

## Hicham Chami | Postdoctoral Associate

Yale University | Institute of Sacred Music

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### Academic Positions

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**2024-25**      **Postdoctoral Associate**  
Yale Institute of Sacred Music  
Yale University (New Haven, CT, USA)

### Education

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**2024**      **Ph.D. Ethnomusicology**  
Columbia University (New York, NY, USA)  
• Dissertation title: Jebli Music Culture: Soundings from a Moroccan Periphery  
• Dissertation advisor: Dr. Alessandra Ciucci  
• Dissertation co-advisor: Dr. Aaron Fox

**2021**      **M.Phil**  
Columbia University (New York, NY, USA)  
• Concentration: Ethnomusicology

**2018**      **Master's in Music**  
Columbia University (New York, NY, USA)  
• Concentration: Ethnomusicology  
• Thesis: "Passing the Torch": Youssef Kassab and the Transmission of Turāth

**2014**      **Master's in Music**  
University of Florida (Gainesville, FL, USA)  
• Concentration: Musicology  
• Thesis: Deconstructing a Mediæval Legend: Guido D'Arezzo, The "Arabian Influence," and the Role of "Historical Imagination"

**2004**      **Master's in Business Administration (MBA)**  
Kellstadt School of Business, DePaul University (Chicago, IL, USA)  
• Major: Strategic Management

**2000**      **Cycle Normal [B.S. equivalent]**  
ISCAE (Casablanca, Morocco)  
• Major: Marketing-Communication

- 1995**      ***Baccalaureat Francais [French High School Diploma equivalent]***  
 Lycée Descartes (Rabat, Morocco)  
 • Majors: Economics and Social Science  
 • Minor: Mathematics
- 1998**      ***Honors Degree [Moroccan equivalent of a Performance diploma]***  
 Conservatoire National de Musique et de Danse (Rabat, Morocco)  
 • Majors: Qanun Performance and Music Theory

## Published Works

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- Forthcoming**    Journal Article: “‘Passing the Torch’: Preserving and Transmitting the Heritage of Traditional Arabic Music” In: *The International Journal for Ethnomusicological Studies*
- Forthcoming**    Journal Article: “‘Out of Africa’? Toward Determining a Geocultural Context for the Study of Moroccan Music Culture” In: *Arab Studies Journal*
- 2023**            Journal Article: “Confronting Rouanet’s Colonial Gaze: A Critical Reading of ‘La musique arabe dans le Maghreb’”  
 In: *Turath: Algerian Journal of Cultural Anthropology. Volume 2: July-December 2023. p:15-34*
- 2021**            Book Review: Inside Arabic Music: Arabic Maqam Performance and Theory in the 20th Century by Johnny Farraj and Sami Abu Shumays. 2019.  
*Journal of Folklore Research, 2021*
- 2020**            Encyclopædia Entries: Andalusian Music, Arab Classical Music, Bashir Brothers (Munir & Jamil), Belly Dance, Darbuka, Cheb Khaled, Malhun, Qanun, Rai, Rebab, Riq, Taqsim  
*Music around the World: A Global Encyclopedia, Vol. 3, M. Mihalka and A. Martin, eds. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC/CLIO*
- 2019**            Encyclopædia Entries: Advocacy, Anasheed, Egyptian Music, Muwashah, Orientalism, Representation, Research  
*The SAGE International Encyclopedia of Music and Culture, J. Sturman, ed. SAGE Publications: London, United Kingdom*
- 2018**            Journal Article: “‘The Road Less Travelled’: The Moroccan Malḥūn and the Migration of the Andalusian Muwashshah.” In: *Itineraria: Travel Accounts and Knowledge of the World from Antiquity to the Renaissance: 83-100.*
- 2018**            Book Chapter: “Pathways of Cultural Influence: The Intersection of the Muwashshah and Malḥūn in the Moroccan Soundscape.” In: *Dialogic Configurations in Post-Colonial Morocco - Rhetorical Conjectures in Arts, Culture and Politics.*, Najib Mokhtari, ed. Rabat, Morocco: International University of Rabat Press.
- 2013**            Website Review: Archives of Arabic Music  
*World of Music (New Series), Vol. ii(1)*

- 2013 [Book Review](#): Thomas Turino, Music as Social Life  
*Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. 126 (Winter)

