

# Axel Retif

[music@axelretif.com](mailto:music@axelretif.com) | [www.axelretif.com](http://www.axelretif.com)

---

## EDUCATION

**M.A. in Music Composition & Theory.** *The University of New Mexico*, USA (2024)

**B.A. in Music Composition.** *West London College of Music*, UK (2020)

**Undergraduate studies in Music Theory.** CIEM, Mexico (2015–2018)

---

## DIPLOMAS

**Fellowship Diploma in Music Composition (Master level).** *West London College of Music*, UK (expected 2026)

**Diploma in Piano Performance and Music Theory (Associate level)** *The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music* (ABRSM), UK (2018)

---

## IMPORTANT COMMISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS

**Artist Talk.** at the 31st International Symposium on Electronic Emerging Art (ISEA). Dubai, United Arab Emirates (expected 2026)

**Commissioned orchestral work.** for 25th anniversary of the Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de Puebla, under the direction of David Hernández Breton. Puebla, Mexico (premiere expected 2027)

**Commissioned orchestral work.** *5 de mayo: La Batalla de Puebla.* For *Secretaría de Cultura de Puebla*, for commemorating the Battle of Puebla, premiered in 2024 by the Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de Puebla under the direction of David Hernández Breton. Puebla, Mexico (2023–2024)

**Commissioned work.** Live creation. For the 15th Anniversary of the *Complejo Cultural Universitario BUAP*, the piece was performed in real time by Plax Ensemble, while visual artist Alejandro Teutli simultaneously executed a live painting action. Puebla, Mexico (2023).

**Selected representative.** *Taos. 69th International Rostrum of Composers*, under the auspices of UNESCO. The Hague, Netherlands (2023)

**Artistic Residency.** To compose a work in tribute to Stefano Scodanibbio for *Mushamukas Ensemble de Contrabajos*. Mexico (2022–2023)

---

## DISCOGRAPHY

**Axel Retif: Broken Sands.** *Tagma Records* (2025)

Monographic EP featuring Arditti Quartet, Loadbang, Duo YonX, and Splinter Reeds.

**Axel Retif: House of Flies.** *Tagma Records* (2022)

Monographic EP featuring Cristian Coliver, Juanmanuel Flores, Rodrigo Mata, and Wilfrido Terrazas.

**Axel Retif: Sincronías.** *Tagma Records* (2021)

Monographic EP featuring Vincent Carver, Trío Siqueiros, Cuarteto Ruvalcaba, Ensemble Sincrónico, and Uriel Rodríguez Soto.

**Halterio.** *Tagma Records* (expected in 2026)

Included in *Untitled*, recorded by Juanmanuel Flores.

LP album featuring works by Gabriel Mora, Helga Arias, and Lala Disandro.

**Taos.** *Tagma Records* (2022)

Included in *Ecos de Viaje – Homenaje a Stefano Scodanibbio*, recorded by Mushamukas Ensemble de Contrabajos.

LP album featuring works by Sebastián Gramss, Håkon Thelin, Rodrigo Mata, Paulo Tovar, Adam Goodwin, César Bernal, and Pablo Andoni.

---

## GRANTS

**Ibermusicas. Ayuda a Proyectos Virtuales.** Argentina, Colombia, Spain, and Mexico (2025)

**Estímulos de Innovación Artística y Cultural (EIDAC).** IMACP. Puebla, Mexico (2025)

**Programa de Estímulo a la Creación y Desarrollo Artístico (PECDA).** Puebla, Mexico (2024)

**Student Enrichment Travel Grant.** *The University of New Mexico*, USA (2024)

**Programa de Estímulo a la Creación y Desarrollo Artístico (PECDA).** Puebla, Mexico (2021)

**Co-participant. Ayuda a Proyectos Virtuales.** Mexico-Colombia (2021)

**Sala Prisma Artistic Support Grant.** Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico (2021)

**Programa de Estímulos a la Innovación Desarrollo Artístico y Cultural (PEIDAC).** IMACP, Puebla, Mexico (2020)

**Programa de Estímulo a la Creación y Desarrollo Artístico (PECDA).** Puebla, Mexico (2019)

---

## CALLS FOR SCORES AND SELECTED WORKS

**4 Miniaturas Hipnóticas.** *Festival Aires*, Mexico City, Mexico (2025) – Selected via call for scores

**Ake.** *CAMPground Festival*, Florida, USA (2025) – Selected via call for scores

**Akron.** *Low Frequency Trio Call for Scores*, Mexico (2023) – Selected via call for scores

**Halterio.** *CAMPground Festival*, Florida, USA (2023) – Selected via call for scores

**Diptera.** *Festival Atemporánea*, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2022) – Selected via call for scores

