

ROBERT G. KAPLAN

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EDUCATION

Master of Music in Composition, Arizona State University, 1997

Bachelor of Music Education, Hartt School of Music, 1977

Emphasis: Piano Performance and Composition

Alexander Technique Training, with Aileen Crow, NYC, 1979–1987

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Arizona State University

- Emeritus Professor, 2024–present
- Professor of Dance, Music Director, 1998–2024
- Associate Professor, 1991–1998
- Assistant Professor, 1985–1991
- Visiting Assistant Professor, 1984–1985

Sarah Lawrence College, Musician/Instructor, 1983–1984

City College of New York, Artist-in-Residence, 1978–1983

Adelphi University, Musician for Dance, 1978–1980

Trinity College, Musician for Dance, 1976–1978

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS & CREATIVE WORK

COMMISSIONED COMPOSITIONS & PERFORMANCES

Over 70 original scores composed for choreography, performed in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Mexico since 1978. Work spans solo and ensemble improvisation, intermedia collaborations, and structured compositions for stage and concert performance.

- **Verdigris** (2025) — *Composer & Performer*
Original score for choreography by guest artist Gerald Casel, performed by ASU students. Premiered at the Galvin Playhouse, Tempe, AZ.
- **Evening Ensemble Concert** (2018) — *Performer, guitar*
Featured poet, flugelhorn, sitar, Tibetan Singing Bowls, and guitar. Performed at the International Symposium for Contemplative Research, Mind and Life Institute, Wild Horse Pass, Phoenix, AZ.
- **Ubiquitous** (2018) — *Composer & Performer*
Structured dance improvisation with ASU Dance faculty colleagues. Presented at Galvin Playhouse, Tempe, AZ.

- **Sonic Soup** (2018) — *Co-Creator & Performer*
Collaborative improvisation performance with Wil Heywood (Design School) for Spirit of the Senses series, Phoenix, AZ.
- **Strata** (2016) — *Composer & Performer*
Improvised trio score for dance performance. Part of the “Fall Forward” concert at the Galvin Playhouse, Tempe, AZ.
- **Form in Question: Ensemble-Improvisation-Performance** (2016) — *Facilitator & Performer*
Collaborative improvisation ensemble with three dancers and three musicians. Presented at NYU, New York City.

Additional selected performances:

- **Living MusicallySM** initiatives featuring site-specific and interdisciplinary improvisation
- Collaborative scores performed at national conferences, academic symposia, and dance festivals
- Numerous works commissioned by professional choreographers, faculty and visiting artists at ASU and other institutions

Publications

- *A Learner’s Guide to Finding Ease in Caregiving*, ASU Press, 2022 (co-author)
- Chapter: “Developing Creative Competencies Through Improvisation—Living Musically,” *Creative Learning in Higher Education*, Routledge, 2017
- Film Consultant and Appearance: *Night Bird Song*, documentary by Stephanie J. Castillo, 2016
- Textbook, *Rhythmic Training for Dancers*, and CD-ROM, *Interactive Guide to Music for Dancers*, plus CD-ROM or online teachers guide published by Human Kinetics, Inc., 2002.

Conference Presentations

International

- International Guild of Musicians in Dance (IGMD) Conference, Jackson, MS, 2025
- Mind and Life Institute, Phoenix, 2018

National

- National Flute Association, 2023
- Regional Dance America, 2017
- National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)/IGMD Joint Conferences, 2015

GRANTS & AWARDS

- **Edson Discovery Pilot Award**: \$25,000 (PI), 2022–2023
- **Center for Innovation Grant**: \$43,996 (co-PI), 2020–2021
- Multiple unfunded proposals for interprofessional and caregiving-focused improvisation projects
- **National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education**, 2016–2019
- **Arts and Design Research Cluster Grant**, 2016

TEACHING & WORKSHOPS

Specializations

- Integrative curriculum development, music for dancers, improvisation, creative practices, contemplative pedagogy, electronic studio techniques, Alexander Technique

Selected Guest Lectures & Workshops

- Northern Arizona University, 2025; Shadow Mountain HS, 2022; IGMD Online Workshop, 2020
 - Interdisciplinary Improvisation, ASU, 2019
 - Dance Educators Retreat, 2019; Barrett Summer Scholars, 2017
 - Numerous arts and mindfulness workshops, 2015–2019
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Primal Alexander™ Online Classes with Mio Morales**, 2019–present
 - **Center for Contemplative Mind in Society**, retreats and seminars, 2008–2009
 - ASU and national curriculum and pedagogy trainings
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ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Coordinator, Regional Dance America Musicians, National Conference, Phoenix, 2017
 - Organizer, Interactive Mindfulness Symposium, ASU, 2017
 - Developer, I.D.E.A. Impulse Initiative and Living MusicallySM, 2014–2017
 - Conference Co-Planner, IGMD/NDEO, 2014–2015
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SERVICE

Professional Societies

- Founding Member & Former President, International Guild of Musicians in Dance, 1991-present
- Member, Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education 2008–2015
- Member, International Society of Improvised Music, 2010-2014
- Member, National Dance Education Organization, 1998-2007, 2014-2015

University Service

- Internal Advisory Board, Center for Innovation in Healthy and Resilient Aging, 2019–present
- Special working group to explore ways of using ASU platforms to convey mindfulness as essential elements of the New American University — with Dean Teri Pipe, CONHI, fall and spring 2017.

School Service

- Co-Chair of SoMDT Personnel Committee, 2022-2024
- 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 2020-2022
- Member of SoFDT Personnel Committee, Spring 2019-2020
- Barrett Faculty Honors Advisor for Dance, 2016-2024
- 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

Institute Service

- Herberger Research Council, Spring 2019

National Service

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

Community Service

- Adjudicator: Shadow Mt. HS; Artist of Promise Festival; NVAA Dance Competitions, 2022-25
- Pianist, Ballet Arizona School and Company Classes, 1989–present