## Conference Papers (Invited)

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- 2023 **“Performance and Geographies of Knowledge” Conference**  
**University of New England-Tangier Campus, Tangier, Morocco**  
*‘Ayta Music and Adjacent Performative Arts - Panel discussant*
- 2023 **Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures Guest Series**  
**University of Florida, Gainesville, FL**  
*Reshaping Perspectives: Arab Music Scholarship in a Post-Colonial Era*
- 2023 **Music Symposium**  
**TALIM, Tangier, Morocco**  
*Rediscovering the Jebli Roots of Tangier’s Music Culture - Panel discussant*
- 2016 **The Legacy of Al-Andalus Symposium**  
**University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN**  
*‘The Road Less Travelled’: The Moroccan Malḥūn and the Migration of the Andalusian Muwashshaḥ*
- 2016 **Cultivating Arab Culture Pedagogies for Educators**  
**University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**  
*Navigating between the Secular and the Religious: Case study of Andalusian music in the City of Titwan and al-Zawiya al H'arraqiyya*
- 2014 **Arab Arts & Culture Course for Educators**  
**University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA**  
*The Rahbani Brothers and Fairuz, Lebanese Cultural Icons in the 20th Century*
- 2010 **Arabic Music Symposium**  
**University of Florida, Gainesville, FL**  
*Arabic Music. Condition: Critical!*

## Conference Papers (Juried)

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- 2024 **“Performing Pedagogy” International Conference**  
**Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, Tetuan, Morocco**  
*Echoes of Resistance: The Cultural Significance and Contemporary Challenges of Raqṣat l-bārūd among the Jebala of Northwest Morocco*

- 2023**      **Middle-Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting**  
**Montreal, Canada**  
*"Ḥarsh (Rough) but Ḥaluw (Sweet)": Voicing a Jebli Identity in a Stratified Moroccan Music Culture*
- 2023**      **Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Conference**  
**Ottawa, Canada**  
*"Ḥarsh (Rough) but Ḥaluw (Sweet)": Voicing a Jebli Identity in a Stratified Moroccan Music Culture*
- 2019**      **Middle-Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting**  
**New Orleans, LA**  
*Paul Bowles: "Capturing" the Musics of Morocco at the Threshold of Independence*
- 2019**      **Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Conference**  
**Bloomington, IN**  
*Marketing the "Music of Morocco": The Evolution of the Bowles Project*
- 2019**      **Music and Sound at the Mediterranean Crossroads - 12th Symposium of the ICTM Study Group on Mediterranean Music Studies**  
**IFAO- Cairo, Egypt**  
*'The Ties that Bind': Trans-Mediterranean Coloniality in the Musical Institutions of Post-Independence Morocco*
- 2018**      **Middle-Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting**  
**San Antonio, TX**  
*"Out of Africa?" Toward Determining a Geo-Cultural Context for the Study of Moroccan Musics*
- 2018**      **African Music Scholarship in the Twenty-first Century: Challenges and Directions: Second Symposium of the ICTM Study Group on African Musics**  
**University of Ghana - Accra, Ghana**  
*The Crucible of Colonialism: The Connection Between Cultural Hegemony and Francophone Musical Scholarship in French Protectorate Morocco*
- 2018**      **Music and Sound at the Mediterranean Crossroads: 12th Symposium of the ICTM Study Group on Mediterranean Music Studies**  
**Dar Souiri - Essaouira, Morocco**  
*'The Ties that Bind': Trans-Mediterranean Coloniality in the Musical Institutions of Post-Independence Morocco*
- 2018**      **"Euro-African Memories: Colonial and Postcolonial Spanish legacies in Morocco and Equatorial Guinea"**  
**Institució Milà i Fontanals, CSIC - Barcelona, Spain**  
*Crossing the Strait: Coloniality in the Musical Culture of Post-Independence Spanish Morocco*