**Diptera.** *Festival Aires*, Mexico City, Mexico (2022) – Selected via call for scores

**Halterio.** *Festival Aires*, Mexico City, Mexico (2022) – Selected via call for scores

**Taos.** *June in Buffalo*, New York, USA (2021) – Selected via call for scores

**Jo-Ha-Kyu.** *June in Buffalo*, New York, USA (2021) – Selected via call for scores

**Sobre el Nombre de Mi Padre.** *June in Buffalo*, New York, USA (2020) – Selected via call for scores

**Jo-Ha-Kyu.** *Festival Aires*, Mexico City, Mexico (2019) – Selected via call for scores

**Jo-Ha-Kyu.** *Foro Internacional de Música Nueva Manuel Enriquez*, Mexico City, Mexico (2018) – Selected via call for scores

---

## COMPETITIONS

**National Commission Competition.** *Cuatro Treinta y Tres*, Zictra Ensemble, Uruapan, Michoacan, Mexico (2026)

**Noches Negras.** *Foro de Música Nueva Armando Luna*, Orquesta Sinfónica de la Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico (2019)

---

## COMPOSITIONS

**Full catalogue of works available at:**

<https://axelretif.com/catalog>

---

## SELECTED PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS AND EVENTS THAT HAVE PERFORMED RETIF'S MUSIC

*Festival Internacional PeruSax*, Lima, Peru (expected 2026)  
*Tiempo Fracturado. Musique mexicaine de la création vivante*, Paris, France (2026)  
*3rd Contemporary Music Magazine Festival*, Tehran, Iran (2025)  
*Festival Aires*, Mexico City, Mexico (2019, 2022–2025)  
*Piano Season at the Complejo Cultural Universitario BUAP*, Puebla, Mexico (2022, 2025)  
*Semana de la Música*, Aguascalientes, Mexico (2025)  
*Musikontempo*, Mexico City, Mexico (2025)  
*Festival Internacional de Santa Rosa*, Santa Rosa, Bolivia (2025)  
*Festival Methexis*, Puebla, Mexico (2024–2025)  
*Methexis Concert Series*, Puebla, Mexico (2023–2024)  
*Music of Sound*, Mexico (2024)  
*Festival Trinchera*, San Juan, Argentina (2024)  
*CAMPground*, Florida, USA (2023, 2025)  
*Donald Robb Trust Composers' Symposium*, New Mexico, USA (2023–2024)  
*Festival de Música Nueva – CONARTE*, Monterrey, Mexico (2023)  
*15th Anniversary of Complejo Cultural Universitario BUAP*, Puebla, Mexico (2023)  
*LOFT Sound Fest*, Morelia, Mexico (2023)  
*June in Buffalo Festival*, New York, USA (2020, 2021, 2023)  
*Festival Ex Nihilo*, Guanajuato, Mexico (2023)  
*White: DMA Recital – Teresa Díaz de Cossio*, UCSD, San Diego, USA (2023)  
*Festival Altiplano*, Hidalgo, Mexico (2023)  
*ABQ Composer's Collective Concert Series*, New Mexico, USA (2022–2024)  
*Festival Internacional Cervantino*, Guanajuato, Mexico (2022)  
*Music for the Americas Concert Series – UNM*, New Mexico, USA (2022–2024)  
*Encuentro entre Compositores e Instrumentistas - ECI*, 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)  
*Festival Expresiones Contemporáneas*, Puebla, Mexico (2019–2022)  
*Foro de Música Nueva Armando Luna*, Chihuahua, Mexico (2019)  
*Foro Internacional de Música Nueva Manuel Enríquez*, Mexico City, Mexico (2018, 2020)

