

Ryan A. Koons, PhD

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SUMMARY

Degreed ethnomusicologist accomplished in researching, presenting, and archiving intangible cultural heritage. Considerable experience in creating educational and artistic content for general audiences. Numerous oral and written presentations for national and international professional organizations and publications. Extensive ethnographic research experience on groups and individuals. Successful in obtaining competitive grants. Scholar of tradition and intangible cultural heritage.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Content creation for general audience
- Ethnographer and archivist
- Filmmaker
- Grant writing and budgeting
- Local, national, international networking
- Project excellence
- Scholar; PhD in ethnomusicology
- Strong organizational skills
- Gifted performer in multiple music genres

EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D., Ethnomusicology, University of California, Los Angeles
2012 M.A., Ethnomusicology, University of California, Los Angeles
2010 B.A., Music History (*magna cum laude*), Dickinson College

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2016-present **Lecturer and Director of Early Music Ensemble, Dept. of Musicology, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA**

- Direct UCLA's Early Music Ensemble, a 40-person, credit-bearing ensemble with members drawn from UCLA student, faculty, and staff bodies, and the greater Los Angeles area. Manage and mentor teaching assistant/managing director.
- Run twice-weekly rehearsals; recruit, audition, and grade students; write grants for guest artists and language coaches; choose repertoire; arrange, direct, conduct, and perform three public concerts. Interface with presenting venues. Design promotional material; advertise ensemble; write program notes, develop presentations on concert repertoire.

2010-present **Co-director, Archivist, and Filmmaker, World Community Productions, Finksburg, MD**

- As director, propose, direct, and implement multimedia projects designed for general audiences. Develop budgets and raise funds; develop and maintain website; arrange research and recording trips. As archivist, organize and accession physical and digital-born project materials into archival collections, create finding aids, facilitate access; manage digital assets; and produce and record documentary films and recordings

2006-present **Administrative Assistant, Volunteer Coordinator, Stage Coordinator, Instructor, Performer, Photographer, Common Ground on the Hill summer school, Westminster, MD**

- Variously assist program director and registrar to manage summer school and roots music and arts festival; supervise volunteer coordinator and 30-60 volunteers; act as liaison between students, faculty, staff, and directors; advertise program locally and regionally; develop and manage mailing, student, class, and faculty electronic databases; create release forms to record and photograph performances; archive program materials

- As an instructor and performer, teach teen and adult students from multiple backgrounds during 75 minute classes at roots music and arts summer school; perform traditional Celtic and Nordic music during concerts and festival; and photograph classes, concerts, lectures, art gallery events, dances, etc.

2012-2016 Teaching Assistant/Associate/Fellow, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

- Organize and teach weekly lecture sessions, grade student progress, and manage weekly student consultation. Maintain clear and effective communication skills to keep large groups of people on task while collectively working towards a common goal.
- Subjects included a variety of world and popular music topics, jazz history, European music history, and early music.

2014-2015 Managing Director, Early Music Ensemble, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

- Direct UCLA's Early Music Ensemble, a 40-person, credit-bearing ensemble with members drawn from UCLA student, faculty, and staff bodies, and the greater Los Angeles area.
- Run twice-weekly rehearsals; recruit, audition, and grade students; write grants for guest artists and language coaches; choose repertoire; arrange, direct, conduct, and perform three public concerts. Interface with presenting venues. Design promotional material; advertise ensemble; write program notes, develop presentations on concert repertoire.

