

Dr. Christopher Mena
Music Education. Ethnomusicology. Ethnic Studies.
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EDUCATION

2024	PhD Music Education, University of Washington Dissertation Title: The Historical Exclusion of Mexican Americans in Music Education
2017	M.A. Music Education, University of Washington
2010	B.M. Applied Arts and Sciences (Music Education), San Diego State University

CERTIFICATES AND CREDENTIALS

2025	Certificate in Nonprofit Management (University of Washington)
2021	Washington Residency Teacher Certificate
2013	California Cleared Credential (San Diego State University)
2013	World Music Pedagogy Certificate (Smithsonian Folkways)
2011	Single Subject Teaching Certificate (San Diego State University)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023-Present *Seattle Central College*

Duties/responsibilities: Providing instruction for the following classes

- Music Appreciation (MUSC 105; Fall 2023), Instructor

- Introduction to World Music (MUSC 110; Fall 2023, Winter 2024), Instructor
- Rock Music: History and Perspectives (MUSC 116; Winter 2024), Instructor
- Jazz and Hip Hop Syntheses (MUSC 111; Spring 2024), Instructor

2019-Present *Seattle Public Schools*

Duties/responsibilities:

- Providing musical instruction of grades K-12
- Working with a team of educators and administrators to develop the ROOTS curricular framework that teaches music from an antiracist perspective
- Developing and facilitating content for professional development session with educators

2016-2019 *University of Washington*

Duties/responsibilities: Providing instruction for the following classes

- American Popular Song (MUS 162; Spring 2016, Summer 2016), Instructor
- Ethnomusicology in the Schools (MUSED 452; Autumn 2018), Co-Instructor
- Seminar in World Music Education (MUSED 552; Winter 2016), Teaching Assistant
- Gospel Piano Lab (MUSAP 389; Winter 2016), Teaching Assistant
- Introduction to African American Studies (AFRAM 101, Autumn 2016), Teaching Assistant
- Race, Equity, Education (AES 340; Winter 2019), Teaching Assistant
- Introduction to Comparative American Ethnic History (AES 150; Autumn 2018, Summer 2018,), Teaching Assistant
- American Ethnic Groups (AES 151; Spring 2017, Spring 2019), Teaching Assistant

2011-2015 *San Diego Unified School District (Herbert Hoover High School, Band Director/Head of Music Department)*

Duties/responsibilities:

- Developing and leading school ensembles (Concert Bands, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Rock Band, Guitar Ensemble, World Music Ensemble)
- Applying for and administering the use of an annual 30,000 USD grant for instructional supplies, music equipment, instrumental repairs and instrumental coaching staff
- Leading community outreach to several local organizations for performances and other student volunteer opportunities, developing curriculum at the district level
- Founding the Hoover Union of Music Majors and Minors (HUMMM) to prepare students from historically underserved backgrounds for admission into university level music programs.

NON-PROFIT AND CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

The Creative Advantage

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Planning, coordinating, and implementing a structure for a Youth Arts Advisory Committee.

The Rhapsody Project (Board Member)

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Grant writing
- Developing community connections
- Providing professional development
- Creating and facilitating teaching artist training program-
- Coordinating community activities (i.e. lectures, performances, summer camp, etc.)
- Co-facilitating strategic planning sessions

Washington Music Educators Association (DEI Committee)

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Contributing to the fulfillment of WMEA's DEI goals.

Washington Ethnic Studies Now (Operations Manager)

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Grant writing
- Developing community connections
- Providing professional development
- Coordinating community activities

Decolonizing the Music Room (Content Developer, Consultant)

Duties/responsibilities:

- Providing professional development to various school districts and arts organization nationwide
- Developing content rooted in antiracism and decolonization
- Administrative organization

San Diego Opera (Consultant)

Duties/responsibilities:

- Providing guidance on various ways that this arts organization can implement antiracist and culturally sustaining principles within the education department
- Documenting, researching, and analyzing the efficacy of community youth programs

C.R. Mena Education Consulting (Founder)

Duties/responsibilities:

- Work alongside arts and education organizations to realize their antiracist, decolonial, and administrative goals
- Develop curriculum and professional development
- Implementing program evaluation projects

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2018 Co-author, *World Music Pedagogy: Instrumental Music Education*. Routledge, 2018 With Mark Montemayor and Will Copolla

Articles and Chapters

2024 Co-author, "Family first: Yahritza y Su Esencia, family bands and the musical education of Mexican Americans." *Journal of Popular Music Education*. With Patricia Shehan Campbell and Juliana Cantarelli-Vita.

2023 Author, "Creating Culturally Sustaining Spaces in the Compositional Process." Chapter in *The Oxford Handbook of Music Composition*. With Patricia Shehan Campbell.

