

ISAAC OTTO HAYES, Ph.D.

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PROFILE

Multifaceted music scholar, library professional, and educator. Recent Ph.D. graduate with academic and professional experience in music theory and composition, music technology and digital media, and library metadata management. Presently seeking to leverage a uniquely intersectional skill set to improve access to diverse music and multimedia resources in an academic library.

Scholarly and creative work centering on music notation, open-form and algorithmic composition, musical modernism, the American jazz tradition, and the creative legacy of the AACM.

EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine Ph.D., Integrated Composition, Improvisation & Technology	2019/09 – 2023/12
Mills College M.F.A., Music Performance & Literature	2016/01 – 2017/12
University of Arkansas B.A., Psychology, Philosophy	2007/09 – 2012/05

APPOINTMENTS

University of Southern California Polish Music Center Volunteer Archivist (2025/02 – present)	2024/06 – present
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- Served as volunteer archivist and consultant for the [Zygmunt and Luisa Stojowski Collection](#).
- Improved archival metadata for hundreds of items, applying NARA handling and storage best practices for archival materials, including fragile and/or damaged assets.

Music and Multimedia Cataloger (2024/06 – 2024/12)

- Assessed and cleared a complex, multi-decade backlog comprising 4000+ scores, parts, analog and digital audio recordings, and visual media.
- Created or improved thousands of MARC 21 records using industry-standard tools (OCLC Connexion + WorldShare Record Manager; Ex Libris Alma + Primo; MarcEdit).
- Cataloged in a variety of languages including French, German, Italian, Czech, and Russian.
- Created original records for rare/unique music and multimedia materials requiring special care/preservation, including 400+ phonodiscs for [ONE Archives](#).
- Improved metadata for 40,000+ more records across multiple libraries by using Alma normalization/indication rules to resolve catalog inconsistencies preventing record discovery.
- Collaborated with collection management authorities to refine USC music collections and identify resources in need of special care or preservation.
- Established and maintained dozens of authority records in compliance with NACO standards, ensuring consistent application of Library of Congress Name Authority File (LCNAF) protocols.
- Created and updated critical documentation of USC music cataloging, shelflisting, and physical preparations local policy; bringing it up to date with RDA and LC-PCC/MLA/OLAC best practices.
- Trained department staff in copy-cataloging and LC Classification for music resources.

- **Authored formal technical report** identifying wide-ranging issues with Primo metadata display, providing actionable recommendations which were ultimately adopted, enhancing catalog usability across USC Libraries.
- **Applied detailed knowledge of current RDA descriptive cataloging standards;** the IFLA LRM; LC Classification and LCSH protocol; LC-PCC, MLA, OLAC, and DCRM(M) best practices.
- **Created workflow tools** using Python and AutoHotkey in order to economize high-tedium cataloging tasks.
- **Trained in the use and application of the Official RDA Toolkit** in preparation for PCC's 2024–2027 rolling implementation.

University of California, Irvine
Instructor of Record (Winter 2023)

2019/09 – 2023/12

- **Held weekly classes in Music Theory 16B for 25 undergraduate students.** Fostered an engaging classroom environment focused on developing students' core musical skills and promoting critical thinking.
- **Designed and implemented undergraduate music theory curriculum** on topics including fundamentals of Western classical and jazz harmony, counterpoint, aural skills, musical form, and music history.
- **Collaborated with department leaders to refine UCI music theory pedagogy.**
- **Prepared audio/visual presentations each week** by synthesizing topics from several prominent theory texts including Gauldin's *Harmonic Practice*, Burstein's *Concise Introduction* and Kostka/Payne's *Tonal Harmony*.
- **Led 50+ one-on-one tutoring sessions** on specialized topics tailored to students' individual skill levels and learning styles.
- **Developed, deployed, and graded 300+ weekly assignments** and exams for students. Emphasized creative work by overseeing students' composition projects and offering guidance on the creative use of theory fundamentals in a variety of musical genres.
- **Supervised two graduate student teaching assistants;** delegated grading and student interfacing tasks as needed throughout the quarter.

