Deniz Çağlarcan

composer/violist/conductor

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About me

Multi-award-winning transdisciplinary composer, conductor, and violist with over a decade of experience in orchestral and electronic music, audiovisual installations, and interactive, multi-channel sound systems including ambisonics, VBAP, and DBAP. With 25+ years as a violist, I bring a strong classical foundation into experimental and contemporary practices.

I contributed to the establishment of the electronic music studio at Bilkent University and have served as the electronic and visual music studio assistant at UCSB for two years. For the past seven years, I have operated my own professional-grade home studio, where I compose, produce, and experiment with both analog and virtual synthesizers, following industry-standard workflows. I often prepare instruments in unconventional ways to explore unique timbral possibilities.

Holding three master's degrees and a Ph.D. in composition and media arts, I bridge classical training with cutting-edge technologies. My doctoral research focused on discovering organic relationships between image and sound, resulting in a multidimensional diagram that maps these connections. This research culminated in Shadows, an internationally awarded immersive audiovisual experience that has been exhibited across multiple countries.

My expertise spans immersive sound design, real-time audiovisual integration, procedural music, and interdisciplinary collaboration. With this background, I can confidently begin contributing to any studio environment from day one. Examples of techniques, tools, and technologies I use are detailed in each composition listed in my portfolio.

Portfolio Links

Contemporary Music

Visual Music

Film Scoring Works

Sound Design

Education

University of California, Santa Barbara, 2021 – 2025
Ph.D. – Composition – Supervisor: João Pedro Paiva Oliveira, GPA: 4.00/4.00

University of California, Santa Barbara, 2022 – 2025
M.S. – Media Arts and Technology – Supervisor: Curtis Roads, GPA: 4.00/4.00

Central Michigan University, 2019 – 2021
M.M. – Viola – Supervisor: Alicia Valoti, GPA: 4.00/4.00

Bilkent University Faculty of Music and Performing Arts, 2016 – 2019
M.A. - Composition – Supervisor: Tahsin Tolga Yayalar, GPA: 3.44/4.0

Bilkent University Faculty of Music and Performing Arts, 2010 – 2016
B.M. – Viola – Supervisor: Sema Hakioğlu, GPA: 3.03/4.0

Istanbul University of State Conservatory, 2001- 2010
Primary School, Middle School and High School – Viola – Supervisor: Ani İnci

ABRSM
Grade 5 of Piano and Theory

Honors

University of California, Santa Barbara, Full Merit Scholarship M.S. in MAT, 2022

University of California, Santa Barbara, Full Merit Scholarship Ph.D. in Composition, 2021

Central Michigan University, Full Merit Scholarship M.M. in Viola, 2019

Bilkent University, Full Merit Scholarship M.A. in Composition, 2016

Bilkent University, Merit Scholarship B.M. in Viola, 2010

Work Experience

University of California, Santa Barbara

2023-2025, Music and Visual Studio Assistant

Central Michigan University Community Music School
2019 – 2021, Conductor Assistant

Bilkent University
2017 – 2019 Member of concert setup and recording crew

Bilkent University
2017 – 2019 Hosting Artist Residency

Bilkent Symphonic Orchestra
2017 – 2019 guest violist

Bilkent Saygun Center
2016 – 2019 Assistant of Yiğit Aydın (Digitizing Manuscripts of Adnan Saygun)
Score reader of recording crew at Bilkent Symphony Orchestra
2015 – 2016

Composer and sound designer at Privatefish (Indie game company)
2013 – 2014

Software Knowledge

DAWs and Music Software: Logic Pro X, Pro Tools, Reaper, Ableton Live, Studio One, Max/MSP, Open Music, Finale, Sibelius, Dorico, Ircam Tools, Ircam Spat 5, Waves, UAD, Soundtoys, GRM tools, Fabfilter, Hardware outboard gears, Mixing console, Wwise, MetaSound(UE5)

CG & Video: Unity, Unreal Engine 5, Adobe Illustrator, Cinema 4D, Mandelbulb 3d, Final Cut Pro, Particle Illusion, Adobe Premiere, Adobe After Effects, X-Particles(C4D), Unreal Engine 5.

