

Mesut Özgen

Program Coordinator for Guitar Area
Director of Miami International GuitART Festival
Florida International University School of Music
Phone: 305-348-7646 • E-Mail: mozgen@fiu.edu
Website: www.mesutozgen.com

Education

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| D.M.A. (Doctor of Musical Arts) School of Music, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona | 2006 |
| M.M. (Master of Music) School of Music, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut | 1994 |
| A.D. (Artist Diploma) School of Music, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut | 1993 |
| M.D. (Doctor of Medicine) School of Medicine, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey | 1984 |

Employment

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| • Senior Instructor, Guitar Area Program Coordinator, School of Music, Florida International University, Miami | 2019- |
| • Director of Miami International GuitART Festival, School of Music, Florida International University, Miami | 2016- |
| • Fulltime Instructor, Guitar Area Program Coordinator, School of Music, Florida International University, Miami | 2013- |
| • Guitar Faculty, Department of Music, University of California, Santa Cruz | 1998-2013 |
| • Artistic Director and Conductor, Santa Cruz Guitar Orchestra, California | 2010-2013 |
| • Artist in Residence, Mello Center and Pajaro Valley Performing Arts Association, Watsonville, California | 2003-04 |
| • Teaching Assistant, School of Music, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona | 1994-98 |
| • Teaching Assistant, School of Music, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut | 1993-94 |
| • Guitar Faculty, School of Music Education, Gazi University, Turkey | 1989-91 |
| • Guitar Faculty, Classical Guitar Club, Hacettepe University, Turkey | 1987-91 |
| • Physician (MD), Public Health Centers and Sports Health Centers, Turkey | 1984-91 |

Creative Activity

Selected Recent Performances (Solo, Chamber Music, and Conducting)

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| • World premiere of Guitar Concerto by Fredrick Kaufman, soloist Mesut Özgen and FIU Festival Orchestra conducted by Javier Mendoza, Miami International GuitART Festival Opening Concert, WPAC Concert Hall, Miami FL | February 17, 2020 |
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- “Scenes from Ellis Island”, FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra Concert, February 23, 2020
directed and conducted by Mesut Özgen, WPAC Concert Hall,
Miami FL
- Solo concert and masterclass, as part of the Suoni Dal Legno July 28, 2019
International Guitar Festival, Todi, Italy
- Solo concert and masterclass, as part of the Turkey International June 20-23, 2019
Guitar Festival, Ankara, Turkey
- Solo concert and masterclass, as part of the Nordhorn Guitar April 24-28, 2019
Festival, Nordhorn, Germany
- Aksak Duo violin and guitar concert with violinist Cihat Askin, February 20, 2019
Miami International GuitART Festival Opening Concert, WPAC
Concert Hall, Miami FL
- Solo concert and masterclass, as part of the Thailand International November 9-11, 2018
Guitar Festival, Bangkok, Thailand
- Solo concert, as part of the Gallery Concert Series, Ellenburg, WA October 28, 2018
- Solo concert, as part of the Milano Classical Guitar Festival, Milan, September 21, 2018
Italy
- Solo concert, as part of the Treasure Coast Classical Guitar Society August 10, 2018
Concert Series, Stuart, FL
- Solo concert and masterclass, as part of the Suoni dal legno July 28-31, 2018
International Guitar Festival, Todi, Italy
- “Guaguanco”, FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra Concert, directed and April 16, 2018
conducted by Mesut Özgen, WPAC Concert Hall, Miami FL
- Solo concert and masterclass, as part of the 17th Radford University April 5-7, 2018
International Guitar Festival, Covington Center Concert Hall,
Radford VA
- “Leo Brouwer Tribute Concert” chamber works with Amernet String February 21, 2018
Quartet, as part of the Miami International GuitART Festival,
WPAC Concert Hall, Miami FL
- “A lo cubano” Miami International GuitART Festival Opening February 19, 2018
Concert, WPAC Concert Hall, Miami FL
- “Criolla para Adelita”, FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra Concert, November 14, 2017
directed and conducted by Mesut Özgen, WPAC Concert Hall,
Miami FL
- Solo concert and masterclass, as part of the Lahontan International July 9-12, 2017
Guitar Festival, Navarrenx, France
- Solo concert and masterclass, Music Center Recital Hall, University May 18-19, 2017
of California, Santa Cruz, California

