

## Education

### Google, Mountain View, CA

Resident in the Google Brain group, 2016–present

### Columbia University, New York, NY

PhD in Electrical Engineering at the Laboratory for the Recognition and Organization of Speech and Audio, advisor Dan Ellis, 4.1 cumulative GPA, 2012–2016

### Stanford University, Stanford, CA

Master of Arts in Music, Science, and Technology at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics, 4.1 cumulative GPA, 2009–2010

### Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH

Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics with Physics minor and independent studies in audio circuit design, 3.7 cumulative GPA, 2005–2009

## Publications

Colin Raffel and Daniel P. W. Ellis, “**Extracting Ground Truth Information from MIDI Files: A MIDIfesto**”, *Proceedings of the 17th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference*, 2016.

Colin Raffel, “**Learning-Based Methods for Comparing Sequences, with Applications to Audio-to-MIDI Alignment and Matching**”, *PhD Thesis*, 2016.

Colin Raffel and Daniel P. W. Ellis, “**Feed-Forward Networks with Attention Can Solve Some Long-Term Memory Problems**”, *Workshop Extended Abstracts of the 4th International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2016.

Colin Raffel and Daniel P. W. Ellis, “**Pruning Subsequence Search with Attention-Based Embedding**”, *Proceedings of the 41st IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing*, 2016.

Colin Raffel and Daniel P. W. Ellis, “**Optimizing DTW-Based Audio-to-MIDI Alignment and Matching**”, *Proceedings of the 41st IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing*, 2016.

Nikolai Yakovenko, Liangliang Cao, Colin Raffel, and James Fan, “**Poker-CNN: A Pattern Learning Strategy for Making Draws and Bets in Poker Games**”, *Proceedings of the 30th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, 2016.

Colin Raffel and Daniel P. W. Ellis, “**Accelerating Multimodal Sequence Retrieval with Convolutional Networks**”, *NIPS Multimodal Machine Learning Workshop*, 2015.

Colin Raffel and Daniel P. W. Ellis, “**Large-Scale Content-Based Matching of MIDI and Audio Files**”, *Proceedings of the 16th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference*, 2015.

Brian McFee, Colin Raffel, Dawen Liang, Daniel P. W. Ellis, Matt McVicar, and Oriol Nieto, “**librosa: Audio and Music Signal Analysis in Python**”, *Proceedings of the 14th Python in Science Conference*, 2015.

Colin Raffel, Brian McFee, Eric J. Humphrey, Justin Salamon, Oriol Nieto, Dawen Liang, and Daniel P. W. Ellis, “**mir\_eval: A Transparent Implementation of Common MIR Metrics**”, *Proceedings of the 15th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference*, 2014.

Colin Raffel and Daniel P. W. Ellis, “**Estimating Timing and Channel Distortion Across Related Signals**”, *Proceedings of the 39th IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing*, 2014.

Colin Raffel, “**Using Noise Substitution for Backwards-Compatible Audio Codec Improvement**”, *Proceedings of the 129th Convention of the Audio Engineering Society*, 2010.

Colin Raffel and Julius O. Smith, “**Practical Modeling of Bucket-Brigade Device Circuits**”, *Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Digital Audio Effects (DAFx-10)*, 2010.

Colin Raffel, Nick Krugé, Diane Douglas, Edgar Berdahl, and Wendy Ju, “**The Lattice Harp: A New Hybrid Instrument and Controller**”, *Proceedings of the 2010 International Computer Music Conference*, 2010.

## Technical Reports, Whitepapers, etc.

Andreas Jansson, Colin Raffel, and Tillman Weyde, “**This Is My Jam: Data Dump**”, *16th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference Late Breaking and Demo Papers*, 2015.

Colin Raffel, “**Learning Efficient Representations for Sequence Retrieval**”, *National Science Foundation Data Science Workshop*, 2015.

Colin Raffel and Daniel P. W. Ellis, “**Intuitive Analysis, Creation and Manipulation of MIDI Data with pretty\_midi**”, *15th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference Late Breaking and Demo Papers*, 2014.

Colin Raffel and Daniel P. W. Ellis, “**Reproducing Pitch Experiments in "Measuring the Evolution of Contemporary Western Popular Music"**”, *Technical Report*, 2013.

