CURRICULUM VITAE

SURNAME: **UN** **NAME:** **TOLGA ATALAY**

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 19 December 1995; Ankara, Turkey

NATIONALITY: USA/TURKEY (Turkish - American Dual Citizen)

INSTITUTION AND POSITION: Ankara State Opera and Ballet – Conductor
General Music Director (2024-2025)
Assistant Music Director (2023-2024)

COMMUNICATION DETAILS:

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REFERENCES:

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QUALIFICATION (OBTAINED)	DATE OF QUALIFICATION	QUALIFYING INSTITUTION
Artist Diploma in Performance Historical Keyboard Instruments	**16 July 2021**	**Royal College of Music, London**
Master of Performance (MPerf) Distinction	**10 July 2020**	**Royal College of Music, London**
Bachelor of Music (Honours) First Class	**6 July 2018**	**Royal College of Music, London**
Conservatory High school Diploma (Main Instrument: Piano)	**13 June 2014**	**Hacettepe University Ankara State Conservatory, Ankara, Turkey**

(Music and Performing Arts High School Diploma)
("Hacettepe Üniversitesi Ankara Devlet Konservatuvarı Lise Devresi Diploması" in Turkish)
I have graduated from high school with "Top of the School Award"

MEDALS AND TITLES:

- **"Service in Profession Award" by Ankara Beysukent Rotary Club - 2022-2023**
- **"Mills Williams Foundation Medal" (The Royal College of Music) - 2021**
- **"Mills Williams Junior Fellow" (RCM) - 2020-2021**
- **"C. Bechstein Scholar supported by a Christopher Hogwood Scholarship" (RCM) – 2018-2020**
- **"Beethoven Medal" (Worshipful Company of Musicians, UK) – 2018**
- **"Kenneth and Violet Scott Scholar" (RCM) – 2014-2018**

AWARDS AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 2025-2026 Season: Productions I conducted at the Ankara State Opera and Ballet:: C.Gounod – Romeo and Juliette, Kamelyalı Kadın Ballet, P.I.Tchaikovsky – Swan Lake Ballet, Jeanne d'Arc Ballet.

- In July 2025, I conducted a concert in Kaunas, Lithuania.
- In June 2025, I played a solo harpsichord recital in the Czech Republic.
- In April 2025, I conducted the Turkish premiere of J.S.Bach's B Minor Mass.
- In March 2025, I served as a jury member at a piano competition in Catania, Italy.

- 2024-2025 Season: Productions I conducted at the Ankara State Opera and Ballet:: C.Gounod – Romeo and Juliette, Kamelyalı Kadın Ballet.
- 2023-2024 Season: Productions I conducted at the Ankara State Opera and Ballet: G.Verdi – Un ballo in maschera, G.Puccini – Tosca, L.Minkus – La Bayadère Ballet. Productions I conducted at the Istanbul State Opera and Ballet: G.Verdi – Falstaff, C.Orff – Carmina Burana.

- 2022-2023 Season: Productions I conducted at the Ankara State Opera and Ballet: G.Verdi – Un ballo in maschera, G.Puccini – Tosca, L.Minkus – Don Quixote. Productions I conducted at the Istanbul State Opera and Ballet: G.Verdi – Falstaff.

- **As of 2022, he started working as a conductor at the Ankara State Opera and Ballet.**

- Recital with violinist Maria Gilicel at Royal Albert Hall's Elgar Room on 2nd October 2022.