- Miami International GuitART Festival Opening Concert, solo and duo works with Celso Cano, WPAC Concert Hall, Miami FL February 20, 2017
- “Orient Express” guitar and piano concert with pianist Hande Dalkilic, as part of the FIU Music Festival, WPAC Concert Hall, Miami FL October 28, 2016
- Solo concert and masterclass, as part of the Galeria en Concierto Series, Centro Cultural Bertolt Brecht, Havana, Cuba April 9, 2016
- “Anatolian Fantasy” solo concert, as part of Arts at St. John’s Concert Series, Miami Beach FL April 2, 2016
- “Scenes from Ellis Island”, FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra Concert, directed and conducted by Mesut Özgen, WPAC Concert Hall, Miami FL February 27, 2016
- Miami International GuitART Festival Opening Concert, solo and duo works with Celso Cano, WPAC Concert Hall, Miami FL February 24, 2016
- “GuitART Stars” solo and duo works with Celso Cano, Florida Turkish Center, Fort Lauderdale FL November 21, 2015
- “Snapshots of Home” solo concert, as part of Arts at St. John’s Concert Series, Miami Beach FL October 10, 2015
- “Guitar Nebula” solo and duo works with Celso Cano, Stocker AstroScience Center, Miami FL July 24, 2015
- “Mountain Mission” FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra Concert, directed and conducted by Mesut Özgen, Wolfsonian-FIU, Miami Beach, FL April 10, 2015
- “Blue Journey” Chamber Music by Mesut Özgen with Amernet String Quartet, Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall, Miami, FL February 27, 2015
- “La Convivencia” Mesut Özgen and Karen Schoenhals, as part of Arts at St. John’s Concert Series, Miami Beach, FL January 24, 2015
- “Fragmentos del pasado” by Orlando Jacinto Garcia, Guitar and String Quartet Concert with Amernet Quartet, FIU Miami Beach Urban Studios, FL December 4, 2014
- “Plucked Baroque” Guitar and Harpsichord Duo Concert with Anthony Newman, WPAC Concert Hall, Miami, FL October 3, 2014

Compositions

- *In Honor of Lou Harrison (After Prince Cantemir)* for guitar and piano 2016
- *Miamiterranean* for voice, cello, and guitar 2016
- *Istanbul Express* for string quartet and guitar 2015

- *Istanbul Espresso* for guitar orchestra, soprano, mandolin, electric guitar, bass 2013
- *Istanbul Express* for flute, piccolo, soprano, cello, and piano, commissioned by Santa Cruz Chamber Players 2013
- *Rumeli Türküsü* for violin and guitar 2012
- *Moldavian-Turkish Medley* for violin and guitar 2012
- *Blue Journey* for flute, cello, and guitar, commissioned by Santa Cruz Chamber Players 2011
- *Vira Sevda (based on a Turkish Song by Bilge Özgen)* for flute, cello, and guitar 2010
- *Two Spanish Songs (on Poetry by Luís Cernuda)* for soprano and guitar, commissioned by Jessamine deLancey 2007
- *Rumeli Türküsü* for flute and guitar 2006
- *Etude No. 2 "Alla Villa-Giuliani"* for guitar 2004
- *Vira Sevda (based on a Turkish Song by Bilge Özgen)* for guitar 2003
- *Tango Cruz* for guitar 2000
- *Anatolian Fantasy*, for guitar, commissioned by Mark Hilliard Wilson 1999
- *Three Turkish Folk Songs* for oboe, cello, and two guitars, commissioned by guitarist Kevin McDowell 1999
- *Yemen Türküsü* for two guitars 1990

Arrangements

- *Cantigas de Santa Maria* ("Porque trobar" and "Des oge mais quer eu trobar" ca. 12th century) arranged for two guitars and percussion 2015
- *Trio Sonata No. 6 BWV 530 for organ* by J.S. Bach arranged for guitar and harpsichord 2014
- *Aria from Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5* by Heitor Villa-Lobos arranged for soprano and guitar orchestra 2012
- *Contrapunctus No. 1 from the Art of Fugue* by J.S. Bach arranged for guitar orchestra 2011
- *Milonga "Canción al árbol del olvido"* for piano by Alberto Ginastera arranged for flute and guitar 2002
- *Quattro Arie Antiche* (Four Italian Love Songs by Caccini, Cesti, Carissimi, and A. Scarlatti) arranged for voice and guitar 1994
- *Rumores de la Caleta for piano* by Isaac Albeniz arranged for cello and guitar 1991
- *Petenera for solo guitar* by Regino Sainz de la Maza arranged for two guitars 1990