Principal Works

The Golden Boy – for VR and Allosphere, 360 Audio/Visual Composition, 2025

Morphé Aquatiqué – Realtime Audio/Visual Composition for Viola, Live Electronics, and Interactive Visuals, 2025

Itera – Visual Music, 2025 (Unreal Engine and AI)

Whispers of Entropy – for piano, violin and cello, written for Onix Ensemble, 2024

Organic Reflection – Live audio/visual work, premiered at Shadows Festival, 2024 (Unreal Engine&MetaSound)

Shadows – Audio/Visual installation for 3 projectors and stereo speakers, 2023

Void – for viola and fixed Media, premiered at Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall, 2022

Akousma – for 15 instruments, premiered at Central Michigan New Music Ensemble, 2019

Flux (Mahal) – sound installation for 7.1 surround speaker system (used Ambisonics) at Evliyagil Museum in Ankara, 2019

Misket – quadraphonic fixed electronic music, 2019

Exoplanet – for string quartet and fixed media (6 speakers-Ambosonics), composed for 'Bilkent New Music Days VII', for Hezarfen Ensamble, 2017
Warped - live improvisation for 8 Speaker, *"Flick of an Ear Blink of an Eye"*, Adnan Saygun Concert Hall, 2019
Cthulhu – for string trio, 2018 performed at TFO (Taneycomo Festival Orchestra), 2019
bLoW uP! – for bass clarinet, percussion and viola, composed for Bilkent Composition Academy, for Hezarfen Ensamble, 2017
Submérge – for stereo tape, *'Young composers & Young Performers'*, 2017
Harvest of Souls - for solo viola, "Journey of Sound" Young Composers' Festival 9, performed by Öykü Koçoğlu, 2016

Film Music and Sound Design Projects

Film Music Composing: "Chasing Whales" Documentary, "The Universe Within" animation, "Raphael" Movie, "The Collision" Movie, "Hostel" (Pansiyon) Movie

Sound Design: A scene from Diablo III, Itera, Shadows, A Scene from The Good The Bad The Ugly, and Sound Design for Marvel Comics

Teaching Experience

University of California, Santa Barbara
MUS 11: Fundamentals of Music
2025 Winter & 2025 Spring, TA

University of California, Santa Barbara
MUS 109L: Real-Time Digital Synthesis, Processing, and Composition
2023 Fall, 2024 Winter & 2024 Spring, TA

University of California, Santa Barbara
MUS 4: Ear Training/Musicianship
2022 Fall, 2023 Spring, TA

University of California, Santa Barbara
MUS CS 101: Music Composition
2023 Winter, Instructor of Record

Central Michigan University School of Music
2019 – 2021, Viola Studio, TA

Central Michigan University Community Music School
2019 – 2021, Viola Instructor
Central Michigan University School of Music
2019 – 2021, Theory, TA

Central Michigan University School of Music
2019 – 2021, String Techniques, TA

Bilkent University Faculty of Music and Performing Arts
2017 – 2019 Chamber Music, TA

Bilkent University Faculty of Music and Performing Arts
2016 - 2017 Harmony, TA

Kuzey Yıldızı Muzik, Bale ve Dans Merkezi
2016 - 2017 Private Violin Instructor

Individual Composition Lessons

Mark Andre, Ken Ueno, Bruno Mantovani, Hideki Kozakura, Mahir Çetiz, Michael Ellison, Ulrich Kreppein, Shih-Hui Chen, Eun-Hwa Cho, Pierluigi Billone, Beat Furrer, Clara Iannotta, Bernhard Gander, Alberto Posadas, Dmitri Kourliandski, Simon Løffler, Michael Maierhof, Isabel Mundry, Jorge Sánchez-Chiong, Agata Zubel, Robin Minard, Kurt Rohde, Laura San Martin, Jay C. Batzner, José-Luis Maúrtua, Annette Vande Gorne, Paul Rudy, JoAnn Kuchera-Morin.

