

Vita of
ROBERT G. KAPLAN

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EDUCATION

Master of Music and Composition – Arizona State University, 1997.

Bachelor of Music Education – Hartt School of Music, 1977. Emphasis on piano performance and composition.

Alexander Technique – Studied with Aileen Crow, NYC, 1979-87.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Arizona State University, Professor of Dance, Music Director/Dance, 1998-present

Arizona State University, Associate Professor of Dance, Music Director, 1991-98

Arizona State University, Assistant Professor, Music Director, 1985-91

Arizona State University, Visiting Assistant Professor, Music Director, 1984-85

Sarah Lawrence College, Musician/Instructor, 1983-84

City College of New York, Artist-in-Residence, 1978-83

Adelphi University, Musician for Dance, 1978-80

Trinity College, CT, Musician for Dance, 1976-78

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS AND ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Commissioned Compositions/Manuscripts/Performances

Over seventy scores for choreography have been composed and performed throughout the United States, Europe, Asia and Mexico.

- Performed evening ensemble concert (with poet, flugelhorn, sitar, Tibetan Singing Bowls, and RK guitar) at the International Symposium for Contemplative Research through the Mind and Life Institute's flagship conference, Wild Horse Pass, Phoenix, AZ, November, 2018.
- Composed and performed score for *Ubiquitous*, structured dance improvisation with colleagues from Dance Area. Galvin Playhouse, October 2018.
- “Sonic Soup” performance with Wil Heywood (Design School), for *Spirit of the Senses*, Phoenix, AZ, August, 2018.
- Created improvised trio score for *Strata*, performed as part of the “FALL FORWARD” concert at the Galvin Playhouse, September 2016.
- Facilitator/Performer — Ensemble with 3 dancers 3 musicians as part of *Form in Question: Ensemble-Improvisation-Performance* at NYU. New York, NY, January 16, 2016.

Publications

- Book chapter, “Developing Creative Competencies Through Improvisation—Living Musically,” for the book, *Creative Learning in Higher Education: International Perspectives and Approaches*, Routledge, 2017.
- *Night Bird Song: The Incandescent Life of a Jazz Great*. Appearance in the film, and served as a consultant, for the documentary by Emmy Award winning filmmaker Stephanie J. Castillo. Screened throughout the US and Europe (Phoenix in December, 2016). “Best Story” award at the Nice Film Festival.

Conference Presentations

International

- Contemplative Arts Faculty, solo performer, at the International Symposium for Contemplative Research (Mind and Life Institute), Wild Horse Pass, Phoenix, AZ, November, 2018.

National

- Taught ten workshops and played ten master classes for Regional Dance America’s National Conference, Phoenix, AZ, May 2017.
- Co-presented workshop: *Improvisational Approaches and the Nagrin Influence*, with David Dorfman, joint conference of the International Guild of Musicians in Dance/National Dance Education Organization, Phoenix, AZ, October 10, 2015.
- Presented work: *I.D.E.A. Impulse Initiative*, joint conference of the International Guild of Musicians in Dance/National Dance Education Organization, Phoenix, AZ, October 8, 2015.
- Presented invited workshop intensive, *Living Musically: Facilitating Multi-Sensory Communication & Aesthetic Perception*, National Dance Education Organization, Phoenix, AZ, October 7, 2015.

AWARDS and GRANTS

- An Improvisation Intervention for Caregivers of Individuals with Dementia (R. Kaplan, co-PI) Center for Innovation in Healthy and Resilient Aging, Arizona State University. Funding Period: 2020-2021, Total Grant Funding \$43,996.00
- Co-Wrote a proposal with Dr. Gerri Lamb, for a Faculty Scholar Application through the Center for Innovation in Healthy and Resilient Aging to test the feasibility of an improvisation intervention for improving well-being and reducing stress of informal caregivers of individuals with early-onset Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. (\$44,000 not funded) 2020.
- Co-Wrote a Herberger Research Investment Grant with Dr. Gerri Lamb, Preparing Faculty for Interprofessional Education Through Listening and Improvisation, to investigate a new approach to faculty development in interprofessional education towards designing a new course between Nursing and HIDA. (\$5,000 not funded) 2019.
- Part of a team that was awarded a National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education grant for “Interprofessional by Design: Meeting at the Crossroads for Accelerating Leadership” through the College of Nursing and Health Innovation. Fall 2016-Spring 2019.
- Awarded \$1,000 Arts and Design Research Cluster Grant, fall 2016.

TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Areas of specialization: integrative curriculum development; music for dancers; accompaniment for dance-ballet/modern, piano and percussion; computers and the choreographer-composer collaboration; electronic studio techniques; solo and group music improvisation; contemplative pedagogy and wellness.

