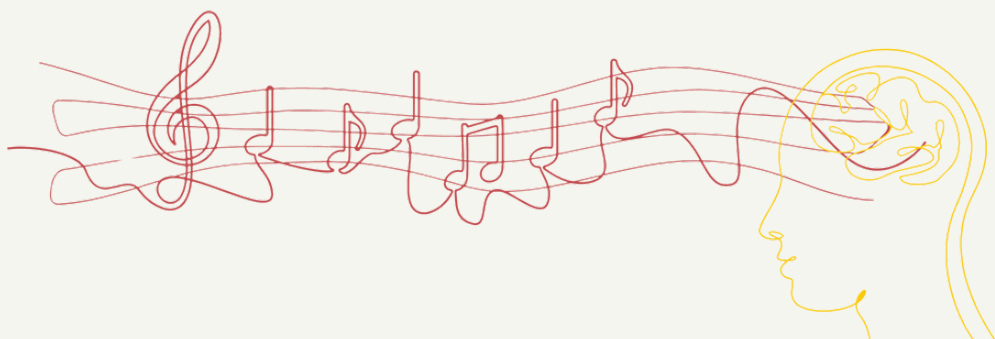


# USC Dornsife

Dana and David Dornsife  
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
*Center for Music Brain and Society*



## Research Workshop on Music, Health, & Policy

June 11, 2024  
Cammilleri Hall, USC Brain  
and Creativity Institute

## Agenda

- 9:00 **Welcome**  
Dr. Assal Habibi  
Gail Eichenthal  
Renée Fleming
- 9:15 **Using Primitive Forms of Music to Understand Auditory Processing**  
Dr. Tony Shahin
- 9:25 **Insights into Brain Development from Network Neuroscience**  
Dr. Lucina Q. Uddin
- 9:35 **How Music Training Enriches Child Neurocognitive Development**  
Dr. Assal Habibi
- 9:45 **Supporting Diverse Learners Through Culturally Responsive Pedagogy in Music Teacher Education**  
Dr. Lily Chen-Haftek
- 10:05 **Create CA & WestEd Prop 28 AMS**  
Dr. Sharon A. Herpin
- 10:30 **Perspective from Art Practitioners**  
Moderator: Dr. Candace Mattio  
Panelists: Laia Pujol  
Jay McAdams  
Dr. Andréa Fuentes
- 11:00 **LA County Arts Education Programs**  
Kristin Sakoda
- 11:30 **Exploring the Future of Music Education: Morning Reflections**  
Dr. Daniel J. Levitin
- 11:45 **Lunch**

# Agenda

- 12:45 NEA Research Agenda**  
Sunil Iyengar
- 1:00 Effectiveness of Medical Music Therapy Practice: Integrative Research using the Electronic Health Record (EMMPIRE)**  
Dr. Jeffery A. Dusek
- 1:10 The Social and Epistemic Importance of Arts Engagement**  
Dr. Sasha Sherman
- 1:20 Music-Based Yogic Meditation for Aging**  
Dr. Helen Lavretsky
- 1:30 Music Appreciation and Cochlear Implants**  
Dr. Raymond Goldsworthy
- 1:50 Afrofuturism for Healing Justice and Brain Health**  
Dr. Tanisha Hill-Jarrett
- 2:15 Perspective from Art Practitioners**  
Moderator: Dr. Indre Viskontas  
Panelists: Professor Patrick Corbin  
Professor Annie Buckley
- 2:45 USC Futures and Presidential Initiatives for Health and Wellness**  
Dr. Shri Narayanan
- 3:00 Reflections on the Day and Future Directions**  
Dr. Jason King in conversation with Renée Flemming, moderated by Gail Eichenthal
- 3:30 Conclusion**



## Renée Flemming

Renée Fleming is one of the most highly acclaimed singers of our time, performing on the stages of the world's great opera houses and concert halls. Honored with five Grammy® awards and the US National Medal of Arts, she has sung for momentous occasions from the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony to the Super Bowl. A Goodwill Ambassador for Arts and Health for the World Health Organization, in December she was awarded the prestigious Kennedy Center Honor.