- On the 7th April 2022, he conducted Orkestra Akademik Başkent for the first time.
- On the 24th February 2022, he played as a piano soloist with Bursa Regional State Symphony Orchestra, conducted by maestro Alessandro Cedrone.
- On the 18th February 2022, he played as a harpsichord soloist and conducted the Izmir State Symphony Orchestra.
- **On the 4th February 2022, he conducted the Presidential Symphony Orchestra from the harpsichord, in his first concert with them, and became one of the youngest conductors to do so.**
- Taught as a lecturer at the Ankara Music and Fine Arts University for a term, starting in September 2021.
- **Mills Williams Medal at the RCM, on 2nd August 2021.**
- Solo piano recital at the Regent Hall, on 30th July 2021.
- Recorded at the Abbey Road Studios in London on 12th July 2021.
- Solo recordings for RCM's online series 'In Focus' and 'Bach Bites'**.**
- Solo recital at the Steinway Hall, London in February 2020.
- Playing Mozart's Piano Concerto No.21 and conducting it from the keyboard at the Gümüşlük Music Festival in August 2019.
- **Performing Schubert's Trout Quintet at the prestigious Cadogan Hall, London in June 2019.**
- **On the 6th March 2019, he played piano in the concert organised for the annual President's Visit from His Majesty King Charles III to the RCM.**
- Performing Schubert's Trout Quintet at the Drapers' Hall for a private concert on the 27th February 2019.
- **Performing at the St.Martin-in-the-Fields and being presented the Beethoven Medal from the Worshipful Company of Musicians in October 2018.**
- **Performing Four-Hands at the prestigious Cadogan Hall, London in June 2018.**
- 'Study Award for Progress' at the RCM in May 2018.
- **Performing in Stravinsky's 'Les Noces' at the prestigious Royal Festival Hall in London, conducted by Vasily Petrenko in February 2018.**
- The honour of being offered places for Masters at the Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music and Guildhall School of Music and Drama in December 2017. I have also been offered a scholarship at the RCM, equivalent of £20.000 for each of the two years of Masters Programme.
- **'First Prize' and 'the Thomas Harris Beethoven Award' at the 2017 Senior Intercollegiate Beethoven Piano Competition of Beethoven Piano Society of Europe, in London, in December 2017.**
- **First Prize, the Prize for the Best Performance of A.A.Saygun and the Audience Prize at the 4th Ahmed Adnan Saygun Piano Competition, in Turkey, 2017.**
- **" 'Stonevale Concert Series' Sunday Afternoon Recital Award" in Musical Odyssey Masterclasses, in 2017, Nafplio/Greece.**
- **" 'City Literary Institute' Lunchtime Concert Award" in Musical Odyssey Masterclasses, in 2017, Nafplio/Greece.**

- **'First Prize' at the Kendall Taylor Beethoven Competition at the RCM, London, in May 2017.**
- Solo piano recital at the Antalya International Piano Festival, in October 2016.
- **In 2016-2021, I have been supported by the 'Young Musicians on World Stages' (YMWS) system initiated and mentored by Güher & Süher Pekinel with financial support of TÜPRAŞ.**
- **Playing Mozart's Piano Concerto No.21 and conducting it from the keyboard in the opening concert of 33rd International Ankara Music Festival in April 2016.**
- **'Second Prize' at the Broadwood Horniman Harpsichord Competition, London, November 2015.**
- **" 'Aspect Foundation' Leighton House Concert Award" in Musical Odyssey Masterclasses, in 2015, Nafplio/Greece.**
- **" 'City Literary Institute' Lunchtime Concert Award" in Musical Odyssey Masterclasses, in 2015, Nafplio/Greece.**
- The honour of being granted a full scholarship at the Royal College of Music in December 2013 to attend the undergraduate (BMus) programme of The Piano Department of The Royal College of Music. The scholarship is equivalent to the cost of tuition at The Royal College of Music. The programme mentioned commenced in Autumn 2014.
- **Selection as the Principal Conductor of the Hitit Philharmonic Orchestra founded by Onur ÖZMEN and Çiğdem AYTEPE in 2011.**
- Performing as Conductor of Ankara Youth Symphony Orchestra.
- Performing as Conductor of Hacettepe Youth Symphony Orchestra.
- **Invitation to become a Member of Interact**: **I was invited after winning the "Jury Special Award" in "The Chopin Piano Competition".** As an Interact, I have had the opportunity of participating in various social activities to gather donations for **The Rotary Global Eradication of Polio Project** and for shelters for abandoned dogs.
- **"Jury Special Award" in "The Chopin Piano Competition" in 2010**
  (This event was organized jointly by **Başkent University** and **Bahçelievler Rotary Club** in Ankara, Turkey under the auspices of the **Polish Embassy**, to commemorate **Chopin**'s 200th birthday)
- **"Mentionable Performance Award" in the 4th International Pera Piano Festival in 2009**
  (This festival was organized by **Istanbul Pera Fine Arts Highschool** in Istanbul, Turkey)
- Excellent final scores for each semester at Hacettepe University Conservatory.
  (My score averages were 5 over 5 in each semester)
- Acceptation to the Highschool Division of Hacettepe Ankara State Conservatory in 2007 in recognition of outstanding success in its entrance examination.
- **"Special Appreciation Award" in the 2nd International Pera Piano Festival in 2007.**
  (This festival was organized by **Istanbul Pera Fine Arts Highschool** in Istanbul, Turkey. I was under the competition age limit but was given a special award in recognition of my performance)
- **Selection as a Member of the State Polyphonic Choir of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism in 2004** as a result of passing its entrance examination.

