

# YIORGOS VASSILANDONAKIS

## COMPOSER

### Curriculum Vitae

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#### CURRENT AFFILIATIONS/POSITIONS

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- University of California, Berkeley: Lecturer in Composition/Music Theory (3/2007-present).
- *John Adams Young Composers Program* at the Crowden School (Berkeley, CA):  
Instructor of Composition, Theory & Advanced Musicianship (2007-08).

#### PRIMARY EDUCATION

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- University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D. in Music (2006).  
(Dissertation: *Thalassinó* for large orchestra. Dissertation advisor: Cindy Cox)  
Composition studies with John Thow, Edmund Campion, Cindy Cox, Richard Felciano.
- University of California, Berkeley, Master of Arts in Music (2003).  
Composition studies with Edmund Campion, Jorge Liderman, Olly Wilson.
- University of California, Los Angeles, Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude* (2001).  
Composition studies with Paul Chihara, Paul Reale, Ian Krouse, Roger Bourland.
- The Hellenic Conservatory, Athens, Greece. Diploma in Music Theory (1989).

#### ADVANCED STUDY

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- *École Nationale de Musique et de Danse, Erik Satie*, Paris, France:  
Diplome des Études Musicales,  
Composition studies with Philippe Leroux (2005-2007).
- Film Composition studies with Jerry Goldsmith (1999-2001).

#### ACADEMIC AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

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*George Ladd Prix de Paris*, 2005-07. (Full-support fellowship for advanced study in Paris).

*Eisner Prize in Music* (2007).

ASCAP PLUS Award (2005 & 2006).

*Alfred Hertz Fellowship* for Graduate Studies at UC Berkeley (2001-2006).

*Les Rencontres de Musique Nouvelle*. Fellowship for Le Domaine Forget (2006).

*Suzan & Ford Schumann Fellowship* for the Aspen Music Festival, 2003.

*Nicola de Lorenzo Prize in Composition* (UC Berkeley), 2005.

Graduate scholar traveling grant, (UC Berkeley), 2003.

2000 *Henry Mancini Award* (for excellence and promise in film scoring).

**COMPOSITION AWARDS & COMMISSIONS (SELECTED)**

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The National Opera of Greece, Experimental Stage, (Athens, Greece).  
Commission for one-act opera (*Chorevoume*), fully-staged production (April 9-13, 2008).

American Composers Orchestra Whitaker New Music Readings. Honorable mention, 2008.

Mediterranean Music Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> International Composition Competition:  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner for *La Tierra* (April, 2006).

The Hellenic Composers Union Award, 2004 (Gilbert Amy, president of jury),  
for *A Sort of Homecoming*, premiered in Athens, Greece, in March 2004. Work originally  
commissioned by the Athens Camerata, Friends of Music Orchestra.

American Music Center, Composer Assistance grant, 2004 for *A Sort of Homecoming*.

Festival Grand Prize, *Days of Contemporary Music*, Festival of Patras, 2005  
for *Réfractions d' une trajectoire sans but*, also commissioned by and premiered at the Festival of  
Patras, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Society of Composers-ASCAP regional winner, (Region VIII), 2004, 2005.  
for *Aeriko*, and *A Sort of Homecoming*.

The Alexander S. Onassis Foundation, (New York, NY).  
for *Le Météque* (premiered Nov. 2004, San Francisco, CA).

Alea III. (Boston, MA).  
for *Symplegades* (premiered Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> 2005, Boston, MA).

The Meridian Arts Ensemble. (New York, NY).  
for *Skins & Metals*, to be premiered in Oct.2008, in New York.

Duo Palmós (Netherlands)  
*Gaia* to be premiered in the Netherlands, Spring 2008.

The Hellenic Composers Union for Theodore Milkov, percussionist.  
*Cochleas*, premiered on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2006 in Athens, Greece.

Les Directions Régionales des Affaires Culturelles, Ile de France  
(French Ministry of Culture) Project "*musique à l'encre fraîche*"  
*Mirage*, for Student Wind Ensemble, premiered on June 28<sup>th</sup> 2006 in Paris, France.

**ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS/ACHIEVEMENTS**

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- The Oakland Cathedral of the Ascension, Oakland, CA. Music Director (2006-present).
- The Worn Chamber Ensemble, San Francisco, CA. Composer in Residence (2003-present).  
Programming, commissioning, grant-writing, educational outreach (2004 - present).
- The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players.  
Assistant to music director, David Milnes, 2003-4.  
Technology and Electronic Realization Consultant, 2003 & 2007.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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- **University of California, Berkeley**, as a Lecturer (2006-present):  
*Composition*, (Music 155B). Instructor-of-record, Spring 2008.

*18<sup>th</sup> Century Counterpoint*. (Music 154B). Instructor-of-record, Spring 2008

*20<sup>th</sup> Century Harmony* (Music 151). Instructor-of-record, Spring 2008.

Graduate Level Independent Studies (Music 299): 1 student (Composition),  
1 student (Analysis/ Master's Exam Preparation) Spring 2008.

Undergraduate Level Independent Studies (Music 199):

3 students (Composition/Orchestration/Analysis) Spring 2008.

*Composition* (Music 155A). Instructor-of-record, Fall 2007.

*16<sup>th</sup> Century Counterpoint* (Music 154A). Instructor-of-record, Fall 2007.

*Topics in Musical Analysis* (Music 156). Instructor-of-record, Fall 2007.

Graduate Level Independent Studies (Music 299): 2 students (composition), Fall 2007.

Undergraduate Level Independent Studies (Music 199): 2 students (composition/orchestration).

*Graduate Seminar in Composition* (Music 204). Instructor-of-record, Spring 2007.

*Orchestration* (Music 157B). Instructor-of-record, Spring 2007.

- **John Adams Young Composers Program at the Crowden School**, Berkeley, CA (2007-2008):

Theory, Advanced Musicianship & Composition (Level V), and

Music Director of the *Crowden Young Composers Orchestra*.

- **Centre de Création Musicale, Iannis Xenakis**, Paris, France (2005-06):

Individual and Group Instruction in Composition, Theory, Development and Trends.

Project Direction and Technical Assistance for the 8-month course in Electronic Composition

Also, principal instructor of course:

*Applications of Electronic Music Techniques and Principals in Instrumental Writing*. 2005-2006.

- **University of California, Berkeley**, as a Graduate Student Instructor (2002-2005):

1<sup>st</sup> Year *Harmony* (Music 64B). Instructor-of-record, Spring 2005.

*Introduction to Music Theory* (Music 20B). Instructor-of-record, Fall 2004.

*Musicianship* (Music 20A). Instructor-of-record, Fall 2003.

*Counterpoint*, (Music 154B), Cindy Cox, Instructor: Teaching Assistant/Grader, Spring 2004.

- **The Hellenic Conservatory**, Athens, Greece (1987-1989):

Music Theory & Musicianship Instructor.

- Private teaching of classical guitar technique and repertoire, 1987- present.

#### Guest Teaching/Lecture Engagements

- **University of California Berkeley**, (March 2008):

Guest Lecture in the Film Department. Topic: Composing for Film.

- **Rutgers University**, Camden, NJ (January 2008):

Guest Lecture in the Fine Arts Department. Topic: Composing Time and Space.

- **San Francisco Conservatory**, San Francisco, CA (July 2007):

Guest Lecturer in the Young Composers Summer Composition Program, Alexis Alrich, instructor.

- **University of California, Berkeley**, (February 2005):  
Composition Colloquium.
- **University of California, Los Angeles** (Dec. 2001):  
Guest speaker, Graduate Composition Seminar, Paul Chihara, Instructor.  
Topics: *Spectral Music: Principals, Development and Current Trends*,  
Working with Audiosculpt software (April 2004).
- **State of California Subject Examination for Teachers** (Sacramento, CA).  
Scorer (evaluation committee for certification of high-school music teachers), 2004-5.

## RESEARCH AND THEORETICAL WRITINGS

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*Musicians and Composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (Salem Press, 2008):

Essays on Igor Stravinsky, Iannis Xenakis, Witold Lutoslawski and Jerry Goldsmith.

