

Dr. Alexandra Birch

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EDUCATION

-PhD History (Modern Russia), UC Santa Barbara – ABD May 2023, Anticipated 2024
Committee: Adrienne Edgar, chair, Harold Marcuse, Mhoze Chikowero, Kiril Tomoff
Dissertation: Sonic Terror: Music, Murder, and Migration in the USSR.
Exam Fields: Soviet Detention and Ethnicity, the Holocaust in the USSR and Comparative historiography of the Gulag and Holocaust, Sonic Violence, Music and Colonial Power, and Public History/Musicology with a world premiere concert.

-DMA (Doctoral of Musical Arts) Arizona State University – Fall 2017
Committee: Katherine McLin, chair, Sabine Feisst, Russell Ryan
Dissertation: Balancing Mathematics and Virtuosity: A Performer's Guide to Sofia Gubaidulina's *Dancer on a Tightrope* (Hamburg: Sikorski Verlag, 2018).
Exam Fields: Violin Pedagogy and Twentieth Century Russian repertoire for the violin, recovered music, Music since 1950, and the Chamber music of Beethoven

-Master of Music, Violin Performance – Arizona State University Fall 2015

Committee: Katherine McLin, Robert Oldani, Russell Ryan

-Bachelor of Music, Violin Performance – Arizona State University Spring 2014 (Cum Laude)

-Viola Studies with Patty Kopec and Hong-Mei Xiao

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Simon Wiesenthal Institute for Advanced Holocaust Studies, Vienna, Austria

Senior Habilitation Fellow 2023-24

“Music and Mizrachim: Weinberg and Yudakov in Tashkent”

University of California Santa Barbara

Instructor of Record: Summer 2023, The Nazi Holocaust and Other Genocides

Graduate TA: Fall 2020-Summer 2023

History 2C – World History since 1500

Music 15 – Music Appreciation

Reader: Fall 2022, The Nazi Holocaust and Other Genocides

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC

Alexander Grass Memorial Fellow (Postdoc) 2018-19

Musical Stolpersteine and Soviet Memories (see publications)

Arizona State University – Tempe, AZ

Graduate TA: Spring 2015-Spring 2017

Music Performance (Violin, Viola), RUS 101 (Fall 2015)

Editor (Virtual) for Music Performance DMAs

Secondary Schools including: Center For Educational Excellence (AZ), Arizona Music Academy, ASU String Project, Gilbert Arts Academy, Washington Hebrew Congregation, and Benjamin Franklin High School.

Private Violin, Viola teacher 2009-Present

Vianden International Music Festival – Vianden, Luxembourg
faculty guest artist viola 2012, 2013

Saarburg International Music Festival: Saarburg, Germany
faculty guest artist violin, viola 2014, 2016

Teaching assistant to Irina Bochkova, Moscow Conservatory 2011, 2012

Staff Violinist to Dmitri Bashkirov, Moscow Conservatory, 2011, 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Published

Birch, Alexandra. “This is Saamiland : An alternative history of Solovki and the White Sea.”
Europe Now. February, 2023.

Birch, Alexandra. “Score Review: Kompozitor’s Critical Editions of Alfred Schnittke’s works for the Violin.” *Tempo*, Fall 2022.

Birch, Alexandra. “They were drinking, singing, and shooting: Music and The Holocaust in the USSR,” in *The Journal of Perpetrator Studies*, Volume 4, Issue 1,
<https://jpr.winchesteruniversitypress.org/8/volume/4/issue/1/>.

Birch, Alexandra. “Victor Ullmann Before Theresienstadt: Musical Commemoration.” In *Microhistorical Perspectives of the Holocaust*. Eds. Hannah Wilson and Christian Walke. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2023.

Birch, Alexandra. “From ‘Tsar Ducks’ to Kashchei the Deathless: Anti-Corruption Symbols in Russia Today,” NYU Jordan Center, *All the Russias* blog,
https://jordanrussiacenter.org/news/from-tsar-ducks-to-heartless-emperors-symbols-of-anti-corruption-in-russia-today/#.Yebyi_7MLIX.

Birch, Alexandra. “Balancing Mathematics and Virtuosity: A Performer’s Guide to Sofia Gubaidulina’s *Dancer on a Tightrope*” Hamburg: Sikorski Verlag, 2018 and Basel: Mitteilungen Paul Sacher Stiftung, 2018.