- 2017 Middle-Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
*A Tale of Two Protectorates: Cultural Hegemony in Colonial Morocco and Its Impact on Indigenous Musics*
- 2017 “Colonial Morocco Revisited” International Workshop**  
**Centre Jacques Berque pour les Etudes en Sciences Humaines et Sociales**  
**Rabat, Morocco**  
*‘The Powers That Be’: Cultural Hegemony in Colonial Morocco and Its Impact on Indigenous Musics*
- 2017 “Evolutions or revolutions? Contemporary Middle Eastern and North African Music – traditions and new tendencies”**  
**Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales**  
**Paris, France**  
*‘The Powers That Be’: Cultural Hegemony in Colonial Morocco and Its Impact on Indigenous Musics*
- 2017 “Interweaving Cultures: Theory and Practice’**  
**University of Malta**  
**Valleta, Malta**  
*Enduring Echoes of al-Andalus: Cultural Policy and the Status of Indigenous Musics in Protectorate and Post-Independence Morocco*
- 2017 Rocky Mountain Music Scholars' Conference**  
**University of Utah**  
**Salt Lake City, UT**  
*Enduring Echoes of al-Andalus: Cultural Policy and the Status of Indigenous Musics in Protectorate and Post-Independence Morocco*
- 2017 Society for Ethnomusicology - Niagara chapter**  
**Kent State University**  
**Warren, OH**  
*A Tale of Two Protectorates: Cultural Hegemony in Colonial Morocco and Its Impact on Indigenous Musics*
- 2017 “Music: Order and Disorder” Columbia University Music Scholarship Conference**  
**Columbia University**  
**New York, NY**  
*A Tale of Two Protectorates: Cultural Hegemony in Colonial Morocco and Its Impact on Indigenous Musics*
- 2016 Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Conference**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
*Enduring Echoes of al-Andalus: Cultural Policy and the Status of Indigenous Musics in Protectorate and Post-Independence Morocco*

- 2016**      **“Routes of Difference: Migration in Artistic, Academic and Media Discourses”  
Conference**  
**Catholic University of Portugal**  
**Lisboa, Portugal**  
*East-West Hybridity in the Work of Arab-American Composers in the U.S.*
- 2016**      **Musicians in the Mediterranean: Narratives of Movement**  
**Conservatorio San Pietro a Majella**  
**Napoli, Italy**  
*‘The Road Less Travelled’: The Moroccan Malhūn and the Migration of the Andalusian Muwashshah*
- 2015**      **Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference**  
**Albuquerque, NM**  
*East-West Hybridity in the Work of Arab-American Composers in the U.S.*
- 2014**      **“Musical Traditions in North Africa” Symposium**  
**Center of Arab and Mediterranean Music**  
**Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia.**  
*Towards Setting a Course for 21st-Century Studies in Maghrebi Ethnomusicology: Three Key Questions.*
- 2014**      **Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Conference**  
**Pittsburgh, PA**  
*The Sacred and the Profane: The Role of the Harrāqī and Raissūnī Sufi Orders in Preserving the Heritage of Andalusian Music in Tetuán, Morocco*
- 2013**      **Sequestering Tradition?: A Cultural Sustainability Symposium**  
**Sterling College**  
**Craftsbury Common, VT**  
*“A Sojourn Elsewhere”:* Preserving the Turath in the Arab Diaspora
- 2012**      **Society for Ethnomusicology/American Musicological Society: Annual Joint meeting**  
**New Orleans, LA**  
*Deconstructing a Medieval Legend: Guido d'Arezzo, the "Arabian Influence", and the Role of "Historical Imagination"*
- 2011**      **Conversations 2011: Music Scholarship in Dialogue**  
**University of Michigan**  
**Ann Arbor, MI**  
*‘Inta ‘Omri’: A Merging of Western Influence and Eastern Tradition in Egyptian Music*
- 2011**      **Society for Ethnomusicology - Niagara chapter**  
**Eastman School of Music**  
**Rochester, NY**  
*‘Inta ‘Omri’: A Precious yet Painful Collaboration; A Merging of Western Influence and Eastern Tradition in Egyptian Music*

- 2011**      **Society for Ethnomusicology - MIDSEM chapter**  
**Bowling Green State University**  
**Bowling Green, OH**  
*The Absence of the Blue-Print: Informal Pedagogy and the Perpetuation of Classical Arabic Music*
- 2011**      **“Hybridity in Music”**  
**University of Miami,**  
**Miami, FL**  
*East-West Hybridity in the Work of Arab-American Composers in the U.S.*
- 2011**      **Sixth International Conference on the Arts in Society**  
**Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities**  
**Berlin, Germany**  
*The Demise of Classical Arabic Music*
- 2011**      **2011 Society for Ethnomusicology/Congress on Research in Dance Annual Conference**  
**Philadelphia, PA**  
*Endgame: The Role of Arab-American Composers in the Preservation, Hybridization, and Eventual Evanescence of Traditional Arabic Music in the U.S.*

## Teaching Experience

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- Spring 2020 & Spring 2021**    Instructor  
Asian Music Humanities: Musics of East Asia
- Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2023**    Instructor  
Asian Music Humanities: Musics of India and West Asia
- Spring 2019**    Teaching Assistant  
Asian Music Humanities: Musics of East Asia
- Fall 2018**      Teaching Assistant  
Asian Music Humanities: Musics of India and West Asia
- 2014**            Lecturer in Professional Development Training for Music and Arabic Educators, al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, Philadelphia, PA
- 2012 - 2014**    Guest lecturer, Middlebury Monterey Language Academy Summer Program in Intensive Arabic, Pomona, CA
- 2011 - 2012**    Lecturer for live section of “MUH 2501 - Introduction to World Musics,” University of Florida

