

## **Axel Retif**

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Albuquerque, NM  
87106  
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[www.axelretif.com](http://www.axelretif.com)

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### **EDUCATION**

Master of Arts (Music Composition & Theory) at The University of New Mexico - UNM	New Mexico, USA, 2022-2024
LLCM - Bachelor's in Music Composition West London College of Music	London, UK, 2020
Centro de Investigación y Estudios de la Música (CIEM) Common core curriculum of the Degree in Composition	Mexico City, Mexico, 2015-2018

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### **MAIN COMPOSITION TEACHERS**

Julio Estrada  
José Luis Hurtado  
Vincent Carver

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### **DIPLOMAS**

The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Grade 8 in Piano Performance	London, UK, 2018
The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Grade 8 in Music Theory	London, UK, 2018

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### **ARTS ADMINISTRATION AND JOB POSITIONS**

Director and editor of Tagma Records	Mexico, 2022 – to date
Artistic director of Methexis Festival/Concert series	Puebla, Mexico, 2023 – to date
Artistic director of Plax Ensemble	Mexico, 2023 – to date
Co-founder of Albuquerque Composer's Collective (Student union of The University of New Mexico)	2022-2024
Artistic coordinator of <i>Festival Expresiones Contemporáneas</i> .	Puebla, Mexico, 2019 – 2022

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### MUSIC COMPOSITION MENTOR

2021 – to date

Successfully mentored students to achieve Bachelor's Degrees in Music Composition from West London College of Music, focusing on advanced composition skills and musical theory. Notable student include [I.M],

Successfully mentored students to achieve Associate Degrees in Music Composition from West London College of Music, focusing on advanced composition skills and musical theory. Notable student include [I.M], [D, D], [U, C], [R, C].

### PIANO TEACHER

2013-2015

Taught piano to students aged 8 to 15, emphasizing technical skills, musicality, and expressive playing.

Utilized a variety of teaching materials to cater to different learning stages and styles, including:

*Improve Your Sight-Reading! Piano, Level 1* by Paul Harris, focusing on a progressive, interactive approach to sight-reading.

*Mikrokosmos I and II* by Béla Bartók, which enhance musical understanding through progressive pieces.

*Celebrated Piano Duets, Book 1* by Robert D. Vandall, which offers diverse duets for elementary to late elementary pianists.

*Piano Exam Pieces*, ABRSM Grades 1-8, preparing students for graded assessments and advancing their technical and interpretative abilities.

### Graduate Teaching Assistant

Fall 2023-Spring 2024

The University of New Mexico – UNM  
Fundamentals Music Laboratory (aural skills)  
Theory I Lab (aural skills)

### Composition Mentor at Workshop with Trio Siqueiros

México, 2021

Directed a workshop for students to compose and record pieces for Trio Siqueiros, enhancing their skills in music production and collaboration with professionals.

### Composition Mentor at Workshop with Pianist Melisa Cano

México-Spain, 2021

Led a workshop where students created and recorded original compositions for pianist Melisa Cano, providing them with practical experience and professional feedback.

### Composition Mentor at Workshop with Contrabassoonist Ángel Flores

México, 2022

Facilitated a workshop guiding students in composing and recording works for contrabassoonist Ángel Flores, focusing on creative development and professional production techniques.

### **Konnakol Rhythmic Workshops Instructor**

As an-instructor, conducted specialized Konnakol rhythmic workshops

Puebla, Mexico, 2021

Designed curriculum and exercises tailored for orchestral musicians to enhance rhythmic precision and improvisational skills. Received commendation for the effective integration of South Indian rhythmic techniques into Western music practices.

