

DR. NICHOLAS R. VASALLO

EDUCATION

[2007 – 2011] University of California, Santa Cruz

Doctor of Musical Arts (Music Composition with emphasis in World Music and Computer-Assisted Composition)

Master of Arts (Music Composition)

- President's Dissertation-Year Fellowship Winner.
- Studied with David Evan Jones, Hi-Kyung Kim, Paul Nauert, Ben Carson, and David Cope.
- Additional studies with Ken Ueno (UC Berkeley) and Francois Rose (University of Pacific).

[2003 – 2007] CSU East Bay, Hayward

Bachelor of Arts (Music Composition)

- 3.8 GPA Dean's List Award for outstanding merit.
- Private study with Frank LaRocca, Jeffrey Miller, Ellen Wassermann and Rafael Hernandez.

[1997 – 2003] Diablo Valley College Pleasant Hill, CA

Associate of Arts (Liberal Arts)

Certificate of Achievement (Music Industry Studies)

- 4.0 GPA Highest Academic Honors.
- Private study with Bruce Cook and Steed Cowart.

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS, GRANTS, AND RECOGNITIONS

Ernst Bacon Memorial Award 2018 Semi-finalist

String Quartet Smackdown IV 2018 Finalist

The American Prize 2015 Winner for *When the War Began*

The American Prize 2015 Finalist for *Antares Rising*

Composers Forum Music in Two Movements 2015 Winner for *The Prophecy*

36th Annual Telly Award 2015 for "Make Dreams Happen - Cal Poly Pomona's Steinway Initiative"

Washington Composers Forum Inverted Space 2015 Winner for *When the War Began*

1st H.M. Gorecki International Composers Competition 2012 Award for *Judicabo te*.

Indiana State University CMF Music Now 2011 Winner for *Explosions in the Sky*.

International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition 2011 honorable mention (expert level) for *Black Swan Events*.

Truman State University/MACRO Composition 2011 Award for *Antares Rising*.
All the Cool Parts Idol Competition 2010-2011 Winner for *Expand the Hive*.
Pacific Rim Music Festival 2010 Premiere Selection for *Collapsing Obsidian Sun*.
San Francisco Choral Artists New Voices 2009 Award for *De civitatibus*.
April in Santa Cruz Contemporary Music Festival 2009 Official Selection for *Explosions in the Sky*; 2008 Official Selection for *Coalescence*.
David Cope Award for Compositional Excellence 2008 Winner for *The Battle Within*.
UCSC Student Orchestral Competition 2008 Winner for *Expand the Hive*.
Seattle Pianist Collective Call for Scores 2008 Award for *Transient Reflections*.
60x60 Project (Pacific Rim mix) 2008 Official Selection for *Evanescent Revolutions*.
soundSCAPE Festival (Pavia, Italy) 2008 Finalist for *Coalescence*.
CSUEB Student Choral Composition 2007 Winner for *Lumen et Tenebras*.
New Jersey International Film Festival 2006 Film Score Selection for *Sinful*.
John Lennon Songwriting Bus 2005 Official Selection.
KSJS 90.5FM Best Metal Album 2001 Finalist for *Antagony*.

ACADEMIC AWARDS, GRANTS, AND RECOGNITIONS

Cal State East Bay "40 Under 40" 2017 Award
Cal Poly Pomona Special Projects For Improving The Classroom Experience (SPICE) Grant 2015
Cal Poly Pomona Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching 2014 Nomination.
Cal Poly Pomona President's Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity 2014 Fellowship Award.
San Francisco Classical Voice Music Educator Award 2013 First Runner Up.
[UCSC President's Dissertation-Year Fellowship Competition](#) 2010-2011 Winner.
[Faculty Member of the Year](#) 2010-2011 Nominee at Gavilan College.
Porter College Graduate Arts Research Grant 2009 and 2011 Award.
UCSC Doctoral Tuition and Fee Fellowship 2007-2010 Award.
UCSC Chancellors Doctoral Fellowship 2007-2009 Award.
UCSC Music Department Discretionary Funds 2009 and 2010 Award.
CSUEB Dean's List 2004-2007 Award.
DVC Academic Honors 2003 Award.

TEACHING

[2015 – present] Diablo Valley College Pleasant Hill, CA
Assistant Professor

- Courses: Intro to Music Composition, Advanced Music Composition, Intro to Digital Audio and MIDI, Sound for Picture, Songwriting, History of Rock, Music Appreciation, History of Jazz.

[2013 – 2015] California State Polytechnic University Pomona, CA
Assistant Professor

- Courses: Music Theory, Music Appreciation, Counterpoint, Studio Electric Bass, Songwriting, Music Industry Internship, Music Industry Seminar, Senior Project.

