Catalin Popa

Music educator · Composer · Instrumentalist

Original compositions: soundcloud.com/catalin-popa-16



PROFILE

Music educator, composer and instrumentalist with a degree in Music, specialising in Music Pedagogy. Professional practice spans teaching, ensemble coaching, film scoring and live productions across classical, rock, blues, jazz and folk music. Academic interests include music and cultural heritage, audiovisual storytelling, digital approaches to documenting and sharing musical culture, music education and collaborative artistic practice.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

2009 | Bachelor's degree in Music - Music Pedagogy

Spiru Haret University, Faculty of Music, Bucharest, Romania.
Romanian qualification: **Diplomă de licență - Licențiat în muzică**.

1991-2003 | School and secondary education in music

Hariclea Darclée music school and arts high school, Brăila, Romania.
Principal study: violin (grades I-VII), then viola (grades VIII-XII). Training in music theory, orchestral performance and chamber music.
2003: Certificate of Professional Competence - instrumental technician, viola.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025-present | Guitar, Music Theory & Piano Teacher

Academia de Talente Ella Gondos.
Teach guitar, music theory and piano.

2024-2025 | Music Teacher - Little Genius School

Taught music to school pupils.

2015-2024 | Music Teacher & Band Coach - Voltaj Academy

Taught guitar, bass guitar, music theory and music history. Formed and coached student bands for live performances, including appearances at Sala Palatului, Sala Polivalentă and Hard Rock Cafe, and on Magic FM and Europa FM.

2014-2015 | Guitar & Music Theory Teacher - Kids Culture Club

Taught guitar and music theory in an after-school setting.

2009-2010 | Music Teacher - Lycée Français Anna de Noailles

Taught music theory, violin and guitar.

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Musical practice: instrumental performance and teaching, ensemble coaching, composition and orchestration for film and live productions.
Instruments: violin, viola, guitar, bass guitar and piano.
Audio production: composition, recording, audio and MIDI editing, mixing and mastering.
Software: Audacity · Cubase · Pro Tools.
Languages: Romanian - Native; English - Advanced.

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CREATIVE & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022 | Composer - The Lion's Den

Composed music for the film **The Lion's Den**.
Portfolio example: Eva - listen on SoundCloud, an original composition created for the film.

2015 | Composer & Instrumentalist - ALTCEVA-uri

Composed music for the folk album **ALTCEVA-uri**; contributed violin, guitar and orchestration.
ALTCEVA-uri - listen on YouTube.

2013-2014 | Composer & Manager - Audio Gate Studio

Worked as composer and manager at Audio Gate Studio.

2014 | Composer - Thracian Traces

Composed Thracian Traces for Pe urmele tracilor, an unaired historical television programme developed for TVR 1.

2010-2013 | Composer & Performer - Globus Circus, Bucharest

Composed music for circus acts, including Last Tango for Profețiile Mayașe (2012). Performed original music live on violin and guitar with the band K1.

2009 | Violinist - Swing of Death, Norway

Performed live on violin in the **Swing of Death** project alongside guitarist Trond Holter (Wig Wam).

2007-2008 | Performer & Project Manager - Callatis Eurotour

Performed on violin and guitar during European tours. Worked as project manager on **Balade din Carpați**, with guest artists including Ricky Dandel, Elvin Dandel, Vlad Rădescu and Felicia Filip.

2006-2013 | Violinist, Guitarist & Composer - K1 & Felicia Filip

Worked as an instrumentalist and composer in live musical collaborations.

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

The Lion's Den | Best Foreign Film

Hollywood Florida Film Festival. Award received by the film; contribution: composer.

2014 - Special Prize, Festivalul Castanilor - violin.
2013 - Performance Prize, Festivalul Castanilor - violin.
2011 - Clownul Muzical (Musical Clown) Excellence Award, Galele Circului, 11th edition - guitar; individual award.
2011 - Leul de Aur (Golden Lion) and Best Music Award, International Circus Arts Festival, 3rd edition - awards received with the band.
2011 - Instrumental Mastery Prize, Festivalul Castanilor - violin.
2010 - Carol Miculi Instrumental Mastery Prize, La Suceava, în cetate - violin.
2010 - Adelina Cardei Special Prize, La Suceava, în cetate - violin.
2003 - Merit Diploma, Brăila County School Inspectorate / Palatul Copiilor - musical instruments.
2002 - Diploma of Honour, Trison Choir.
2002 - Diploma for Outstanding Merit, Brăila County School Inspectorate / Palatul Copiilor - musical instruments.
2001 - First Prize, Baladele Dunării - viola.
1999 - First Prize, Valurile Dunării - violin; Second Prize, George Georgescu - viola.
1997-2000 - First prizes at music festivals in Botoșani, ensemble category - violin and guitar.
School distinctions - Ministry of Education diplomas of excellence: viola (grades VIII-XII); violin and music theory (grades V-VII).