Collaborated closely with both the *Orquesta Filarmónica de Puebla* (ORFIP) and the *Camerata del Conservatorio de Puebla*, delivering tailored instruction that catered to the unique needs of each ensemble

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### **DISCOGRAPHY**

Second CD Portrait: **Axel Retif: House of Flies**

Mexico, 2022

Monographic EP

Featuring, Cristian Coliver, Juanmanuel Flores, Rodrigo Mata and Wilfrido Terrazas

Tagma Records

First CD Portrait: **Axel Retif: Sincronías**

Mexico, 2021

Monographic EP

Featuring, Vincent Carver, Trio Siqueiros, Cuarteto Ruvalcaba, Ensemble Sincronico and Uriel Rodríguez Soto

Tagma Records

*Taos* (2022) for double bass quartet, included in

Mexico, 2022

**Ecos de Viaje – Homenaje a Stefano Scodanibbio**

Mushamukas Ensemble de Contrabajos

LP album

Featuring composers: Sebastian Gramss,

Hakon Thelin, Rodrigo Mata, Paulo Tovar, Adam Goodwin, Cesar Bernal, Pablo Andoni

Tagma Records

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## SELECTED PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS AND EVENTS that have performed Retif's music

Methexis Concert Series	Puebla, Mexico, 2023-2024
Music of Sound	México, 2024
Festival Trinchera	San Juan, Argentina, 2024
CAMPGround	Tampa, Florida, USA, 2023
Donald Robb Trust Composers' Symposium	Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, 2023
Festival de Música Nueva – CONARTE	Monterrey, Mexico, 2023
15th Aniversario of <i>Complejo Cultural Universitario BUAP</i>	Puebla, Mexico, 2023
LOFT Sound Fest	Morelia, Mexico, 2023
June in Buffalo Festival	Buffalo, New York, 2020, 2021, 2023
Festival Ex Nihilo	Guanajuato, Mexico, 2023
White: DMA Recital – Teresa Diaz de Cossio	UCSD, San Diego, USA, 2023
Festival Ex Nihilo	Guanajuato, Mexico, 2023
Festival Altiplano	Hidalgo, Mexico, 2023
ABQ Composer's Collective Concert Series	Albuquerque, USA, 2022-2024
Festival International Cervantino	Guanajuato, Mexico, 2022
Music for the Americas Concert Series – UNM	New Mexico, USA 2022
ECI ( <i>Encuentro entre Compositores e Instrumentistas</i> )	La Plata, Argentina, 2022, 2023
Festival Atemporánea	Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2022
Ramificaciones Festival	Zacatecas, Mexico, 2022
VOCES: New Music from Latin America	New York, USA, 2022
NEOFONIA - Festival de Música Nueva	Ensenada, Mexico, 2021
Festival Expresiones Contemporáneas	Puebla, Mexico, 2019 - 2022
Foro de Música Nueva Armando Luna	Chihuahua, Mexico, 2019
Festival Aires Nacionales (UNAM)	Mexico City, Mexico, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024
Foro Internacional de Música Nueva Manuel Enríquez	Mexico City, Mexico, 2018, 2020

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## SELECTED LIST OF ENSEMBLES AND SOLOISTS that have performed Retif's music

Arditti Quartet (UK)  
Bahué Duo (USA)  
Carlos Salmeron, pianist (Mexico)  
Cesar Bernal, double bassist (Chile)  
Cintia Escamilla, pianist (Mexico)  
Cuarteti Chroma (Mexico)  
Cuarteto Arcano (Mexico)  
Cuarteto Ruvalcaba (Mexico)  
Diego Morabito, flutist (Mexico)  
Diren Checa, violinist (Mexico)  
Duo YonX (Germany/Chile)  
Emily Duncan, flutist (USA)  
Ensamble A Tempo (USA)  
Federico Jaureguiberry, saxophonist (Argentina)  
Israel Gaytan, pianist (Mexico)  
Juliana Moreno, flutist (Argentina)  
Juanmanuel Flores, violinist (Mexico)  
Leonardo Chávez, violinist (Mexico)  
Loadbang (USA)  
Low Frequency Trio (Mexico/USA)

Mushamukas Ensemble de Contrabajos (Mexico)  
Nikola Lutz, saxophonist (Germany)  
Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de Puebla – OSEP (Mexico)  
Orquesta Sinfónica UACH (Mexico)  
Plax Ensemble (Mexico)  
Rodrigo Mata, double bassist (Mexico)  
Roxana Baldor, pianist (Argentina)  
Sini Virtanen, violinist (Finland)  
Slee Sinfonietta (USA)  
Splinter Reeds (USA)  
Teresa Diaz de Cossio, flutist (Mexico/USA)  
Trio Siqueiros (Mexico)  
Wilfrido Terrazas, flutist (Mexico/USA)

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## SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS AND MAGAZINE FEATURES

Published Interview: Milenio Magazine, Issue 3, 2024. Titled "Batalla del 5 de mayo," the interview discusses my composition "5 de mayo: La Batalla de Puebla." This piece was premiered by the *Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de Puebla* (OSEP) in commemoration of this historic date.