[2011 – 2013] California State University, East Bay Hayward, CA
Lecturer

- Courses: Applied Composition, Music Theory, Electronic Music, Digital Audio Production, Instrumentation, History of Rock & Roll, Music Appreciation, Sight Singing/Ear Training.

[2010 – 2013] Gavilan College Gilroy, CA
Adjunct Professor

- Courses: Music Theory, Music History, Songwriting and Composition.
- Faculty Member of the Year 2010-2011 Nominee.
- GCFA Fine Arts Representative.

[2010] Los Medanos College Pittsburg, CA
Adjunct Professor

- Courses: Popular Musics in American Culture.

[2010] University of California, Santa Cruz
Lecturer

- Courses: Beginning Theory and Musicianship.

[2007 – 2010] University of California, Santa Cruz
Graduate Teaching Associate

- Courses: Beginning Theory and Musicianship I and II, Theory, Literature, and Musicianship I and II, Music of The Beatles, 16th and 18th century Counterpoint, 20th Century Music, Basic to Advanced Musicianship and Keyboard.

[2007 – 2010] Various Santa Cruz, CA
Guitar Teacher

- Teaching the fundamentals of guitar to beginning students. One hour weekly lessons where students learn how to read tablature, notation, and basic theory. Specialized in Rock, Folk, Blues, Heavy Metal, and basic Classical guitar playing.

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

[2017 – present] Music Dept. Diablo Valley College
Co-Chair

- Meet deadlines established by the department or administration.
- Coordinate the “member-generated” schedule with the Instruction Office recommendations.

- Maintain a balanced department budget.
- Maintain communication with all department members and part-time staff.

[2015 – present] Music Dept. Diablo Valley College
Director of Music Industry Studies, Director of Music Composition

- Oversee the Music Industry Studies Program and execute all administrative duties that it entails.
- Oversee the Music Composition area and execute all administrative duties that it entails.

[2013 – 2015] Cal Poly Pomona
Committee Member

- Special Projects for Improving the Classroom Experience (SPICE)
- Steinway Initiative
- Effective Instruction
- Making C.L.A.S.S. a Destination College
- Music Board

[2013 – present] Cal Poly Pomona
Committee Chair/ 2nd Chair

- Music Production and Music Industry senior projects (20-25 on average annually).

[2013 – present] Cal Poly Pomona
Faculty Advisor

- Music Uniting Student Entertainers (MUSE) Student Club.
- Incoming freshman and transfer music majors.

[2012 – present] Composers, Inc.
Artistic Director

- Attend board meetings, judge composition competitions, arrange seasons, and compose new works with the premier composers collective on the West Coast.

[2012 – 2013] CSU East Bay, Hayward
Faculty Advisor

- Multimedia Music Box (MMB): A student-run organization with the mission of working on “music from movies, anime, video games and other multimedia. Our purpose is to make this music ours - arrange it, learn it, and perform it.”

[2012 – 2013] CSU East Bay, Hayward
Graduate Thesis Committee

- Service as thesis advisor, examiner, and adjudicator for Master’s level students: Dave Waugh, Ryan Rey, and Chris Dyer.

[2011 – 2012] Gavilan College Faculty Association Gavilan College

Fine Arts Representative

- Elected to represent the Fine Arts Dept. in GCFA council meetings.

[2009 – 2010]

University of California, Santa Cruz

Graduate Student Representative

- Attend meetings of both the Music Graduate Committee and of full-time faculty (usually a total of 2-3 meetings per quarter) for the academic year, and to relay concerns, comments, requests or suggestions of graduate students regarding the curriculum and administration of the music program.

[2009 – 2010]

University of California, Santa Cruz

Graduate Arts Research Committee

- 1-2 meetings of this committee which, in cooperation with the Porter Provost, allocates funds in response to student applications.

[2007 – 2008]

University of California, Santa Cruz

Graduate Student Researcher

- Assistant to Director of April in Santa Cruz Contemporary Music Festival 2008, and Andrew Imbric Festival.

[2005 – 2007] Society of Composers, Inc.

CSU East Bay, Hayward

President

- Student chapter president in charge of organizing meetings, concerts, workshops, etc.

[2005 – 2007] The Vertigo Series

CSU East Bay, Hayward

Director

- Directed chamber ensemble at CSUEB, in charge of providing music, scheduling rehearsals, concerts, recordings, etc.

RESIDENCIES

- Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, featured composer in residence, June 2015.
- Washington State University, Pullman, WA, featured composer in residence, November 2013.