Birch, Alexandra. “Music’s Link to Memory” in *Reflections: The Auschwitz Jewish Center Journal*, 2016. 7-10.

Recordings

Birch, Alexandra. *Vnye: Music for Solo Violin*. Firebird Records, 0003, 2021, CD.

Birch, Alexandra and Neilson Chen. *Musical Stolpersteine*. Firebird Records 0002, 2020, CD.

Birch, Alexandra and Dani Shraibman. *Soviet Memories*. Firebird Records 0001, 2019, CD.

In Progress

Birch, Alexandra. *Sonic Terror: Music, Murder, and Migration in the USSR*. New York: Oxford University Press, proposal under editorial review

Birch, Alexandra. *Hitler's Twilight of the Gods: Music and the Orchestration of War and Genocide*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2024, in progress.

Birch, Alexandra. "Yudakov and Weinberg – Traumatic Evacuations to Tashkent during the Holocaust," in *S.I.M.O.N. an interdisciplinary journal of the Holocaust* (Vienna, 2024).

HONORS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS

- USC Shoah Foundation and VHA Archive non-residential fellow 2023-24
- Yad Vashem and Moshe Mirlashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union Grant for outstanding scholarship, September 2023.
- Ann Rappaport Paper Prize for outstanding research on Modern Europe 2023.
- Van Gelderen Memorial Award, UCSB 2023.
- Fulbright Research Award Alternate – Kazakhstan, 2023.
- Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UCSB Grant: Zaderatsky's Violin Concerto 2023
- Kennan Fellow at the Wilson Center, Washington DC: Modern Russia, Summer 2022
- Fulbright Research Award Semifinalist – Russia 2022, competition terminated
- UC Grad Slam, UCSB Finalist: GULAGSound: Vsevolod Zaderatsky's Violin Concerto
- Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UCSB Performance Grant, Complete Beethoven Sonatas
- Full doctoral funding, fellowship, TAship UC Santa Barbara 2022-2026 PhD (History)
- Title VIII recipient for University of Illinois summer research lab, associateship.
- Full doctoral funding, fellowship, TAship UC Santa Barbara 2020, 2021. PhD (Music)
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum – Alexander Grass Memorial Fellow 2018 (Postdoc)
- Title VIII recipient (US State Department Funding) for Armenian Language at ASU Melikian Center and Yerevan 2017
 - Language Exam US Department of State – Intermediate High pass
 - CLI Award – "Top Student" for Armenian
- Auschwitz Jewish Center Fellow 2016, Publication winner
- Paul Sacher Stiftung – Doctoral Research 2016 Sofia Gubaidulina
- ASU Special Talent Award (Full doctoral funding) 2016-17.
- Yad Vashem Summer Research 2015
- Chabad Lubavitch Grant for Research and Preservation of the Shoah 2015
 - One of three women to ever win this award.
- Hillel Kalin Research Grant 2015
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: Mandel Center Seminar 2015
- ASU Special Talent Award (Full Masters Funding) 2014-15

- Frazer Award for Judaism and the Arts –2015, Music as Resistance to Genocide
- Four Seasons Spanish Concerto Competition First Prize, 2nd Prize, 2013
- Nice International Music Festival: Grant for presentation of the music of Auerbach 2013
- Four Seasons Bach Concerto Competition, First Prize, 2nd Prize, 2012
- AFAF Romantic Music Competition, First Prize, 2012
- Four Seasons Mozart Concerto Competition, 3rd Prize, 2011
- Decoration of Impeccable Cultural Service from the Government of the Russian Federation, 2011 This award from the Russian Federation included solo recitals and concerto performances at the Bolshoi Theatre, Marinskii Theatre, and Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory.
- International Brahms Competition, Audience Choice winner, Best virtuosic work (Paganini God Save the King), and finalist 2011
- Medalle de la Cite for study of Maurice Ravel, Ciboure France, 2011
- Mayor's Honorary Recognition for cultural preservation, City of Mirecourt France 2011
- American Protégé Piano and strings competition, First prize viola, First Prize violin 2011
- ASU Concerto Competition Winner 2010-11
- ASU Special Talent Award (partial undergraduate funding) 2010-2014
- ASU Regents Scholarship for Academic Excellence (full undergraduate funding) 2010-2014

CONFERENCES and RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Conference and Workshop Presentations

“Performing Unvoiced Trauma: Emil Leyvand’s *A Poem About the Holocaust*” at the conference “Bloody Folklore” on music and the Holocaust at the Wiener Library, London, September 5-6 2023.

