

Paul Nabil Matthis – Curriculum Vitae

Composer-Performer, Social Media Creator, Author
Philadelphia, PA • paulnm@gmail.com • paulmatthis.com

Composer

Dance Scores

2023 *Gift Horse*, with choreographer Megan McCarthy

- Part of TRAVERSE by Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company

2022 *Star Grass*, with choreographer Nicole Shipley

- Social Impact Office Hours artist residency at Kennedy Center: REACH in Washington, DC

2019 *Éxtasis Digital*, by Yanina Orellana with Yvonne Lacombe, Fernando Orellana, and Jesse VanDenKooy

- Selected for "Best of New Shoes" series at Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica

2016 *As occurred, as recalled*, with Whyteberg Dance Company

- L.A. Arts Exchange 2016 featured work

2014 *Interval*, with choreographer Lindsey Lollie

- Premiered at Celebrate Dance 2014
- Selected for REDCAT Spring Studio 2014
- Selected for CalArts Commuter Festival 2014

2013 *Yes is Not Passive*, with CalArts professors Stephanie Nugent and Robin Cox

- Director's Choice Award at Santa Cruz Fringe Festival
- Performed at REDCAT
- Performed at ARC Pasadena

2013 *Bee-Eaters*, with Cameron Hicks and Gregory Dorado of Dancing Grounds

- Long-form electroacoustic dance production integrating jazz and ambient music

2012 *I Am*, with choreographer Mersiha Mesihovic of CircuitDebris

- Selected for NYC10 Dance Initiative showcase
- Selected for Dance Soirée by Sobers and Godly
- Selected for Brooklyn NY Dance Festival organized by Fresh Peach Dance
- Selected by the nonprofit 92Y as part of Roots in Revolution

2012 *Bits of Mind*, with choreographer Yanina Orellana

- Selected for CalArts Accepted Student Event

2012 *Memory is a Movie*, with CalArts dance professor Laurence Blake

- Performed at REDCAT

2012 *Quadratic*, with choreographer Ariana Daub of ATE9 Dance Company

- Framework for free improvised performance piece
- Performed at CalArts Incoming Students Event

2012 *Breathe*, with choreographer Daniel Charon of Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company

- Electroacoustic framework in which the score is generated in real time by the dancer's breath

2012 *Above It All*, with choreographer Cesilie Kverneland of COMA Performance Group

- Drawing inspiration from Japanese Buto, dubstep, and the Norwegian countryside

2011-2012 *The Next Step is to Go Back*, with choreographer Lindsey Lollie.

- Selected for Pasadena Dance Festival
- Selected for California Electronic Music Exchange Concert (CEMEC) at UCSD
- Selected for American College Dance Festival Association (ACDFA) Showcase 2012

2011 *Female Dog*, with choreographer Chelsea Conwright

- Exploring the world of drugs and deviant sexuality through a young woman's eyes

2011 *The Lamp Piece*, with choreographer Michelle Sagarminaga

- Electroacoustic performance using the body's bioelectric signals through a touch lamp

2008 *I Am Here Now: A Process*, with Nicole Durfee

- Performed by iN.D.dance company in NYC

2006 *Artifacts of Lost Moments*, with choreographer Nicole Durfee

- A study in nostalgia through the exploration of familiar space

2004 *Rooms & Reasons*, with choreographer Nicole Durfee

- Master's Exhibition featuring real-world sounds blended with symphonic instrumentation

2003 *A Propensity For Orange*, with choreographer Kendra Andrews

- Produced and performed for the Dance Repertory Theater of Florida

Film Scores

2019 *Ways of Forgetting*, feature art film produced by FLOCK

- Funded in part by Moise A. Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies grant

2015 *Rigor Mortis*, promotional audiovisual materials for literary marketing company

2013 *The Next Step Is*, dance film by Victoria Sendra and choreographer Lindsey Lollie

- Selected for CalArts Film/Video Showcase at REDCAT in Los Angeles
- Selected for Out of the Box Festival at Jam Jar in Dubai
- Selected for Dance For Camera Festival at the Lincoln Center in NYC
- Selected for Dance Camera West at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles
- Selected for Dance on Film Series at Jacob Burns Film center in NYC
- Selected for Dance on Film Tour at Scotiabank Dance Centre in Vancouver
- Selected for Dance on Camera Festival 2013 at University of Michigan
- Selected for Moving Sounds Festival
- Selected for Spontaneous Disruptions

