

Creative practitioner with progressive experience in audio engineering, music production, and theme composition. Dedicated cultural practitioner with proven history of expressing identity through creativity, demonstrated by involvement in documentaries, films, musical productions, and performances in diverse capacities. Adept at performing exceptionally when working independently, as well as when collaborating as member within cross-functional team. Articulate communicator skilled at conveying complex technological and theoretical concepts to versatile audiences, with mastery of English and intermediate proficiency in Afrikaans.

## Areas of Expertise

- Sound Design
- Audio Editing & Mixing
- Technical Support
- Research
- Sound Recording & Editing
- Theme Composition
- Technical Writing
- Soundscape Creation
- Post-Production Support

## Technical Proficiencies

<b>Software:</b>	Canva * MS Office Suite
<b>DAWS:</b>	Ableton Live * Audacity * Logic Pro * MainStage * Pro Tools * RX 8 * WaveLabs
<b>Notation Software:</b>	Finale * MuseScore * Sibelius
<b>Coding Languages:</b>	CSS * HTML * MaxMSP * Pure Data

## Education

In Progress: **Master of Music in Musicology** (by dissertation) **Electroacoustic Musicology** | University of Cape Town, ZA (2023)

**Bachelor of Music in Music Technology (Distinction - for Music Technology)** | University of Cape Town, Cape Town, ZA (2018)  
Final Year GPA: 70, Degree GPA: 66

## Certifications

- **Grade 7 Practical Piano**, UNISA, 2013
- **Grade 6 Music Theory**, UNISA, 2013

## Awards

### Individual

- International Nominee for [Oram Award](#)**, Daphne Oram Trust, PRS Foundation, Radiophonic Institute, 2022
- Virtual Alternate – Shortlisted Candidate**, OneBeat Virtual 3 (Online Collaborative Residency) – Found Sound Nation, 2022
- Bursary Recipient for Music Technology**, Southern African Music Rights Association (SAMRO), 2018
- Team of the Year**, Glendower Residence, UCT, 2015
- Academic Excellence Award**, Glendower Residence, UCT, 2014

### Project-Related

[Prayers for Sweet Water](#) – British Film Institute (2021)

- Featured at SUNDANCE International Film Festival, Utah, US
- Awarded **Best Southern African Short Documentary** at 2022 Durban International Film Festival, Durban, ZA
- Awarded **Emerging Black LGBTQ+ Filmmaker Award** at 2021 New Fest, New York, US
- Featured at Seattle International Film Festival, Utah, US
- Featured at BFI Flare LGBTQ+ Film Festival, London, UK
- Featured at Hamptons International Film Festival, New York, US

[Deliver Me](#) – In Collaboration with Paper Crane Collective (2021)

- Awarded **Best Southern African Short Documentary** at 2021 African Human Rights Film Festival, Johannesburg, ZA
- Featured at Encounters South African International Documentary Festival, Online
- Featured at Cairo International Film Festival, Egypt

## Publications

Onen, Denise, "Successfully Failing at Life" in Anthology: Den Store Slam!, Boka – littMELK, 2018  
Available at: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/43402632-den-store-slam-boka>

Onen, L.L., Denise, "Siyaphambili – We Are Moving Forward", Hinshaw Music, 2022  
Available at: <https://www.halleonard.com/product/1140075/siyaphambili-we-are-moving-forward>

## Artist features

**Performance Feature**, *Bloom (a gentle erosion)* – Exhibition by Mia Thom, 2022  
Dakar Biennale, Senegal

**Featured Artist**, *Surviving Solitude* (Immersive Sound Art Piece) – ICA Uninfecting the City Public Arts Festival, 2021  
2<sup>nd</sup> Feature in So Creative Summit (Digital Storytelling Exhibition) – British Council

**Featured Sound Artist**, *Our Bodies are Clocks Made of Water* – In Collaboration with Blk Banana Exhibition, 2021  
LAPA Residency

## CAREER EXPERIENCE

**TheEAR – Online Music Academy, Woodstock, Cape Town, ZA** **2021 – Present**  
**Audio Engineer - FREELANCE**

Perform restoration of damaged audio recordings by leveraging Isotope RX software. Ensure maintenance of raw recording integrity following restoration to verify optimal quality and output for further processing.

**RefRights, Southern Africa, ZA** **2017 – 2021**  
**Product Manager**

Formulated buy-in for product vision on internal level, as well as with key external partners. Conceptualised product positioning strategy, as well as translated into detailed requirements. Defined product pricing strategy. Prioritised operations according to effective impact on business and customer experience. Directed product launch in collaboration with professionals across diverse functions.

- Product won 2017 Global Resolution Project, in partnership with United Nations.
- Expedited development of application by securing strategic partnership with Bertha Foundation in 2018, as well as garnering support from University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business.

**Aubrey's Music Academy, Bridgetown, Athlone, Cape Town, ZA** **2019 – 2020**  
**Piano Teacher**

Provided comprehensive piano instruction to students, ranging between ages of five and 60, on various matters, inclusive of how to read music. Devised tailored teaching materials for each student, aligned to individuals needs and preferences. Encouraged students throughout learning to promote and foster creative confidence. Monitored student performance to enable delivery of constructive feedback. Prepared students for concerts, exams, recitals, and other events.

