

# Christopher Witulski, PhD

Instructor of Ethnomusicology | Bowling Green State University  
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## EDUCATION

- 2014**      **PhD in Music History, University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**  
*Title:* “Listening to Changing Narratives and Musical Diversity in Moroccan Gnawa Music”  
*Research interests include:* Popular music studies, music and healing, African music, American folk music, musical analysis within ethnomusicology
- 2009**      **MM in Music History, University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**  
*Title:* “Defining and Revising the Gnawa and their Music through Commodification in Local, National, and Global Contexts”
- 2007**      **MM in Music Theory, State University College of New York; Potsdam, NY**  
*Title:* “The Origins and Sources of Post-Bebop Jazz Modality: Influences from Middle Eastern Musical Style”
- 2004**      **BM in Musical Studies, State University College of New York; Potsdam, NY**  
Minor in Jazz studies, coursework in music education and Middle Eastern studies

## Foreign Languages

Moroccan Colloquial Arabic: Advanced (intensive study in Fez, Morocco)  
Modern Standard Arabic: Advanced (intensive study in Cairo, Egypt and Fez)  
French: Spoken Intermediate, Advanced Reading

## PUBLICATIONS

- Revising**      *The Gnawa Lions: Authenticity and Opportunity in a Moroccan Ritual Music*  
(Indiana University Press, Public Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa)
- Contracted**      *Focus: Music in Morocco* (Routledge Press, Focus on World Music series)
- Forthcoming**      *Ethnomusicology*  
“Contentious Spectacle: Negotiated Authenticity within Morocco’s Gnawa Ritual.”
- 2016**      *Yale Journal of Music and Religion* 2(2)  
“Crossing paths: musical and ritual interactivity between the ḥamadsha and gnawa in Sidi Ali, Morocco.”
- 2016**      *Ethnomusicology Forum* 25(2)  
“Light rhythms and heavy spirits: entertaining listeners through gnawa musical and ritual adaptations in Morocco.”

- 2016**      *Journal of North African Studies 21(4)*  
 “The Gnawa Lions: new pathways of advancement for Moroccan professional ritual musicians”
- 2013**      **Invited Contribution, *Music in American Culture*, Jacqueline Edmondson, ed.**  
 Entry on the influence of Middle Eastern music on American popular music
- 2012**      *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies (44/4)*  
 Invited roundtable contribution
- 2011-2013**    **The View from Fez; Fez, Morocco**  
 Music correspondent
- 2011**      **Afropop Worldwide; Fez, Morocco**  
 Photography to accompany articles about the Festival of Sacred Music in Fez

## **TEACHING AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

- 2016-**      **Instructor of Ethnomusicology, BGSU; Bowling Green, OH**  
 - Developing and teaching music courses that focus on student engagement with local communities
- 2014-2016**    **Specialized Teaching Faculty, Florida State University; Tallahassee, FL**  
 - Developed and taught live and distance learning courses in world, popular, and classical music satisfying a new liberal studies curriculum focused on collaborative work and engagement with contemporary issues
- 2013-2014**    **Music Lab Director, Hochstein School of Music and Dance; Rochester, NY**  
 - Course offerings, workshops, and summer camps that use popular, world, and classical concepts with technology resources to develop creative musicianship  
 - Training for faculty and students on production, notation, and video software
- 2011-2014**    **Adjunct Lecturer, University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**  
 - “American Popular Music” online for 200 students per semester  
 - “Music and Healing in Contemporary Africa”
- 2007-2011**    **Alumni Fellow, University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**  
 - “American Popular Music” and “Introduction to World Musics”  
 - Founded and directed the UF Arabic Orchestra  
 - Logistics and lectures for “Arts and Healing” (study abroad in Fez, Morocco)
- 2005-2007**    **Graduate Assistantship, University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**  
 - TA for “Popular and Traditional Music of Africa” and “World Musics”  
 - Assistant Principal viola in the UF Symphony Orchestra  
 - Rehearsal assistant and performer for African and Brazilian music ensembles
- 2004-2005**    **Graduate Residence Hall Director, SUNY Potsdam; Potsdam, NY**  
 - Operated a building of 150 residents of ages varying from freshmen to graduate  
 - Supervised a staff of 6 student residence assistants

## **COURSES DEVELOPED AND TAUGHT**

Graduate Seminar in Music of the Middle East  
Graduate Music History Review  
Graduate Special Topics in Musicology and Music Pedagogy (Fall 2017)  
Music and Healing in Africa  
Aesthetics of Black Music  
Global Popular Music  
Music of the World / Introduction to World Music  
Music Appreciation / Exploring Music  
Social History of American Popular Music / American Popular Music

