

Academic Appointments

Georgia Tech - Technical Director of School of Music - 2021-2023

North Carolina State University - Lecturer - Digital Audio Production. 2020-2021

Education

PhD, Electronic Arts - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. 2023-Present

Dissertation: *Performing AI Ethics*

Expected Completion: April 2027

MFA, Electronic Music and Recording Media - Mills College. 2016-2017

Thesis: Musical Eschatology in the 20th Century

MA, Music Composition - Mills College. 2014-2016

Thesis: *Casting Lines to Another Music: Strategies for Musical Prophecy*

BM, Jazz Studies - Oberlin Conservatory. 2006-2010

Research Areas

Critical Media Practice; Media Studies; Science and Technology Studies; AI and Technology Ethics; Performance Studies; Sound and Experimental Media; Human Computer Interaction

Publications

Cohen, Alexander. 2026. "Computer Power and Eschatological Reason." *Weizenbaum Journal of the Digital Society, Special Issue: Celebrating 60 Years of Eliza? Critical Past and Futures of AI*. (in review)

Snow, Daniel, Alexander Cohen, Enrique Encinas, Johanna Schütt, Joseph Lindley, and Marguerite Barry. 2026. "The Dissonance Workshop: Live Performance and Generative Friction with AI." *Proceedings of the 14th Nordic Conference on Human-Computer Interaction*, 3 October 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3821402.3830199>. (forthcoming)

Cohen, Alexander. 2024. "AGI, Apocalyptic Narrative and State of Exception." *Interactions: Studies in Communication & Culture* 13 (3): 215–32. https://doi.org/10.1386/iscc_00062_1.

Cohen, Alexander Emil. 2024. "Challenging Transhumanist Apocalyptic AI Narratives Through Speculative Fabulation." *Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, May 11, 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3613905.3644047>.

Cohen, Alexander Emil. 2024. "Sacral Data: Reframing Data as Sacral Material through Performance/Installation." *Proceedings of Death of the Design Researcher Workshop, Designing Interactive Systems (DIS)*, 25 June 2024.

Teaching

Project Studio in Music Technology - Lead Instructor - Georgia Tech - Designing and building interfaces, systems, and instruments for music improvisation. Critical analysis of improvisational practices, microcontroller programming, sensor and circuit design. 2022

Introduction to Audio Technology II - Lead Instructor - Georgia Tech - Applied Digital Signal Processing for music in Python. Machine learning for music information retrieval. 2022-2023

Introduction to Audio Technology I - Lead Instructor - Georgia Tech - Principles of music computation. Introduction to Digital Signal Processing and user interface design for music applications in Pure Data. 2021-2023

Digital Audio Production - North Carolina State University - Lead Instructor - Principles of audio recording, mixing, mastering, and broadcasting for journalism in Adobe Audition and Reaper. 2020-2021

Awards and Grants

AIAl Seed Grant 2026 - Atlanta Interdisciplinary Artificial Intelligence Network, Atlanta, GA. 2026

Humanities, Arts, Architecture, and Social Sciences Fellowship - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. 2025-2026

EMPAC Production Grant - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. 2024-2025

PREMIER: Performance Residencies in Electronic Music for Interdisciplinary Education Research - co-PI w/ Dr. Noura Howell. Georgia Tech. 2022

CELISO: Community Emotional Light Sound Organism - co-PI w/ Driven Arts Collective. Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity. UC Berkeley. 2021

Practice-based Research

Accountability as a Service – interactive satirical deepfake panel of AI surveillance executives. Shown at Making & Doing Session at EASST 2026.

Dysgenicos Vorat - satirical deepfaked AI ethics panel to promote critical AI literacy. Created at EMPAC Residency in Troy, NY. 2025

An Eye for AI - satirical deepfaked AI ethics panel. Featured in Realms Unreal Exhibition at the Arts Center of the Capital Region in Troy NY. 2025

Sacral Data - installation featuring rapid deepfake generation on sparse input data to raise awareness of biodata mining in public space. 2024-ongoing

Two-Voiced Gesture-Controlled Electrolarynx - wearable assistive device for “unnatural” vocal restoration with IR gesture sensing user interface for mappable pitch control. 2022-2024

Electronic Artrium - advising students on interaction sound design for pose detection in an immersive installation. In collaboration with Dr. Mary Ann Weitnauer and Zuyu Chen. 2022-2023

The Best is Yet to Come - long distance network electroacoustic collaboration with Seiyong Jang featuring CrackleMask. Critical sampling practice using samples from Republican National Convention. Premiered at Harvard Throw-Down! 2020

CrackleMask - Wireless wearable musical instrument. Audio generated by custom electronic circuit exploiting idiosyncrasies of external frequency compensation in LM709 op amp. Tangible touch and oral cavity interface. Significant upgrades made to physical design and software. Performed by Jenn Gerry in <<Khora>> by Driven Arts Collective. 2016-ongoing

BodyOsc - wireless wearable electronic musical instrument utilizing the human body as an attenuator and filter for 6 variable analog oscillators. Designed to give dancers more agency in the musical process. Developed in collaboration with Driven Arts Collective. 2019

Professional Experience

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute - Teaching Assistant - Dept. of Arts. 2023-Present

Driven Arts Collective - Technical Director, Instrument Designer, & Composer. 2019-Present

Meyer Sound Laboratories - Service Associate. 2018-2020

Mills College - Teaching Assistant. 2015-2017

San Ramon Music and Fine Art School - Guitar Instructor. 2014-2018

Chicago Music Teachers - Guitar/Ensemble Instructor. 2011-2014

Oberlin College - Guitar Instructor. 2007-2010

Arts Residencies and Workshops

Agenthymia: Experimental AI Creative R&D Studio – AVU Prague, Czechia. 2026

EMPAC Residency - Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center - Troy, NY. 2025

Dresher Ensemble Artist Residencies - Dresher Ensemble Studios - Oakland, CA. 2022

No Tomorrow Artist Residencies - No Tomorrow - Atlanta, GA. 2022

SloMoCo 2021 Summer Micro-Residency - w/ Driven Arts Collective - SloMoCo. 2021

Workshop on Free Improvisation and Graphic Scores - w/ Kim Nucci - Oberlin College. 2017

California Electronic Music Exchange Concerts (CEMEC) - Presented a version of “The Consoler” at CCRMA - Stanford University. 2017

Workshop on Free Jazz and Ensemble Performance w/ Organ Yank - Presented a workshop on American Free Jazz and efficient ensemble rehearsal practice - Oberlin College. 2014

Discography

25 years under the mountain - w/ Rent Romus’s Lords of Outland - [Edgetone Records]. 2019

Thoughts may wander frequently under a rainbow - w/ Peanut Twins - [Rubber City Noise]. 2017

Harder - w/ Organ Yank [Self-Released]. 2017

Live 7.29.16 KFJC 89.7 FM – w/ Brandon Evans, Rent Romus, and Phillip Everett [Self-Released]. 2016

Blackout! - w/ Peanut Twins Rubber City Noise - [Rubber City Noise]. 2016

DFK - w/ Dennis Franz Kafka - [Rubber City Noise]. 2016

Hard - w/ Organ Yank - [Self-Released]. 2014

We Are Organ Yank - w/ Organ Yank - [Self-Released]. 2010

Aural Capacity 5 - Includes “May I Have Some Flowers for my Eunuch?” - [Oberlin]. 2009