2012 *Cahuenga: Place on the Hill*, for Christopher Coppola's PAH Fest

- Winner, grand prize
- Winner, best score

2012 *A Taste in the Afternoon*, film short by Fiona Li

2011 *Cactus Cooler*, score and sound design for experimental animation short by Andrew Hutton

2010 *Eden's Embrace*, score for short film by Nishan Hagop

- Selected for Sundance Shorts Film Festival

2006 *Crash Bandicoot Promo*, for online marketing short

2005 *Fresh Imports*, opening theme for TV pilot by Alpine Productions

2005 *Kidzonline*, intro theme for online interactive site

2004 *Alaawiat*, library music for BK Productions

2004 *Ripples*, for Project Pioneer 48-Hour Film Competition by Sloane Korach & Tony West

- Winner, grand prize

2004 *Jigsaw*, online interactive film by Sloane Korach

2004 *Daydreamer*, film short by Scott Nowlin

2004 *Katana Blues*, film short by Morgan Hanner

2004 *Treehouse*, film short by Doro Zuleger

2004 *Playback*, film short by Greg O'Bryant

2004 *The Box*, film short by Meredith Higgins
2003 *Crush*, film short by John Lang
2003 *Minute Man*, film short by Stephen Broussard
2003 *Sarah*, film short by Rashi Bahri

Theatrical Scores

2019-Current *Trains Keep Passing*, original folk opera based on my Syrian grandfather's poetry
2018-2019 *On Death*, multimedia work by Allison Keating, with Thyme Arts & Wild Art Group
2014 *Road Kill Giant*, by award-winning playwright Aleshea Harris & directed by Marina McClure
2013 *Katastrofi*, pop culture/Greek tragedy mash-up conceived & directed by Deena Selenow
2013 *Toxikos*, conceived & directed by Deena Selenow

- Selected for NOW Festival 2013 at REDCAT

2013 *Flight*, acrobatic opera by Katie Gardner, for string duet and fixed-media, with Chaz Underriner
2013 *Plushtopia*, musical performed for Alice Tuan's Flash Theater Challenge
2010-2012 *Lunatic Sun*, original feature-length rock musical

- Winner of Paul Stephen Lim Playwriting Award (with Michael Yichao Wang)

Chamber Works

2019 *The Bird People (Theme from Ways of Forgetting)*

- For voice, clarinet, and hand pan drum, performed by Dan Ogrodnik and Samantha Hopkins

2013 *ASTEROZOA (long form production for multiple ensembles)*

- I. *Autotomy (To Write a Song)*, for voice, banjo and guitar pedals
- II. *Arkarua*, for string quartet
- III. *Asteroidea*, for five pianos
- IV. *Ambulacral Groove*, for five African Ewe drums
- V. *Abyssal*, for voice and guitar pedals and ensemble

2012 *Lazybones*

- Theme-and-variations in improvised multi-instrumental framework for any performing ensemble

2012 *There In the Old City*

- For symphony orchestra, conducted by Mark Menzies

2012 *Swarm of the Raxion Gruntle Bugs*

- For prepared and unprepared piano, performed by Christoffer Schunk

2012 *Fantasie for Harp and Violin*

- Harmonic series etude

2012 *Orwell's Cupcake Emporium (for woodwind quintet)*

- Hocket etude

2012 *Pebbles on the Beach (for prepared vibraphone)*

- Performed by Tony Gennaro

2012 *Proa (for percussion ensemble)*

- For deconstructed drum kit, recorded by Rhein Percussion Ensemble

2011-2012 *\$4.33*

- For coins and electronics

2011 *A Series of Unfortunate Events (for solo cello)*

- Extended techniques etude
- Recorded by Erika Duke-Kirkpatrick

2011 *The Train From Canaan To Sodom (for cello and double bass)*

- Arabic maqamat exhibition

2004 *Eye Yam Cereal, (for solo piano)*

- Serialism study

2003 *Mortemis Rodentia (for solo flute)*

- Selected for FSU Incoming Student Concert

Performer

TV, Film, & Popular Music

2020 *Kooky Cookin'*, composer-performer for comedy web series by Erica Dawson

2019 *Neon Exdeath*, 80s-inspired vintage synthwave album composed, produced, and released by me