Seminers, Festivals, Concerts, Competitions and Academies (In composition)

- 23rd Sound and Music Computing Conference, Music Biennale Zagreb, 2026
- International Computer Music Conference, Itera Visual Music, Hamburg, 2026
- MediaFlock Festival at CCRMA/Stanford, Shadows and Itera Visual Music, 2026
- Requiem for Shadows, A Golden Farewell, Shadows Visual Music, Loft Art, Istanbul, 2025
- Eastman School of Music EMuSE concert: Shadows Visual Music, Hatch Recital Hall, 2025
- Brave New Work, *Morhpé Aquatiqué,* SBCAST, 2025
- Residency Prix CIME - International Confederation of Electroacoustic Music, 2025
- Graduate Composers' Concert, Itera, Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall, 2025
- UCSB MAT: End of Year Show, *Morhpé Aquatiqué*, SBCAST, 2025
- Onix Ensemble, *Whispers of Entropy,* Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall, 2024
- NMTA Silver State Competition Composition Judge, 2024

- UCSB MAT: End of Year Show, *Shadows* Visual Music, 2024
- 1st Prize Award, Corwin Awards for Excellence in Composition, *Shadows* Visual Music, 2024
- UCSB Concert: *Shadows* Visual Music, Lotte Lehmann, 2024
- Corwin Chair Concert Series: The Alchemy of Visual Music, *Shadows*, Santa Barbara, 2024
- III Multimedia Festival of Contemporary Music "Biomechanics", Artemyev Art-space of Moscow Conservatory, "*Void for viola and electronics*", 2024
- Shadows Contemporary Art Festival 2nd Edition in University of Nevada, Reno, Curator, Artistic Director and Composer, 2024
- L'Espace du Son festival, Brussels, *Shadows* Visual Music, 2023
- Indiana State University Contemporary Music Festival Competition Winner, 2023
- UCSB MAT: End of Year Show, *Shadows* visual music, 2023
- Shadows Contemporary Art Festival in Kosovo, Curator, Artistic Director and Composer, 2023
- Taneycomo Festival Orchestra, Dr. Dilek Engin Stolarchuk, "*Void for viola and electronics*", 2022
- New Music, Baroque on Beaver Island, Dr. Dilek Engin Stolarchuk, "*Void for viola and electronics*", 2022
- UCSB Concert: *Shadows* Visual Music, Lotte Lehmann, 2022
- UCSB Concert: "*Void for Solo Viola and Fixed Electronics"*, 2022
- 1st Prize Award, Corwin Awards for Excellence in Composition, "*Void for Solo Viola and Fixed Electronics"*, 2022
- 2nd Prize Award, American Viola Society's Maurice Gardner Composition Competition, 2022
- Taneycomo Festival Orchestra, Festival trio, Cthulhu, 2021
- Taneycomo Festival Orchestra, Dr. Dilek Engin Stolarchuk, Harvest of Souls, 2019
- Impuls 12th International Ensemble and Composers Academy for Contemporary Music, 2019
- Bilkent New Music Days VII with Hazerfen Ensemble, 2017
- Bilkent Composition Academy with Mark Andre and Hezarfen Ensemble, 2017
- Young composers, Young performers, 2017
- "Journey of Sound" - Young Composers' Festival, 2016

Lectures, Seminars and Presentations

Stanford University, April 2026
Presentation on Shadows audio-visual installation at CCRMA – MediaFlock.

University of California, Santa Barbara, February 2026
Talk on utilizing Unreal Engine 5 for composing music and visuals.

