

ALUMNI PROFILE

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC



Andrew Tsai '17

Freelance composer, sound designer, and session cellist

"My 4 years at CWRU saw me pivot from studying pre-med into intensive musical training at both CWRU and CIM. Arranging and performing music with my own string ensemble on-campus taught me invaluable skills as an administrator, composer, and cellist that carry on throughout my work. Had Dr. Horvath not encouraged me to pursue music during my freshman year orchestra audition, I would not be where I am today."

Graduate Education:

New York University '20, Master of Music in Music Theory and Composition: Scoring for Film and Multimedia

Undergraduate Education:

Case Western Reserve University '17, Bachelor of Arts in Music Theory, Minor in Psychology

Internship:

Look-to-Listen Recording Studio (Brooklyn)

First Job:

Composer's assistant for Paul Chihara

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

FOLLOW ANDREW'S PATH

COURSEWORK

In addition to the undergraduate Bachelor of Arts in Music curriculum, Andrew took music theory and composition courses at CIM, the most influential of which were electronic music composition under Steven Mark Kohn and counterpoint studies under Dr. Lisa Rainsong and Dr. Timothy Cutler. His capstone explored the music of Joe Hisaishi for Studio Ghibli films under the supervision of Dr. Georgia Cowart and Daniel Goldmark. Andrew also performed with both the Symphony Orchestra and Camerata Orchestra.

RESEARCH + WORK EXPERIENCE

Andrew started his own string ensemble "A Nickel For Your Thoughts" in 2013 with other freshman colleagues from the Symphony Orchestra. He was in charge of arranging the music and managing the logistics of the ensemble. The group performed on campus at numerous events and in the greater NE Ohio area until it disbanded in late 2017.

LEADERSHIP + CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Andrew served as principal cellist for both Symphony Orchestra and Camerata Orchestra. He was the pit cellist for CWRU Footlighters production of *Spring Awakening*. He was actively involved with the Taiwanese American Student Association and Beta Theta Pi fraternity. During his senior year, he served as vice president of the Residence Hall Association Upper Class Community Council.

LIFE AFTER CWRU

Andrew is currently based in New York City, where he is an active session cellist and freelance composer and post-production audio specialist. His recent projects have involved documentaries from the Arthur L. Carter School of Journalism; short films from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Columbia University, and Harvard University; and video games from NYU Game Center. The hit indie kung-fu comedy *The Paper Tigers* (2021), for which he served as score producer, orchestrator and session cellist, is slated to release in theaters May 7th. When he is not in the studio, Andrew advocates for Asian American representation in media and enjoys spending time with friends and teaching chess.

ADVICE FOR A CAREER IN MUSIC

"Do not let your preconceptions hinder your growth as unexpected developments pave the way forward. I went from hoping to become an arranger of pop music to working on music and audio for film. Embrace opportunities that force you to meet higher and higher challenges!"