Teaching Assistant (Spring 2020 – Spring 2023)

- **Aided in the teaching and administration of a wide variety of music courses** (on-site and remote) emphasizing theoretical and practical musical skills as well as essay writing; including but not limited to Theory and Musicianship (levels 16A-16D); Experiments in Music; Rock: The Early Years; Introduction to Opera; and History of Jazz.
- **Helped develop and implement lesson plans, assignments, and oral and written exams for the above classes.** Assisted in grading, providing feedback to students, maintaining accurate records of student performance, and acting as liaison between students and faculty/administration.
- **Improved students' music technology skills** in Cycling '74's Max, Avid Sibelius, MuseScore, and web-native DAWs (e.g. Soundtrap and BandLab).
- **Conducted 50+ aural skills assessments** including skill tests in sight-singing, rhythmic dictation.
- **Provided feedback for creative projects and academic essays.**
- **Streamlined classroom logistics by aiding in general audio/visual support** and providing technical support to professors and students for Canvas course management system.

Arts Media Center Coordinator (Fall 2019 – Winter 2019)

- **Facilitated student use of UC Irvine's auxiliary music library and multimedia lab.**
- **Instructed students in the use of multimedia lab hardware and software,** including Avid Sibelius, MuseScore, Reaper and Logic Pro, MIDI equipment, and audio interfaces.
- **Supervised a team of three undergraduate work-study employees;** oversaw hardware and multimedia checkout procedures for Arts Media Center patrons.
- **Aided in organization and shelving** of musical scores, multimedia materials, and audio equipment.

SELECTED RESEARCH

“Scoring the Unknown: Rethinking Fixity and Openness in Western Art Music Notation”

- UC Irvine dissertation
- Permalink: <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/48w4k5vj>
- Description: Tackles problems in our current understanding of Western music notation, especially those pertaining to 20th- and 21st-century indeterminate or “open” notations for improvisers.
- Advisors: Professors Amy Bauer, Michael Dessen, and Mari Kimura

“Theorizing Notation: Darmstadt, 1959–1965”

- Presented: Society of Music Theorists (SMT) 47th Annual Meeting, 2024
- Presented: West Coast Conference for Music Theory and Analysis, 2024
- Description: Uses two never-before translated mid-century German music-theoretical texts to suggest steps toward a more holistic theory of music notation.

“{O–G}: Otto-Glyphs”

- Description: Developed and deployed a novel notation scheme for improvising musicians according to a number of specific design criteria. Notation structure and intended usage documented in *On the Use and Interpretation of Otto-Glyphs*. Culminated in a concert of original works for a variety of ensembles composed using novel notation either alone or in tandem with traditional notation strategies.
- Advisors: Profs. Amy Bauer, Michael Dessen, Mari Kimura

Directed research in 3D-printed instruments

- Description: Improved designs for a modular shakuhachi using inexpensive fused deposition modeling (FDM) 3D-printing and off-the-shelf parts. Developed new keywork to facilitate extended techniques typically difficult or impossible on traditional instruments. Additionally, developed and implemented designs for low-cost 3D-printed clarinet parts and accessories.
- Advisor: Prof. Kojiro Umezaki

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Metadata Management	Ex Libris Alma/Primo, Analytics; OCLC Connexion; Worldshare Record Manager; MarcEdit.
Metadata Policy	RDA (Original + Official); MARC 21 record structure; LCC/LCSH protocol; ISBD guidelines; LC-PCC Policy Statements; MLA/OLAC best practices; NACO authority control.
Audio production; digitization	Reaper; Max; Logic Pro; Avid Pro Tools; Audio production hardware; Magnetic tape workflows.
Music copying and engraving	Sibelius; Dorico; Finale; MuseScore; LilyPond.
Design + Layout	L ^A T _E X; Adobe Illustrator; HTML + CSS.
Workflow design	AutoHotkey; Vim; Bash; Python
Office utilities	Word; Excel; Powerpoint; Sharepoint; Google Workspace.
Language Skills	Reading proficiency in French; research experience in French, German, Italian, and Latin.

REFERENCES

Joshua Hutchinson	USC Libraries — Director of Technical Services joshuah8@usc.edu (213) 821 8548
Marta Golbano	USC Libraries — Rare Books + Special Formats Librarian golbano@usc.edu Phone on request.
Minyoung Chung	USC Libraries — Monographs + Special Projects Librarian mchung@usc.edu Phone on request.
Dr. Amy Bauer	UC Irvine — Professor abauer@uci.edu (949) 824 6615
Prof. Kojiro Umezaki	UC Irvine — Professor kumezaki@uci.edu (949) 824 6615
Dr. Michael Dessen	UC Irvine — Rawlins Chair of Music mdessen@uci.edu (949) 824 6615