2019 Co-author, "Atawit Nawa Wakishkit: Collective Songwriting with Native American Youth". *Journal of Popular Music Education*. With Skúli Gestsson, Will Coppola, and Patricia Shehan Campbell

2019 Co-author, "Teaching and Learning Improvisation: Cultural-Specific Cases of a Cross-Cultural Musical Act". Chapter in *Expanding the Space for Improvisation Pedagogy in Music: An Introduction*.

Routledge. With Mike Kohfeld, Solmaz Shakerifard, Will Copolla, and Patricia Shehan Campbell

- 2018 Author, "*Music Teachers Reimagining Musical Focus, Function, and Performance for Newcomer Students*". Journal of Folklore and Education, 4: pp. 105-111, 2017.
- 2016 Co-author, "*An Earful of Africa: Insights from Tanzania on Music and Music Learning*". CMS Symposium 56, 2016 With Kedmon Mapana, Patricia Shehan Campbell, and Christopher Roberts

Self-Published and Internal Organization Writing

- 2021 "Is it Intelligence or Assimilation? Questioning the Perception That Participation in Music Education Has Positive Effects on Academic Outcomes." Medium.
- 2021 "Equity, Creativity, and Artifacts: Building Community Online During COVID-19." San Diego Opera.
- 2020 "The Roots: A Culturally Responsive & Antiracist Arts Framework." Creative Advantage Newsletter. With Carina Del Rosario.
- 2020 "Accessing the Inside of the Tent: The Optics of Inclusivity in Music Education." Medium

SELECTED RECORDED WORKS

- 2022 Performer, "Sunsets and Sea Turtles" featured on American Song Contest
- 2018 Performer, (Son de San Diego and Wu Man, CD, Fingertip Carnival, Wind Music, leona and requinto)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2025 Ricardo Frazer Executive Leadership Program (Seattle Theater Group)
- 2022 GSEE Foundry 10 Summer Support Award

2019	Independent Music Award Nominee For Son de San Diego and Wu Man, Fingertip Carnival (album)
2018-19	Co-recipient, Jubilation Foundation Grant (7,500 USD) For work in Music Alive! in the Yakama Valley, Collective Songwriting, Yakama Nation Tribal School
2018-19	Teaching Assistantship, Department of American Ethnic Studies, University of Washington (52,000 USD)
2018-19	Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for Burmese (28,000 USD, Received and declined, due to offer from the Department of American Ethnic Studies, University of Washington)
2017-18	Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for Burmese (28,000 USD) (Accepted, for language and culture studies)
2016-2017	Teaching Assistantship, Department of American Ethnic Studies, University of Washington (52,000 USD)
2016-17	Co-recipient, Jubilation Foundation Grant (5,000 USD) For work in Music Alive! in the Yakama Valley, Collective Songwriting, Yakama Nation Tribal School
2015	Distinguished Music Educator Award (Yale University) For "Words and Music" program partnership with San Diego Opera and Teatro Izcalli

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY/PARTICIPATION

2025	"Closing the Gap Between Campus and Community: How to Incorporate Community Music Pedagogy for More Inclusive Classrooms." Arts of Belonging: Migrant Education Conference. Yakima, WA.
2025	"The Afro-Mexican Rhythms of Son Jarocho." Centrum Center for the Arts Acoustic Blues Festival. Port Townsend, WA.
2025	"Applying Decolonizing and Antiracist Approaches to Educational Partnerships." Chorus America National Conference. St. Louis, MO.

- 2025 MacPhail Music Center Sponsored Headliner. Minnesota Music Educators Association Conference. Minneapolis, MN.
- 2024 "Participatory Music: Afro-Caribbean Rhythms." Creative Advantage Music Education Coalition Professional . Seattle, WA. Development Day.
- 2023 "White Educators, Listen Up: How White Educators and Help Retain Educators of Color." Northwest Teaching for Social Justice Conference. Portland, OR. Academic Presentation. With Tracy Castro-Gill.
- 2023 "The Roots Culturally Responsive & Antiracist Arts Framework & Practices." Arts of Belonging: Migrant Education Conference. Yakima, WA. With Jessica Peña-Manalo.
- 2022 "Dispelling the Myths of Multiculturalism: Problematizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion." Seattle Area Progressive Educator Network Conference. Seattle, WA (October, 2022). Academic presentation.
- 2022 "The Overwhelming Whiteness of Music Education History." Texas Music Educator Association Conference. San Antonio, TX. (February 2022). Academic presentation.
- 2021 "Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy and Composition: Centering Students' Identities Through Creativity in the Classroom." Society for Ethnomusicology Conference. Virtual. (November 2021). Academic presentation.
- 2020 6th Symposium of the International Council on Traditional Music Study Group: Performing Arts of Southeast Asia, (Bagan, Myanmar). Local arrangements committee member.
- 2019 "Walk Tall, Think Strong: Mediating Tradition Through Collective Songwriting at a Tribal School in Washington" Society for Ethnomusicology Conference. Bloomington, IN. (November 2019). Academic presentation.
- 2018 "World Music Pedagogy for Band: A Practical Approach to the Process" California All State Music Education