*An Interview with Philippe Leroux*. Computer Music Journal (MIT Press), upcoming issue.

*An Interview with Trevor Wishart*. Computer Music Journal (MIT Press), upcoming issue.

*Solo String Lines: Linear Construction in the String Concertos of W.Lutoslawski* (2003).

*Spectral vs. Tonal Tendencies In Magnus Lindberg's 'Corrente'* (2002).

*Franco Donatoni's: 'Refrain.' Use of Process and Interpolation* (2001).

*Open Strings: An Analysis of Luciano Berio's Guitar Sequenza* (2004).

*Nikos Skalkottas: 12-tone technique in 'Largo Symphonico'* (in progress).

## ARTIST RESIDENCIES

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- Cité Internationale Des Arts, Paris, France. (Composer Residency). (Sept. 2005- Aug. 2006).
- Yaddo Corporation, Saratoga NY. (Composer Fellow). (March 2005).
- Artists' Enclave at I-Park, East Haddam, CT. (Composer Residency). (November, 2006).

## MUSIC FESTIVALS

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- Wellesley Composers Conference (Composer fellow-2008).
- Aspen Music Festival (composer fellow-2003). Composition studies with Sydney Hodkinson.
- Ernest Bloch Music Festival (composer fellow-2004). Composition studies with Bernard Rands.
- Contemporary Greek Music Creation. Athens Concert Hall (Megaron), Greece, 2004.
- Music X (Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music) (composer fellow-2004). Composition studies with Frederick Rzewsky, Kaija Saariaho.
- Le Domaine Forget, 2006. New Music Symposium, Montreal, Canada. (composer fellow).  
Composition studies with Denys Bouliane, Jean Lasage.

## ADDITIONAL RELATED & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

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- Centre de Création Musicale, Iannis Xenakis, Paris, France.  
Intensive program in Electronic Music, (June 2001).
- Center for New Music and Audio Technology (CNMAT), Berkeley, CA.  
Summer Workshop in Max/MSP software (2004).
- UCLA Extension, Certificate Program in Film Scoring (1994-1995).
- Musicians Institute, Los Angeles, CA.  
Diploma in jazz guitar and improvisation studies (1989-1991).
- Los Angeles Recording Workshop  
Certificate in recording engineering and music production techniques (1993).

## PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

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- CONDUCTING:  
Studies with David Milnes (2001-04), Don Neuen, choral conducting (2000), Jeffrey Schindler (1998-2000).  
  
University Symphony UC Berkeley (2001-2)  
Assistant conductor to Music Director David Milnes.  
Rehearsal conducting, Orchestra Personnel manager, Concert Planning, Musician Contracting,  
  
University Chorus UC Berkeley:  
Assistant conductor to Music Director Marika Kuzma.  
Chorus Preparation, Rehearsal Conducting, Concert Planning, Spring 2004  
  
UCLA Philharmonia:  
Conductor for Film Scoring Seminar, Fall 2000.
- GUITAR:  
Classical repertoire solo concerts in Greece, 1980-1989.  
Jazz and improvisational guitar performance with various groups in Los Angeles,  
1990-2000.

## MULTI-MEDIA PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Freelance work as an arranger, orchestrator, conductor and producer on several feature-films and television projects (Los Angeles, 1991-2000).

## MUSIC TECHNOLOGY EXPERIENCE

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- Extensive experience in studio design and maintenance, control room acoustics and wiring.
- Knowledge of MIDI equipment (samplers, synthesizers, digital mixers etc.), setup, operation and maintenance.
- In-depth knowledge of recording techniques (studio and field), microphone placement and console signal-flow, tape machine operation and hard-disk recording, mixing and mastering.  
Music-related Software proficiency (partial list):
- Composing Environments/Real-time processing: Max/MSP, KYMA, Upic, Composer Desktop Project, Audiosculpt, Open Music.

- Hard Disk Recording/Editing: Pro-Tools, Digital Performer, Peak.
- Notation: Sibelius, Finale.