---

## SELECTED ENSEMBLES AND SOLOISTS THAT HAVE PERFORMED RETIF'S MUSIC

### **Ensembles:**

Arditti Quartet (UK)	Orquesta Experimental de Instrumentos Nativos (Bolivia)
Bahué (USA)	Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de Puebla – OSEP (Mexico)
Cuarteto de Cuerdas de Bellas Artes (Mexico)	Orquesta Sinfónica de la Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua (Mexico)
Cuarteto Arcano (Mexico)	Plax Ensemble (Mexico)
Cuarteto Ruvalcaba (Mexico)	Slee Sinfonietta (USA)
Duo YonX (Chile/Germany)	Splinter Reeds (USA)
Ensamble A Tempo (Mexico)	UNM Symphony Orchestra (USA)
Loadbang (USA)	Trio Siqueiros (Mexico)
Low Frequency Trio (Mexico)	
Mushamukas Ensemble de Contrabajos (Mexico)	

**Soloists:**

Ana Gabriela Fernández, piano (Cuba)  
Arda Cabaoglu, trumpet (Turkey)  
Arelly Rodríguez, saxophone (Mexico)  
Carlos Salmeron, piano (Mexico)  
Cesar Bernal, double bass (Chile)  
Cintia Escamilla, piano (Mexico)  
Cristian Coliver (Venezuela)  
Diego Morabito, flute (Mexico)  
Diego Sánchez-Villa, piano (Mexico)  
Diren Checa, violin (Mexico)  
Emily Duncan, flute (USA)  
Farmehr Beyglou (Iran)  
Federico Jaureguiberry, saxophone (Argentina)

Israel Gaytan, piano (Mexico)  
Juliana Moreno, flute (Argentina)  
Juanmanuel Flores, violin (Mexico)  
Laura Cocks, flute (USA)  
Leonardo Chávez, violin (Mexico)  
María Clara, flute (Colombia)  
Nikola Lutz, saxophone (Germany)  
Rodrigo Mata, double bass (Mexico)  
Roxana Baldor, piano (Argentina)  
Sini Virtanen, violin (Finland)  
Teresa Diaz de Cossio, flute (Mexico/USA)  
Valeria Espinosa, viola (Mexico)  
Wilfrido Terrazas, flute (Mexico/USA)

---

**COMPOSITION MASTERCLASSES**

**Dai Fujikuera.** England/Mexico (2025)

**Ashkan Behzadi.** USA/Mexico (2025)

**Ignacio Baca Lobera.** Mexico (2025)

**Ellen Reid and Reiko Fütting.** USA (2022–2024) – As part of the MA in Music Composition at the *University of New Mexico*

**Julio Estrada.** *Laboratorio de Creación Musical, Facultad de Música – UNAM, Mexico* (2023)

**Mathew Rosenblum, Melinda Wagner, and Jonathan Golove.** *June in Buffalo Festival, USA* (2023)

**Ignacio Baca Lobera.** *NEOFONIA – Festival de Música Nueva de Ensenada, Mexico* (2021)

**Augusta Read Thomas, Stefano Gervasoni, Hilda Paredes, and Robert Platz.** *June in Buffalo Festival, USA* (2021)

**Hilda Paredes, Roger Reynolds, Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, and Robert Platz.** *June in Buffalo Festival, USA* (2020)

**Marcelo Toledo.** *Composition Seminar, Mexico* (2017–2018)

---

**COMPOSITION COURSES AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED**

**Música y Escena Contemporánea.** Seminar participant, Mexico (2021)

**Foro de Música Nueva Armando Luna.** Workshop on reading and reviewing works with Orquesta Sinfónica UACH, Chihuahua, Mexico (2019)

**Carnatic Music: Composition Techniques.** With Enrique Mendoza, Mexico (2019)

**Electroacoustic Music Classes.** With Enrique Mendoza, Mexico (2019–2020)

**Stockhausen: Kontakte - A Comprehensive Approach.** *Casa del Lago – UNAM, Mexico City* (2019)

**Composition Seminar I & II.** With Marcelo Toledo, Mexico (2017-2018)

**Noches Negras.** *Foro de Música Nueva Armando Luna, Chihuahua, Mexico* (2019) – Selected via call for scores

**Noches Negras.** UNM Symphony Orchestra, New Mexico, USA (2023) – Selected for reading panel

---

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Composition Mentor.** (2021–present)

Teach composition to students preparing for West London College of Music bachelor's-level diploma online exams.