Renée's new anthology, *Music and Mind: Harnessing the Arts for Health and Wellness*, was published in April by Viking/Penguin. A prominent advocate for research at the intersection of arts, health, and neuroscience, as Artistic Advisor to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Renée launched the first ongoing collaboration between America's national cultural center and the National Institutes of Health. She created her own program called *Music and the Mind*, which she has presented in more than fifty cities around the world.

Renée's latest recital and concert program, *Voice of Nature: the Anthropocene*, inspired by her 2023 Grammy Award-winning album, includes an original film created by the National Geographic Society. In May at the Metropolitan Opera, she reprised her starring role in *The Hours*, an opera based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel and award-winning film. In 2023, she portrayed Pat Nixon in a new production of *Nixon in China* at the Opéra de Paris.

Advisor for Special Projects at the Los Angeles Opera, Renée is also Co-Artistic Director of the Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS at the Aspen Music Festival and School. Other awards include the 2023 Crystal Award from the World Economic Forum, the Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, and the Order of Merit from Germany. She holds honorary doctorates from 10 leading universities. [www.reneeflemming.com](http://www.reneeflemming.com)



### Dr. Sharon Herpin

Sharon Herpin is a Senior Research Associate with WestEd. She has directed numerous research and evaluation projects and provides technical assistance related to educational reform, professional learning, higher education, the arts, and arts education. She has worked with agencies such as the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Arts Education Partnership, the California Arts Council, CREATE CA, the Hammer Museum, MOCA, the Getty Center, and other state and local arts organizations. She was lead author on

the NEA report Improving the Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts, and most recently, Create California's Prop 28 Arts and Music in Schools in Schools Planning Toolkit. Through her work, Dr. Herpin has helped agencies measure implementation fidelity, improve and streamline operations, assess programmatic outcomes, and increase success. She is currently leading research projects looking at music instruction and how Prop 28 is being implemented in California.

### Dr. Assal Habibi

Assal Habibi is an Associate Research Professor of Psychology at the Brain and Creativity Institute at the University of Southern California. Her research takes a broad perspective on understanding the influence of arts and specifically music on health and development, focusing on how biological dispositions and learning experiences shape the brain and development of cognitive, emotional and social abilities across the lifespan. She is an expert in the use of electrophysiological and neuroimaging methods to investigate human brain



function and has used longitudinal and cross-sectional designs to investigate how music training programs impacts the learning and academic achievement of children. Her research program has been supported by federal agencies and private foundations including the NIH, NEA and the GRoW @ Annenberg Foundation and her findings have been published in many peers reviewed journals. She has been the lead investigator of a multi-year study, in collaboration with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and their Youth Orchestra program (YOLA), investigating the effects of early childhood music education on the development of brain function and structure as well as cognitive, emotional, and social abilities. Dr. Habibi is a classically trained pianist and has many years of musical teaching experience with children, a longstanding personal passion.



### Dr. Jeffery A Dusek

Jeffery A Dusek, PhD, is Professor, Department of Medicine, University of California-Irvine (UCI) and Director of Research Outcomes, Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute, UCI. Dr. Dusek has 25+ years of experience leading innovative integrative health and medicine (IHM) research at healthcare and research institutions.

Dusek is contact PI of a NCCIH U24 network grant to assemble music therapists, neuroscience experts and clinical trialists to explore the biological

basis of how music therapy impacts pain. He is also contact PI of a multi-site NCCIH R01 to study the music therapy for pain in individuals with sickle cell disease.

Dusek is also co-leader of the BraveNet Practice Based Research Network –including 26 IHM centers across the US across the US, Canada and Australia.

His research has been published in eminent journals including: Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Circulation, JAMA Network Open and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

### Dr. Sasha Sherman

Dr. Sasha Sherman is an Associate Professor of Cognitive Science and the Director of the Center for Research and Scholarship at Occidental College in Los Angeles. Dr. Sherman's main research focus aims to understand people's perceptual, cognitive, and emotional responses to the arts. Her publications in this area explore how individual differences in cognitive capacities such as working memory shape visual art preferences, how perspective-taking and empathy in the museum affect individual's experiences, the role that the



arts play in scientific practice, the social and epistemic value of art engagement, and how art appreciation and art-making generate meaning in our lives. She is currently working on a co-authored book titled "Why the Arts Matter."