The Piano Conference: NCKP, July 2025

Presentation Topic: Moving Beyond the Traditional Piano: Exploring the Implications of the Gestural Structures on Contemporary Piano Performance

Istanbul University State Conservatory, December 2024
Presentation Topic: Sound to Sight: A Transdisciplinary Approach to Translating Musical Compositional Concepts into Visual Arts
This presentation explores the musical approaches of various composers, including Dennis Smalley, Murray Schafer, Pierre Schaeffer, François Bayle, and Simon Emmerson, and examines how their musical grammar can be translated into visual arts in the form of visual music.

American Viola Society Festival, June 2024
Presentation on the history of electro-acoustic music and its relation to extended string techniques, phrasing, and implications of the gestural structures on contemporary music performance.

University of California, Santa Barbara, May 2024
Presentation: Translating music composition principles into visual music composition

University of Nevada, Reno, January 2024
Talk on Shadows Contemporary Art Festival and my visual music piece "*Shadows*".

Indiana State University, October 2023
Presentation on my music "*Void for Viola and Fixed Electronics*"

Shadows Contemporary Art Festival in Kosovo June 2023
Presentation on: "*Shadows Visual Music & Transdisciplinarity*"
Talk on Shadows installation and the process on becoming a transdisciplinary artist as a composer.

University of California, Santa Barbara, March 2022
Presentation on: "*My compositional development*"
My transition from being a violist to a composer, different approaches, and compositional development.

University of California, Santa Barbara, December 2021
Presentation on: "*Exoplanet for string quartet and tape*"
Detailed analysis of Exoplanet, sonification of extramusical data into music.

University of California, Santa Barbara, November 2021
Presentation on: "*Fausto Romitelli Professor Bad Trip: Lesson 1*"
Overview of timbral content and formal structure.

Central Michigan University, November 2020
Presentation on: "*Extended string techniques and electro-acoustic music implications"*
The relationship between electro-acoustic music and string techniques.

Bilkent University, May 2019
"Akousma: Realization of Electronic Music Techniques on Acoustic Music Composition and Musical Flow"
Seminar on my large ensemble *"Akousma"*, Based on P. Schaeffer's TARTYP and sound morphology.

Bilkent University, March 2019
"Mahal-Flux: Site-specific Sound Installation"
Collaborative dynamics among the composers of *Mahal*. Expanding the borders of time, space and perception.

Bilkent University, March 2018
"Exoplanet: Blending electronics with the string quartet and spatialization"
Seminar on the usage of space and the synergy among electronics and instruments in my piece *Exoplanet.*

Bilkent University, November 2017
"Tape music techniques on bLOw uP!"
Presentation on old fashioned tape music techniques and their implementation on my piece *bLOw uP!*

Viola Individual Lessons

Ani İnci, Öykü Koçoğlu, Mert Bilginer, Ece Akyol, Neşe Grançer, Atilla Aldemir, Sema Hakioğlu, Ian Jessee, Cavit Cafer, Sheila Browne, Scott Woolweaver, Yuri Gandelsman, Tatjana Masurenko, Matthias Maurer, Walter Küssner, Hartmut Rohde, George Hamann, Wolfgang Klos, Herbert Müller, Alexander Zemtsov, Ashan Pillai, Paul Cortese, Gertrude Weinmeister, Ulrich Mertin, Alicia Valoti, Christine Ruthledge, Ames Asbell, Caroline Coade, Istvan Szabo, Lauren Hodges.

Viola Masterclasses and Workshops

2023 Festival I Suoni Di Sillene Chamber Music Masterclass with Alicia Valoti
2021 Central Michigan University Viola Masterclass with Wendy Case
2021 Central Michigan University Viola Masterclass with Andrea Houde
2021 Central Michigan University Viola Masterclass with Garth Knox
2021 Central Michigan University Masterclass with Mikaela Versluis
2021 Central Michigan University Viola Masterclass with Daphne Gerling

