

VAROUJAN CHETIRIAN

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GENERAL EDUCATION

- 9/2017-6/2020 **University of Geneva**
Bachelor in Global History with minor in Sociology, Global Studies Institute (BA pending, delivered during the summer 2020)
- 8/2011-6/2015 **Collège de Saussure, Geneva**
Swiss Federal Maturity, musical path, French-German bilingual track
With distinction
- Language skills** French – native speaker
German – fluent oral and written
English – fluent oral and written, 2/20 TOEFL IBTS 105 points (C1)
Armenian – native speaker, basic written skills

MUSICAL EDUCATION

- 10/2020-now **Sound Studies and Sonic Arts in Universität der Künste Berlin (UdK, Master of Arts)**
Sound studies focuses on the social, philosophical and political implications of sound in our societies. Sound Art expand the realm of music to a broader entity with non-conventional formats and artist-public relations
- 8/2014-6/2019 **Conservatoire Populaire de Musique of Geneva (CPMG)**
Pre-professional Certificate in Composition with [Arturo Corrales](#)
Courses in music writing, advanced music theory, electro-acoustic and composition
- 8/2011-6/2019 **Conservatoire Populaire de Musique of Geneva (CPMG)**
Certificate of musical studies in Jazz drums, with distinction
Certificate of Artistic Studies in Jazz drums (6/2016)
Courses of Jazz drum, Jazz harmony theory and history of Jazz
- 9/2012-6/2019 **Association for the encouragement of improvised music (AMR), Geneva**
Modern Jazz, band practice and improvisation

- 9/2012-6/2017 **School of contemporary music (ETM), Geneva**
Certificate in computer music level II
- 9/2005-6/2011 **Espace de Pratique Instrumentale (EPI), Carouge**
Drum courses and band practice (atelier)
- 9/2005-6/2009 **Conservatoire Populaire de Musique of Geneva (CPMG)**
Certificate of musical education, with distinction

SELECTED ARTISTIC PROJECTS

2021

- Construire un feu **Walking sonic fiction; creation of a sonic version of Jack London's shortstory *How to build a fire*, for headphones and outdoor forest walk**
Artistic direction, composition and production. Mandate by festival [Antigel](#), presented during four days 20/2-23/2. Text reading by Anne-Marie André.

2020

- Capite project **Creation of an acousmonium composed by various cheap resonating bodies, and composing pieces using this installation**
Collaboration with Luca Kasper. Presented in the [Haute Ecole d'Art et Design](#), Geneva, and in public concerts at La Fonte, Geneva

2019

- AR **Composition for recorder and voice**
For the contemporary music duo [UM's and JIP](#)
Public performances: De Agostini Concert Hall, Geneva, 18.05.19; Flauto Dolce in Temple Saint-Jacques, Lausanne, 19.05.19 and at [International Contemporary Music Festival Ars electronica Wallis](#), Schloss Leuk, 09.06.19
Media appearance:
<http://5against4.com/2019/06/18/forum-wallis-2019-part-1/#more-35741>

- Arp Monolyth **Composition for 2 saxophones, bassoon and electronics**
For Container#GVA Ensemble
Performed in De Agostini Concert Hall, Geneva, 01.06.19

2018

- L'aube du soir **Composition for string ensemble: 1 double Bass, 2 violoncello, 2 altos, 2 violins, 2 violas**
For [United Strings of Europe](#)

Public performance: De Agostini concert Hall, Geneva, 19.03.18

Brume

Electroacoustic composition

Collaboration with saxophonist Andres Castellani, doing an acousmatic piece with sounds originally coming only from the saxophone instrument

Libra

Electroacoustic composition based on Stockhausen's *Tierkreis*

For [Archipel Festival](#)

Public performance: [Fonderie Kugler](#), Geneva, 20.03.2018

2017

OTTO

Electroacoustic composition

Soundtrack for a short film from [International Animation Film Festival Animatou](#), Geneva

Espaces

Composition for piano, kalimba, chain and electronics

Collaboration with [Ensemble BATIDA](#) at [Archipel Festival](#)

Public Performance: De Agostini Concert Hall, Geneva, 29.03.17

Bio link: <http://www.archipel.org/2017/index.php?m=21&i=o17251&lang=fr>

Aurores, Etat 1

Composition for guitar and electronics

Research with and composition for guitarist Mathilde Court

2016

10 Vagues

Composition for recorder, piano and cello

Performed in D'Agostini concert Hall, Geneva

AM/FM

Composition for double bass, cello, violin, viola, clarinet, trombone and 3 radios