## Honors and Awards

**National Science Foundation Student Travel Grant**, 41st IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing, 2016

**Best Student Paper**, 16th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference, 2015

**Travel Grant**, National Science Foundation Data Science Workshop, 2015

**Best Poster Presentation**, 15th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference, 2014

**Student Travel Award**, International Society for Music Information Retrieval, 2014

**Prize for Reproducibility in Audio and Music Research**, SoundSoftware.ac.uk, 2013

**National Science Foundation Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Grant**, 2012–2014

**Ableton Best Hack Award**, Music Hack Day San Francisco, 2012

**Best Educational App: Rock Prodigy**, Appy Awards, 2011

**Echo Nest Best Hack Award**, Music Hack Day Barcelona, 2010

**7Digital Best Hack Award**, Music Hack Day Barcelona, 2010

## Business Ventures

### Experimentalists Anonymous

Design, build, and sell custom electronic devices; host audio circuit schematic archive with over three million downloads served; maintain online message board with over fourteen thousand posts; provide site hosting for do-it-yourself audio hardware enthusiasts; help individuals start successful independent businesses selling electronic audio devices, 2003–present

### Noisette Audio, LLC

Provided consulting services in the field of audio signal processing, analysis, and synthesis; develop software for electronic music composition, 2011–2012

## Teaching

### Teacher's Assistant, Deep Learning for Computer Vision and NLP

Advised students on software and final projects culminating in multiple conference submissions, 2015

### Teacher's Assistant, Music Digital Signal Processing

Evaluated projects, provided assistance, and held office hours for a Master's-level course, 2013–2014

### Electronics

Filled in for a professor on sabbatical and taught a recurring electronics course in the Oberlin College Physics Department, 2009

### Circuit Bending

Taught a course on modifying electronic music circuits and basic electronics as part of the Oberlin Experimental College program; developed a curriculum, lab activities, and lectures, 2006

## Students Supervised

**Rafael Valle**, visiting researcher at Columbia University, 2015

**Hilary Mogul**, undergraduate student at Columbia University, 2014

**Dylan Kario**, undergraduate student at Columbia University, 2014

**Zhengshan Shi**, visiting researcher at Columbia University, 2013

## Talks

**The Lakh MIDI Dataset: How It Was Made, and How to Use It** at *BISH Bash Meetup*, 2016.

**Extracting Ground Truth Information from MIDI Files: A MIDIfesto** at *17th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference*, 2016.

**Learning-Based Methods for Comparing Sequences, with Applications to Audio-to-MIDI Alignment and Matching** at *2nd ICML Machine Learning for Music Discovery Workshop*, 2016.

**Optimizing DTW-Based Audio-to-MIDI Alignment and Matching** at *41st IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing*, 2016.

**Accelerating Large-Scale Sequence Retrieval with Convolutional Networks** at *IIT Bombay Electrical Engineering Seminar*, 2015.

**Large-Scale Content-Based Matching of MIDI and Audio Files** at *16th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference*, 2015.

**Learning Efficient Representations for Sequence Retrieval** at *Boston Data Festival*, 2015.

**Using Convolutional Networks (with Attention) for Orders-of-Magnitude Speedup of DTW-Based Sequence Retrieval** at *Spotify Machine Learning Seminar*, 2015.

**Recurrent Networks in Lasagne** at *Mount Sinai Hammer Lab Seminar*, 2015.

**Lasagne Tutorial** at *Next.ml Boston*, 2015.

**Theano Tutorial** at *Next.ml Boston*, 2015.

**mir\_eval** at *Objective Evaluation in Semantic Audio Analysis and Processing Panel at the 138th Convention of the Audio Engineering Society*, 2015.

**MIR at LabROSA in 2014** at *NEMISIG 2015*, 2015.

**Large-Scale Content-Based Matching of Audio and MIDI Data** at *Stanford University DSP Seminar*, 2015.

**Advances and Challenges in Large-Scale Music Information Retrieval** at *Digital Music Research Network+8*, 2013.

**Quantifying Rhythmic Synchrony** at *Midwestern Music Cognition Symposium*, 2013.

**A Sequential Approach to Musical Event Detection** at *Carnegie Mellon University Music and Technology Seminar*, 2011.

**Using Noise Substitution for Backwards-Compatible Audio Codec Improvement** at *129th Convention of the Audio Engineering Society*, 2010.