SELECTED WORKS AND COMMISSIONS

Ozymandias (2014) 11 min.

for electric guitar, percussion, and string quartet

Premiere: April 29, 2014

Commissioned by The Living Earth Show and Friction Quartet

The Prophecy (2013) 11 min.

for SATB

Premiere: November 15, 2013

Commissioned by WSU Concert Choir

In Another Time (2012) 5 min.
for chamber winds
Premiere: May 22, 2012
Commissioned by CSUEB Wind Ensemble

Sbred (2012) 10 min.
for string orchestra
Premiere: June 7, 2012
Commissioned by CSUEB String Orchestra

Black Swan Events (2011) 17 min.
concerto for electric guitar and orchestra
* 2011 International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition
Commissioned by SF Conservatory New Music Ensemble

Elements of Metal: II. Omnes Perituri (2011) 6 min.
for string quartet
Premiere: April 29, 2011. University of California, Santa Cruz
Commissioned by UCSC Resident String Ensemble

Antares Rising (2010) 8 min.
for wind ensemble w/ taiko group
Premiere: May 15, 2010. University of California, Santa Cruz
* 2011 Truman State University/MACRO Composition Award
Commissioned and performed by UCSC Winds and Watsonville Taiko

Elements of Metal: I. Collapsing Obsidian Sun (2009) 7 min.
for haegum, violin, cello
Premiere: April 22, 2010. University of California, Santa Cruz
* 2010 Pacific Rim Music Festival Premiere Selection
Commissioned by CMEK and Del Sol String Quartet

Explosions in the Sky (2009) 7 min.
for horn, piano, violin, viola, cello
Premiere: April 19, 2009. University of California, Santa Cruz
* 2011 Indiana State University CMF Music Now winner
Commissioned and performed by SF Conservatory Chamber

Expand the Hive (2008) 5 min.
for orchestra
Premiere: November, 21, 2008. University of California, Santa Cruz
* 2010-2011 All the Cool Parts Idol Competition Winner
* 2008 UCSC Student Orchestral Competition Winner
Performed by UCSC Orchestra under Nicole Paiement

Coalescence (2008) 6 min.
for chamber orchestra
Premiere: April 23, 2008. University of California, Santa Cruz
Performed by UCSC Chamber Orchestra under Nathaniel Berman
* 2008 soundSCAPE Festival (Pavia, Italy) Finalist

Evanescent Revolutions (2008) 4 min.

for disklavier
Premiere: April 18, 2008. Mills College, Oakland, CA
* 2008 60x60 Project (Pacific Rim mix) Official Selection

Transient Reflections (2007) 6 min.
for piano
Premiere: June 1, 2008. Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA
Performed by Seattle Pianists Collective
* 2008 Seattle Pianist Collective Call for Scores Award

De civitatibus (2007) 4 min.
for SATB
Premiere: June 13, 2009. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco
Performed by San Francisco Choral Artists
* 2009 San Francisco Choral Artists New Voices Award

Lumen et Tenebras (2007) 5 min.
for SATB
Premiere: March 18, 2007. Mission San Jose, Fremont, CA
Performed by CSUEB University Singers
* 2007 CSUEB Student Choral Composition Winner

AREAS OF SPECIALIZED STUDY

Avid Certified Instructor: Pro Tools 101, 110.

Electronic Music: production, history, computer-assisted composition (spectral music, algorithmic music), and sampling.

Digital Audio Production: building a DAW, creating a network of DAW's, MIDI synthesis, software (Pure Data, Ableton, Pro Tools, Cakewalk Sonar, AudioSculpt, Logic Audio, Wavelab, and more), hardware, recording engineering, and mixing.

Music Notation Software: trained in Sibelius, Finale, and MuseScore.

Film & Media Composition: techniques, history, and applications.

Music Industry Studies: production, management, royalties, publishing, and promotion.

György Ligeti and Giacinto Scelsi: compositional techniques in regards to harmony, form, counterpoint, and rhythm.

Spectral Music: theory, techniques, history, and literature.

North American Taiko: music history, sociology, performance practice and theory.

Traditional Korean music: and performance practice (see workshop below).

Popular Music [Rock, Hip-Hop, and Heavy Metal] history, sociology, performance practice and theory.

Songwriting: skills in melody, harmony, and arranging as well as creative approaches to musical composition, lyric writing, and an individual writing style.

INVITED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS

- "Reality Check: Being a Modern Day Composer" and "Morphology and Space in My Music," Student Composers Symposium, CSU East

Bay, April 22, 2015.