- 2011**      Lecturer for online section of “MUH 2501 - Introduction to World Musics,” University of Florida
  
- 2010**      Presented lectures on Arabic music in conjunction with the Seattle Arab Festival
  
- 2010**      Instructor of Teacher’s course in Arabic music, al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, Philadelphia, PA
  
- 2010**      Residency at Western Michigan University which involved presenting seminars and multimedia lecture-demonstrations to college students, Kalamazoo, MI
  
- 2008**      Residency at Bowdoin College for university faculty and professors, Brunswick, ME
  
- 2007**      Seminar at Ann Arbor’s University Musical Society intended for teachers and educators, Ann Arbor, MI
  
- 2007**      Residencies at Lewis University and Illinois Valley Community College, which involved presenting seminars and multimedia lecture-demonstrations to college students, Romeoville, IL
  
- 2006**      Workshop at Tufts University, which involved presenting seminars and multimedia lecture-demonstrations to college students, Boston, MA
  
- 2004 - 2010**    Designing the curriculum and teaching music history and theory classes at the Heartland Seminars, a nationwide program that attracted college students and professors from around the U.S. and Canada, Racine, WI
  
- 2004 - 2005**    Teaching high and elementary school classes at dozens of Chicago-area schools through the Urban Gateways program, Chicago, IL
  
- 2003 - 2004**    Consulting for a multicultural program at Sullivan High School in Rogers Park, Chicago, IL

## **Professional Experience**

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- 2012-2014**    **Managing Editor, Journal of Arab Music Research**  
A University of Florida publication
  
- 2005-2010**    **Executive Director, Heartland Seminars (Racine, WI, USA)**  
In addition to being a lecturer and a teacher at the Heartland Seminars, I was--as the executive director--ultimately responsible for designing the coursework and the curricula for the seminars. Other executive tasks included the hiring of the faculty along with deciding on and negotiating their compensation, in addition to marketing and promotion of the seminars nationwide.

**2002-**            **Consultant, Arabesque Foundation for Arab Culture (Chicago, IL, USA)**  
Designing a variety of educational programs to promote the artistic and cultural mission of the organization, including public school workshops, lecture-demonstrations at area high schools, concerts at museums and public libraries, and college residencies throughout the U.S. Proposing recording projects, selecting musicians to participate, and supervising studio sessions and post-production activities.

**2002-2005**    **General Manager, Xauen Music, Inc. (Chicago, IL, USA)**  
Negotiating fees and preparing contracts for artists and venues, publicizing and promoting the performances by musicians and ensembles sponsored by Xauen Music, Inc., subcontracting talent as requested for events producers, designing strategies for audience development, hiring, training, and supervising additional staff as needed, providing input in budgetary and financial matters, overseeing production and marketing of all publications and recordings, planning and maintaining the company's website, and communicating and networking with cultural agencies in the Chicagoland area, throughout the U.S., and overseas.

Implemented projects while working for Xauen Music included:

- Producing and managing a nationwide tour with the Arabesque Music Ensemble and world-class vocalists Youssef Kassab and Dima Orsho, celebrating the heritage of the "Three Musketeers"
- Producing and managing an international tour with the Chicago Classical Oriental Ensemble (CCOE) and world-class vocalists Youssef Kassab and Rosann Khoury, celebrating the heritage of Egyptian composer Sheikh Sayyed Darweesh
- Producing "Arabesque," a weekly radio show broadcasting for three years on WHPK 88.5, Chicago
- Producing "Arabesque Chicago," a monthly concert series with guest artists at the Raven Theatre
- Producing and managing a nationwide tour with the CCOE and guest vocalists Naser Musa and Yair Dalal, including a performance at the United Nations, celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Producing and managing a nationwide tour with the CCOE, the Andaluciya East-West Orchestra, and guest vocalists Abdelfattah Bennis and Lior el-Malich

**2002 - 2005**    **Member of the Board of Directors, Genesis at the Crossroads (Chicago, IL, USA)**  
As a board member, I was actively involved in this visionary non-profit organization, which is committed to fostering relations between cultures in conflict through the medium of the arts. My duties and responsibilities included artistic direction for music projects, consultation on cultural issues, attendance to talent procurement matters, and tour production.