LINGUISTIC KNOWLEDGE: English, Turkish and intermediate Spanish.

EXTRACURRICULAR INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES:

My main interests apart from being a professional musician are cinema and philosophy. In my spare time I watch films and read about cinema theory. I enjoy playing chess and doing daily exercises. I spend my free time with my friends and family.

MAIN ARTISTIC AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- **Activities at The Royal College of Music:**
  - In November 2020, live concert at the RCM for my project 'Reviving the Kapellmeister' and solo harpsichord recording for RCM's 'Bach Bites' series.
  - In September 2020, recording for the premiere of 'In Focus' online series at the RCM.
  - In March 2019, four hands and two pianos performances at the Keyboard Festival.
  - In March 2018, four hands performance at the Keyboard Festival.
  - In October 2017, solo piano performance at the Russian Music Festival.
  - In March 2017, solo piano performance at the Keyboard Festival.
  - In June and July 2016, performing J.S.Bach Brandenburg Concerto No.5 on the harpsichord in two concerts with musicians from the RCM.
  - In March 2015, solo piano performance at the Keyboard Festival, which was a part of the Messiaen Festival.
  - In March 2015, solo harpsichord performance in the Solo Bach Concert, which was a part of the Bach festival.

- **Activities realized as an Orchestral Conductor and Studies on Composition:** I have had the honour of being selected as **the Principal Conductor of the Hitit Philharmonic Orchestra** and conducting its performances, starting with our first in 2011. We've performed one of my original pieces, entitled **"Music for G"** and the premier presentations of the works of other young Turkish composers. I've conducted concerts of **Hacettepe Youth Symphony Orchestra** and **Ankara Youth Symphony Orchestra** in **November 2013** at **Bilkent University Concert Hall, which was recorded as a DVD**. I had been studying composition at school and on my own. I conducted the concert of **Ankara Youth Symphony Orchestra in the opening concert of 33rd International Ankara Music Festival, as well as playing as a soloist.**

- **Educational Activities at Hacettepe University Conservatory:**

  In addition to my piano tutelage by **Assistant Prof. Sibel ÖZGÜN**, I also realized the following:
  - **Participation in the masterclasses of Visiting Erasmus scholars** (please refer to relevant list)

  - **Activities as a Member of Hacettepe University Conservatory Polyphonic Choir:** I had been actively involved, both as a choir member and as a pianist, in the performances of the choir mentioned, under the direction of **Atilla Çagdaş DEĞER** since 2007.

