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# CHRISTOPHER JENKINS, M.I.A.

[cjenkins@oberlin.edu](mailto:cjenkins@oberlin.edu), [chrisjenkinsviola@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjenkinsviola@gmail.com)

[www.linkedin.com/pub/christopher-jenkins/18/503/619/](http://www.linkedin.com/pub/christopher-jenkins/18/503/619/)

(440) 935 4819

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## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

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**Administrator, Educator, & Performing Violist** with international and domestic nonprofits

- Associate Dean for Academic Support at Oberlin Conservatory
- Masters Degree in International Affairs/Public Policy; Masters Degree in Viola Performance
- Extensive experience working with students of color between the ages of 12 and 22, particularly for at-risk youth and underserved communities
- New Leadership Academy Fellow at the University of Michigan, 2015-6; Minority Serving Institutions Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, 2017-8; American Express Leadership Academy Fellow, 2017-18

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## EDUCATION

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**Master of International Affairs**, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University, New York, NY | **2011**  
Concentration in Human Rights/Conflict Resolution

**Performance Certificate**, Viola Performance, Manhattan School of Music, New York, NY | **2004**  
Student of Michael Tree

**Master of Music**, Viola Performance, New England Conservatory, Boston, MA | **2003**  
Student of Martha Katz

**B.A.**, Music Theory, Harvard College, Cambridge, MA | **2001**  
Minor in Psychology

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Oberlin Conservatory**, Oberlin, Ohio | **2014-Present**

Nationally recognized music conservatory

**Associate Dean for Academic Support, 2016-Present; Assistant Dean for Academic Support, 2014-2016**

**Deputy Title IX Coordinator & Conservatory Liaison to the Office of Equity & Diversity**

- **Supporting students of color** who struggle academically
  - Created and implemented ongoing Music Theory group tutoring program
  - Academic advisor to 34 Conservatory students, with a focus on retention of students of color
  - Liaison to the Office of Equity & Diversity, reporting and investigating student allegations of discrimination and/or harassment
- **Deputy Title IX Coordinator**
- **Created and implemented Community Wellness Workshops** to address issues of physical, mental, and social health in the Conservatory student community. Programming included:
  - Trans ally-ship training, workshops on issues of concern for students of color and issues of disability
  - Fitness classes, massage, and Alexander Technique
  - Workshops on mental health in the music industry and peer mental health support
- **Teaching, Performance and Research on African-American Composers**
  - Teaching "Chamber Music for Non-Majors" as part of the Arts & Sciences Curriculum
  - Teaching "Chamber Works of African-American Composers", as part of Oberlin's Experimental College
- **Facilitating international music education** through leadership of student trip to Jordan
  - Worked with U.S. Embassy in Amman, planned and supervised two-week musical outreach trip in Jordan, where eight Oberlin students performed and taught at various high schools and universities
  - Submitted multiple successful grant applications to fund this program, including \$26,000 in grants from the U.S. Embassy's Department of Cultural Affairs
  - Currently organizing second student trip to Jordan for January 2017

**Barenboim-Said Music Foundation**, Ramallah, Palestinian Territories | **2013-2014**

NGO offering music training to students aged 6-18, and community concerts to enhance quality of life for Palestinians in Ramallah and surrounding marginalized communities

#### **Deputy Director**

- **Supervised music faculty and staff**
- **Taught beginning, intermediate and advanced students** on violin, viola, and chamber music
  - Created, coached, and performed in first student string quartet in the school
  - Instituted chamber music program for intermediate and advanced students
  - Taught viola to students age 6 – 17, ranging from beginners to advanced students
  - Taught cello, clarinet, and brass students as needed
- **Designed and implemented eight public concerts** across the West Bank, serving children from orphanages, centers for the disabled and visually impaired, and rural schools
  - Through grant administered by the Representative Office of Switzerland, brought faculty and students to perform at a venues in West Bank Areas A, B, and C; managed logistics for security concerns and floating military checkpoints
- **Increased enrollment by 80%** during first six months of tenure by performing in local schools and personally recruiting new students

#### **Hudson Institute, Washington D.C. | 2013-2016**

American non-profit think tank committed to research promoting U.S. national security

#### **Research Intern**

- **Contributed research on security topics**
  - Researched security issues for articles for publication by Hudson authors in various international affairs journals
  - Specific focus on security in Afghanistan, including capabilities of Afghan Local Police, Afghan National Police, the Afghan National Army Order of Battle, and Taliban Shadow Government in Eastern Afghanistan/NWFP/FATA
- **Performed sensitive research on Weapons of Mass Destruction capabilities** of various countries
  - Researched biological, nuclear, and chemical weapons capacities of various foreign countries and updated Hudson's files
  - Identification of specific countries classified; products solicited by and intended for domestic governmental intelligence customers

