

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



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TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I am a second-year MA student in ethnomusicology. I grew up in a musical family in northeast Iran (Turkmen-Sahra). At age 9, I was given the title “Oghlan Bakhshi,” which means a child who reached the level of master in playing dutar (long-necked two-stringed lute) and singing. I got my BA and MA from the Turkmen national conservatory in Turkmenistan. My dream of introducing this music culture brought me to perform in major venues worldwide, such as Philharmonie de Paris. My hobbies are teaching music to disciples from different backgrounds, reading historical books and poems, biking, and horse riding!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT RESEARCH

Currently, I am working on my MA thesis, which is about Turkmen's dutar performance among Turkmen in Iran and the differences shaped on both sides of the border in the music scenes among Turkmen in Iran and Turkmenistan. I hope to prove further thoughts about Turkmen music and draw attention to this rich music culture which remains sorely understudied.

IS THERE A "MIND BLOWING" CONCEPT IN YOUR FIELD OF RESEARCH THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

When I do improvisation, I need to follow the systematic modes (perde) on dutar while I have a freedom journey simultaneously and play according to my mood! It is like an unseen journey in which you cannot predict what will appear melodically.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE WESLEYAN EXPERIENCE?

Getting some sense of jazz music improvisation and comparing it with Turkmen music in the class of Professor Jay Hoggard.

WHAT SUPERPOWER WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE?

I think my superpower is being thankful for what we have 🙏