## TEACHING INTERESTS

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- Undergraduate courses:  
Composition. Orchestration. Musicianship. Theory. Harmony. Counterpoint. Electronic Music. Audio Techniques for Musicians. Film Scoring Techniques. Jazz (history and theory). Music of the Balkans. Contemporary Notation, Analysis.
- Graduate Seminars:  
20<sup>th</sup> Century Aesthetics and Directions. Composing for Guitar. Technique and Aesthetics of Film Scoring. Seminar in Orchestration topics. Perception and Cognition. Modern Notation seminar. Composing for large Ensembles. Improvisation for Composers. Seminar in Electronic Music.

## COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF COMPOSITIONS

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- *Skins & Metals* (in progress).  
for brass quintet & perc. New work commissioned by the Meridian arts Ensemble.
- *String Quartet* (in progress).  
New work, commissioned by the *Del Sol* String Quartet.
- *Vertices* (2008)  
for Flute, Clarinet and Percussion.  
1<sup>st</sup> performance: *La Chapelle Historique du Bon Pasteur*, Montreal, Canada, April 22, 2008.  
Ensemble *In Extensio*.
- *The Flyer* (2006, revised 2007).  
for Orchestra and Film Projection.  
1<sup>st</sup> performance: Hertz Hall, Berkeley, CA, December 7, 8, 2007.  
Berkeley University Symphony, David Milnes, conductor.
- *PrEseNT(E)* (2007).  
for Flute, Cello and Piano. Commissioned by the City of Chania, in honor of MIT researcher Michail Bletsas.  
1<sup>st</sup> performance: Arsenali, Chania, Greece, July 11, 2007.  
The Worn Chamber Ensemble, Yiorgos Vassilandonakis, cond.
- *4e4ras* (2007).  
for Flute (alto fl.) Baritone Saxophone, Viola, Guitar.  
1<sup>st</sup> performance: École Nationale de Musique et de Danse, Erik Satie, Paris, France, June 29, 2007. Ensemble Cairn.
- *Chorevoume (Dance with me)* one-act Opera (2007, minor revisions: 2008).  
For Soprano, Mezzo-soprano, Tenor, Baritone, fl (picc.), cl (bs. cl), hrn, tbn, pno, perc, 2 vlns, vla, Vc, Cb.  
Libretto by Klairie Lionaki.  
1st performances: April 11, 15, 16, 18 2008, the Greek National Opera, Athens, Greece.
- *Oracles* (2006).  
Poem cycle by Dimitris Kraniotis for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano (text in Greek and French).
- *Thalassinó* (2006).  
for large Orchestra.  
1<sup>st</sup> performance: Hertz Hall, Berkeley, CA, March 2, 3, 2007.  
Berkeley University Symphony, David Milnes, conductor.
- *Air-scapes* (2006).  
for Flute (alto flute), Alto Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone.  
1<sup>st</sup> performance: Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France, June 6, 2006.

Dennis Shafer & Per Wallmyr, saxophones, Felicia Van End, Flutes.

- *6X6X6* (2006)

6 (+1) miniatures for guitar sextet.

1<sup>st</sup> performance: Athens, Greece, March 2006.

*GuitArte* Ensemble, Yiorgos Vassilandonakis, conductor.

2<sup>nd</sup> performance: San Francisco, CA December 10, 2007.

The San Francisco conservatory Guitar Ensemble, David Tanenbaum, director.

- *Cochleas* (2005).

for solo percussion.

1<sup>st</sup> performance: Athens, Greece, March 2006.

Theodore Milkov, percussion.

2<sup>nd</sup> round of performances: Eastern US and Canada tour (2008-09).

Fabrice Marandola, percussion.

- *Symplegades II* for orchestra (2005).

[3 fl.(picc.), 3 ob.(eng. Hn.), 3 clar.(bs. cl.), 3 bsn.(contra), 4 hrn., 3 trp., 3 trb., Tba., hrp., pno., timp., 4 perc., strings]

- *Réfractions d'une trajectoire sans but* (2005).

for fl., cl., (bs. cl), perc., pno., vln., vla., vc.