#### **U.S. State Department Bureau of Southeast Asian Affairs, Washington D.C. | 2013-2014**

Dept. of State Bureau responsible for articulating official U.S. policy in Southeast Asia

#### **Research Intern**

- **Informed policy by writing briefs** relating to peace and security, democratic participation, and counterterrorism in Southeast Asia, particularly Afghanistan
- **Contributed to reformulation of official DoS strategic policy** in Southeast Asia

#### **Sphinx Performance Academy, Northwestern University, Illinois; Oberlin College, Ohio; Roosevelt University, Illinois; Walnut Hill School, Massachusetts | 2003 – 2013**

Nonprofit summer music program offering free private instruction and chamber music lessons to African-American and Latino teens playing violin, viola, and cello

#### **Dean of Programs and Senior Faculty, 2007-2013; Assistant Dean and Senior Faculty, 2005-2007; Faculty, 2003-2005**

- **Expanded summer music program**
  - Program doubled from one two-week session at Walnut Hill High School, to multiple sessions at Oberlin Conservatory, Northwestern University, and Roosevelt University, serving 64 students
  - Instituted and personally evaluated live student auditions at six locations in New York, Boston, and Chicago
  - Evaluated more than 100 online and tape applications each year; selected students to participate, assigned chamber groups and music; distributed chamber parts in advance of program
- **Supervised faculty and staff**
  - Staff included Assistant Dean and Student Supervisors; also responsible for evaluating teacher performance
  - Organized lesson schedules and chamber music coachings
  - Organized evening concert schedules and booked distinguished guest artists, such as Rachel Barton-Pine (renowned violin soloist); Eliesha Nelson (Cleveland Orchestra section viola); and Marcus Thompson (New England Conservatory and MIT viola faculty)
- **Taught private lessons, chamber music, and seminars**

- Coached two student string quartets and taught eight students privately each summer
- Facilitated yearly seminars on beginning improvisation for string instruments, and practice techniques

### **Catalyst String Quartet, Worldwide | 2010-13**

Professionally managed string quartet, focusing on works by composers of color

#### **Performing Violist**

- **Performed at High-Profile Venues**
  - Managed jointly by California Artists Management (domestically) and Sphinx Organization (internationally)
  - Three appearances as featured artist in Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall to sold-out audiences; received favorable reviews in New York Times
  - Multiple appearances at the New World Center in Miami
  - Multiple performances at Weil Auditorium at Carnegie Hall
  - Performance at Kennedy Center
  - Toured nationwide three times as principal players of Sphinx Virtuosi
- **Taught at High-Level Conservatories** through masterclasses at the University of Michigan; Cincinnati Conservatory of Music; Interlochen Arts Academy; and similar institutions
- **Involved in International and Humanitarian Work** as teacher and performer in Colombia (organized by US Department of State), South Africa, and Navajo and Hopi reservations in Arizona
- **Served as Juror for 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Sphinx Competition**, January 2012

### **Encounter Programs, New York City, New York | 2011-13**

NGO facilitating encounters between American Jews and Palestinians in parts of the West Bank to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

#### **Senior Administrative Intern**

- **Key partner in upgrading protocols for emerging NGO; trained new staff and evaluated staff for PTSD**
  - Created first organizational Document Retention & Destruction policy
  - Created first organizational Personnel Handbook training for staff; delivered training live for New York staff, and via Skype and GoToMeeting for staff in Israel
  - Created first organizational "Theory of Change" flowchart in coordination with consultant team
  - Administered first organizational PTSD testing for staff in Israel following fall 2012 rocket attacks, to evaluate staff health and resiliency
- **Produced casualty data sheet** on Israeli-Palestinian conflict
  - Conducted statistical research on number and type of casualties, rocket attacks, and house demolitions during First and Second Intifadas, critical to supply context for American participants on trips in the West Bank
  - Utilized online open-source databases hosted by NGOs and intergovernmental organizations, such as UNOCHA and B'Tselem
- **Strengthened organizational contact with outside partners**
  - Researched prospective partners and wrote briefs for Executive Director in preparation for meetings
  - Updated Salesforce database of trip participants, donors, and conference attendees

### **National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C. | June 2011**

#### **Grant Reviewer**

- **Delivered Grant Briefings to Committee and Made Funding Decisions;** reviewed 20 grants in total and voted on funding recommendations for NEA