Selected Recent Performances of Özgen's Compositions

- *Rumeli Türküsü* for two guitars, performed by Federico Bonacossa and Mesut Özgen, Miami International GuitART Festival Opening Concert, WPAC Concert Hall, Miami FL Feb. 17, 2020
- *Katip & Aman Avcı* for voice, flute, and guitar, performed by Ecco Chamber Ensemble in the Northwest Folk Life Festival May 28, 2018
- *Anatolian Fantasy* for guitar, performed by Iliana Matos, Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Miami, FL Feb. 24, 2018
- *Aman Avcı* for voice, flute, and guitar, performed by Ecco Chamber Ensemble at 98.1 Classical K.I.N.G. FM, Seattle, WA April 28, 2017
- *In Honor of Lou Harrison* for guitar and piano, performed by Celil Refik Kaya and Sinan Cayir, Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Miami, FL Feb. 24, 2017
- *Blue Journey* for flute, cello, and guitar, performed by the New Music Works Ensemble, UCSC Music Center Recital Hall, Santa Cruz CA May 7, 2015
- *Mediterranean* for voice, cello, and guitar, world premiere by Trio Anka, Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Miami, FL Feb. 27, 2016
- *Rumeli Türküsü* for two guitars, Cuban premiere by Duo Con-Trastes, Havana, Cuba Nov. 17, 2015
- *Blue Journey* for flute, cello, and guitar, performed by the Chamber Project Saint Louis at Chamber Project on Tap, St. Louis MO May 7, 2015
- *Blue Journey* for flute, cello, and guitar, performed by the Chamber Project Saint Louis at World Chess Hall of Fame, St. Louis MO April 22, 2015

Compositions Written for Mesut Özgen

- *Voyages: The GuitART Concerto* for guitar and orchestra by Sergio Assad 2020
- *Concerto* for guitar and orchestra by Fredrick Kaufman 2019
- *Catalan Concertante* for two guitars, viola, and cello by Fredrick Kaufman 2017
- *Strum* for guitar ensemble by Philip Collins 2013
- *Dark Matter* for guitar and electronics by Jack Veas 2012
- *Four by Six* for violin and guitar by Robert Strizich 2011
- *Freak Folk* for violin and guitar by Pablo Ortiz 2011
- *Duet* for violin and guitar by Tolga Tüzün 2011
- *Pas de Deux* for violin and guitar by Christopher Pratorius 2011
- *A Wave in the Ocean* for violin and guitar by Ken Walicki 2011
- *News from Afar* for violin, guitar, and computer by David Evan Jones 2010

- *Continuation* for guitar by Philip Collins 2009
- *Peace Trilogy* for guitar and live electronics by Erdem Helvacioğlu 2008
- *Quadtório* for guitar ensemble by Jack Veas 2007
- *Snapshots by the Bay* for guitar ensemble by Christopher Pratorius 2007
- *Divining Rod* for solo guitar by Christopher Pratorius 2006
- *From the Major Arcana* for guitar by Anthony Newman 2006
- *Requiem* for guitar and computer by Peter Elsea 2006
- *Passacaglia, Sarabande, and Gigue* for guitar and harpsichord by Anthony Newman 2006
- *Verse Preverse* for guitar by Anthony Gilbert 2005
- *Suite (After Bach)* for guitar by David Cope with Experiments in Musical Intelligence 2004
- *Meditation on "Down by the Riverside"* for solo guitar by Robert Strizich 2004
- *Surya* for bansuri and guitar by Deepak Ram 2003
- *Sortija* for guitar by Pablo Ortiz 2003
- *Be Kind All the Time* for guitar and electronics by Benjamin Verdery 2003
- *Concerto* for guitar and orchestra by Yalçın Tura 2002
- *La Guitarra* for soprano, guitar, and percussion (on poetry by Federico García Lorca) by Robert Strizich 2002
- *Sonata: Ondas do mar de vigo* for guitar by Christopher Pratorius 2002
- *Three Baroque Miniatures* for guitar and harpsichord by Paul Nauert 2001
- *Pick and Roll* for guitar ensemble, two violins, soprano saxophone, and basketball by Benjamin Verdery 2001
- *Interpose* for computer generated tape and guitar by Charles Nichols 1999

Recordings

- CD: *Anatolian Fantasy: Özgen Plays Özgen*, Turquoise Guitar Editions 2013
- DVD: *New Dimensions in Classical Guitar: Mesut Özgen and Friends in a Multimedia Performance*, Turquoise Guitar Editions 2006
- CD: *Troubadour: Folk Inspired Classical Guitar Music*, Golden Horn Records 2004
- CD: *Cantemir: Music in Istanbul and Ottoman Europe around 1700*, classical Ottoman music and Moldavian Dances, with Ihsan Özgen, Linda Burman-Hall, and Lux Musica, Golden Horn Records 2004