“Music and Mizrachim: Yudakov and Weinberg in Tashkent” presented at the interdisciplinary workshop on Arts from the Holocaust in the USSR hosted by USHMM and Yad Vashem at USHMM in Washington DC, August 2023.

“From Conservatory to GULAG: Mikhail Nosyrev’s Capriccio for Violin” at ASEEES, Chicago 2022

Virtual Presentation: “The Mystique of the “Kreutzer” Sonata, lecture recital” hosted by the Goleta Public Library in conjunction with my recital of all 10 Sonatas, 2022.

Holocaust Educational Foundation (Northwestern) and Arizona State University’s joint workshop on Comparative Holocaust Studies, Invited participant, April 2022

Beethoven’s 10 Sonatas for Violin, lecture recital, UCSB, 2022.

Vnye: A Lecture Recital for 30 years of Soviet Collapse, Wende Museum, Los Angeles January 2022.

Vnye: 30 Years of Soviet Collapse, UCSB, Feb. 2022.

“Composing after Kolyma: Vsevolod Zaderatsky’s Violin Concerto” at ASEEES Online, Nov. 2021.

“Composing after Kolyma: Vsevolod Zaderatsky’s Violin Concerto” at UCSB’s Lunch and Learn series, November 2021

Presented on Emil Leyvand from the Holocaust and Vsevolod Zaderatsky from the Gulag as an NEH Fellow at the Kean University\“Humanity after Atrocity” virtual program in June and July 2021.

“A violin from the forest: Edi Tyrmand’s *Elegaic Improvisation* and music for partisan” presented at the joint workshop of Yad Vashem/USHMM on the daily lives of Soviet Jews under occupation, virtual, August 2021.

Bergen Belsen Memorial Summer School – Fellow, August 2020 (virtual).

“Emil Leyvand and Edi Tyrmand: Considering New Holocaust Archives” presented at Russia in the Historical Perspective Conference, Russia State Academic University for the Humanities – Presenter, June 2020, virtual.

British Holocaust Association – Sources of Memory and the Holocaust, presenter June 2020, virtual.

Hebrew University – Musicology Department Lecture and Recital on Lost Music from the Holocaust 2020, cancelled COVID19

Yad Vashem – Yom HaShoah Event and Performer, presenting Waxman’s *Tristan Fantasie* in Israel, and conflicted memory in Shoah studies 2020 Cancelled. COVID19

Assorted Public Humanities speaking events for *Musical Stolpersteine* and *Soviet Memories* including:

Chabad of Phoenix, Feb. 2020

Chabad of Tucson, Jan. 2020

Jewish Museum of Tucson Jan 2020

Young Israel of Hillcrest, NY – Kristallnacht annual lecture and recital 2019

Chabad of Forest Hills – Kristallnacht Lecture 2019

Bender JCC of Washington DC – Kristallnacht annual lecture and recital 2019

Violins of Hope Scottsdale – Individual Recital and Lecture March 2019

Chabad Phoenix – Women’s Lecture Recital and Event 2019

Valley Beit Midrash (Phoenix) – Lecture and Recital 2019

Museum of Jewish Heritage NYC – Lecture and Recital April 2019

Chabad of Silver Spring – Lecture and Recital for Yom Hashoah 2019

Scottsdale Genocide Week – Featured speaker 2019, Musical Stolpersteine

Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix – Featured speaker 2019

University of California Long Beach Conference (Memory and Trauma studies), 2019

“Shostakovich, Babi Yar, and Holocaust Commemoration in a Soviet Consciousness in Music.” Paper presented at the (Un) Witnessable conference, University of Pennsylvania, April, 2017.

“The music of Dmitri Shostakovich and musical resistance to genocide in the USSR.” Paper presented at the Singing in the Lion’s Mouth: Music as resistance to genocide conference, University of Southern California, October, 2015.