1<sup>st</sup> performance: Patras Contemporary Music Days Festival, August 4, 2005.

The Hellenic Contemporary Ensemble, Theodore Antoniou, conductor.

2<sup>nd</sup> performance: Hertz Hall, Berkeley, CA, February 2, 2006.

Berkeley Contemporary Music Players, David Milnes, conductor.

3<sup>rd</sup> performance: Domaine Forget Festival, Quebec, Canada, August 3, 2006.

The Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Lauraine Vailancourt, conductor.

- *Elsewhere Thread* (2005).

for mezzo-soprano, & Cello. Text by Margaret Ronda.

1<sup>st</sup> performance: CNMAT, Berkeley, CA, May 2005.

*Juliana* (2005).

for soprano & guitar. Text by Swati Rana.

1<sup>st</sup> performance: CNMAT, Berkeley, CA, May 2005.

- *Lux Aeterna* (2005).

for off-stage soprano, mixed chorus in 3 groups dispersed in the hall & strings (multi-lingual text).

- *Lux Aeterna* (2005).

for SSAATB (Latin text).

- *Symplegades* for chamber orchestra (2005).

[fl., ob., clar., bsn., hrn., trp., trb., pno., 2 perc., 2 vln., vla., vc., cb.]

1<sup>st</sup> performance: Tsai Performance Center, Boston, MA, February 16, 2005.

Alea III, Theodore Antoniou, conductor.

- *Le Métèque* (2004)

[fl. (picc., alto fl.), clar. (bs. clar.), 2 trp., hrn., trb., tba., pno., perc., cb.]

1<sup>st</sup> performance: Presidio Main Chapel, San Francisco, CA, November 2004.

The Meridian Arts Ensemble & the Worn Chamber Ensemble, David Milnes, conductor.

- *La Tierra* (2004)

text by Pablo Neruda

[soprano, hrn., vln., vc., pno.]

1<sup>st</sup> performance: Ernest Bloch Festival, July 2004.

Festival Contemporary Ensemble, Henry Mollicone, conductor.

2<sup>nd</sup> performance: 3<sup>rd</sup> International Composers Competition, Lamia, Greece, April 6, 2006.

Members of the Orchestra of Colors, Miltos Logiades, conductor.

3<sup>rd</sup> performance: Athens Concert Hall (Megaron), Athens, Greece, January 13, 2007.

The Hellenic Contemporary Ensemble, Theodore Antoniou, conductor.

- *A Sort of Homecoming* (2004)

[2 vln., 2 vla., vc., cb.]

1<sup>st</sup> performance: The Athens Concert Hall (Megaron), Athens, Greece, March 5, 2004. members of the Athens Camerata, Theodore Antoniou, conductor.

2<sup>nd</sup> performance: First Congregational Church, Berkeley, CA.

Berkeley Contemporary Players, David Milnes, conductor.

3<sup>rd</sup> performance: Orinda Community Church, Orinda, CA.

The Worn Chamber Ensemble, David Milnes, conductor.

4<sup>th</sup> performance: Presidio Main Chapel, San Francisco, CA, April 10, 2004.

The Worn Chamber Ensemble, David Milnes, conductor.

5<sup>th</sup> performance: Presidio Main Chapel, San Francisco, CA, April 20, 2007.

The Worn Chamber Ensemble, David Milnes, conductor.

6<sup>th</sup> performance: Hertz Hall, Berkeley, CA, May 13, 2007.

The Worn Chamber Ensemble, David Milnes, conductor.

- *Aeriko* (2003)

[vln., vc., pno., perc.]

1<sup>st</sup> performance: Aspen Music Festival, Aspen, CO, July 2003.

The Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, Ching-chu Ho, conductor.

2<sup>nd</sup> performance: Music 04, Cincinnati, OH, June 2004.

Festival Ensemble, Robert Denham, conductor.

- *Chordai* (2002-3)

[mandolin, guitar, vln., vla., cb.]

- *Tempi Cambiati* (2002)

[fl. (picc.), cl. (bs. clar.), ob., bsn., hrn., trp., trb., pno., perc., 2 vln., vla., vc., cb.]

