

EDWIN E. PORRAS

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QUALIFICATIONS

- 2020 Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology, University of California, Los Angeles. Dissertation “Music-Making Practices of Cubans of Chinese and African Descent: Creating Alternative Ways of Being and Belonging” (Advisor: Helen Rees)
- 2012 M.M. in Afro-Latin Music, California State University, Los Angeles, Thesis: “The Evolution of Cuban Popular Dance Music: Transnationalism, Transculturation and the Music Continuum of Popular Dance Music from Colonial Times to the Present” (Advisor: Paul De Castro)
- 2007 B.M. in Music Composition, California State University, Long Beach

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND FACULTY SEMINARS

- 2024 “Crisis,” Tri-Co Social Sciences 2024–2025 Colloquium, Tri-Co
- 2024–25 “Theorizing the Black Pacific,” Faculty Seminar, Hurford Center
- 2022– Norton Family Assistant Professor of Music, Haverford College
- 2022 Lecturer in Afro-Latin Music Seminar, California State University, Los Angeles (spring semester)
- 2021 Educational Content Creator for Learning Pathways, Smithsonian Folkways (June–December)
- 2021 Lecturer in Music of Europe and the Americas, University of California, Los Angeles (spring quarter)
- 2021 Lecturer in World Music Survey Course, California Institute of the Arts (spring semester)
- 2021 Intern, Online Education and Web Production, Smithsonian Folkways (January–April)

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2024 Distinguished Visitor, Dr. Daniel Party for “Music, Power, & 9/11: La Canción Protesta de Victor Jara & the Chilean Coup of 1973”
- 2023 Tuttle Creative Residency for Experimental Musical-Instrument Building Project with Yianni Kourmadas, Center for the Arts and Humanities, Haverford College
- 2020 Faculty TA-ship Award (Excellence in TA-ing), University of California, Los Angeles

- 2017 Hispanic Scholarship Fund
 2017–18 Herman and Celia Wise Scholarship Fund
 2017 The Affiliates of UCLA Fellowship Fund
 2017 Research Travel Grant, UCLA Graduate Division, for ICTM conference in Ireland
 2017 Jorge Estrada Foundation Scholarship, for fieldwork in Cuba
 2016–17 Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA
 2016 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA
 2015–16 Graduate Division Fellowship Award, UCLA
 2014–15 Departmental Fellowship, Ethnomusicology, UCLA
 2007–12 Special Recognition in Graduate Studies, CSULA
 2003–05 Dean’s Honor List, CSULB
 2000 Outstanding Music Student Award, Los Angeles Harbor College

PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 “More Than Divas: The Role of Women in Chinese Cuban Opera,” In *American Music Journal* 42, no. 3 Forthcoming (November 2024)
- 2023a “Traigo esta Trulla: Fiestas Navideñas in Puerto Rico and its Diaspora.” In *Fiesta Aquí, Fiesta Allá: Music of Puerto Rico*.” Smithsonian Folkways: Learning Pathway. Online publication. <https://folkways.si.edu/lesson/traigo-esta-trulla/fiestas-navidenas-in-puerto-rico-and-its-diaspora>
- 2023b “Fiesta Means Dancing: Danza, Salsa, and Reggaeton.” In *Fiesta Aquí, Fiesta Allá: Music of Puerto Rico*.” Smithsonian Folkways: Learning Pathway. Online publication. <https://folkways.si.edu/lesson/fiesta-means-dancing/danza-salsa-and-reggaeton>
- 2023c “Bomba Landscapes: The Flow of People, Technology, and the Music Industry.” In *Fiesta Aquí, Fiesta Allá: Music of Puerto Rico*.” Cowritten by Katelen Brown, Smithsonian Folkways: Learning Pathway. Online publication. <https://folkways.si.edu/lesson/bomba-landscapes/the-flow-of-people-technology-and-the-music-industry>
- 2023d “Santiago Apóstol de Loíza: Bomba and Community.” In *Fiesta Aquí, Fiesta Allá: Music of Puerto Rico*.” Cowritten by Gisele Hernandez, Smithsonian Folkways: Learning Pathway. Online publication. <https://folkways.si.edu/lesson/santiago-apostol-de-loiza/bomba-and-community>
- 2023e “Exploring Nueva Canción in Puerto Rico, Latin America, and the Caribbean.” In *Fiesta Aquí, Fiesta Allá: Music of Puerto Rico*.” Smithsonian Folkways: Learning Pathway. Online publication. <https://folkways.si.edu/lesson/from-festival-claridad-to-7-dias-con-el-pueblo>
- 2023f “Música Jíbara: Aguinaldos and Fiesta de Reyes.” In *Fiesta Aquí, Fiesta Allá: Music of Puerto Rico*.” Smithsonian Folkways: Learning Pathway. Online publication. <https://folkways.si.edu/lesson/musica-jibara/aguinaldos-and-fiesta-de-reyes>
- 2023g “Musica Jíbara: Identity, Seis, and Concurso.” In *Fiesta Aquí, Fiesta Allá: Music of Puerto Rico*.” Smithsonian Folkways: Learning Pathway. Online publication. <https://folkways.si.edu/lesson/musica-jibara-identity-seis-and-concurso>