### Dr. Lily Chen-Hafteck

Lily Chen-Hafteck is Professor and Chair of Music Education, and the Special Assistant to the Dean for Curricular Reform at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. Originally from Hong Kong, she holds a PhD in music education from the University of Reading and received a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Pretoria and University of Surrey Roehampton. She is a Fulbright Scholar who has published numerous journal articles and book chapters, including in Oxford Handbook of Music Education and Oxford Handbook of

Children's Musical Cultures. She is Chair of the Music in Schools and Teacher Education Commission of International Society of Music Education.

### Dr. Helen Lavretsky

Helen Lavretsky, MD, MS is a Professor In-Residence in the Department of Psychiatry at the UCLA and a geriatric integrative psychiatrist with the federally-funded research program in integrative mental health using mind-body therapies. She is a recipient of the Career Development awards from NIMH/NIH and the NCCIH/NIH, and other prestigious research awards. Her current research studies include investigations of novel therapeutic options for caregiver stress, mood, and cognitive disorders in older adults, and Long-COVID. She is the

distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry, and the Fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, and the recipient of the Distinguished Investigator awards for research from the American College of Psychiatrists and the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry, and the Jack Weinberg Award for Geriatric Psychiatry from the APA. She is the Director of Research for the UCLA Integrative Medicine Collaborative and the Integrative Psychiatry program. She is an immediate past-President of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry, and is one of the leaders of the American Brain Coalition that includes the AARP, American Heart Association, Alzheimer's Association, American Academy of Neurology, and others. She serves on the Advisory Research Council to the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health.



### Kristin Sakoda

Kristin Sakoda is Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, a local arts agency which fulfills a mission to advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout the largest county in the U.S. The Department of Arts and Culture provides grants and technical assistance to hundreds of nonprofit organizations; runs the largest arts internship program in the nation; coordinates countywide public-private arts education initiatives; increases access to creative career pathways; commissions civic artwork; supports free

community programs; leads the LA County Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative; and advances cross-sector cultural strategies to address civic issues. Appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Ms. Sakoda previously served as Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Under her leadership, she led the organization during its historic transition into the County's first Department of Arts and Culture.

Ms. Sakoda is an arts executive, attorney, and performing artist with more than 25 years in the field. She has appeared on national and international stages including with dance and social justice company Urban Bush Women and in musicals Rent and Mamma Mia! on Broadway. Prior to her work at the Department of Arts and Culture, she served in key leadership roles at the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs overseeing a portfolio of strategic, programmatic, policy, legislative, and funding programs with a \$200 million annual budget, and was instrumental in advancing diversity and inclusion; public art; creative aging; cultural facilities; and affordable workspace for artists. She holds a J.D. from NYU School of Law with honors in Entertainment Law, and B.A. from Stanford University with a specialization in Race and Ethnicity and a secondary major in Feminist Studies. As of 2021, she is a Board member of Grantmakers in the Arts, the national association of public and private arts funders in the U.S.



### Dr. Antoine (Tony) Shahin

Tony Shahin is the UC Merced Interim Director of the Neuroscience Initiative and Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience. Tony obtained bachelor's and master's degrees in physics from Cal State, Northridge, and a PhD in medical physics from McMaster University, Canada. He also completed two fellowships in auditory neuroscience at the Rotman Research Institute, University of Toronto and at the UC Davis Center for Mind and Brain. He has been a faculty member, first at the Ohio State University and

second at the University of California since 2009.

Tony is interested in understanding how illusions (“glitches in the perceptual system”) can advance our understanding of how the brain processes music and spoken language.

### Dr. Lucina Q. Uddin

After receiving a Ph.D. in cognitive neuroscience from the Psychology Department at the University of California Los Angeles, Dr. Uddin completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Child Study Center at New York University. For several years she worked as a faculty member in Psychiatry & Behavioral Science at Stanford University. She recently returned to UCLA where she currently directs the Brain Connectivity and Cognition Laboratory and the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience Analysis Core in the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior.