  - **Studies on orchestral conducting at school:** I had the opportunity of receiving lessons on conducting from **Orhun ORHON, Burak TÜZÜN and Erol ERDİNÇ.**

- **Other educational activities:**

  - **Piano masterclass with Özgür AYDIN**
  - **Piano masterclass with Gülsin ONAY**
  - **Piano masterclass with İdil BİRET**
  - **Participation in lectures on "The History and Interpretation of Contemporary Music" delivered by Composer Prof. İlhan BARAN**

- **Other activities and performances:**
  - **Piano concerts performed upon invitation as a Visiting Artist at the Akademia Akcan School of Music in Ankara, Turkey, 2010 and 2011.**
  - **Piano concert performed upon invitation of ANAÇEV (Anatolian Foundation for Contemporary Education) in 2008 for the benefit of children in need.**

- **Activities as Member of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism State Polyphonic Choir:**
  During 2004-2009, I participated in many concerts and tours as a choir member and accompanist, including a concert tour in the Czech Republic with The Prague Bonifantes Boys' Choir, singing in Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker' and being one of the three chorists in the opening concert of Samsun Opera.
- **Workshop and Masterclass attendances:**

Date(s)	Description of Masterclass	Tutor(s)
2021 May	**Harpsichord Masterclass Royal College of Music London, UK**	**Pawel SIWCZAK**
2021 May	**Harpsichord Masterclass Royal College of Music London, UK**	**Carole CERASI**
2019 August	**Conducting Masterclass Gümüşlük Festival Academy Gümüşlük, Turkey**	**Lior SHAMBADAL**
2018 January	**Piano Masterclass Royal College of Music London, UK**	**Prof.Jonathan PLOWRIGHT**
2017 October	**Piano Masterclass London, UK**	**Prof.Daniel SHAPIRO**
2017 Summer	**Piano Masterclass Musical Odyssey Masterclasses Nafplio, Greece**	**Prof.Yekaterina LEBEDEVA Manolis PAPASIFAKIS**
2017 Summer	**Piano Masterclass Talent Music Summer Courses Brescia, Italy**	**Dr.h.c.Janina FIALKOWSKA**
2017 March	**Piano Masterclass Royal College of Music London, UK**	**Prof.Logan SKELTON**
2016 May	**Harpsichord Masterclass Royal College of Music London, UK**	**Ton KOOPMAN**
2015 Summer	**Piano Masterclass Musical Odyssey Masterclasses Nafplio, Greece**	**Dr.h.c. Janina FIALKOWSKA Manolis PAPASIFAKIS**

2013 Summer	**Piano Masterclass** **Conducting Masterclass** **Salzburg Mozarteum Summer Academy** **Salzburg, Austria**	**Prof. Rolf PLAGGE** **Prof. Peter GULKE**
2013	**Masterclass workshops realized at** **Hacettepe University Conservatory** **by Visiting Erasmus Scholars**	**Prof. Manuela MATIS** **Prof. Krassimir TASKOV** **Prof. Alessandro TENAGLIA**
2012 Summer	**International Piano Course** **The Royal College of Music** **London, UK**	**Prof. Gordon FERGUS-THOMPSON** **Prof. Ian JONES** **Prof. Andrew ZOLINSKY**

(During this course, I was honoured to be among the few students referred by Professors Fergus-Thompson and Jones to Prof. Zolinsky for further Masterclass studies and to find the opportunity of giving concerts at the RCM)

2011-2012	**Masterclass workshops realized at** **Hacettepe University Conservatory** **by Visiting Erasmus Scholars**	**Jozsef BALOG** **Prof. Pawel KAMINSKI** **Prof. Dmitar TSANEV** **Prof. David WILDE** **Prof. Rostislav YOVCHEV**
2011 Summer	**Piano Masterclass** **Salzburg Mozarteum Summer Academy**	**Prof. Rolf PLAGGE**
2011 Summer	**Gümüşlük Summer Festival** **And Orchestra Conducting Masterclass**	**İbrahim YAZICI**
2010 Summer	**Piano Masterclasses** **Jeunesses Music Festival** **Bucharest, Romania**	**Prof. Anton VOIGT** **Prof. Jia XIE**