**KimoraMed, Lansdowne, Cape Town, ZA** **2019**  
**Marketing & PR Coordinator**

Supported development of family-oriented practice comprising highly qualified doctors providing call-out services. Conceptualised and executed innovative marketing campaigns, aligned to customer insights. Established online presence by performing social media management. Devised and implemented strategic communications plan. Nurtured strategic partnerships by engaging via email and telephone, as well as paying in-person visits. Produced content for press releases, along with other documents within public domain

**SA College of Music – University of Cape Town, Cape Town, ZA** **2018**  
**Junior Mac Lab Assistant & Music Technology Tutor**

Delivered tutoring to students enrolled in MUZ1381H and MUZ2372H subjects. Provided comprehensive instruction on how to effectively navigate programs such as Ableton, Audacity, and Logic Pro, as well as notation software inclusive of MuseScore and Sibelius. Performed troubleshooting for issues encountered on Mac computers, while reporting directly to Senior Officer. Oversaw swift maintenance of software and hardware systems. Supported students by resolving technical queries.

## Additional Experience

**Music Theory Teacher**, Khayalitsha Music Academy, Khayelitsha, ZA  
**Freelance Web Developer & CV Writer**, Multiple Clients, Remote

## MUSIC & SOUND EXPERIENCE

### Sound Design/ Engineering Experience

Sound Designer, *All my Ex-Lovers are Dead* – Dara Beth (Stage Play), 2022  
Sound Designer, [IAM](#) – SportsScene RSA (Advertisement), 2022  
Sound Designer, [Deliver Me](#) – Paper Crane Collective (Documentary), 2021  
Sound Designer, *Prayers for Sweet Water* – British Film Institute CT (Documentary), 2021  
Sound Designer, *Still Bloom* – Zoey Black Productions (Documentary), 2021  
Soundscape Creation, [Bienvenue A Ma Table](#) – For Elijah Ndoumbe, Forecast Forum, 2020  
Sound Editor, [Empatico Experience](#) – Empatico & UMUZI, 2019  
Soundscape Creation/Sound Editor, [Held](#) (Exhibition by Amanda Rybicka), Creative Change Laboratory, 2019

### Mixing & Mastering Experience

Mix Engineer, [IAM](#) – SportsScene RSA (Advertisement), 2022  
Mix Engineer, [SenseMaker](#) – ACIDI, Western Cape Water Caucus, UCT (Documentary: Climate Change Initiative), 2022  
Mix Engineer, *City Occupied* – Lionfish Productions (Documentary: Housing Crisis), 2022  
Mix Engineer, [Decentralising Music Making in South Africa](#) – Stiff Pap/Umuzi, (Documentary) 2022  
Mix & Mastering Engineer, [Deliver Me](#) – Paper Crane Collective (Documentary), 2021  
Mix & Mastering Engineer, *Prayers for Sweet Water* – British Film Institute CT (Documentary), 2021  
Mastering Engineer, *Holy Tuesday* – CISTAMATIC (Local Musician), 2020  
Mix Engineer, *A Faint Patch of Light* (Recorded Adaptation) – Stage Play at Afrovibes Festival, 2020

### Compositions

Composer [Siyamphimbili](#) – Commissioned by Calvin University, (Choral Work), premiere ACDA 2023  
Composer, [IAM](#) – SportsScene RSA (Advertisement), 2022  
Composer, *Delela* – Tiisetso Mashifane (Stage Play), National Arts Festival, Makhanda 2022  
Composer, *Prayers for Sweet Water* – British Film Institute CT (Documentary), 2021  
Featured Composer, *SA New Music Concert* – Music Department of North-West University, 2021  
Theme Composer, [Botho with RoxyMaRosa](#) – UCT TV/ CTV TV/ DSTV, 2018  
Composer, *WRAPPED UP* (Undergraduate Film at UCT), 2018  
Composer, [E.N.D.I.M.T.H.A.N.D.A.Y.O](#) – 1<sup>st</sup> Annual SACM Zaartsong Competition (Tenor & Piano, 2018)

### Conferences & Symposiums

Contributing Artist & Presenter, *Bowed Electrons* – Music Festival & Symposium (Sept 2022)  
South African College of Music – University of Cape Town, Cape Town, ZA  
Online Panelist, Panel 1: “Bodies in Virtual Spaces” – *Network of Embodied Research in Africa* (2022)  
Rhodes University Drama Department, Makhanda, ZA  
Contributing Artist, [Bowed Electrons](#) – Music Festival & Symposium (2021)  
South African College of Music – University of Cape Town, Cape Town, ZA  
Mentor & Participant, [Dreaming Girls Music Conference](#) – Music Festival & Symposium (2019)  
Rossetonville, Johannesburg, ZA

### Affiliations

Representative, UCT Mental Health Task Team, 2016 – 2018

- Spearheaded drafting of first [UCT Mental Health Policy](#), as well as supported implementation.

Chairperson, UCT Music Students Council, 2017 - 2018  
Co-Facilitator, UCT – SA College of Music Curriculum Change Work Group, 2017  
Deputy Head Student & Communications Head, UCT Glendower Residence, 2014 – 2015