

Alisa Roberta Gukasian (she/her) is a classical violinist, educator, researcher, and arts administrator based in Southern California. She is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Violin Performance at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, where she studies with Varty Manouelian as a recipient of the Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship. She has performed in Russia, Armenia, and throughout the United States as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player.

Gukasian's emerging doctoral research brings together violin pedagogy, performance practice, and performance psychology. Her interests include the transmission of French, Italian, and Soviet violin traditions; the relationship between arousal and flow in performance; and the ways musicians experience observation, evaluation, and preparation for the stage. Her scholarship builds upon previous research examining the synthesis of French and Italian violin traditions in Beethoven's Violin Concerto and questions of virtuosity, interpretation, and authorial voice in the Sibelius Violin Concerto.

An active educator and coach, Gukasian serves as the EMMI and K–12 Instrumental Assistant at Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences in Santa Monica. Working closely with EMMI Director Gina Coletti, she coaches students and ensembles, assists with rehearsals, and supports the artistic and administrative direction of the school's elementary, middle, and upper-school instrumental programs. She has also coached young musicians and supported program operations at the Colburn Chamber Music Intensive.

At UCLA, Gukasian served as a Teaching Assistant for *The Art of Listening*, leading discussion sections, developing instructional materials, and guiding non-music majors in musical analysis and critical listening. She is also an Armenian Music Program Fellow, studying the kamancha and participating in outreach that introduces Armenian musical traditions to students in underserved communities. Her teaching is grounded in technical clarity, expressive freedom, cultural awareness, and thoughtful mentorship.

Gukasian's recent artistic development has included study with violinist Fabiola Kim at Sounding Point Academy, as well as performances in masterclasses for James Ehnes, Amy Schwartz Moretti, Kyung Sun Lee, and Martin Beaver. Her work in arts administration has also extended internationally through the Borromeo Music Festival in Switzerland, where she supported festival operations and social-media communications. These experiences reflect her broader commitment to connecting artistic performance with education, community engagement, and the organizational work that sustains cultural institutions.

Previously, Gukasian was selected as a Whitsett Smithsonian Curatorial and Enrichment Fellow at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, where she researched violin pedagogy and immigrant influences on American musical culture. She holds a Master of Music in Violin Performance from UCLA, where she studied with Movses Pogossian and Varty

Manouelian and received an Honorable Mention in UCLA's All-Star Competition. Gukasian earned bachelor's degrees in Violin Performance and History, with honors, from California State University, Northridge, where she studied with Lorenz Gamma and served as Assistant Concertmaster of the CSUN Symphony. Born in Moscow, she began her violin studies at the Chopin Academy before immigrating to the United States, where she continued her training with Joe Ketendjian and at the Colburn School.