For [Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain](#)

Recorded and broadcasted by swiss national radio Espace 2

Public performance: [Fonderie Kugler](#), Geneva, 16.03.16, at [Archipel Festival](#)

Boîte à musique

Composition for 2 comedians

Composition of an absurd deambulatory speech

At [Archipel Festival](#) and [Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain MAMCO](#), Geneva

Public performance: [Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain MAMCO](#), 12.03.16, [Archipel Festival](#)

2015

Kami'in Shunche

Composition for flugelhorn, piano, recorder and bassoon

Performed in De Agostini Concert Hall, Geneva, 06.15

Projet Sherlock
Homes

Composition of a live soundtrack for a Buster Keaton film, for piano

Pianist plays the score live in front of the film projection

Le Dessin

Creation of a short film

by Victor Van Loon and Varoujan Chetirian
Award of best mise-en-scène, Days of cinematographic studies, Grütli, Geneva,
20.02.2015

2014

Ararat

Composition for recorder

Public performance: Siestes Musicale at [Museum of Natural History](#), Geneva,
10.06.17; 30.09.17; 14.10.17; 11.11.17; 16.12.17

This piece is given by teacher Sarah van Cornewal to flute students in the
Conservatoire of Geneva on several cases as part of the curriculum

WORK EXPERIENCE IN SOUND

2020

DJ Shah

Since 2017 - Founding member and part of the Radio Cool Collective, collective of DJs

Afrobeat, Funk, Cumbia, Rare Grooves, Middle eastern, Iranian and Armenian grooves and more

Among the collective historian and DJ Michel Caillat; [podcast on Lyl Radio on creole music](#)

Organization of monthly conferences on history of afro-american and West Indies musicians from 1920 to 1970 in [La Galerie](#), Geneva

Around 80 Gigs in clubs: Gravière, Geneva; Usine, Geneva; Geneva International Film Festival; Romandie, Lausanne; Down-Town K, Neuchâtel; DOC, Paris; Artistania, Berlin, and much more

Studio engineer and Producer

Since 2016 - Recording, mixing and producing mandated works, Laundry Studio in Geneva, Altaï Studio in Berlin

Having developed my own professional studio with analogue and digital gear, I used it to record and mix bands or projects. Early 2021, stem mixing for Berliner solo project [Jamila Al Yousef](#). In February 2020 I mixed 7 tracks of French Lebanese composer and guitarist Samy Dib's film music album (coming out summer 2020). From 2016 to 2019 I composed for, recorded and produced the talented French songwriter [Laura Wild](#), winner of the Claude Nougaro prize in 2017. In 2017 I produced [Brize's](#) pop-folk 4 track E.P.

Live sound engineer

Since 2015 – main PA system for live bands

I worked in a concert venue (Le Terreau) from 2015 to 2018 as the person in charge of the sound. I have made live sounds for numerous bands there as well as ordering, managing and financing the musical equipment. I am asked by bands and clubs/concert halls to make their live sound as freelance sound engineer. German tour of Berlin based band [Jamila and the Other Heroes](#) in November 2019, venues of minimum 1'500 places. (Hamburg, Berlin, Bremen...).

2019

Sayat Nova

Live Kino-concert with an original composition on Paradjanov's film *The Colour*

of the Pomegranates, for duduk, santoor, sarangi, tambour, cymbals, guitar, voice and electronics

Order from the [Sauce Festival](#), performed at [Spoutnik Cinema](#), Geneva, 30.03.19
Composition for 4 multi-instrumentalist musicians. I composed and played tambour, cymbals and electronics.

Media appearance:

<https://www.traxmag.com/geneve-limmense-friche-autogeree-lusine-va-abriter-un-festival-techno-le-sauce-festival/>

Swiss national radio: <https://www.rts.ch/play/radio/des-plans-sur-la-planete/audio/un-festival-a-ta-sauce-quand-les-festivaliers-deviennent-programmateurs?id=10290454>

ICRC

Creation of a multimedia show for the 100th anniversary of the Red Cross Federation and the opening of the four-year International Conference of ICRC and the Federation of national Red Crosses, Geneva

Private Performance: International Conference Center Geneva (CICG), 04.12.19, 40'
Pluridisciplinary team of 7 person combining video, music, poetry, and cartooning. Among the team: director and poet [Fabrice Melquiot](#), musician and artistic director Eric Linder and cartoonist [Patrick Chappatte](#). I was part of the team as composer and musician performer.