- Conference. San Jose, CA. (February 2018), Clinical presentation.
- 2017 "Multicultural Music Education at the Gitameit Music Center" Cultural Diversity in Music Education Conference. Kathmandu, Nepal. (March 2017), Academic presentation.
- 2016 "But I Teach Band! Incorporating World Music Into Your Rehearsals" California All State Music Education Conference. San Jose, CA. (February 2016), Clinical presentation.
- 2016 "The impact of Educational Access on Mexican-American Musical Communities", Society for Ethnomusicology Conference Washington, DC. (October 2016), Academic presentation.

WEBINAR PARTICIPATION

- 2021 "Promoting Equity from Coast to Coast." State Education Directors of Arts Education. Webinar. With Gail Sehlhorst.
- 2020 "Music, Race, and a Pedagogy of Hope" World Music Pedagogy Webinar Series (June 2020), Clinical Presentation.
- 2020 "Black Lives Matter, Music Ed, and Current Discourse, Decolonizing the Music Room Webinar Series (June 2020), Panel Discussion.
- 2020 "Landó for Band: A Brief Exploration of Afro-Peruvian Music Through World Music Pedagogy, NAFME Virtual Learning Resources for Music Educators (June 2020), Clinical Presentation.

GUEST LECTURER

- 2024 "Importance of Historical Research in Music Education." Baldwin Wallace University for Prof. Lorelei Batislaong.
- 2023 "History of Mexican American Exclusion in Music Education." University of Toronto for Prof. Antía Gonzalez Ben.
- 2023 "Collective Songwriting for Social Work." University of Washington for Prof. Carrie Lanza.
- 2022 "The History of Diverse Music Ensembles in Music Education in the United States." Baldwin Wallace University for Prof. Lorelei Batislaong.

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| 2021 | "The Colonial and Racist Origins of Music Education in the United States" Baldwin Wallace University for Prof. Lorelei Batislaong. |
| 2020 | "Considerations in Collective Songwriting." University of Washington, Seattle for Prof. Patricia Shehan Campbell |

EXTRACURRICULAR COMMUNITY SERVICE

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| 2016-2020 | Liaison for the Gitameit Music Institute (Yangon, Myanmar) and the University of Washington School of Music partnership |
| 2017-2019 | Coordinator for the Music Alive Yakima Valley! Program at the Yakima Nation Tribal School |
| 2017-2019 | Assistant Music Director for <u>Mariachi Quinto Sol</u> de UW |
| 2016-2019 | Tutor for the Center for Learning and Undergraduate Enrichment |

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

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| 2024-Present | Member of the Balkan Night Northwest planning committee. |
| 2019-Present | Talent for Look, Listen, Learn Television Show. |
| 2021-2022 | Curriculum framework developer (music education) for Washington Ethnic Studies Now. |
| 2019-2020 | Supervisor for Seattle JazzED "In The Schools" Program, providing professional development and administrative assistance for teaching artists. |
| 2020-2021 | Lead for Racial Equity Task Force for JazzED, providing guidance and administrative needs to the task force. |
| 2016-Present | Member of the Seattle Fandango Project, providing <i>son jarocho</i> workshops and performance for public events in underrepresented communities. |

2016-2019	Member of the Give Back Brass Band, providing workshops and performances in spaces that serve marginalized communities in juvenile detention centers, food banks, and homeless shelters.
2016	Annual music clinics provided at Gitameit Music Institute in Yangon, Myanmar
2019	Teaching Artist at <i>Path with Art</i> (Collective Songwriting Workshop)

TEACHING AREAS/COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH

Introduction to World Music
 Rock Music: History and Perspectives
 Music Appreciation
 Instrumental Methods
 Band and Orchestra Methods
 Mariachi (and Mariachi Pedagogy)
 Popular Music
 Guitar Class
 Ethnomusicology in the Schools
 Multicultural Music Education
 Music Education History
 World Music Pedagogy
 Other Courses in Music Education:
 Introduction to Music Education
 Student Teaching Seminar

LANGUAGES

Spanish	Intermediate-advanced fluency in speaking, reading, and writing.
Burmese	Conversational fluency in speaking. Intermediate fluency in reading, and writing with dictionary

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Ethnomusicology
 National Association for Music Education

REFERENCES

Available upon request.