Within a cognitive neuroscience framework, Dr. Uddin's research combines functional and structural neuroimaging to examine the organization of large-scale brain networks supporting the development of social cognition and executive function. Her current projects focus on understanding dynamic brain network interactions underlying cognitive inflexibility in neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism spectrum disorder.



### Dr. Shrikanth Narayanan

Shrikanth (Shri) Narayanan is University Professor and Niki & C. L. Max Nikias Chair in Engineering at the University of Southern California (USC), where he is Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Linguistics, Psychology, Neuroscience, Pediatrics, and Otolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery, Director of the Ming Hsieh Institute and Research Director of the Information Sciences Institute. Prior to USC, he was with AT&T Bell Labs and AT&T Research. His interdisciplinary research focuses on human-centered

sensing/imaging, signal processing, and machine intelligence centered on human communication, interaction, emotions, and behavior, and develop technologies to understand the human condition and to support and enhance human capabilities and experiences.

He is a Fellow the Acoustical Society of America, IEEE, International Speech Communication Association (ISCA), the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Association for Psychological Science, the Association for the Advancement of Computing, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, and the National Academy of Inventors. He is a Guggenheim Fellow and member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, and a recipient of many awards for research and education including the 2023 ISCA Medal for Scientific Achievement. He has published widely and his inventions have led to technology commercialization including through startups he co-founded: Behavioral Signals Technologies focused on AI based conversational assistance and Lyssn focused on mental health care and quality assurance.

### Gail Eichenthal

As executive producer for Classical KUSC in Los Angeles and Classical KDFC in San Francisco, Eichenthal oversees arts coverage, concert broadcasts and live productions for both stations. Eichenthal began her association with KUSC as Abram Chasins Intern in 1976, joining the staff the following year as an editor, on-air host and documentary producer. She began her association with the LA Philharmonic in 1978, becoming the first woman to host the radio broadcasts of a major American orchestra. From 1994-2005, Eichenthal was a staff news reporter and news anchor at KNX-AM, the CBS News station in Los Angeles. At KNX, she picked up 13 Golden Mikes, the Bill Stout Enterprise Award, Associated Press awards, and other regional and national honors. Eichenthal also has published articles in the Los Angeles Times Calendar section and magazine, and Symphony magazine. Follow her on Twitter at @KUSCGail.





### Dr. Jason King

Jason King, dean of the USC Thornton School of Music, is a multitalented Canadian American scholar, journalist, author, musician, performer, producer, songwriter, radio and video host, and event curator. Previously, he was chair of the Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and served as a James Weldon Johnson Associate Professor. King was instrumental in developing the institute alongside Clive Davis, holding various leadership roles and initiating global programs like the Berlin study abroad and Havana J-Term courses.

King's musical interests span pop, R&B, gospel, jazz, and rock. He taught popular music history, identity, cultural politics, artist development, and music marketing at NYU for over two decades, including at NYU Abu Dhabi and Tisch Asia in Singapore. He developed key programs at the Clive Davis Institute, such as the high-school pipeline program Future Music Moguls and professional development initiatives. King produced numerous events and served as music supervisor and orchestrator, recruiting stars like Steve Perry, Alanis Morissette, and Dua Lipa for the annual Pop Conference.

As a scholar and journalist, King has published essays and written for Pitchfork, Slate, the Los Angeles Times, The Root, Vice, and NPR Music, where he also hosted and co-produced the video series Noteworthy. He hosted CNN's podcast Soundtracks: The B-Sides and served as a guest curator for Vevo and consultant for Spotify. King founded the dance music superband Company Freak and authored The Michael Jackson Treasures, translated into seven languages. He appears in music documentaries like Netflix's This Is Pop and Spike Lee's Bad 25. King is a member of the Hip Hop Culture Council at the Kennedy Center and the Black Genius Brain Trust, and advises the Journal of Popular Music Studies.