Guide students in portfolio development, score preparation, and contemporary composition techniques through personalized curricula.

Notable students:

- **Diploma/Bachelor's Degree:** I.M., D.D. (*in progress*), D.M. (*in progress*)
- **Associate Degree:** U.C., R.C., F.D. (*in progress*), D.P. (*in progress*)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant.** *The University of New Mexico*, USA (Fall 2023–Spring 2024)

Fundamentals Music Laboratory (aural skills)

Theory I Lab (aural skills)

**Composition Mentor.** Workshop with Trio Siqueiros, Mexico (2021)

**Composition Mentor.** Workshop with pianist Melisa Cano, Mexico–Spain (2021)

**Composition Mentor.** Workshop with contrabassoonist Ángel Flores, Mexico (2022)

**Konnakol Rhythmic Workshops Instructor.** Puebla, Mexico (2021)

Workshops for Orquesta Filarmónica de Puebla (ORFIP), Camerata del Conservatorio de Puebla, and Conservatorio Benemérito del Estado de Puebla

**Piano Teacher.** Mexico (2013–2015)

Taught students aged 8–15, focusing on technique, musicality, and expression

---

## SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS AND MAGAZINE FEATURES

**Published Score.** *4 miniaturas hipnóticas* (2020). Sur Editions, Mexico City, Mexico (2024)

**Interview.** “Batalla del 5 de mayo.” *Revista Milenio*, Issue 3 (2024) – On the orchestral work *5 de mayo: La Batalla de Puebla*, premiered by the Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de Puebla (OSEP)

**Thesis Feature.** Israel Gaytan de los Santos, “*Análisis teórico e interpretativo de las 4 Miniaturas Hipnóticas, de Axel Retif*”, Escuela Superior de Música, Mexico City, Mexico (2022)

**Published Score.** *Mosca* (2021). ARTE: Inter y transdisciplinariedad, Issue No. 9, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (2020–2021)

---

## LECTURES

“**Between Fractures and Textures: Creating the Album *Broken Sands*.**” *Universidad Mesoamericana*, Puebla, Mexico (2025)

“**Between Fractures and Textures: Creating the Album *Broken Sands*.**” *School of Sonic Arts*, Tehran, Iran (2025)

“**Sound Materials and Structural Tension in the Album *House of Flies*.**” *Conservatorio de Música de Chihuahua*, Disfracciones – Encuentro de Música Nueva, Chihuahua, Mexico (2023)

“**Production Process of the Album *Sincronías*.**” *Facultad de Artes ASAB, Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas*, Bogotá, Colombia (2021)

---

## MUSIC TRAINING IN PERFORMANCE COURSES

**Piano Performance Classes.** With Carlos Salmerón, Mexico (2017–2019)

**Choral Conducting Course.** With Víctor Luna, *BUAP*, Puebla, Mexico (2017)

**Techniques of Indian Classical Music.** With Boglárka Nagy, Mexico (2018–2019)

**Piano Performance Classes.** With Radek Materka, Mexico (2012–2015)

**Piano Performance Masterclass.** With Radek Materka, Amy I-Lin Cheng, and Shannon Hess, *Sewanee Summer Music Festival*, USA (2014)

---

## SELECTED LIST OF VENUES AND FESTIVALS RETIF'S MUSIC HAS BEEN PERFORMED

**Festival Methexis.** Puebla, Mexico (2025)

**Methexis Concert Series.** Puebla, Mexico (2023–2024)

**15th Anniversary of Complejo Cultural Universitario – BUAP.** With Plax Ensemble, Puebla, Mexico (2023)

**New Music New Mexico Concert Series.** With NMNM Contemporary Ensemble, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA (2022)

**Sewanee Summer Music Festival.** *The University of the South*, Tennessee, USA (2014)

---

## ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP & PROJECTS FOUNDED

**Director and Editor.** *Tagma Records*, Mexico (2022–Present)

**Artistic and Executive Director.** *Methexis Festival/Concert Series*, Puebla, Mexico (2023–Present)

**Artistic Director.** *Plax Ensemble*, Mexico (2023–Present)

**Co-Founder.** *Albuquerque Composer's Collective* (Student union of The University of New Mexico), Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA (2022–2024)