SELECTED PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Solo Performances

Promusica Arizona, Phoenix AZ, Mendelssohn Violin Concerto (2018)
ASU Baroque Ensemble, Tempe, AZ, Violin and Viola Soloist (2016-17)
Schloss Schonbrunner Orchestra, Vienna Austria, Mozart Violin Concerto no. 5 (2014)
Bachanalia, New York NY, Vivaldi Concerto for 2 Violins (2014)
Four Seasons Orchestra, Phoenix AZ, Ravel Tzigane, Sarasate Navarra (2013)
Scottsdale Philharmonic, Scottsdale AZ, Brahms Violin Concerto (2013)
Moscow Conservatory Orchestra, Moscow Russia, Shostakovich Violin Concerto no. 1 (2013)
Four Seasons Orchestra, Phoenix AZ, Bach Concerto for 2 Violins, Bach Viola Concerto (2012)
Moscow Conservatory Orchestra, Moscow Russia, Brahms Violin Concerto (2011)
DKDM Festival Orchestra, Copenhagen Denmark, Ravel Tzigane (2011)
Four Seasons Orchestra, Phoenix AZ, Mozart Violin Concerto no. 5 (2011)
Moscow Conservatory Orchestra, Moscow Russia, Ravel Tzigane (2011)

Chamber Performances and Solo Recitals

Duo recitals, unless otherwise noted are Violin and Piano, trio is always piano trio
Complete Beethoven Sonatas for Piano and Violin, UCSB April 2022.
Vnye: A Recital for 30 years of Soviet Collapse, UCSB February 2022.
ASU DMA Recital: Russian Romantic music, March 2017.
ASU DMA Recital: Myaskovsky, Gubaidulina, Prokofiev, December 2016.
ASU DMA Recital: Art from Ashes, Music from the Holocaust, March 2016
ASU MM Recital: Complete Beethoven sonatas for Piano and Violin, March 2015
MoMA: Minimalist music and the Holocaust, solo recital 2014
ASU MM Recital: Harlequinade, Inter-arts Recital, Tempe, AZ, September 2014
ASU non-degree recital duo and trio, Phoenix AZ, April 2014
Complete Beethoven Piano Trios, New York NY, Nov.2013
ASU Senior Recital, Shostakovich, Prokofiev, Auerbach, Phoenix AZ, Sept. 2013
Crescendo Gala Concert, Featured soloist, Sarospatak, Hungary, Aug. 2013
Duo Lecture Recital: Shostakovich, Auerbach, Medtner, Salzburg Austria, July 2013
Trio and Duo Recitals, Paris France, Jun. 2013
Trio Recitals, Great Hall Moscow Conservatory, Moscow Russia, Jan. 2013
Carnegie Hall Recital, AFAF Winner, Nov 2012
ASU Junior Recital, Phoenix AZ, October 2012
Duo/Trio Recital, Yinqi Concert Hall, Taipei Taiwan, 2012
“Bouquet of Chamber Music” traditional Taiwanese and classical recital, Taipei Taiwan, 2012
Solo Recital, Incheon South Korea, 2012
Trio Recitals/Tour, Bavaria and Tyrol, March 2012
Complete Brahms Sonatas for Piano and Violin, Thun Switzerland 2011
History of Violin recital, Mirecourt France, 2011
Lecture Recitals on Maurice Ravel, Ciboure France, 2011
Lecture Recitals on Maurice Ravel, Paris France, 2011

Carnegie Hall Recital, American Protege Winner, March 2011
Co-founder and violinist of award winning Domovoi Piano Trio 2006-2014

Orchestral and Ensemble Experience

AZ ProMusica: Concertmaster and violin soloist 2015-18 Seasons
Scottsdale Philharmonic: Concertmaster 2012-13 season
Scottsdale Philharmonic: Soloist/Artist in Residence 2012-13 season
ASU Orchestras: Principal and Section viola 2010-2014
ASU Lyric Opera Orchestra: Principal and Section viola 2010-2014, Concertmaster 2016-17
Moscow Conservatory Festival Orchestra – Concertmaster 2011, 2012

LANGUAGES AND RELATED SKILLS

French Language fluency
Russian Language fluency
German Language professional proficiency
Reading/Research languages: Yiddish, Eastern Armenian, Ukrainian, Bukhori