### **Cultures In Harmony, Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi, Pakistan | August 2009**

#### **Cultural Ambassador and Performing Violist**

- **Intercultural Cooperation and Outreach** via performances with Pakistani musicians to promote American-Pakistani cooperation
  - Implemented musical outreach concerts in secondary schools in urban and rural Pakistan, some in conflict zones
  - Traveled with minimal security through areas affected by insurgency

### **Music Haven and Haven String Quartet, New Haven, Connecticut | 2008-09**

Musical organization dedicated to building community through music in marginalized neighborhoods of New Haven, CT

#### **Faculty, Performer**

- **Taught Viola in Underprivileged Neighborhoods** in New Haven
  - Viola instructor in two magnet public schools in underserved neighborhoods with high rates of drug addiction
  - Started seven beginning viola students aged 6-11; provided basic foundational technique
  - Coached ensembles of young students
- **Gave free public concerts** with Haven Quartet in community centers throughout New Haven

## **PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, AND RECENT CONCERTS OF NOTE**

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### **“Exploring Beauty & Truth in Worlds of Color”: Conference on racial aesthetics at Oberlin College | October 2017**

Presented on Gate’s theory of “Signifyin(g)” in the domain of African-American classical music

### **American Society for Aesthetics: Curriculum Diversification Grant | September 2017**

Produced annotated bibliography on the aesthetics of African-American participation in classical music

### **Ravinia Music Festival | August 2017**

Keynote Speaker at the Reach-Teach-Play Teacher Training Program for music teachers at underprivileged schools

### **Afghan National Institute of Music | August 2017**

Taught and performed Afghan students as Guest Teaching Artist

### **National Take a Stand Festival & Symposium | November 2016**

Presented on panel discussion of diversity in American professional orchestras; coached viola section for youth orchestra conducted by Maestro Gustavo Dudamel

### **American Society for Aesthetics Annual Meeting | November 2016**

Presented on aesthetics of African-American music in culturally atypical genres, with a focus on classical works by African-American composers

### **National Flute Association Annual Convention | August 2016**

Performed with Associate Professor of Flute Alexa Still at the 2016 NFA Convention in San Diego

### **American Voices “YES” Academy | August 2016**

Performed at Syrian refugee camps and taught Lebanese classical music students at Notre Dame University, Lebanon

### **National Symphony of Jordan | July 2016**

Performed with members of the Jordan Symphony and jazz trumpet player Luca Aquino for Queen Noor of Jordan at the UNESCO Heritage Site of Petra in southern Jordan

### **National Symphony of Jordan | June 2016**

Performed with members of the Jordan Symphony and jazz trumpet player Luca Aquino as part of the Bari: Jazz festival in Bari, Italy

### **New Leadership Academy Fellowship, National Center for Institutional Diversity, University of Michigan | June 2016**

Invited panelist; discussion of leadership in the context of microaggressions and student unrest at Oberlin College

### **Oberlin Alumni Magazine | April 2016**

Article – “Our Students Sense the Future”

<http://oberlin.edu/alummag/spring2016/issue/?page=28>

### **American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education National Conference | March 2016**

Presented case studies of leadership in crisis management involving issues of diversity in higher education, including racial unrest, transgender student issues, and religious freedom

### **Title IX Presentation for Oberlin Conservatory Faculty and Staff | March 2016**

Co-facilitated training on reporting requirements for faculty and staff, function of Title IX Office, and institutional efforts to increase student awareness of sexual assault

### **International Policy Digest | August 2016**

Article – “Syria: Chemical Weapons are the New Norm.”

<http://intpolicydigest.org/2016/08/12/syria-chemical-weapons-are-the-new-norm/>

### **International Policy Digest | December 2015**

Article – “Will Human Rights Ever Matter in Southeast Asia?”

<http://intpolicydigest.org/2015/12/01/will-human-rights-ever-matter-in-central-asia/>

**International Policy Digest | July 2015**

Article – “Assad is Still Using Chemical Weapons. What Will It Take to Stop Him?”

<http://intpolicydigest.org/2015/07/09/assad-is-still-using-chemical-weapons-what-will-it-take-to-stop-him/>

**AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS**

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**American Express Leadership Academy** fellowship, Center for Creative Leadership | **2017-18**

**MSI Aspiring Leaders Program** fellowship, Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions | **2017-18**

**Ohio Viola Society**, Board Member | **2016 – Present**

**New Leadership Academy Fellowship**, National Center for Institutional Diversity At the University of Michigan | **2015-16**

**Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra**, Board Vice President and Chair of Governance Committee | **2015 – Present**

**Bergamo Chamber Music Competition**, Second Place, Catalyst Quartet | **August 2012**

**Sanford Allen Award**, Sphinx Organization | **February 2010**

**Ottaway Fellowship**, Columbia University, New York, New York | **2009**