2021 Central Michigan University Viola Masterclass with Joel Pagan
2021 Viola Day Feldenkrais Workshop with Dr. Stephen Gorgone
2021 Viola Day Masterclass with Dr. Jacob Adams
2020 Lecture on String Instrument Practice Techniques with Patrick Yim
2020 Lecture on Memorization with Molly Gebrian
2020 Central Michigan University Viola Masterclass with Lauren Hodges
2020 Central Michigan University Viola Masterclass with Istvan Szabo
2020 Central Michigan University Viola Masterclass with Caroline Coade
2020 Central Michigan University Viola Masterclass with Ames Asbell
2020 Central Michigan University Chamber Music Masterclass with Elias Quartet
2019 Central Michigan University Viola Masterclass with Christine Ruthledge
2017 Bilkent University Viola Masterclass with Ulrich Mertin
2015 Masterclass in International Viola Camp, Iznik with Tatjana Mausurenko
2013 Masterclass in International Viola Camp, Iznik with Tatjana Mausurenko
2013 Bilkent University Viola Masterclass, Ankara with Alexander Zemtzov
2013 I. Anadolu Efes Music Academy Concert, Istanbul with Matthias Maurer - Atilla Aldemir
2012 Masterclass in California Institute, Germany with Yuri Gandelsman
2009 Masterclass in California, USA with Sheila Browne and Scott Woolweaver
2008 Masterclass in Datca, Turkey with Ian Jesse and Çetin Aydar

Viola Concerts and Competitions

2026 1st Prize Award at Golden Classical Music Awards, Carnegie Hall, NY
2025 Brave New Work, *Morphé Aquatiqué*, October
2025 MAT EoYS, *Morphé Aquatiqué*, June
2024 Shadows Collection Dreamland, December
2024 Shadows Collection Conceptual Dining, December
2024 MAT EoYS, CREATE ensemble concert
2024 Zero Gained, Krzysztof Wolek, *Shadowings for Viola and Live Electronics,* UCSB, Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall
2023 Festival I Suoni di Sillene, Ensemble, Italy
2023 Shadows Contemporary Art Festival in Kosovo, *Void for Solo Viola and Fix Electronics*
2022 UCSB, Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall, *Void for Solo Viola and Fix Electronics*
2022 UCSB, Contemporary Music Recital, Chamber music
2021 Ensemble Contemporary Music, UCSB, Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall
2021 Graduation Recital, Central Michigan University, Chamichian
2021 Live from Staples!, Central Michigan University, Solo Viola, MI, Staples
2020 Live from Staples!, Central Michigan University, Ensemble, MI, Staples
2020 2nd Place in Veha Chamichian String Competition
2019 Central Michigan University Symphony Orchestra, New Year Concert, MI, Staples
2019 Central Michigan University, Vocal Orchestra, MI, Mt.Pleasant, Staples
2019 Central Michigan University Symphony Orchestra, MI, Mt.Pleasant, Staples
2019 Central Michigan University, Ensemble, MI, Staples
2019 Central Michigan University, Solo Viola, MI, Staples