**ROW-mp3: An Enhanced MP3-Compatible Audio Codec** at *Stanford University DSP Seminar*, 2010.

**Practical Modeling of Bucket-Brigade Device Circuits** at *13th International Conference on Digital Audio Effects*, 2010.

**The Lattice Harp: A New Hybrid Instrument and Controller** at *2010 International Computer Music Conference*, 2010.

**An Effective Model of Bucket-Brigade Device-Based Audio Circuits** at *Stanford University DSP Seminar*, 2010.

**Voltage-Controlled Resistance: Modulate Anything** at *Circuitastrophe Circuit Bending Music Festival*, 2008.

## Poster Presentations

**Feed-Forward Networks with Attention Can Solve Some Long-Term Memory Problems** at *4th International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2016.

**Pruning Subsequence Search with Attention-Based Embedding** at *41st IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing*, 2016.

**Accelerating Multimodal Sequence Retrieval with Convolutional Networks** at *NIPS Multimodal Machine Learning Workshop*, 2015.

**Learning Efficient Representations for Sequence Retrieval** at *National Science Foundation Data Science Workshop*, 2015.

**Intuitive Analysis, Creation and Manipulation of MIDI Data with pretty\_midi** at *15th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference Late Breaking and Demo Papers*, 2014.

**mir\_eval: A Transparent Implementation of Common MIR Metrics** at *15th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference*, 2014.

**Estimating Timing and Channel Distortion Across Related Signals** at *39th IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing*, 2014.

## Employment

### **The Way of H**

Developed pitch detection and audio timescale modification algorithms for Rock Prodigy, an educational iPhone application for guitarists, 2011–2013

### **Beat Kangz Electronics**

Maintained and improved audio processing functionality for a hardware- and software-based music production system, 2011–2012

### **Imagine Research**

Helped develop a machine learning-based sound classification and identification system, 2010–2012

### **SacredAgent**

Created a musical event detection system which algorithmically demarcates beats and changes in instrumentation, dynamics, and melody, 2010

### **WOBC, Oberlin College Radio**

Worked as Engineer, 2007–2008, Station Manager, 2008–2009, and Web Administrator, 2009

### **eBay**

Employed as summer intern in user interface design department and Musical Instrument category management team, 2004

## Academic Service

### **Late Breaking/Demo and Unconference Chair**

Reviewed all submissions for the late breaking/demo session and coordinated the unconference at the 17th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference, 2016

### **Columbia Neural Network Research Group and Seminar Series**

Organized and presented paper discussions, tutorials, and seminars on neural networks, 2014–2016

### **Crucial Python**

Curated a seminar series on obscure but useful aspects of the Python programming language, 2014

### **Hacking Audio and Music Research (HAMR)**

Started a series of hackathons where researchers rapidly prototype new ideas over the course of a weekend; past HAMRs have been held at Columbia University, Dartmouth College, Drexel University, and Academia Sinica, 2013–present

### **Intern Supervisor**

Oversaw summer interns working on Music Information Retrieval research projects, 2013–2016

### **KZSU, Stanford University Radio**

Developed web applications and a music fingerprinting system, 2009–2010

### **Mathematics Tutor**

Assisted students studying algebra and linear algebra, 2008–2009

### **Engineering People of Oberlin Club**

Served as the Electrical Engineering group coordinator and web administrator, 2008–2009

## **Oberlin Student Cooperative Association Website Coordinator**

Maintained the website for Oberlin's eating and living cooperative organization, 2006–2007

## **Reviewing**

International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference, 2014–2017

Journal of New Music Research, 2016

EURASIP Journal on Audio, Speech, and Music Processing, 2015

IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory, 2014

## **Additional Coursework**

### **Music Information Retrieval Workshop, Stanford, CA**

Summer workshop covering machine learning and audio feature extraction, 2010

### **Rochester Community and Technical College, Rochester, MN**

Courses in studio recording and electronic music composition, 2002–2004

## **Software Libraries**

`mir_eval`, a simple-to-use reference implementation of many music information retrieval metrics.

`lasagne`, a library for constructing neural networks in Theano.

`pretty_midi`, utility classes and functions for easily creating, manipulating, and analyzing MIDI data.

`librosa`, DSP routines for audio and music signal analysis.