### Dr. Candice D. Mattio

Dr. Candice D. Mattio's research focuses on the intersections of musical creativity, social issues in contemporary and popular music education, and technology-based music teaching and learning contexts. Her work has been presented on the international, national, and regional stages and awarded by the Conklin Forum on Social Justice in Music Teacher Education and the Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education's Outstanding Dissertation Award. In addition to organizational and research sponsorships, she was also

awarded the 2014 Music Technology Leadership Academy Assistantship sponsored by TI:ME and NAMM and was the co-recipient of the 2012 Next Generation Learning Challenges Grant, funded by EDUCAUSE.

Mattio recently served as the co-chair for the Florida Music Educators Association's Contemporary Media Committee, under which she also co-led the Digital Music Showcase and the All-State Popular Music Collective. The Collective remains the country's first and only all-state-level popular music endeavor. In addition, she was appointed as research fellow for the Miami Music Access initiative and as the program evaluator for the Miami Gardens Music Alliance—for which both projects, powered by The Miami Foundation and Radical Partners, seek to partner with music education organizations with local public schools via collaborative efforts to increase youth access to music programming. Additionally, her research has led to collaborations with the YWCA, Little Kids Rock, Save the Music, Guitars Over Guns, Young Musicians Unite, Miami Music Project, Arts4Learning, Achieve Miami, Interlochen, Hello Insight, and others to create avenues for equity and access in music education.

Mattio received degrees in music education from the University of Miami (Ph.D.), Northwestern University (M.M.), and the University of South Alabama (B.M.). Before joining the Thornton faculty, she was an assistant professor and coordinator of music education at Florida International University, and previously was Chair of Fine Arts and taught secondary general music, electronic music, studio production, and popular music ensembles in Chicago Public Schools.



## Dr. Raymond Goldsworthy

Dr. Ray Goldsworthy received his Bachelor of Science in Physics from the University of Kentucky in 1997 and his Ph.D. in Health Sciences and Technology from Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2005. After completing his doctoral studies, Ray led development teams at Sensimetrics Corporation to design signal processing strategies for cochlear implants and hearing aids and to provide rehabilitation software to help people with hearing loss make the most of their hearing. Ray joined the University of

Southern California as an Associate Professor of Otolaryngology in January 2014. Ray is a cochlear implant user and is passionate about the interplay of auditory experience, auditory perception, and medical bionics for improving the lives of people with hearing loss.

## Jay McAdams

Jay McAdams is a co-founder of LA's 24th Street Theatre and has been its Executive Director since 1999. In 2012 Jay received the prestigious TCG Peter Zeisler Award for 24th Street Theatre's Innovation and Risk Taking in the American Theatre. He was elected to the founding Leadership Council of the Theatrical Producer's League of Los Angeles and has been an advocate for theatre and arts education for over two decades.

Jay is a graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts and is an

award-winning producer, having produced many acclaimed theatrical productions over the last 25 years that have won Ovation and LA Weekly Awards and LA Drama Critics Circle Awards. His productions have toured Mexico, Colombia, El Salvador and the U.S.

Jay is a master teacher, having created acclaimed Arts Education programs for tens of thousands of children. Jay is the winner of the University of Southern California School of Education's Innovation and Leadership Award for his work in Arts Education.

Jay is a graduate of the LA County Arts Commission's Arts Leadership Initiative, the Annenberg Leadership Institute, Leadership LA, and the prestigious Stanford University Executive Program for Non-Profit Leaders, where he won a Center for Social Innovation fellowship. Jay has also been selected by the US State Department to serve as a Cultural Envoy to El Salvador, where he has performed and taught on 5 Central American tours.



## Dr. Indre Viskontas

Combining a passion for music with scientific curiosity, Professor Viskontas works at the intersection of art and science. She has published more than 50 original papers and chapters related to the neural basis of memory and creativity. Her scientific work has been featured in Oliver Sacks' book *Musicophilia*, *Nautilus*, *Nature: Science Careers*, and *Discover Magazine*. She has also written for *MotherJones.com*, *American Scientist*, *Vitriol Magazine*, and other publications. Her first book, *How Music Can Make You Better*, was published by Chronicle Books in April, 2019, and within a week was the best-selling music appreciation book on Amazon. She also serves as the Director of Communications for the Sound Health Network, an initiative promoting research and public awareness of the impact of music on health and well-being.