Works in Progress

- CD in Progress: *Aksak Duo: Violin and Guitar Music* estimated release 2021
- CD in Progress: *Sortija: 21st Century Guitar Music* 2021
- Book in Progress: *Guitar Training Guidebook* 2021

Biography

Mesut Özgen has performed and taught master classes throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia, and has been the program coordinator for Guitar Area and director of FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra at the Florida International University School of Music since August 2013. He previously taught at the University of California, Santa Cruz from 1998-2013. Prizewinner of several international guitar competitions, Özgen has performed as featured soloist in many festivals, including the International Paco Peña Guitar Festival in Cordoba, Spain, Suoni dal legno International Guitar Festival in Todi, Italy, Milano Classical Guitar Festival in Italy, Thailand International Guitar Festival in Bangkok, Thailand, Lahontan International Guitar Festival in Navarrenx, France, Galeria en Concierto Series in Havana, Cuba, Nordhorn International Guitar Festival in Germany, Yale Guitar Extravaganza, Sierra Nevada Guitar Festival, Santa Cruz Baroque Festival, Healdsburg Guitar Festival, Smithsonian Museum, April in Santa Cruz: Contemporary Music Festival, Cabrillo College Distinguished Artists Series, New Music Miami Festival, Ankara METU Music and Art Festival, Kars Art Festival, Konya Mevlana (Rumi) Cultural Center, and Istanbul CRR Guitar Festival in Turkey among others.

As a performer, Özgen has collaborated with many renowned musicians, such as Anthony Newman (harpsichord/piano/organ), Deepak Ram (bansuri), Benjamin Verdery (guitar), Cihat Aşkın (violin), Ihsan Özgen (kemençe/tanbur), Neva Özgen (kemençe), Thomas Stacy (English Horn), Lars Johannesson (flute), Amy Brodo (cello), Patrice Maginnis (soprano), Celso Cano (guitar), Shelley Phillips (oboe/French Horn), William Coulter (steel string guitar), and Linda Burman-Hall (harpsichord).

As a pedagogue, Özgen has published a book entitled "Designing Technical Training Programs for Classical Guitarists Based on Exercise Physiology Principles." In this extensive research book, he combined information from various sub-disciplines of kinesiology, including functional anatomy, biomechanics, and exercise physiology, as they relate to guitar playing.

As a composer, he has received commissions from musicians, universities, and chamber music organizations. Özgen's compositions are mainly based on or influenced by traditional Turkish music. Among his other influences are Spanish composer Joaquin Rodrigo's use of flamenco music and Turkish scholar/composer Yalçın Tura's harmonization techniques.

Özgen has also long been a strong advocate of new music for guitar and frequently collaborates with other composers. Composers who have written solo, concerto, and chamber music for Özgen include Anthony Newman, Anthony Gilbert, Fredrick Kaufman, Pablo Ortiz, Benjamin Verdery, Deepak Ram, Christopher Pratorius, Robert Strizich, Charles Nichols, Paul Nauert, Yalçın Tura, Jack Vees, David Evan Jones, David Cope, Erdem Helvacıoglu, Peter Elsea, Ken Walicki, Tolga Tüzün, and Philip Collins.

Özgen's solo CD "Troubadour" on Golden Horn Records feature classical guitar works inspired by Turkish, Spanish, Argentinean, and American folk traditions and was reviewed by the *Acoustic Guitar* magazine as "stunningly versatile and expressive throughout." Özgen's "Anatolian Fantasy" CD features entirely his own compositions for solo and duo guitar, as well as chamber music with kemençe,

voice, flute, and cello. The *Classical Guitar* magazine described Özgen as a “highly accomplished and exciting player who gets the most out of the music he plays.” His 2006 Telly award-winner multimedia concert DVD "New Dimensions in Classical Guitar" on Turquoise Guitar Editions includes premiere performances of new guitar works with visual accompaniments comprising video, interactive computer images, and particularized lighting design, as a collaboration across artistic disciplines. It was reviewed by the *Classical Guitar* magazine as "the finest music DVD ever to have come my way, remarkable achievement."

Özgen received Master of Music and Artist Diploma from Yale School of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts from Arizona State University, as well as an MD from Hacettepe University Medical School, Turkey. He was the first guitarist to be awarded the “Dean’s Prize,” the highest honorary prize at the Yale School of Music, where he studied with Benjamin Verdery. He has been founder and director of Miami International GuitART Festival at FIU since 2016. Among the awards he has received for the festival include Knight Arts Challenge of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and Art Works Grant of the National Endowment for the Arts.