2019 *Erica Dawson Comedy*, producer and engineer for live comedy album

2019 *Carter Roy*, producer and recording engineer for children's music album

2016 *Mad Apple*, burlesque folk rock band

- Former residents at Sassafras Saloon in Hollywood, CA

2014 *Lunatic Nail Cut*, Serge synth player,

- Included on the album "Stroboberryes" by Julian Valdi-Vieso

2014 *Kepler X-47*, as Alien Vocalist for short film by Erin Li

- Best Short Film Nominee, The Geekie Awards
- Grand Jury Golden Reel Nominee – Excellence in Short Film, Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Fest
- AFI Directing Workshop for Women Showcase, at the Directors Guild of America
- The Caucus Foundation for Writers, Producers and Directors Grant Recipient
- ARC Center for Cultural Innovation Grant Recipient
- Panavision New Filmmakers Production Grant Recipient
- Selected for SHOOT New Directors Showcase
- Selected for SITGES International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia
- Selected for LACMA Young Directors Night
- Selected for American Cinematheque – Outta This World: Sci Fi and Other World Shorts
- Selected for Sci-Fi London, at the British Film Institute (BFI)
- Selected for Sarasota Film Festival
- Selected for Comic-Con International Independent Film Festival
- Selected for Stan Lee's Comikaze Expo
- Selected for Boston Sci-Fi Film Festival
- Selected for Philip K. Dick Film Festival
- Selected for US China Film & TV Industry Expo
- Selected for Dragon Con Independent Film Festival
- Selected for New Filmmakers Los Angeles
- Selected for Capital City Film Festival
- Selected for Portland Oregon Women's Film Festival
- Selected for Etheria World Tour

2012 *Gas Banjo*, original song for rock band and modified banjo

- Selected for Capitol Records Singer/Songwriter CD Project

2010 *Eden's Embrace*, vocalist and pianist for short film by Nishan Hagop

- Selected for Sundance Film Festival

Theater

2023 *Romeo wa Juliet*, composer, percussionist, and actor with Fawzia Istrabadi

- In association with Prague Shakespeare Company with Guy Roberts
- Performed at the Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, VA, home of the American Shakespeare Center

2018-2019 *On Death*, multimedia work by Allison Keating, with Thymele Arts & Wild Art Group

2015 *Hopscotch*, immersive multimedia opera that takes place in cars, by The Industry L.A.

- Emmy-winner
- Nominated for Pulitzer Prize

2014 *Katastrofi*, the second installment of a Greek mythology pop tragedy directed by Deen Selenow

- Performed at REDCAT

2013-2014 *Hush-A-Bye*, with Aleshea Harris, voice and beatbox for spoken word performance

- Performed at African American Shakespeare Company in San Francisco

2013 *Toxicos*, a Greek mythology pop tragedy directed by Deen Selenow

- Performed at Highways Performance Space and Gallery

2013 *Die Fledermaus*, as Eisenstein in a selection of scenes from Johann Strauss's classic farce

2013 *Mini-Golf*, as Blortus in the premiere of Kristin Erickson's absurdist immersive musical

2013 *Hip Hop:Re:Education Cyber Cypher*, digital interactive collaboration, with CultureHub

2012 *The Fairy Queen*, as Francis Flute in Henry Purcell's opera based on A Midsummer Night's Dream

2012 *The House is Open*, as The Doctor in the premiere of Alex Vassos's electroacoustic opera

2011-2012 *Music Theater Improv*, long form musical improvisation directed by Michael Yichao Wang

2011 *To Kill A Mockingbird*, providing various recorded a cappella spirituals

2011 *Prosper Springs*, as Tenor 2 in the debut of Chaz Underriner's avant-garde opera

Chamber

2013 *Asterozoa*, Graduate MFA recital movements I. and V.