Feu au Lac

Concert of a drummer quartet as part of a deambulatory journey

Improvisation performance as a drummer during a public journey through a new urban development

Mandate by [Antigel Festival](#), Geneva, 09.02.2019:

Media appearance:

<https://www.tdg.ch/culture/feu-lac-enflamme-plage-eauxvives/story/21159022>

<https://www.letemps.ch/culture/geneve-antigel-embrasse-bout-lac>

2016

Windows on Death

Rows

Composition and performance of a live soundtrack for multimedia storytelling

Mandated by the cartoonist [Patrick Chappatte](#), Global Cartoon and journalist and director [Anne-Frédérique Widmann](#).

[Windows on Death Row](#) is a world-touring exhibition which brings art from inside and outside the prison wall to trigger a debate on death row prisoners' condition in the US. I created the sound for a live multimedia (video, speech, sound) presentation, around 45 minutes.

Public Performance: Casino Montbenon, Lausanne, 24.01.17; Salle Pitoëff, Geneva, 07.03.16 at the [International Film Festival on Human Rights](#) (FIFDH)

Links: <http://www.windowsondeathrow.com/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=529&v=B2F7IhRN0K0&feature=emb_title

Media appearance: Neue Zürcher Zeitung, New York Times, Le Temps, Arte and a lot more... see <http://www.windowsondeathrow.com/media>

GROUP ARTISTIC PROJECTS

- 3/2015-1/2019 **Among the Limbs**
Post-rock band composed by five musicians. I am a founding member and drummer. Researches on how to blend electronic drum machines and acoustic drums. Inspirations: Radio Head, Sigur Ros, Talk Talk, Murcof, Atoms for Peace...
Public performance: Around 30 gigs in private houses, bars, clubs, concert hall and festivals. Among them: Antigal Festival 2018, Cabinet, Jardin Botanique Genève...
Media: live on [TV Léman Bleu](#)
Links: <https://soundcloud.com/among-the-limbs>,
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCedIRO4K47OitceA0mH7gHw>
- 2017-2019 **Blue Step**
Electro-pop duo between Paris and Geneva. Composing, recording, mixing and live performing
Public performances: around 10. Among them Festival Bruits de Galop, DOC, Paris ; Festival les Créatives, Toulouse ; Sputnik, Geneva...
Links: [Youtube](#)
- 2016-2018 **Eugène**
Geneva based Dream-Pop band. I played drums and electronics.
Public performances: Fête de la musique, Geneva ; Château Rouge, Annemasse...
Links : [Youtube](#)
- Since 2016 **Musical Fairy Tales**
Creation of podcast and live soundtrack on original fairy tales in collaboration with poet and storyteller Anne-Marie André. Around 10 events in churches and other venues.
- Since 2014 **Rapkreation**
Hiphop/Rap crew from Kreuzberg, Berlin. Co-Creation of the crew during my exchange in Berlin during high school (2012-2013)
Beat maker for 1 album and 1 E.P.
Numerous concerts: Fusion Festival, Splash Festival, Yaam...
[Facebook](#), [Youtube](#), [Spotify](#)...

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- 8/2020-now **Curator for [Baz'art](#) festival in Geneva**
Focus on sound art / installation works
- 9/2017-10/2018 **President of the cultural commission of the Ecological party (Les Verts), Geneva**
Public policy, culture and artistic creation
- 4/2015-9/2018 **Musical booker for a venue of 250 people**
From 2015 to 2018 I have been in charge of the booking for Le Terreau, Geneva. Creation of a network between regional bookers.

Local and national bands, sometimes international.

2015-2017

**Co-president of the “[Collectif pour une vie nocturne riche, vivante et diversifiée](#)”
(Collectif Nocturne)**

Federation of cultural, youth and political organizations regrouping more than 100 associations. Political lobbying for more rich, open and diversified nightlife in Geneva. In 2016 we created a venue called Le Terreau in Geneva. As co-president, I was in charge of coordination, finance, team-management, public relations, media presence, artistic direction and musical programmer. I was also in charge of the sound technic. We had three to four events per week ranging from dance, theatre, photo exhibits, but mainly musical activities. Live bands and DJs. We also organized a yearly Festival. We took part in public debate public urban development projects. Also took part in civil society consultation about culture in city’s future planning. Lobby to use post-industrial areas as temporary cultural spaces. Organization of cultural activities in transforming industrial areas.