Guest Lectures/Workshops

- Online Workshop for the International Guild of Musicians in Dance, Primal Alexander™, May, 2020.
- Conducted a workshop/lecture on Contemplative and Improvisational Practice for Professor Lauren Hayes' Interdisciplinary Improvisation course in Arts, Media and Engineering, ASU, October, 2019.
- Led a Teacher's Workshop for the Dance Educators Retreat, Phoenix, AZ, August, 2019.
- Co-presented workshop, *Sonic Soup*, with Wil Heywood at Herberger Institute Day, October, 2017-19.
- Led a Teacher's Workshop for the ASU HS Dance Experience Day, ASU, October, 2018.
- Co-presented a mindfulness through sound and movement workshop, *Sonic Soup*, with Wil Heywood and Nicole (Colie) Curry at the "Open Door" event in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation, February 2018.
- Conducted two workshops for the College Dance Expo, Estrella Mountain Community College, Phoenix, AZ, September, 2018.
- Conducted a series of six Living MusicallySM workshops in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation as part of the Interprofessional by Design project, May-June, 2017.
- Presented *Interactive Mindfulness Improvisation* workshop for high school students as part of the Barrett Summer Scholars program in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation and ASU's Center for Mindfulness, Compassion and Resilience, June, 2017.
- Presented workshop for Roger Mantie's graduate music education students, Living MusicallySM, September, 2017.
- Co-presented Improvisation Workshop for Mary Hood's Art 101 seminar, with Jason Scott. ASU, Tempe, AZ, September, 2017.
- Organized and facilitated the *Interactive Mindfulness Improvisation Symposium* at ASU, January 15-16, 2017.
- Presented workshop: Movement & Natural Sound Jam at the South West ACDA festival held at Scottsdale Community College, March, 2016.
- Co-presented Improvisation workshop for Mary Hood's Art 101 seminar, with Jason Scott. ASU, Tempe, September, 2016.
- Presented workshop for Roger Mantie's graduate music education students, *Making Sense out of Nonsense*, November, 2015.
- Co-presented Improvisation Workshop for Mary Hood's Art 101 seminar, with Jason Scott. ASU, Tempe, AZ, September 8, 2015.
- Co-presented trans-disciplinary workshop: *From Action to Dialogue*, part of the Mark Winston Dialogue Project, ASU, Tempe, AZ, January 30, 2015.

Professional Development/Continued Training

- Ongoing (2-3 days/week) online classes with Mio Morales and a team of international Alexander Technique teachers in Mio's approach, *Primal Alexander*™. June 2019-present.
- Participated in a 2-day Southwest Symposium for Contemplative Pedagogy, U of A, April 2016.
- Participated in four-day retreat for academics, Center for Contemplative Mind in Society, Marconi Center, Marshall, CA, November 2009.
- Participated in week-long seminar for integrating contemplative practices into academic curriculum, Center for Contemplative Mind in Society, Smith College, Northampton, MA, summer 2008.
- Participated in Directors of Graduate Studies Conference, Snowbird, UT, fall 2006.
- Participated in workshop, *Writing Across the Curriculum*, ASU, fall 1999.

MFA Committee

- Serve on MFA and Barrett Honors Thesis committees as chair or member, ASU, 1984-present.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Coordinated musicians for Regional Dance America's National Festival, Phoenix, AZ. May 2017.
- Organized and coordinated the Interactive Mindfulness Symposium, a two-day gathering to nurture purpose, focus, resilience and connection, held on the Tempe Campus. (Funded by a HIDA Cluster Grant and the College of Nursing and Health Innovations), January 14th and 15th, 2017.
- Develop and Coordinate work of the I.D.E.A. Impulse Initiative and Living MusicallySM across HIDA at ASU. June 2014-2017.
- Co-planning joint conference between the International Guild of Musicians in Dance and NDEO, Phoenix, AZ, 2014-2015

SERVICE

Membership in Professional Societies

- Founding member, International Guild of Musicians in Dance, 1990-present.
- President, International Guild of Musicians in Dance, 2000-04. (Current Member)
- Member, Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education, 2008-present.
- Member, International Society of Improvised Music, 2010-present.
- Member, National Dance Education Organization, 1998-2007, 2014-present.

University Committees

University

- Special working group to explore ways of messaging mindfulness using our ASU platforms to convey mindfulness and compassion as essential elements of ASU and the New American University — with Dean Teri Pipe, CONHI, fall and spring 2017.

Institute

- Herberger Research Council, Spring 2019

School

- Co-Chair Therapy, Wellness, Somatics working group, School of Music, Dance and Theatre, Summer 2020
- Member of the SoMDT Wellness Committee, 2021
- Member of SoMDT Personnel Committee, Fall 2020-present
- Member of SoFDT Personnel Committee, Spring 2019-2020

- Barrett Faculty Honors Advisor for Dance, 2016-present
- Chair SoFDT Personnel Committee, Spring 2016-17
- Member SoFDT Personnel Committee, Spring 2014-16
- Chair, Dance Area Curriculum Committee, 2015-16
- Member, SoFDT Curriculum Committee, 2014-15

National and University Service

National

- Internal Advisory Board Member, Center for Innovation in Healthy and Resilient Aging, Edson College of Nursing, ASU, 2019-present.
- Board Member, Daniel Nagrin Foundation, 2010-present.

Community

- Guest Pianist for Company Classes, Ballet Arizona, 1989-present.