2013 *Tango Alemán*, by Mauricio Kagel, as tenor with Shane Summers, Yu-Ting Wu, and Lucie Vitkova

- Featured on the CalArts home page

2013 *Untitled Duet for Voice and Violin*, composed by James Tatti, performed with violinist Nic Salas

2013 *Bobo*, improvisation vocal framework for a large crowd with Claire Gendler

2012-2013 *Georgian Sextet*, as tenor with Linnea Sablosky and Bobby Halvorson

2012 *Either/Or*, by John Eagle, as tenor

- Performed at the Inner Beast Concert

2012 *Auto-Tune Choir*, multimedia composition by Kristin Erickson Galvin

2012 *John Cage Centenary: The Long Books*, a performance of John Cage's Song Books

- Only full realization of the Song Books during a single solo performance in history

2012 *ILXI*, algorithmic choral piece by Denis Kolokol

- Made possible by a grant from CEC ArtsLink

2012 *The Eyes Are Not Here*, by Chris Schunk and Lauren Frias

- Long-form vocal and dance production utilizing extended techniques in the style of Roy Hart

2011-2012 *Advanced Improvisation Series*, with Suzie Allen

- Performing with renown improvisers such as Peni Candrarini and Roman Stolyar

2011 *Prague*, a just-intonation vocal composition by Christoffer Schunk

Talks & Panels

Traditional Music Throughout the Arab World, various locations

- Talk and performance demonstration of music theory, culture, and history throughout Southwest Asia and North Africa

Interview on “The Listening Post, Al-Jazeera English

- Interviewed about social media travel vloggers during the post/continuing civil war era in Syria

Around the Fantastical World in 50 Minutes, World Fantasy Convention 2021

- Fantasy has a long tradition of rich and colorful settings based on places all across the globe. Panelists discuss globally inspired aspects of settings such as unusual calendar systems, unique geographies, non-feudal political systems, and other details.

The Rules of Fantasy, World Fantasy Convention 2021

- What have been the long-standing rules of Fantasy and how have they evolved over the years? What can you get away with in Fantasy that you can't in other Genres and what are the consequences of not following the rules?

Sea Shanty Sing-Along, online workshop 2020

- Sea shanty discussion and performance workshop for Santa Clara County Library District

Storytelling Through Music, World Fantasy Convention 2018

- Panel description: Stories have long been set to music. Whether a song has been written to accompany words or used to inspire a scene, panelists discuss how music impacts their stories. Copanelists: Deanna Sjolander (M), Linda Robertson, and L. E. Modesitt Jr.

Calamity Jane Defeats Conan: the Persistence of American Folklore in Fantasy Literature, World Fantasy Convention 2017

- Panel description: English language fantasy literature traditionally draws heavily on European history, mythology and folklore. Many contemporary writers have worked to integrate the myths and literatures of non-European cultures and other underrepresented groups. But little attention has been given to the strong and persistent threads of American folklore running through our fantastic literature -- and how antebellum tales of frontier women, backwoodsmen, Yankee peddlers, myriad American tricksters and other popular archetypes inform contemporary fantasy narratives by North Americans. Some historical people lend themselves to becoming fantasy characters more than others. We can imagine Abe Lincoln killing Vampires, JFK surviving to help Elvis fight mummies, even Davy Crockett riding on a comet (a popular folk tale in the mid 1800s). What are the qualities which make such a hero so compelling in the transition between reality and fantasy? Copanelists: Christopher Brown (M), Stephanie Feldman, and Steve Saffel.

Other Music Experience

Columbus Saints Performing Arts, Inc.

Assistant Rehearsal Director

Columbus, OH, Summer 2021

- Brass section rehearsal director for 501c3 nonprofit Columbus Saints Performing Arts drum corps.

Castaic Days Outdoor Festival

Assistant Event Director

Castaic Lake Recreation Area, May 2013

- Curator, assistant director, and Master of Ceremonies for fundraiser event by Castaic Days Civic Association.

ASTEROZOA

Producer

Roy O. Disney Concert Hall, March 19, 2013

- Large-scale, multi-ensemble performance of an original long-form music suite.

Lunatic Sun, Rock Musical

Co-Producer

Coffeehouse Theater, December 2012

- Workshop premiere involving musician and actor rehearsals, lighting, sound design, marketing and outreach, scheduling, and administrative duties, with Michael Yichao Wang.