## **SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS**

- 2015**      **Florida State University Office of Distance Learning; Tallahassee, FL**  
Excellence in Online Course Design and Learning Technology award  
Excellence in Online Teaching award (Honorable mention)
- 2012-2013**    **Fulbright U.S. Student Grant; Morocco**  
Supplemental Critical Language Enhancement Award for Arabic study
- 2007-2011**    **Alumni Fellowship, University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**  
4-year fellowship covering tuition, health care, and an annual stipend of \$16,000
- 2009-2010**    **Arabic Orchestra; Gainesville, FL**  
Awarded \$6,500 from departments across campus for instruments and guest artists
- 2009**      **Pre-Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, UF Center for African Studies**  
Provided \$1,000 for travel expenses related to pre-dissertation fieldwork
- 2008**      **Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Center for African Studies**  
Tuition and stipend for Arabic language study, preliminary research in Fez

## **CONFERENCE AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- 2016**      **BGSU Faculty Scholar Series; Bowling Green, OH**  
“Because the People Will Like It!: Ritual Innovations in a Non-Ritual Music”
- 2016**      **Analytical Approaches to World Music; New York, NY**  
“Melodic structures and modal development of *malhūn* sung poetry in Morocco”
- 2016**      **Banjo Gathering; Charlottesville, VA**  
“Possessions to Pop: Banjos and Related Instruments across Moroccan Music”
- 2016**      **Anne Arundel Community College; Arnold, MD**  
“Light Rhythms and Heavy Spirits”: Visiting lecture
- 2016**      **Society for Ethnomusicology, Niagara Chapter; Rochester, NY**  
**2015**      **Middle Eastern Studies Association, National Conference; Denver, CO**  
“‘Because the people will like it!’: Locating *malhūn* and its audiences through musical flexibility”

- 2015**      **African Studies Association, National Conference; San Diego, CA**  
Organizer and Chair: “Music, Nostalgic Memory, and the State in Africa,”  
presented “Now it’s just spectacle: Performing Nostalgia as an alternative Gnawa  
heritage in Morocco”
- 2015**      **Echoes of Alhambra; Santa Barbara, CA**  
Invited participant for a workshop on studies of Andalusian music
- 2013**      **Society for Ethnomusicology, National Conference; Indianapolis, IN**  
**Middle Eastern Studies Association, National Conference; New Orleans, LA**  
Organizer and Chair: “Ethical listening and the ethics of listening: Musical  
aesthetics, style, and public piety in contemporary Morocco,” presented “Ritual  
and entertainment: Permeable ethics and aesthetics in the pilgrimage at Sidi Ali,  
Morocco”
- 2013**      **Fulbright Enrichment Conferences; Rabat and Fez, Morocco**  
“Ritual(ized) entertainment: Listening to fluid boundaries in Sidi Ali”
- 2012**      **Society for Ethnomusicology, National Conference; New Orleans, LA**  
“Pious performances: Assimilating the Gnawa into Islam through Moroccan  
popular culture”
- 2012**      **Invited Participant, Dissertation Writing Workshop; UCLA**  
Presented dissertation for members of the American Institute of Maghreb Studies
- 2011**      **International Dissertation Writing Workshop; Hannover, Germany**  
“Listening to changing narratives and musical diversity in Gnawa music” at the  
International Workshop for Doctoral Students in Ethnomusicology
- 2011**      **Invited Lecture, Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad; Fez, Morocco**  
Lecture on the *gnawa* for visiting teachers and scholars
- 2010**      **Autumn School at the University of Amsterdam; Amsterdam, Netherlands**  
Workshops and discussions on politics of listening in secular-liberal states
- 2010**      **Invited Lecture, Valdosta State University; Valdosta, GA**  
**2010**      **Lecture Recital, University of Florida; Gainesville, FL**  
“Creativity and collaboration: Gnawa music and globalization in the 20th  
century”
- 2009**      **Invited Lecture, Center for African Studies; Gainesville, FL**  
**2008**      **African Studies Association, National Conference; Chicago, IL**  
“Discussing Islam: Interactions between the ‘Aissawa, Tijaniyya, and Gnawa in  
Fez”
- 2008**      **Society for Ethnomusicology, National Conference; Middletown, CT**  
“Symbolic and social power: The Gnawa of Morocco”

- 2007**      **Society for Ethnomusicology, National Conference; Columbus, OH**  
**2007**      **Boston University Graduate Conference in African Studies; Boston, MA**  
 “Solving contradiction: The place of commodified Gnawa music in Moroccan identity”
- 2006**      **Society for Ethnomusicology, Southeast Chapter Conference; Boone, NC**  
**2006**      **Society for Ethnomusicology, Midwest Chapter Conference; Columbus, OH**  
 “The Velvet Underground: Art, representation, and identity”
- 2004**      **Crane Academic Forum, SUNY Potsdam; Potsdam, NY**  
 “Arab influence in post-bebop jazz”