2019 Central Michigan University, Ensemble, MI, Staples
2019 Central Michigan University, Solo Viola, MI, Staples
2019 Central Michigan University New Music Ensemble, MI, Staples
2019 Central Michigan University, Musical, Ragtime
2019 Central Michigan University Symphony Orchestra, MI, Mt.Pleasant, Staples
2019 Central Michigan University Symphony Orchestra, MI, Mt.Pleasant, Staples
2019 Central Michigan University Symphony Orchestra, MI, Grand Rapids
2019 Central Michigan University Symphony Orchestra, MI, Grand Rapids
2018 Bilkent Concert Hall, Ensemble, Ankara
2018 March 8th International Woman's Day Concert Ensemble, Bilkent, Ankara
2017 Bilkent Concert Hall, Ensemble, Ankara
2017 Bilkent Concert Hall New Music Concert, Ensemble, Ankara
2017 Turkish-American Association, Ensemble, Ankara
2017 Bilkent University, Ensemble, Ankara
2017 Kocaeli University State Conservatory Concert hall, Solo viola, Kocaeli
2017 Third Friendship Concert, "Anotated New Music Concert", Ensemble, Ankara
2016 Bilkent University, Adnan Saygun Concert hall, Solo Viola, Ankara
2015 New Year Concert in Doğa College, Solo viola, Istanbul
2015 Bilkent University, Adnan Saygun Concert hall, Solo viola, Ankara
2015 International Viola Camp Concert, Solo viola, İznik
2014 Bilkent University, Adnan Saygun Concert hall, Solo viola, Ankara
2014 Bilkent Youth Symhonic Orchestra, Bonn Beethovenhalle, Berlin
2013 Bilkent University, Adnan Saygun Concert hall, Solo viola, Ankara
2013 Ankara Fine Arts Highschool Concert hall, Solo viola, Ankara
2013 I. Anadolu Efes Music Academy Concert, Solo viola, Istanbul
2013 Braunschweig Classical Open International Music Competition (Finalist), Germany
2013 Bilkent University, Adnan Saygun Concert hall, Solo viola, Ankara
2013 International Viola Camp Concert, Solo viola, İznik
2013 Bilkent Symphonic Orchestra, Congresium Concert hall, Ankara
2012 California Institute Concert, Ensemble Germany
2012 Kocaeli University State Conservatory Concert hall, Solo viola, Kocaeli
2011 Bilkent University, Adnan Saygun Concert hall, Solo viola, Ankara
2010 Istanbul University State Conservatory Concert hall, Solo viola, Istanbul
2009 12. Kasdav Highschool Music Competition, rock band, Istanbul
2009 Istanbul University State Conservatory Concert hall, Solo viola, Istanbul
2009 Private Pera Fine Arts High school, Istanbul (Piano recital)
2009 California Summer Music Concert, Ensemble California
2008 III. International Summer Music Festival, Solo viola, Datça
2008 Istanbul University State Conservatory Concert hall, Solo viola, Istanbul
2007 Dogus Youth Symphonic Orchestra, Presidential Symphonic Orchestra, Ankara

2007 Istanbul University State Conservatory Concert hall, Solo viola, Istanbul
2007 Istek Private Uluğbey Primary School, Solo viola, Istanbul
2006 Istanbul University State Conservatory Concert hall, Solo viola, Istanbul
2005 Istanbul University State Conservatory Concert hall, Solo viola, Istanbul
2004 Istanbul University State Conservatory Concert hall, Solo viola, Istanbul
2003 Istanbul University State Conservatory Concert hall, Solo viola, Istanbul
2002 Istanbul University State Conservatory Concert hall, Solo viola, Istanbul
2000 Mujdat Gezen Art Center, Solo piano, Istanbul

Orchestral Conducting Masterclasses and Workshops

2017 Karşıyaka Belediyesi Orkestra Şefliği Yaz Akademisi (Rengim Gökmen)

Individual Orchestral Conducting Lessons

José-Luis Maúrtua 2019 - 2020
Işın Metin – 2015 – 2019

Publications

Organic Reflections: A Stochastic Framework For Real-Time Audiovisual Composition Across Ar, Vr, And Projection
Accepted to Published by SMC2026
From Sound to Sight: Translating Electroacoustic Music Principles Into Visual Music Composition a Transdisciplinary Approach for Contemporary Composers
Published Ph.D. Dissertation at UC Santa Barbara, 2026
Syntactic versus semantic stand: analysis of Jonty Harrison's Klang and Surface Tension
Published Master Thesis by Bilkent University, 2019
Evolution and Expansion of Sound: A Literature Review of Extended String Techniques and Notation
Accepted by Michigan Music Conference, 2021

Discography

ADE Duo

Performers: Adea Badivuku (Piano) & Deniz Çağlarcan (Viola)
On all music streaming platforms
List of pieces:
Can't Help Falling in Love (Written by George David Weiss, Hugo Peretti, Luigi Creatore)
Astor Piazzolla – Oblivion
Someone Like You – Adele
https://adeduo.art/