Thesis Feature: Israel Gaytan de los Santos' thesis "*Análisis teórico e interpretativo de las 4 Miniaturas Hipnóticas, de Axel Retif,*" completed at the Escuela Superior de Música, Mexico City, Mexico in 2022.

Published Score: Mosca (2021) in ARTE: Inter y transdisciplinariedad, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, 2020-2021 issue, No. 9 [\[Link\]](#)

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## ALBUM PRESENTATION

Axel Retif: House of Flies Chihuahua, Mexico, 2023  
at the festival *Disfracciones – Encuentro de Música Nueva*

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## SELECTED LIST OF VENUES AND FESTIVALS Retif's music has been performed

15th Anniversary of *Complejo Cultural Universitario* - BUAP Puebla, Mexico, 2023  
with Plax Ensemble

New Music New Mexico Concert Series - UNM Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA 2022  
with NMNM Contemporary Ensemble

Sewanee Music Festival 2014 at The University of the South Tennessee, USA, 2014  
as a soloist

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## SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, COMPETITIONS, AND IMPORTANT COMISSIONS

Awarded the *Programa de Estímulo a la Creación y Desarrollo Artístico* (PECDA) Puebla, Mexico, 2024-2025

Student Enrichment Travel Grant – The University of New Mexico	New Mexico, USA, 2024
Selected as a winner in the Low Frequency Trio Call for Scores	Mexico, 2023
Represented Mexico at the 69th International Rostrum of Composers	2023
Artistic Online Residency with Mushamukas Ensemble de Contrabajos to compose a piece commemorating Stefano Scodanibbio	Mexico, 2022-2023
Orchestra commissioned work by the <i>Secretaría de Cultura de Puebla</i> performed by the <i>Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de Puebla – OSEP</i> , conducted by David Hernández Breton, to commemorate the Battle of Puebla on May 5th in Puebla, Mexico in 2024	Puebla, Mexico, 2022
Awarded the <i>Programa de Estímulo a la Creación y Desarrollo Artístico</i> (PECDA)	Puebla, Mexico, 2021-2022
Co-awarded project at the <i>Programa Fomento de las Músicas Iberoamericanas (IBERMÚSICAS)</i> Project: “ <i>Proyecto latitudes sonoras: concierto virtual de compositores latinoamericanos.</i> ”	Mexico, Colombia, 2021
Awarded the <i>Estímulo a la Innovación - IMACP</i> - government artistic grant	Puebla, Mexico, 2020
Awarded the <i>Programa de Estímulo a la Creación y Desarrollo Artístico</i> (PECDA)	Puebla, Mexico, 2019-2020

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## COURSES AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Composition masterclasses with Ellen Reid and Reiko Fütting during a master’s degree in Music Composition at The University of New Mexico	USA, 2022-2024
Composition masterclasses at June in Buffalo Festival with Mathew Rosenblum, Melinda Wagner, and Jonathan Golove	USA, 2023
Composer’s Espresso workshop series by José Luis Hurtado	2020-2022
Composition masterclasses at NEOFONIA - Festival de Música Nueva de Ensenada with Ignacio Baca Lobera	Mexico, 2021
Composition masterclasses at June in Buffalo Festival with Augusta Read Thomas, Stefano Gervasoni, Hilda Paredes, and Robert Platz	USA, 2021
Course of Copyright Law in the Music Business at Colegio de Audio México	Mexico, 2021
Participation in the first seminar of Música y Escena Contemporánea	Mexico, 2021