## **OTHER RESEARCH ABROAD**

- 2010**      **Research trip to Ghana, Mali, and Senegal**  
 Undertook lessons on the *kora* with Ledyé Diabaté (Toumani Diabaté’s brother, substitute in the Symmetric Orchestra, and *kora* maker in Bamako, Mali)
- 2004**      **Study abroad semester in Cairo, Egypt at the American University in Cairo**  
 Presented a series on American musical styles from old-time fiddling to jazz  
 Studied the social and political aspects of 20th century history on Egyptian culture

## **INTERVIEWS AND RECORDINGS**

- 2014**      **WXXI 91.5FM, Classical Radio; Rochester, NY**  
 Radio interview discussing the role of technology in music learning
- 2012**      **2M, Moroccan National TV News; Casablanca, Morocco**  
 Television interview during performance in national *malhun* festival
- 2012**      **Fes State Radio, Local News; Fez, Morocco**  
 Radio interview regarding a performance at the Ministry of Culture
- 2009**      **Morningbell, *Sincerely, Severely*; Gainesville, FL**  
 Arranged string accompaniments and recorded violin parts on the album
- 2006**      **Gainesville Chamber Orchestra, *Postcards*; Gainesville, FL**  
 Viola on Ludwig van Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 8* and other selections

## **PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

- 2017**      **Bowling Green State University; Bowling Green, OH**  
 Guest artist on *kora* with the Afro-Caribbean Ensemble (upcoming in spring)
- 2016**      **Anne Arundel Community College; Arnold, MD**  
 “A Night of Andalusian Music”: Guest artist
- 2016**      **Annapolis Senior High School; Annapolis, MD**  
 Guest artist performance and description of Arabic and Moroccan musics

- 2014-2015 Florida State University; Tallahassee, FL**  
Aziza! Middle Eastern music ensemble (violin, ‘ud)
- 2015 Echoes of Alhambra; Santa Barbara, CA**  
Guest performer (‘ud and banjo) and speaker in concert of Andalusí traditions
- 2014-2015 Williamson Senior High School; Rochester, NY**  
Directed the pit orchestra for the musical performances of *Meet Me in St. Louis* and *The Addams Family*
- 2011-2012 Malhun Ensemble led by Mohammed Susi; Fez, Morocco**  
Performed on violin and banjo with Moroccan *malhun* and *hamadsha* artists  
Fez Festival of Sacred Music, Bab Boujloud Stage, June 12, 2011; Fez Habous Malhun Festival, July 25-26, 2012; Casablanca Performance in honor of Mohamed Bouzoubaa, July 28, 2012; Fez Kaftan fashion show, September 28, 2012; Fez Fessi cultural weekend, October 14, 2012; Mulay Yaqub
- 2012 Fusion Projects; Fez, Morocco**  
Performed on violin and banjo with musicians from *malhun*, *gnawa*, and *‘issawa*  
International Photography Festival, December 16 and 23, 2012  
Ministry of Culture Ramadan Festival, August 11, 2012  
American Language Center Celebration, October 6, 2012.
- 2012 George Custer’s Bluegrass Boys; Ocala, FL**  
Banjo for performances with the Central Florida Master Choir
- 2009-2011 Arabic Orchestra; Gainesville, FL**  
Founded, directed, and played violin for UF’s first Arabic music ensemble
- 2006-2011 Funkology and Das Fünkhaus; Gainesville, FL**  
Electric and string bass in a series of Gainesville funk, R&B, and rock bands
- 2008-2011 Picardy Junction; Gainesville, FL**  
Awarded 1st place in the Morningside Nature Center Open String Band Contest
- Classical professional orchestras*
- 2005-2012 Gainesville Chamber Orchestra; Gainesville, FL**  
Assistant principal viola and orchestral representative on the Board of Directors
- 2005-2012 Albany Symphony Orchestra; Albany, GA**  
Assistant principal viola, section violin
- 2005-2012 Valdosta Symphony Orchestra; Valdosta, GA**
- 2005-2012 Ocala Symphony Orchestra; Ocala, FL**  
Viola and violin

## **S E R V I C E**

- 2018**            **Web Developer, Analytical Approaches to World Music Conference**
- 2016**            **Webmaster, Society for Arab Music Research**
- 2016**            **Webmaster, Popular Music Section of SEM**
- 2016**            **Traditional Arts Grant Review Panelist, Florida Division of Cultural Affairs**
- 2016**            **Tuttle Prize Committee Member, Niagara Chapter of SEM**
- 2016**            **Web Developer, Arab Music Research**  
Building a resource and social network for scholars, performers, and listeners of Arab music.
- 2013-**            **Organizer and chair of various conference panels as listed above**