---

## ARTS ADMINISTRATION AND JOB POSITIONS

**Music Librarian.** *Santa Fe Pro Musica*, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA (2024–2025)

**Music Library Assistant.** *Santa Fe Pro Musica*, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA (2024)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant.** *The University of New Mexico*, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA (2022-2024)

---

## ARTS ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Music Business Foundations.** *Berklee College of Music*, USA (2025)

**Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector, Nonprofit Organizations, Nonprofit Leadership and Governance.** *University at Buffalo*, USA (2025)

**ABC Para la Creación de Proyectos Culturales.** *Centro Nacional de las Artes (CENART)*, Mexico (2019)

---

## PARTICIPATION IN DISCOGRAPHY PRODUCTIONS AND PROJECTS

**Editor-in-Chief & Producer.** *Axel Retif: Broken Sands* (EP), with Arditti Quartet, Loadbang, Duo YonX, Splinter Reeds. Tagma Records, Mexico/USA (2025)

**Editor-in-Chief.** *Pozo con Viento* (LP), with Gustavo Servín. Tagma Records, Mexico (2023)

**Editor-in-Chief & Producer Assistant.** *Ecos de Viaje – Homenaje a Stefano Scodanibbio* (LP), with Mushamukas Ensemble de Contrabajos. Tagma Records, Mexico (2022)

**Editor-in-Chief.** *Tolo Loch* (LP), with Mushamukas Ensemble de Contrabajos. Tagma Records, Mexico (2022)

**Editor-in-Chief.** *Mar del Norte* (LP), with Rodrigo Mata. Tagma Records, Mexico (2022)

**Editor-in-Chief.** *Cross-Atlantic* (LP), with EMAC. Tagma Records, Mexico (2022)

**Editor-in-Chief & Producer.** *Axel Retif: House of Flies* (EP), with Wilfrido Terrazas, Juanmanuel Flores, Rodrigo Mata, and Cristian Coliver. Tagma Records, Mexico (2022)

**Editor-in-Chief & Producer.** *Axel Retif: Sincronías* (EP), with Vincent Carver, Trío Siqueiros, Cuarteto Ruvalcaba, Ensemble Sincrónico, and Uriel Rodríguez Soto. Tagma Records, Mexico (2021)

---

## ASSISTANT ROLES IN CONCERT PRODUCTION AND STAGE MANAGEMENT

**Assistant Stage Manager.** *Lensic Performing Arts Center*, Santa Fe Pro Musica, Santa Fe, USA (2024–2025)

**Assistant Stage Manager.** *St. Francis Auditorium, NM Museum of Art*, Santa Fe Pro Musica, Santa Fe, USA (2024–2025)

**Stage Manager & Organizer.** *Sala Julián Carrillo*, Methexis Concert Series, Conservatorio de Puebla, Mexico (2023)

**Organizer.** *Tamarind Institute*, ABQ Composers Collective, Albuquerque, USA (2022–2024)

**Producer & Organizer.** *Keller Hall*, ABQ Composers Collective, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, USA (2022–2024)

**Assistant Production.** *Keller Hall*, New Music for the Americas Concert Series, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, USA (2022–2023)

**Assistant Production.** *Bucareli 69*, Vorágines, Mexico City, Mexico (2019)

**Assistant Stage Manager & Audio Documentation.** *Galería de Arte del Palacio Municipal*, Circuito Sonoro, Puebla, Mexico (2019)

**Assistant Stage Manager & Audio Documentation.** *Capilla del Arte – UDLAP*, Puebla, Mexico (2019)

**Assistant Stage Manager & Photographer.** *Casa de Música de Viena*, Puebla, Mexico (2019)

**Video and Photo Documentation.** *Galería LiliPut Galería Experimental*, Puebla, Mexico (2019)

**Audiovisual Coordinator & Producer.** *Double Bass Call for Scores*, SONIT OUT Composer's Collective, Mexico (2020)

---

## LANGUAGE COURSES

**Center for English Language and American Culture (CELAC).** *University of New Mexico*, Albuquerque, USA – Advanced English Course, Spring Program (2022)

**Student Exchange Study.** *Avondale College*, Auckland, New Zealand (2012)

---

## EXTRA ACHIEVEMENTS

**3rd Prize, Regional Chess Championship**, Puebla, Mexico (2003)

**1st Prize, State Chess Championship**, Puebla, Mexico (2002)