- "Morphology and Space in My Music," Provost's Symposium for Faculty Scholarship, Cal Poly Pomona Bronco Student Center, December 12, 2014.
- "Asian-Americans Combating Stereotypes," Pilipino American Studies Kollektive (PASK), Cal Poly Pomona, November 18, 2014.
- "The Current State of the Music Industry," Nihon Kogakuin Group of Japanese students, Cal Poly Pomona, November 13, 2014.
- "Grad School and Networking," Senior Seminar, Cal Poly Pomona, October 24, 2014.
- "Creating a Successful Senior Project," Senior Seminar, Cal Poly Pomona, October 17, 2014.
- "Compositional techniques and processes in the music of Nick Vasallo," Composition seminar, Washington State University, November 15, 2013.
- "Stylistic Polyphony: Musical Eclecticism in My Music," Student Composers Symposium, CSU East Bay, Nov. 9, 2012.
- "Electronic Music Composition," Bay Area Digital Arts, San Lorenzo High School, Dec. 7, 2011.
- "Fractals: The Meeting of Classical and Metal Music," Sound Arts seminar, UC Santa Cruz, May 26, 2010.
- "Compositional techniques and processes in the music of Nick Vasallo," 20th Century Music seminar, UC Santa Cruz, March 8, 2010.
- "Music of Nick Vasallo," Sound Arts seminar, UC Santa Cruz, May 13, 2009.
- "Dark Reflections: The Disregarded Parallels Between Classical and Metal Music," Methods of Research seminar, UC Santa Cruz, Dec. 10, 2007.

DISCOGRAPHY AND PRODUCTIONS

- [*Oblivion – Called to Rise*](#), Unique Leader Records, #12046-2, January 2013.
- [*Monuments Emerge*](#), Innova Recordings, #821, April 2012.
- [*let the machines do it for us*](#), Kunaki, LLC PX00ISYXUX, May 2011.
- [*Days of Night*](#), Deepsend Records DSR 041, 2009.
- [*The Burning*](#), Ars Nova Classics CD-0105, November 2007.

PUBLICATIONS AND WRITINGS

De civitatibus, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc., SBMP 1190, 2014.

Stylistic Polyphony: Polystylism and Eclecticism in "Black Swan Events", Dissertation paper for DMA, Spring 2011, UC Santa Cruz.

Power and Complexity: The Music of Metal, Taiko, and György Ligeti, Doctoral Qualifying Exam papers, Spring 2010, UC Santa Cruz.

INTERVIEWS AND ARTICLES

[Mobius Trio Video Premiere: Nick Vasallo's Dark Matter](#) - I Care If You Listen (March 31, 2014)

["San Francisco Classical Voice Announces Winners of First Annual Music Educator Award"](#) - San Francisco Classical Voice Press Release (April 5, 2013)

["Music alum, lecturer releases CD, two pieces to debut on campus this spring"](#) - CSU East Bay news article (April 30, 2012)

["Composers, Inc. celebrates local talent at Old First"](#) - SF Music Examiner (October, 2011)

["CSUEB grad Nicholas Vasallo helping to revitalize CSUEB's music department"](#) - CSU East Bay news article (June, 2011)

["All the Cool Parts 2010 Idol Winner: Nick Vasallo"](#) - All the Cool Parts podcast interview (June, 2011)

["Synesthesia: Three Composers And Their Sensory Inspiration"](#) - Bullett magazine article (Spring 2011, Vol. II)

["Skilled instructor inspires songwriting"](#) - newspaper featured article from Gavilan Press (April 25, 2011)

["Music student gets \\$21,000 fellowship"](#) - newspaper featured article from Santa Cruz Sentinel (May 28, 2010)

["Time to Face the Music"](#) - newspaper article and interview from City on a Hill Press (Sept. 2009)

[UCSC Featured Student](#) - video interview from (July 2008)

["Classical Mayhem"](#) - interview and article from Anti-Mag (March 2008)

["Former CSUEB Music Student Releases CD"](#) - newspaper featured article from The Pioneer (January 2008)

["Nick Vasallo: Composer of Eclecticism"](#) - interview from The Harbinger (June 2007)

[CSUEB Department of Music](#) - interview with Buddy James (April 2007)

LANGUAGES

Spanish – University Level 3, Chinese – Level 1 (in progress), Markup Languages: HTML, CSS, Pd and PHP.

CONFERENCES AND FESTIVALS

Indiana State University Contemporary Music Festival, Pacific Rim Music Festival, April in Santa Cruz Contemporary Music Festival, 60x60 Project Pacific Rim Mix, CSUEB Choral Invitational.

FILM SCORES

- *Missing*, 2012, 454 Films, Directed by Gino Gamboa.
- *Duplicity*, 2007, Black Tie Entertainment, Directed by Ryan Neely.
- *Phoenix*, 2006, Ashes and Flames, Directed by Tony Marsiglia.
- *Sinful*, 2005, E.I. Independent Cinema, Directed by Tony Marsiglia.
- *Azira: Blood from the Sand*, 2004, Turning Point Productions, Directed by Vinnie Bilancio, Scott Evangelista.
- *Iron Kid (Eon Kid)*, 2003-2005, Design Storm and Storytime Pictures, 3D animated cartoon television series.

REFERENCES

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