

## Statement of Purpose

DMA (AME)

Michael Cirillo

I am a jazz violinist, fiddler, and composer. I began studying violin at age four. By twelve I was gigging several nights a week throughout Arizona, and by fifteen performing regularly at national jazz festivals including twice at the prestigious Sacramento Jazz Festival.

I also competed in fiddling contests. In 1990, at age nineteen, I won the title of *Arizona State Grand Fiddle Champion* and *Arizona State Guitar Accompanist Champion*.

Since then I have made my living playing music. I have performed for Hugh Hefner and Justine Timberlake in Hollywood, played fiddle at Planet Hollywood in Paris, and worked as a strolling violinist on a cruise ship to Ensenada.

Recent performances include music festivals in Paris, Italy, and Luxemburg. Recent local venues include concerts for the *Tucson Jazz Society* and ASU's *Kerr Cultural Center*.

I have been fortunate to work with jazz violin great Johnny Frigo, jazz mandolin legend David Grisman, country music icon Glen Campbell, and Nashville dobro virtuoso Jerry Douglas.

I also enjoy teaching. Recently I taught a graduate workshop in *Alternative Violin Performance and Pedagogy* (March 2010) at ASU, and instructed K-12 orchestra teachers in fiddling and jazz violin at the *Rolland Fiddle Camp* (July 2011) in Colorado. I am scheduled for another graduate workshop in *Alternative Violin Performance and Pedagogy* at ASU in April 2012, and will again be teaching at the *Rolland Fiddle Camp* in July 2012.

Computational media has always been important to my work. I have owned and operated a commercial project studio for 25 years. I am comfortable with many media authoring applications:

- Sonar (digital audio workstation, composition)
- Finale (music notation, composition)
- Blender (3D modeling, animation, compositing, video editing)
- Mathematica (data visualization and sonification, algorithmic composition)
- Processing (data visualization and sonification, interactive media)
- Microsoft Expression Studio (interactive media, UI, web development)
- Microsoft Visual Studio (integrated development environment: C# and VB)
- miscellaneous (Adobe Photoshop, Adobe After Effects)

I have experience in several computer languages:

- Python
- C#
- Java
- Processing
- Mathematica
- Visual Basic

From Arizona State University I have earned a *Master of Liberal Studies* (2006), a *Bachelor of Music in Theory and Composition* (2003), and a *Bachelor of Music in Jazz Violin* (2003).

Please see the next page for my specific research interests and portfolio links.

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## **Specific Research Interests:**

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### Composition

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I work in traditional composition, electro/acoustic composition, computational composition, and media composition.

### Innovative Violin Performance

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I research jazz violin, fiddle playing, and innovative and multicultural violin styles, techniques, and pedagogies.

### Music, Math, and Science (The Pythagorean Tradition)

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The past informs and inspires the future. I research the interplays of music, mathematics, and science throughout the history of these fields. I also explore the contemporary vanguard of this tradition.

### Music, Cognition, and Computation

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What happens in the brain when we create and enjoy music? Can these processes be reproduced computationally? How can this inform creative work?

### Music and Informatics

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I am interested in common information abstractions and computational methods with broad trans-disciplinary reach. Can informatics serve as a fundamental language for trans-disciplinary research? What role can music play in this emerging and proliferating field?

For examples of music and computational media, please visit my website, [www.fiddlermike.com](http://www.fiddlermike.com). Click on the "Laboratory" tab and scroll to the bottom of the page for application portfolio and links.

Arizona State University's emphasis on innovation and trans-disciplinary research make it an ideal home-base from which to explore these topics. I look forward to producing high-quality research and innovative new works. Thanks for your consideration.

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