- folkways.si.edu/lesson/musica-jibara-culture/seis-music-and-concursos
- 2023h “Plenazo: Music, Migration, and Puerto Rican Identity on the Move.” In *Fiesta Aquí, Fiesta Allá: Music of Puerto Rico*. Cowritten by Elizabeth K. Batiuk, Smithsonian Folkways: Learning Pathway. Online publication. <https://folkways.si.edu/lesson/plenazo-in-nueva-york/music-migration-and-puerto-rican-identity-on-the-move>
- 2022a “Chinese Sound Waves on Cuban Shores: Teatro Chino and Danza del León, a Saga of Chinese Migration.” In *China Sounds Abroad* volume, edited by Institut for Kultur og Samfund, Aarhus University and Chinese University Press. Forthcoming (2025)
- 2022b “The Corneta China Diaries: The Cross-Cultural Adventures of the Chinese Suona in Cuba.” In essay volume on Chinese music and musical instruments, edited by the Macau Scientific and Cultural Center, Lisbon, Portugal. Forthcoming (2025)
- 2022c “La Danza del León Chino en Cuba,” book review. In essay volume on Chinese music and musical instruments, edited by the Macau Scientific and Cultural Center, Lisbon, Portugal. Forthcoming (2025)
- 2021 *Estoy Aquí: Music of the Chicano Movement*, editor of 12 online lessons, Smithsonian Folkways: Learning Pathway. <https://folkways.si.edu/music-pathway/estoy-aqui/music-of-the-chicano-movement>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 “Lion Dancing in Cuba: Embodying Alternative Knowledges and Identities.” 48th World Conference of the International Council for Traditional Music and Dance to be held in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand, 9–15 January 2025
- 2024 “Who is the Corneta China: Exploring the Life of an Afro-Chinese Cuban Musical Instrument.” Norton Professorship Inaugural Lecture, Jaharis Recital Hall, Haverford College
- 2024 “Chinese Cuban Musical Culture Sustainability: A History of Precarity and Advocacy.” 26 International Conference of the European Foundation for Chinese Music Research (CHIME): *Sustainability and Chinese Music*. University of Music, Drama, Hannover and Media Center for World Music, University of Hildesheim, Germany
- 2023 “Chinese Musical Instrument Collections in Cuba: Crisis and Advocacy.” 2023 Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Conference (SEM), Ottawa, Canada
- 2023 “Chinese Musical Footprints on Cuban Shores: Unearthing Chinese Musical Instrument Collections in Cuba.” 25 International Conference of the European Foundation for Chinese Music Research (CHIME): *Chinese Music and Musical Instruments*. The Macao Scientific and Cultural Centre in Lisbon, The Municipality of Mafra, The Institute of Ethnomusicology of the New University of Lisbon, The Confucius Institutes of the Universities of Aveiro and Minho. Lisbon and Mafra, Portugal
- 2022 Musical Gatherings, Climate Crisis, and Cultural Sustainability, Session Chair

- AMS-SEM-SMT Joint Annual Meeting, New Orleans
- 2021 “Chinese Sound Waves on Cuban Shores: Chinese Music’s Maiden Voyage to the Americas.” China Sounds Abroad: Migration, Mobility, and Modernity Conference of the Aarhus University, Denmark
- 2021 “The Cuban Lion Dance: Resurrected memories of a Chinese diaspora.” 23 International Conference of the European Foundation for Chinese Music Research (CHIME): *Chinese Music and Memory*. Institute of East Asian Studies at Charles University, Prague. Czech Republic
- 2019a “Cantonese Opera and the Lion Dance in Cuba: Different Social Spheres and Distinct Ways of Life in Diaspora.” 22 International Conference of the European Foundation for Chinese Music Research (CHIME): *Contrasts in Chinese Music*. Chinese Music Research Institute, Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing
- 2019b “Yo Saqué la Conga y la Guardé: Community Building among Neighborhood Conga Ensembles in Santiago, Cuba.” 45 World Conference of the International Council for Traditional Music, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2018 “The Corneta China Diaries: The Cross-Cultural Adventures of the Chinese Suona in Cuba.” 21 International Conference of the European Foundation for Chinese Music Research (CHIME): *Chinese Music as Cross-culture*. Macau Scientific & Cultural Centre and University of Lisbon. Portugal
- 2017a “Whose Legacy is the Corneta China? Relationships between Cuban Communities of Chinese and African Descent, and the State.” 44th World Conference of the International Council for Traditional Music, Limerick, Ireland
- 2017b. “Crouching Lion, Hidden Rooster: Chinese Musical Expressions in Cuban Festivities.” 20th International Conference of the European Foundation for Chinese Music Research (CHIME): *Festivals*. University of California Los Angeles, California
2016. “Sounding the Corneta China: Relationships Between the Cuban State and Cuban Communities of Chinese and African Descent.” UC-CUBA 7th Annual Graduate Student Conference, Merced, California

INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “Listening for Diaspora: Chinese Music, Theatre, and Voice in the Americas.” Mini Series of Online Talks on Music of Chinese Diaspora in the Americas. Rutgers University, March 28
- 2024 “Chinos en Guayaberas.” Presentation for “Rice is Everything: A Conversation About Food, Family, and History.” Taller Puertorriqueño, March 9
- 2023 “Music and Latinidad in New York City in the 1900s.” Presentation for course “HIST 125: Latin American and Latinx History,” Haverford College, March 28
- 2022 “Music of Latin America.” Presentation for course “Music Around the World,” UCLA, May 11
- 2021 “Cuban Son.” Lecture and Workshop for course “Musical Cultures From Around the World,” UCLA, June 18

- 2020 “Mexican Pop.” Presentation for course “Global Pop,” UCLA, July 23
- 2019 “Music of Latin America.” Presentation for course “Music Around the World,” UCLA, June 3
- 2019 “Music of the Caribbean.” Presentation for course “Music Around the World,” UCLA, May 27
- 2018 “Timba: The Sound of Change.” Presentation for course “Global Pop,” UCLA, November 19
- 2016 “Timba: Misbehaving in Post-Revolutionary Cuba.” Presentation for course “World of Music,” California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, November 18
- 2015 “Choro Music.” Presentation for course “Music of Latin South America,” UCLA, November 19

ACADEMIC SERVICE: TEACHING

- 2024 Music and Social Justice
- 2024 Transatlantic Sounds: Music of Europe and the Americas
- 2024 African Americans, Music, and the American Experience
- 2024 Ethnomusicology in Theory and Practice
- 2024 Musical Cultures of the World: an Ethnomusicological Journey
- 2023 Musical cultures of Afro-Latin America
- 2023 The Lives of Musical Instruments: Concepts and Classifications
- 2023 Music and Social Justice
- 2023 Transatlantic Sounds: Music of Europe and America
- 2022 Musical Cultures of the World: an Ethnomusicological Journey
- 2022 Musical cultures of Afro-Latin America

ACADEMIC SERVICE: ADVISING AND MENTORING

- 2024–25 Pre-major Advisor, Aidan McCaughey. Haverford College
- 2024–25 Pre-major Advisor, Holden Starkey. Haverford College
- 2024–25 Pre-major Advisor, Yi-En Ho. Haverford College
- 2024–25 Pre-major Advisor, Yohelia Gonzales. Haverford College
- 2024–25 Thesis Advisor, Luella J. Wallander. Haverford College
- 2023–24 Chesick Mentor, Ethan Rezer. Haverford College
- 2023 Senior Project Advisor, Elizabeth Barnes-Schwartz. Music Department, Haverford College
- 2022–23 Thesis Consultant, Nick Ramos. Spanish Department, Haverford College

ACADEMIC SERVICE: OTHER

- 2024 Host, Kate Horton, Prospective Student. Roberts Hall
- 2024 Host, Quartet Iris Master Class. Roberts Hall
- 2024 Performance Coordinator and Host, Music and Conversation with Umayalpuram Mali: South Indian Mridangam and Konakkol. Michael Jaharis Recital Hall

- 2024 Event Coordinator, Conversation with Kingsley Okyere: “West African Musical Culture.” Michael Jaharis Recital Hall
- 2024 Performance Coordinator and Host, Inkarayku Music Group. Michael Jaharis Recital Hall
- 2024 Event Coordinator, “Music, Power, & 9/11: La Canción Protesta de Victor Jara & the Chilean Coup of 1973.” A collaborative effort of the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship, Music Department, and the Distinguished Visitor Program, Michael Jaharis Recital Hall
- 2023–24 Instrumental Juries, Fall Semester, Haverford College
- 2023–24 Strategic Planning Implementation Committee, Writing, Interpretation, and Creativity, Haverford College
- 2023–24 Steering Committee, Center for Peace and Global Citizenship (CPGC), Haverford College
- 2023 Vocal Juries, Spring Semester, Haverford College
- 2022 Vocal Juries, Fall Semester, Haverford College
- 2022 Musical Gatherings, Climate Crisis, and Cultural Sustainability, Session Chair AMS-SEM-SMT Joint Annual Meeting, New Orleans
- 2022 Latin American Protest Music Guest Curator for Music Library project, M.A.P., hosted by Goethe Institut, New Delhi
- 2018a. Member of the Arrangements Committee for La Playita Cultural Project, Santiago, Cuba
- 2018b. Member of the Arrangements Committee for Alto Pino Cultural Project, Santiago, Cuba
- 2017 Member of the Arrangements Committee for the Symposium on Ethnomusicology in Theory and Practice, in Recognition of the Career of Distinguished Professor Timothy Rice, UCLA
- 2017 Member of Local Arrangements Committee for conference of the European Foundation for Chinese Music Research, UCLA
- 2017 Translator for the 130th Anniversary of the Min Chih Tang Society in Havana, Cuba and the presentation of the book: *Huellas Chinas en Este Lado del Atlantico*
- 2016–17 President of the Ethnomusicology Graduate Student Organization, UCLA
- 2016–17 Member of the Conservation and Management Committee, World Music Center, UCLA