Fiction Publications

Aleph Rising, Arab-futurist science fiction novel (on submission)

- Represented by Saint Gibson at Speilburg Literary

Ishaya, fantasy short story

- Published in Purple Prose magazine, 2017

Cleaver Learns a Lesson, fantasy short story

- Published in the Champions short story anthology, 2016

Academic Citations

Neon Exdeath “Escape”

- Cited in "The path to creativity: affordances and constraints of style parameters in Synthwave music and ‘DAW-based’ technology", Knigge J. (In review)

My Parody and How to Avoid YouTube Content ID Detection

- Cited in "You(Tube), Me, and Content ID: Paving the Way for Compulsory Synchronization Licensing on User-Generated Content Platforms", 81 Brook. L. Rev. (2016)

Other Work Experience

Omaze

QA II Engineer

Los Angeles, CA, 2019 –December 2022

- Software quality assurance engineer for online charity fundraiser.
- Manual QA for all Community features of Omaze.com. Desktop/mobile UX testing, internal tools, and API use cases.
- Write and organize test cases using Jira in a fast-paced Agile/Scrum environment
- Coordinating directly with high-level stakeholders.
- Create and implement test plans for integration, regression, penetration, performance, smoke, and user acceptance testing.
- Assessing risk for all new features and deploys for black- and gray-box testing.
- Test automation in JavaScript with Selenium and Webdriver.io.

Artisanal Brewers Collective

Los Angeles, CA 2018 – 2019

IT Contractor

- Website migration from WordPress to Wix for multiple venues under the ABC entertainment group umbrella. Successfully assisted content migration, sitemaps, security, and SEO to ensure zero downtime or PageRank loss.

GoDaddy

Premium Technical Support

Los Angeles, CA, 2015–2018

- Advanced analyst for WAF, CDN, and DDoS mitigation. Web administration for LAMP stack. Database management, general CMS implementation, DNS configuration, ICANN administration, site migration. Writing and editing technical support material.

Hodgepodge Records

Owner

Los Angeles, CA, 2014–Present

- Netlabel distributing recorded materials, creating and marketing promotional tools including video and online social media content

Hoffman Patent Group

Santa Clarita, 2013 –2014

IT Support & Legal Assistant

- Malware cleanup, HTML, CSS, PHP programming, research and outreach, content and design updates, general site maintenance. Patent and trademark research, digital image production in Adobe Photoshop and MS PowerPoint.

California Institute of the Arts

Graduate Recording Assistant

Valencia, CA, 2011–2013

- Managed and coordinated the Dizzie Gillespie Recording Studio at CalArts, including maintenance, troubleshooting, scheduling and administrative duties

The Boat Studio

Assistant Sound Engineer

Los Angeles, CA, 2007–2008

- Designing and implementing recording setups, scheduling clients, administrative duties, all session duties for high profile bands like Stanley Clark, Beck, Tenacious D and the Sex Pistols

EFILM

Data Management Operator

Los Angeles, CA, 2006—2007

- Operated the largest digital storage facility on the west coast. Implemented and wrote UNIX scripts, allocated space, recorded digital tapes, created paperwork, and scheduled filmouts.

Barry Kirsch Recording

Intern

Dubai, UAE, 2004

- Assisted sessions, produced beats, recorded singing and voiceovers

Chris Bell & Mike Recording

Intern

Los Angeles, CA, 2003

- Assisted sessions, produced music, runner, administrative duties

Vallhalla Motion Pictures

Intern

Los Angeles, CA, 2003

- Covered scripts, runner, administrative duties

Education

California Institute of the Arts

Santa Clarita, CA, May 2013

M.F.A Music Composition & Vocal Performance

- Composition studies with Marc Lowenstein and Barry Schrader, voice studies with Paul Berkolds and Jacqui Boback, recording and production technique with John Baffa and Clay Chaplin.

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL, May 2004

B.A. Music Composition & Vocal Performance

- Composition studies with Mark Wingate and Mark Connor, voice studies with Isaac Hurtado and Kyle Ferrill.

Skills & Interests

- **Skills:** QA Deputy, VS Code, JIRA, TestRail, Adobe Cloud, Google Tools, Bash, LAMP stacks, JavaScript, Ableton Live, Audacity, ProTools, some Arabic.
- **Interests:** Backpacking, history, puzzle games, synths, hand drums, samurai movies, fantasy novels, live-looping, really snobby tea.
- **Social Media:** 100K+ followers on TikTok discussing Middle Eastern & North African history, culture, and music. 10K+ followers on Instagram.