2012, 2014 Laboratory Assistant, Ethnomusicology Laboratory, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

- Supervise equipment loan; set up, break down, and troubleshoot classroom AV; teach/supervise students in laboratory equipment; record Department of Ethnomusicology music ensemble spring concerts

2008-2010 Archival Assistant, Community Studies Center, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

- Create ethnographic research materials comparing South African anti-apartheid movement with civil rights movement in Mississippi
- Organize and accession physical and digital research materials into archival collections; develop finding aids; develop conference presentations on archival processes and content; develop and update project website

RELATED EXPERIENCE

2012-2016	Editorial Board, <i>Ethnomusicology Review</i> , UCLA
2011-2012	Outreach Performances in greater Los Angeles, Gluck Groupa Pendari Balkan Ensemble, UCLA
2011	Administrative Volunteer, Society for Ethnomusicology National Conference
2009-2010	House Head, Dance House/Dance Theater Group, Dickinson College
2009-2010	Student Representative, Steering Committee, Community Studies Center, Dickinson College
2008-present	Collaboration on Tvlwv Pvlvcekolv Native American Community Archive, Tallahassee, FL
2006	Develop, advertise, direct, and perform multi-ensemble collaborative general audience concert of Celtic and Nordic roots music "Northern Chord"

SELECTED GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

2016	Simon Bronner Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, Eastern American Studies Association Annual Meeting
2016	Member, Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society for Diversity, UCLA

- 2015 Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship
 2015 R.U. Nelson Fund Grant on behalf of the UCLA Early Music Ensemble, Herb Alpert School of Music, UCLA
 2015 Mini-grant for Instructional Improvement on behalf of the UCLA Early Music Ensemble, Office of Instructional Development, UCLA
 2013 Travel Grant, Center for the Study of Women, UCLA
 2012-2013 Institute of American Cultures Research Grant, American Indian Studies Center, UCLA
 2012 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Grant, Graduate Division, UCLA
 2011-2012 Gluck Fellowship for Music Outreach, UCLA
 2009 Trust-T Award for Musical Creativity, Dickinson College
 2008 Student Research Grant, Community Studies Center, Dickinson College
 2006-2010 John Montgomery Merit Scholarship, Dickinson College
 2006-2010 Dean's List, Dickinson College

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

- 2013-present LGBT experiences in traditional music, on the East Coast, USA, and through internet-based communities using participant-observation and interviews
 2012-present Countertenor experiences and contemporary baroque performance practice, in Los Angeles, CA, and through internet-based communities using participant-observation, auto-ethnography, and interviews
 2011-present Bowed dulcimer history and community, in Pilot Mountain, NC, using AV documentation, participant-observation, and interviews
 2010-2012 Ex-patriot Swedish fiddler Göran Olsson's music, identity, and communities, in Washington, DC, using AV documentation, participant-observation, and interviews
 2008-2010 Anti-apartheid and civil rights movements' music and history, in Cape Town and King Williams Town, South Africa; and Coahoma County, MS, using AV documentation, interviews, and archival study
 2005-present Muskogee-Creek Native American ceremonial music and dance, in and around Tallahassee, FL, using participant-observation, interviews, auto-ethnography, AV documentation, and archival study

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND FILMS

- Forthcoming "Sweden: Contemporary Performance Practice," *The Sage Encyclopedia of Music and Culture*, Sage Publications
 Forthcoming *The Bowed Dulcimer Project* film (co-creator, producer, editor, and camerawork) World Community Productions
 Submitted "Owls, People, and Owl People: Becoming in Muskogee Creek Song, Story, and Movement," with Lee Bloch, under review in *Native American and Indigenous Studies* journal
 2015 "The Politics of Performing the Other: Curating an Early Music Concert," with Elisabeth Le Guin, in *Ethnomusicology Review* 20
 2013 "Through the Lens of a Baroque Opera: Gender/Sexuality Then and Now," in *Ethnomusicology Review Sounding Board: Historical Perspectives*
 2013 Review of Christopher Ballantine, *Marabi Nights: Jazz, "Race" and Society in Early Apartheid South Africa*, in *Book Notes, Yearbook for Traditional Music*, 45

- 2012 "Comfort, Engagement, Encouragement, Dissent: Freedom and Liberation Songs during the Anti-Apartheid Struggle," with Atandi Anyona, in *Ethnomusicology Review* 17
- 2011 *The Washington Spelmanslag* film (creator, producer, editor, and camerawork)
World Community Productions

SELECTED INVITED LECTURES, CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, CAMPUS TALKS