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

- 2024 Ethnographic Fieldwork, Monograph Research. January and August, Havana, Cuba
- 2017–18 Ethnographic Fieldwork, Dissertation Research. Cuba
- 2017a Archival Research, Dissertation Research. University of Miami
- 2017b Archival Research, Dissertation Research. Florida International University
- 2017c Ethnographic Fieldwork, Dissertation Research. Havana, Cuba
- 2016a Ethnographic Fieldwork, Dissertation Research. Santiago/Havana,

Cuba

- 2016b Archival Research. Havana, Cuba
- 2016c Ethnographic Fieldwork, Urban Anthropology. Los Angeles, California
- 2015a Ethnographic Fieldwork, Organology. Los Angeles, California
- 2015b Ethnographic Fieldwork, Music and Ecstasy. Los Angeles, California
- 2015c Ethnographic Fieldwork, Cuban Diaspora. Los Angeles, California
- 2015d Ethnographic Fieldwork, Capoeira. Los Angeles, California
- 2011 Ethnographic Fieldwork, Thesis Research. Santiago/Havana, Cuba
- 2009 Preliminary Fieldwork, Thesis Research. Havana, Cuba

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2022–Now Professor of Record, Haverford College
- 2022 Lecturer, California State University, Los Angeles
- 2021 Content Curator, Smithsonian Folkways
- 2021 Lecturer, Herb Alpert School of Music, CalArts
- 2020 Teaching Fellow, “Jazz in American Culture,” UCLA
- 2019 Instructor, “Music of Latin America,” Summer session, UCLA
- 2019 Graduate Student Researcher, Ethnomusicology Archive, UCLA
- 2019 Teaching Fellow, “Music Around the World,” UCLA
- 2019 Teaching Fellow, “Jazz in American Culture,” UCLA
- 2019–20 Graduate Student Researcher, UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive
- 2018 Teaching Fellow, “Global Pop,” UCLA
- 2017 Research Associate, Lead Interviewer, and Senior Writer for the International Digital Ephemera Project (Chinese-Cuban History), UCLA Library
- 2016 Teaching Associate, “Chicano/Latino Music in the U.S.,” UCLA
- 2015 Teaching Associate, “Music of Latin America: Music of Latin South America,” UCLA
- 2015 Teaching Associate, “Music History 5: The History of Rock ’n Roll,” UCLA
- 2015 Teaching Associate, “Chicano Music in the U.S.,” UCLA
- 2014–17 Teaching Associate, UCLA
- 2010 Music teacher, Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School
- 2007–14 Music Director/teacher, Boys and Girls Club of the LA Harbor
- 2007–12 Music copyist/arranger (Finale)
- 2005–07 Stage Manager, The Auricle Ensemble Contemporary Ballet
- 1996– Freelance musician; performance and studio work

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

- 2024 “A Murrur in the Trees,” double bass. Network for New Music, Haverford College
- 2004–24 Western art music: double bass; orchestral and chamber music
- 2000–21 Jazz/commercial music: double/electric bass; various genres
- 2014–15 Mariachi music: guitarrón; performances and competitions

2009–12 Afro-Latin music: California State University, Los Angeles

EDITORSHIPS

2024 Reviewer for *American Music* journal

2018–21 Column Editor, Historical Perspectives, *Ethnomusicology Review*, UCLA

2017 Editor, *Ethnomusicology Review*, UCLA

LANGUAGES

Fluent: English and Spanish

Fair: Portuguese (reading and writing)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM)

European Foundation for Chinese Music Research (CHIME)

UC-CUBA Academic Initiative

British Forum for Ethnomusicology

Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM)

Latin American and Caribbean Music Section, Society for Ethnomusicology

Applied Ethnomusicology, Society for Ethnomusicology

Organology SIG, Society for Ethnomusicology