Composition masterclasses at June in Buffalo Festival with Hilda Paredes, Roger Reynolds, Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, and Robert Platz	USA, 2020
Participation in the workshop for reading and reviewing works by the <i>Orquesta Sinfónica UACH</i> within the Foro de Música Nueva Armando Luna 2019	Chihuahua, Mexico, 2019
Carnatic Music Course: Composition techniques by Enrique Mendoza	Mexico, 2019
Electroacoustic music classes by Enrique Mendoza	Mexico, 2019- 2020
Participation in the ABC online course for the creation of cultural projects, which was carried out on the Interface CENART platform, with 24 hours of academic work	Mexico, 2019
Participation in the Jornadas Potosinas by José Luis Hurtado	San Luis Potosi, Mexico, 2019
Participation in Stockhausen workshop: Kontakte - A comprehensive approach. Casa del Lago – UNAM	Mexico, 2019
Composition course for orchestra taught by Enrico Chapela Núcleo Integral de Composición (NICO), Mexico City.	Mexico, 2018-2019
Techniques of Indian classical music taught by Boglárka Nagy	Mexico, 2018-2019
Composition Seminar I and II with Marcelo Toledo	Mexico, 2018
Choral conducting course with Víctor Luna at BUAP	Puebla, Mexico, 2017

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## **PARTICIPATION ON PRODUCTIONS AND PROJECTS**

<b>Co-Editor</b> Tale from the Space Port Bar LP album Feat. Enrique Mendoza and Luis Miguel Costero Akron Records 2024	Mexico, 2024
<b>Editor-in-chief</b> Pozo con Viento LP album Feat. Gustavo Servín Tagma Records 2023	Mexico, 2023
<b>Editor-in chief and Assitant production</b> Ecos de Viaje - Homenaje a Stefano Scodanibbio	Mexico, 2022

LP album  
Feat. Mushamukas Ensemble de Contrabajos  
Tagma Records

**Editor-in-chief** Mexico, 2022  
Tolo Loch  
LP album  
Feat. Mushamukas Ensemble de Contrabajos  
Tagma Records

**Editor-in-chief** Mexico, 2022  
Mar del Norte,  
LP album  
Feat. Rodrigo Mata  
Tagma Records

**Editor-in-chief** Mexico, 2022  
Cross-Atlantic  
LP album  
Feat. Ensemble EMAC  
Tagma Records

**Editor-in-chief and Producer** Mexico, 2022  
Axel Retif: House of Flies  
EP album  
Feat. Wilfrido Terrazas, Juanmanuel Flores,  
Rodrigo Mata y Cristian Coliver  
Tagma Records

**Editor-in-chief and Producer** Mexico, 2021  
Axel Retif: Sincronías  
EP album  
Feat. Vincent Carver, Trío Siqueiros, Cuarteto Ruvalcaba,  
Ensemble Sincrónico y Uriel Rodríguez Soto.  
Tagma Records

**Producer Assistant**  
*New Music for the Americas Concert Series* Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, 2022-2023  
The University of New Mexico

**Audiovisual Coordinator and Producer** Mexico, 2020  
*Double Bass Call for Scores in SONIT OUT Composer's Collective*

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## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

**Photography:** Proficient in capturing high-quality images and post-processing techniques.

**Web Design:** Skilled in creating and maintaining visually appealing and user-friendly websites.

**Graphic Design:** Experienced in the creation of promotional materials using Adobe Illustrator.



**Video Editing:** Competent in cutting, editing, and producing video content for diverse platforms.

**Social Media Management:** Adept at curating content, engaging with audiences, and growing social media presence.

**Arts Project Creation:** Innovative in conceptualizing, developing, and executing various arts-related projects.

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## LANGUAGE COURSES

Center for English Language and American Culture (CELAC)  
Spring program at The University of New Mexico - UNM

Albuquerque, New Mexico, 2022

Student exchange study at Avondale college

Auckland, New Zealand 2012

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## EXTRA ACHIEVEMENTS

Regional Chess Champion

Puebla, Mexico, 2003

State Chess Champion

Puebla, Mexico, 2002