccan Identity."

**Spring 2006: Society for Ethnomusicology, Southeast Chapter Conference; Boone, NC**

**Spring 2006: Society for Ethnomusicology, Midwest Chapter Conference; Columbus, OH**

- Presented "The Velvet Underground: Art, Representation, and Identity."

**Fall 2004: Crane Academic Forum, SUNY Potsdam; Potsdam, NY**

- Presented "Arab Influence in Post-Bebop Jazz."

## **PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

**2009-Present: Arabic Orchestra; Gainesville, FL**

- Founded the University of Florida's first Arabic classical music ensemble.

- Successfully solicited \$6,500 of funding from the Center for African Studies (\$3,000), the Center for World Arts (\$1,500), and the School of Music (\$2,000) for instruments and guest artists.

- Directed rehearsals, prepared the group for guest artists, organized advertising and recruitment, and scheduled and set up the final concert.

- Performed 3 solo segments on the violin at the final concert of classical Arabic music by Muhammad Abd al-Wahab, Riad al-Sunbati, 'Ali Jihad Racy, and the Rahbani brothers.

**2005-Present: Albany Symphony Orchestra; Albany, GA**

- Assistant principal viola, section violin.

**2005-Present: Valdosta Symphony Orchestra; Valdosta, GA**

**2005-Present: Gainesville Chamber Orchestra; Gainesville, FL**

**2009-Present: Ocala Symphony Orchestra; Ocala, FL**

**2005-2006: Central Florida Symphony Orchestra; Ocala, FL**

- Section viola and violin

**2006-Present: Funkology and Das Fünkhaus; Gainesville, FL**

- Electric and string bass in a series of Gainesville funk, R&B, and rock bands.

**2008-Present: Picardy Junction; Gainesville, FL**

- Violin (fiddle), banjo, harmonica, string bass, accordion in an old-time and bluegrass ensemble.

- 1st place in the Morningside Nature Center Open String Band Contest.

**2005-Present: University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**

- University Symphony Orchestra (viola).

- Jacaré Brazil (violin, viola, mandolin, string bass, accordion).

- String quartet ensembles (viola).

**2007-2008: Marimba Ayin; Gainesville, FL**

- String bass in a student run Guatemalan marimba ensemble.

- Included a 10-day tour of Ohio.

**2000-2005: Crane School of Music; Potsdam, NY**

- Ensembles including: Crane Symphony Orchestra, Crane Chamber Orchestra, Contemporary Music Ensemble, Crane Opera Ensemble, Jewish Community Center Opera Orchestra, assorted string quartets.

- Viola, violin, electric bass, upright bass.

**2003-2004: Crane School of Music; Potsdam, NY**

- Founded the Jazz String Project.

- Project completed in conjunction with the Jazz Studies minor.

## **LEADERSHIP ROLES AND MEMBERSHIPS**

### **2006-2009: Student Society for Musicology, University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**

- President for two consecutive years.
- Organized and presided over two regional interdisciplinary conferences sponsored by the SSM.
- Webmaster: Developed and updated a new webpage for the student organization.
- Founding member of the student organization, which supports graduate students in musicology.

### **2003-2004: Public Relations Officer, CraneASTA, SUNY Potsdam; Potsdam, NY**

- Created a new website and publicized the Crane chapter of the American String Teachers Association
- Represented CraneASTA at the national ASTA conference in Columbus, Ohio (where the primary focus was on fiddle and violin playing within different cultures around the world).

### **2002-2003: Chief Engineer, WAIH Campus Radio, SUNY Potsdam; Potsdam, NY**

- Maintained and purchased audio equipment for the WAIH campus radio station.
- Trained new DJs on technical, programming, and formatting matters.
- Hosted radio shows, exceeded public radio appearances and dances for the Potsdam community.

### **Member or past-member of the following organizations**

- Society for Ethnomusicology
- Society of Music Theory
- American Musicological Society
- American String Teachers Associations
- Music Educators National Conference
- American Viola Society

## **RECORDINGS AND PUBLICATIONS**

### **2010: Jonathan Wadley; Gainesville, FL**

- Recording violin and accordion parts for an upcoming album.

### **2009: Morningbell, *Sincerely, Severely*; Gainesville, FL**

- Arranged string accompaniments and recorded violin parts on the album.

### **2006: Gainesville Chamber Orchestra, *Postcards*; Gainesville, FL**

- Viola on Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 8* and other selections.

### **2005: The Glimpse Magazine**

- Photography from Cairo, Egypt selected for publication in the 2005 edition of The Glimpse calendar.
- Other images selected for publication in support of articles throughout the magazine.

### **2005: The North Country Literary Magazine**

- Photography from Cairo, Egypt chosen for publication in the 2005 issue.