1<sup>st</sup> performance: hertz Hall, Berkeley, CA, March 2002,

Berkeley Contemporary Players, David Milnes, conductor.

- *Katoptron* (2001)

[2 pno., perc.]

1<sup>st</sup> performance: Hertz Hall, Berkeley, CA, December 2001.

Mei-fang Lin & Hubert Ho, pianos, Russell Greenberg, percussion.

- *Concertino for Wind Ensemble* (2000/2006)

[picc., 4 fl., 12 clar., 4 ob., (engl. hrn.), 4 bsn. (contra), sopr. Sax, 2 alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, 6 hrn., 4 trp., 4 trb., 2 euph., 2 tba., timp., 4 perc., cb.]

Also, version for student ensemble (college level), (2006): [picc. 4 fl., 6 clar. (min.), 2 ob. (eng. hrn.), 1 bsn.,

sopr. sax, 3 alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, 2 hrn, 3 trp, 3 cnt, 2 trb, 2 euph, tba, timp, 4 perc.]

1<sup>st</sup> performance: Schoenberg Hall, Los Angeles, CA, May 2000.

UCLA Wind Ensemble, Thomas Lee, conductor.

2<sup>nd</sup> performance: Paris, France, June 2006.

The Persan Wind Ensemble, Patrick Laviron, conductor.

- *Monogramma* (2000)

text by Odysseas Elytis.

for orchestra [2fl., 2 cl., 2 ob., 2 bsn., 4 hrn., 3 trp., 3 trb., tba., timp., 3 perc., hrp., strings] and chorus [SATB]

- *Omphalio loro* (2000)

[fl., clar., pno., vln., vla., vc.]

1<sup>st</sup> performance: Jan Popper Hall, Los Angeles, CA, June 2000.

UCLA contemporary ensemble, David Fick, conductor.

- *Fanfare for Orchestra* (1999)

[3fl. (picc.), 3 clar. (bs. clar.), 3 ob., 3 bsn. (contra), 4hrn., 3 trp., 3 trb., tba., timp.,

3 perc., pno., strings]

1<sup>st</sup> performance, Schoenberg Hall, Los Angeles, CA, May 1999.

The UCLA Philharmonia, Yiorgos Vassilandonakis, conductor.

- *3 Brushstrokes for String Quartet* (1998)

[2 vln., vla., vc.]

1<sup>st</sup> performance: Jan Popper Hall, Los Angeles, CA, December 1998.

2<sup>nd</sup> performance: Jan Popper Hall, Los Angeles, CA, December 1999.

- *5 Greek Dances* (1997)

for piano.

- *Contemplation* (1996)

for violin.

- *4 Etudes* for solo guitar (1995, currently revised and completed for future publication).

#### COMPOSITIONS FOR MEDIA

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- Film: *The Flyer*, dir. David Green, (2004).  
*Asia-Beyond the Miracle*, dir. Bill Megalos, (1997).  
*Angelmaker*, dir. Zev Berman. (Cine Golden Eagle Award), (1998).  
*Very Good at Smiling*, dir. Susan Eisner. Best short film award, Texas and Santa Barbara Film Festivals, (1995).  
*The Gods of Skidrow*, dir. Alki David. Proto Entertainment (1994).
- Theatre: *Antigone* by Sophocles. Skylight Theatre, Los Angeles, (1993).  
*A Greek Wedding*. Culver City Theatre, (1996).
- TV: National-Panasonic cable television commercial, (1998).  
*Tip-Off*. Network television Public Service Announcement, (1997).  
*The Game of the Century*. ESPN special, (1996).
- Theme Park: *Dragon Quest*. Pre-ride show at Universal Studios, Hollywood (2000).

#### LANGUAGES SPOKEN (other than English)

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Greek: fluent reading, writing and conversation.

French: fluent reading, writing and conversation.

German: intermediate reading, writing; basic conversation.

#### PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES/AFFILIATIONS

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American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), Hellenic Composers Union, College Music Society (CMS), American Music Center, Society of Composers, Inc., Golden Key International Honour Society.