

Alisa R. Gukasian

Violinist | Educator | Researcher

Los Angeles, California | alisagukasian@gmail.com | alisagukasian.com

Education

University of California, Los Angeles 2026-present

Doctor of Musical Arts in Violin Performance | Varty Manouelian

University of California, Los Angeles 2024-2026

Master of Music in Violin Performance | Movses Pogossian and Varty Manouelian

California State University, Northridge 2019-2022

Bachelor of Music in Orchestral Strings and Bachelor of Arts in History, with honors | Lorenz Gamma

Glendale Community College 2017-2019

Undergraduate coursework in music and history; transferred to CSUN

Advanced Study and Masterclasses

Private violin study with Patty Kopec 2024-present

The Colburn School 2015-2019

Precollege study in violin, chamber music, and theory | Joe Ketendjian

Selected masterclasses

- Performed for James Ehnes, Amy Schwartz Moretti, Kyung Sun Lee, and Martin Beaver.

Music Festivals and Institutes

Sounding Point Academy 2026

- Studied with Fabiola Kim and David Halen; intensive solo and technical training.

Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music 2025

Nelson, New Hampshire

- Chamber music study and performance; masterclasses with Movses Pogossian, Jesse MacDonald, and Maiani da Silva.

Borromeo Music Festival 2023

Altdorf, Switzerland

- Performed in festival programs and participated in chamber music study.

Selected Performance Experience

Master of Music Recital, UCLA May 2026

- Solo and chamber program featuring Bach, Schumann, Paganini, Tchaikovsky, Gluck, and Grace L. Miedziak.

Dilijan Chamber Music Concert Series November 2025

Los Angeles, California | Season 17, Concert 2

CSUN ChamberFest, invited alumna 2025

- Performed Andrew Norman's Octet with faculty and guest artists.

Premiere of Haim Shtrum's Caprice for Solo Violin 2021

Teaching and Coaching

Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences 2025-present

EMMI and K-12 Instrumental Assistant | Santa Monica, California

- Coach students and ensembles and support rehearsals and instrumental music programming across grade levels.
- Coordinate performance materials, auditions, guest musicians, contracts, field trips, and student program logistics.
- Manage scores and parts and substitute-conduct the Middle School Orchestra as needed.

Colburn Chamber Music Intensive 2026

Chamber Music Coach and Program Assistant | Los Angeles, California

- Coached young chamber musicians and supported faculty, rehearsals, and summer-program operations.

UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music Winter 2026

Teaching Assistant, The Art of Listening

- Led discussion sections and supported undergraduate instruction in musical analysis and critical listening.

Private Violin and Viola Instruction 2021-present

Greater Los Angeles area

- Teach students across ages and levels through individualized work in technique, musicianship, repertoire, and practice strategy.

California State University, Northridge 2025

Guest Lecturer, Music Entrepreneurship

- Presented to undergraduate music majors on professional development, career-building, and sustaining a career in music.

Orchestra Music Academy 2023-2024

Strings Group Class Coach and Youth Orchestra Director | Arcadia, California

- Directed rehearsals and community performances and taught group string classes to students of varied levels.

Research and Scholarly Work

Graduate Research Papers, UCLA 2024-2026

- "Between Virtuosity and Voice: Rewriting the Sibelius Violin Concerto."
- "A Synthesis of French and Italian Violin Traditions in Beethoven's Violin Concerto, Op. 61."

Whitsett-Smithsonian Fellowship 2022

Smithsonian National Museum of American History | Washington, DC

- Researched violin pedagogy, immigrant violin educators, and the formation of American musical culture.
- Designed and presented an exhibit concept and lecture using the museum's historical string-instrument collection, with attention to accessibility and cultural representation.
- Led the newsletter team and developed educational materials for public engagement.

Armenian Music Curriculum Contribution 2023

California State University, Northridge

- Developed a written chapter and recorded lecture on Armenian musical traditions for a world music course taught by Dr. Ric Alviso.
- Contributed research, musical examples, and pedagogical framing for the study of an underrepresented tradition.

Arts Administration and Community Engagement

Borromeo Music Festival 2026

Administrative Assistant | Altdorf, Switzerland

- Supported festival administration, artist and participant communications, and social media.

UCLA Armenian Music Program 2024-present

Kamancha Fellow

- Study Armenian instrumental traditions and participate in community performances and educational outreach.

UCLA Gluck Fellows Music Program 2024-present

- Perform in hospitals, schools, care facilities, and community settings across the Los Angeles area.

Fellowships Awards and Recognition

Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship, UCLA | 2026-present

Armenian Educational Foundation Makarian-Arakelian Scholarship | 2026

Edward Hosharian Foundation Award | 2025

Armenian Educational Foundation Scholarship | 2025

UCLA All-Star Competition, Honorable Mention | 2025

UCLA Armenian Music Program Award | 2024-present

Whitsett-Smithsonian Fellowship | 2022

CSUN Mary Byramian and Etude Music Club Scholarships | 2019-2022

Bach Festival Whittier Branch Competition, Honors | 2018

Languages

English, Russian, and Armenian (fluent); Italian (beginner)