## Music Performance Experience

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- 2011-**            **Takht Ensemble, al-Bustan Seeds of Culture**  
Concerts series, including performances with Sonia M'barek, Marcel Khalifa, Fathy Salama, Rima Khcheich, Dalal Abu Amnah, Jihad Racy, Mohsen Namjoo, Youssef Kassab, and Karima Skalli
- 2005-2011**    **Arabesque Ensemble**  
Two international tours
- 2001-**            **Professional qanun player**  
500+ performances
- 2001-2005**    **Chicago Classical Oriental Ensemble**  
Founder, Conductor  
UN 60th Anniversary performance  
Two international tours
- 2001-2005**    **Mosaic Ensemble**  
Founder  
Queen Rania of Jordan private performance  
White House performance

## Discography

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- 2021**            *Words Adorned*  
Kareem Roustom, Kinan Abou-afach with The Crossing, Donald Nally, al-Bustan Takht Ensemble and Dalal Abu Amneh
- 2015**            *Words Adorned: Andalusian Poetry and Music (The Concert)*  
Featured artist with the al-Bustan Takht Ensemble
- 2013**            *Rihla*  
Featured artist. Selections from al-Bustan Concert Series, performed in Philadelphia in 2012-2013
- 2007**            *al-Fursan at-Talatha: The Music of the Three Musketeers*  
Artistic Director and Producer of the project involving nine international musicians
- 2004**            *The Songs of Sayyed Darweesh: 'Soul of a People'*  
Executive Director and Producer of the project involving 15 international musicians
- 2003**            *Sultana, pieces drawn from the Moroccan-Judaic tradition*  
Featured artist. Project directed by Yoel Ben-Simhon, New York, NY

- 2003**      *A la Una*  
 Featured artist. Sephardic/Ladino Music project directed by Sarah Aroeste, New York, NY
- 2002**      *Promises: Classical Oriental Works by Turkish, Armenian, and Egyptian composers*  
 Featured artist. Producer of the CD
- 2002**      *Verses*  
 Arabic and Jazz Music Fusion  
 Featured artist. Project directed by Callen Clarke, Oklahoma, OK

## Awards

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- 2023**      The American Institute for Maghrib Studies Fellowship for fieldwork in Morocco
- 2023**      Professor Howard J. Serwer Fund for TALIM conference in Tangier
- 2023**      Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies funding for a symposium on Jebli Music
- 2022**      Columbia University Arts & Sciences Equity and Diversity Grant: Diversity Matters
- 2018**      Columbia Humanities Global Projects grant for ICTM symposium in Essaouira, Morocco
- 2018**      Columbia University Graduate Council for Arts and Sciences Travel grant for ICTM symposium in Cairo, Egypt
- 2017**      Jeanne Jeffers Mrad Graduate Student Travel Award for MESA's 2017 annual meeting
- 2017**      T. Temple Tuttle Prize for best student paper presented at Niagara chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology annual meeting
- 2010-2014**      Robert N. and Beverly T. Singer School of Music Fellowship  
 University of Florida
- 2002**      "Best Instrumentalist" award, Chicago Magazine
- 1996**      Honors Certificate, class of Qanun  
 Conservatoire National de Musique et de Danse (Rabat, Morocco)
- 1994**      First Prize, class of Qanun  
 Conservatoire National de Musique et de Danse (Rabat, Morocco)

## Memberships

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- 2016-** International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM)
- 2014-** American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS)
- 2011-** Society for Arab Music Research (President, 2015-2016)
- 2010-** Middle-East Studies Association (MESA)
- 2001-** Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM)
- 2007-2010** Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Chicago, IL
- 1996 - 1997** *Association des Iscaeistes pour la Promotion des Echanges Culturels*, Casablanca, Morocco (Founding Member)

## Misc.

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**Languages:** Fluent in Arabic, Darija (Moroccan dialect), Jebli (Western Riffian dialect), French, and English  
Conversational Spanish

**Interests and** Avid marathoner

**Activities:** Experienced mountain climber  
Certified SCUBA diver with advanced training in underwater exploration and safety

## References\*

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Dr. Alessandra Ciucci (Dissertation Advisor)  
Associate Professor of Music, Ethnomusicology  
Columbia University, New York City, NY

Dr. Aaron Fox (Dissertation Co-advisor)  
Associate Professor of Music, Ethnomusicology  
Director of Center for Ethnomusicology  
Columbia University, New York City, NY

Dr. Kevin Fellezs  
Associate Professor of Music, Ethnomusicology  
Columbia University, New York City, NY

\* Contact information provided upon request

Last updated September 2024