She often gives keynote talks, for organizations as diverse as Genentech, the Dallas Symphony, SXSW, TEDx and Ogilvy, along with frequent invited talks at conferences and academic institutions. Her 24-lecture course *Essential Scientific Concepts* was released by The Great Courses in 2014. Her second course, *Brain Myths Exploded: Lessons from Neuroscience*, based on a class she taught at USF, was released in early 2017 and hit #1 on the nonfiction bestseller list at Audible.com. Her third course, *How Digital Technology Shapes Us* was also based on a class she teaches at USF, and was released in 2020. Her forthcoming course, *The Creative Brain*, is slated to be released on the Wondrium platform in 2022. Dr. Viskontas's creative work includes stage directing opera. She is the Creative Director of Pasadena Opera, where she directed *The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*, a chamber opera based on the famous case study written by Oliver Sacks. Other directing credits include *Katya Kabanova* with West Edge Opera at Cal Shakes in Orinda in 2021.

Dr. Viskontas is also a sought-after science communicator. She co-hosted the 6-episode docu-series *Miracle Detectives* on the Oprah Winfrey Network and has appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, major radio stations across the US, including several appearances on the NPR program *City Arts & Lectures* and *The Sunday Edition* on the CBC in Canada. In 2017, she co-hosted the web series *Science in Progress* for Tested.com and VRV. She is also the host of the popular science podcast *Inquiring Minds*, which has more than 13 million downloads. Her other podcast, *Cadence: What Music Tells Us About the Mind* was a Webby Award Honoree in 2021.



### Professor Annie Buckley

Annie Buckley is a community-based artist, writer, and the founding director of the Institute for the Arts, Humanities, and Social Justice at San Diego State University, where she is a professor of Visual Studies. She is the founder and director of Prison Arts Collective, bringing arts to over 7,500 people in prisons since 2013, and VISTA (Valuing Incarcerated Scholars through Academia), a BA degree for people in prison through SDSU. Buckley is the editor of *Higher Education and the Carceral State* (Routledge, 2024) and her writing about contemporary art

is widely published, including in *Artforum*, *Art in America*, and *Los Angeles Review of Books*. Buckley is the recipient of numerous awards and grants, including from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, and the California State Senate. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley and has an MFA from Otis College of Art and Design.

### Dr. Tanisha Hill-Jarrett

Tanisha Hill-Jarrett, PhD is an Afrofuturist, neuropsychologist, and Assistant Professor at the University of California San Francisco Memory and Aging Center. Dr. Hill-Jarrett's research focuses on the application of intersectionality theory to understand how psychosocial stressors and structural racism impact Black women's cognitive aging and confer risk for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. As a scientist, clinician, and lover of the arts, she is committed to making wellness and brain health accessible through use of culturally relevant methods of engagement and intervention. Dr. Hill-Jarrett uses Afrofuturism in her community-based work with Black women as a framework to create counternarratives and reimagine the future through a lens of hope. She seeks to incorporate Afrofuturism as a tool for brain health among community-dwelling Black elders and a praxis that drives social change and centers the lived experiences and needs of Black women.



*photo courtesy of Rose Eichenbaum*

### Dr. Daniel J. Levitin

Dr. Daniel Levitin is James McGill Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Neuroscience at McGill University, and Founding Dean of Minerva University in San Francisco. His research addresses fundamental questions in auditory memory, musical structure, and the neuroanatomy and neurochemistry of musical experience. He has published 75 peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, *PNAS*, *Neuron*, and *Cognition*.

He earned his B.A. from Stanford University, and his Ph.D. in Psychology at the University of Oregon. He completed post-doctoral training at the Stanford University Medical School and at UC Berkeley.

In his spare time, he writes about health, science and medicine for *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, and *The New York Times*, and appears regularly on NPR. He is the author of five consecutive bestselling books: *This Is Your Brain On Music*, *The World in Six Songs*, *The Organized Mind*, *Successful Aging*, and *A Field Guide to Lies*. His forthcoming book, *I HEARD THERE WAS A SECRET CHORD: Music As Medicine*, will be available this August.