- 2016 Chair and Co-organizer, "Exploring Personhood: 'New Animism' in Ethnomusicology" panel (sponsored by the Indigenous Music Special Interest Group), 61st Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Washington, DC, November 10-13
- 2015 "Imagining the New World: Music from Indigenous-Colonial Interactions,"
Towson University, Towson, MD, September 24
- 2014 "Ritualizing the Past: Archives, Heritage, and Ceremony," 59th Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Pittsburgh, PA, November 13-16
- 2013 "La Tradición Musical de Bulgaria Poscomunista" ["Musical Traditions in a Post-Communist Bulgaria"], Centro Nacional de Investigación, Documentación e Información "Carlos Chávez," Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, Mexico City, Mexico, May 24
- 2012 "Göran Olsson: The Role of the Individual in Musical Networks," 6th Annual Echo Conference, Department of Musicology, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, October 18-19
- 2011 "People of One Fire Continuing a Centuries-Old Tradition: Winter," 41st World Conference of the International Council for Traditional Music, St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada, July 13-19
- 2011 "Nyckelharpa: Folk? National?," with Peter Leonard, for course "Scandinavian Folklore," UCLA, February 15
- 2010 "Traditional Irish Fiddle Music" and "The Tradition of the Nyckelharpa," for course "Musical Cultures of the World: Europe and the Americas," UCLA, September 30
- 2009 "Recreating Process, Culture, and Interpretation: Using Technologies to Present and Represent Community Histories," 43rd Annual Meeting of the Oral History Association, Louisville, KY, October 14-18

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

World Music

Balkan music: 2010-present

- voice, fiddle, conducting, arranging
- with Groupa Pendari; with Balkan Band, UCLA (dir. Ivan Varimezov); with Superdevoiche Choir, UCLA (dir. Tzvetanka Varimezova)
- performances in greater Los Angeles area and Mexico City, Mexico

Celtic and Nordic folk music: 1997-present

- fiddle, nyckelharpa [Swedish keyed fiddle], voice, tin whistle, psaltery, scheitholt [Germanic plucked zither], bodhran [Irish frame drum]
- with professional ensemble Wherligig
- performances on the eastern seaboard

Fusion: 2012-2016

- nyckelharpa [Swedish keyed fiddle], fiddle, voice

- with Skin and Strings
- performances in Los Angeles and Shanghai, China

Marachi: 2003-2007

- fiddle, voice
- with Mariachi Sin Nombres (dir. Steve Eckard), McDaniel College
- performances in the mid-Atlantic region

Western Classical Music

Early Music: 2007-present

- voice, violin, conducting, directing, program note writing
- with Early Music Ensemble, UCLA (dir. Elisabeth Le Guin); with Collegium Musicum, Dickinson College (dir. Blake Wilson)
- performances in greater Los Angeles area and mid-Atlantic region

Modern Dance: 2008-2010

- dance, choreography
- with Dance Theatre Group, Dickinson College (dir. Sarah Skaggs)
- performances in mid-Atlantic region

Western Art Music: 1994-present

- piano, violin, voice
- with McDaniel College College-Community Orchestra (dir. Elijah Wald); with College Orchestra, Dickinson College (dir. Robert Pound); with College Choir, Dickinson College (dir. Amy Wlodarski)
- performances in mid-Atlantic region

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2013-present American Musicological Society
2012-present Society for Seventeenth-Century Music
2011-present Native American and Indigenous Studies Association
2011-present Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study
2010-present International Council for Traditional Music
2010-present Oral History Association
2010-present Society for Ethnomusicology
2006-present American Nyckelharpa Association

LANGUAGES

French: intermediate speaking and reading; basic writing
Spanish: intermediate speaking and reading; basic writing
Swedish: intermediate speaking and reading; basic writing

REFERENCES

Walt Michael
Founding and artistic director, Common Ground on the Hill
2 College Hill
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Anthony Seeger

Director emeritus, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, and distinguished professor emeritus, Department of Ethnomusicology, UCLA

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