As a musician (saxophone, guitar, vocals, and bass), he has performed with Mel Tormé, Bobby McFerrin, Rosanne Cash, Sting, Renée Fleming, Victor Wooten, Neil Young, and David Byrne. He has produced and consulted on albums by Stevie Wonder, Steely Dan, Joni Mitchell, and has been awarded 17 gold and platinum records.

### Dr. Andréa Fuentes

Responsible for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the community engagement and learning programming offered through the Connects department, Andréa Fuentes completed her doctorate in Educational Leadership at UCLA with a dissertation exploring arts and healthcare partnerships. A former classroom Science teacher and induction coach for new teachers at Mount Saint Mary's University, she is committed to improving access and outcomes for students of diverse backgrounds





## Sunil Iyengar

Sunil Iyengar directs the Office of Research & Analysis at the National Endowment for the Arts. Under his leadership, the office has produced dozens of research reports, hosted periodic research events and webinars, led strategic plan development for the agency, and established research and data partnerships with the U.S Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. His office also conducts program evaluations and performance measurement for the Arts Endowment. Working with his team, Iyengar has



created and pursued a long-term research agenda (based partly on an arts “system map” his office helped to design), founded a national data repository for the arts, and launched two awards programs for arts researchers, including the NEA Research Labs initiative. He chairs a federal Interagency Task Force on the Arts and Human Development. For nearly a decade, he has contributed a monthly research post (titled “Taking Note”) to the agency’s official blog.

Iyengar and his team have collaborated with organizations such as the Brookings Institution, the National Academy of Sciences, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Association of American Medical Colleges, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to explore the arts in relation to such topics as health and well-being, economic development, and STEM and medicine. His office provides research consultative support to Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network. Most recently, he has led a research funding partnership with NIH as part of Sound Health, an initiative of the Kennedy Center and NIH in association with the Arts Endowment.

Prior to joining the agency as research director, Iyengar worked as a reporter, managing editor, and senior editor for a host of news publications covering the biomedical research, medical device, and pharmaceutical industries. He writes poems, book reviews, and literary essays. Iyengar has a BA in English from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

## Laia Pujol

Laia Pujol (she/her) is a clarinetist, music educator, and social justice activist from Barcelona, Spain. In 2023, she graduated from USC with a Master's Degree in Community Music. Currently, she works at the Colburn School as the Center for Innovation and Community Impact's Assistant Director, overseeing community engagement, DEI programs, and partnerships with the large Los Angeles community.



## Professor Patrick Corbin

Professor Patrick Corbin, a dancer and choreographer with over thirty years of experience, bridges classical ballet, modern, and contemporary dance. He holds an MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. His research on the effect of dance on the brain began in 2005 when he developed a movement class for children with Autism.

Joining the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance in 2015, Corbin, now an Associate Professor of Practice, has pioneered Dance and Health as a field of study. His interdisciplinary course, DANC 140 Dance and Health: Dance and Ability, examines dance and health research through articles, guest lectures, dance practice, and community engagement. The course, open to all USC students, fosters dialogue on dance, health, and community. The initiative integrates dance and health practices, involving individuals with Parkinson’s disease, Down Syndrome, Autism, and members of the USC community. Corbin has received multiple grants to support DANC 140, which has covered topics such as “Dance and Parkinson’s,” “Dancing and Down Syndrome,” and “Dance and Neurodiversity (Autism).”

Professionally, Corbin has danced with The Washington Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, ABT II, the Joffrey Ballet, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Lar Lubovitch, and Martha Clarke. He has featured in five PBS Great Performances and the documentary Dancemaker. A recipient of the New York Performance Award (Bessie), Corbin founded CorbinDances in 2003, presenting work at notable venues in New York City. He stages his and Paul Taylor's works across the U.S. and has taught at prestigious institutions and companies, including American Ballet Theater, Miami City Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet.



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and Society at USC's Dornsife  
College of Letters, Arts, and  
Sciences is dedicated to  
serving as a collaborative  
nucleus for USC faculty deeply  
committed to exploring music  
on both neurobiological and  
societal levels.

## Contact Us



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