



Wael Sami Elkholy
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Personal:

- Born 13. 5. 1976 in Dubai
- Raised up in Cairo
- Egyptian / Swiss citizen since 2018
- Language skills: Arabic, English, German and French

Education:

- **CVT Singer Course**
Complete Vocal Institute – Copenhagen/Zurich 2016
- **Certificate of Advanced Studies – Creative Management**
Hochschule der Künste Bern/ University of Arts Bern 2014
- **Master’s degree** in Music: Composition for Théâtre Musical and Research in arts
Hochschule der Künste Bern/University of Arts Bern 2012
by Xavier Dayer, Christian Henking, Vinko Globokar, Helmut Oehring, Mathias Rebstock, Françoise Rivalland and Pierre Sublet
Voice Techniques by Franziska Baumann
Master's thesis: “Der Schleier”
Musiktheater about the veil in an intercultural context
- **Master’s degree** in Music: Composition and Theory, Jazz and Media Arts
Hochschule der Künste Bern/University of Arts Bern 2010
by Christian Henking, Xavier Dayer, Dieter Ammann and Klaus König
Masterthesis: “Der Kreis” – “The cycle”
Intercultural influences in the traditional and the contemporary composition
- **Master classes** by Klaus Huber in Bern 2009, Walter Zimmermann in Berlin and Marcelo Toledo in New York 2006, Amr Okba in Cairo 2006
- **Postgraduate degree:** Composition Classic/Arabic Music
Academy of Arts/Higher Institute of Arabic Music, Cairo 2000
- **Bachelor** in Music: Composition, Oud, and Music Theory.
Academy of Arts/Higher Institute of Arabic Music, Cairo 1998
by Atteya Sharara, Michael Al-Masry, Dr Rageh Daoud, Dr Mohamed Abdel Wahab Abdel Fattah, George Michel (Oud), Hussein Saber (Oud)
- **Private singing lessons** by Ratiba Elhefny, Violet Maqar, Mohsen Farouq
Cairo Opera House 1998 - 2002

Experiences as a Composer

- Composition for the Radio Drama „AL AZAL“ from Zaher Al Jamous, Premiere October 2025
- Composer & Music Director of Performance „Wasted Land“, Manaka Empowerment Bern & Vidy Theatre, Lausanne, September 2024, Tour 2025
- Composer for Dance Performance „First Time“ by Lubna Abou Kheir, Zürich Tanz Festival, May 2024, Tour 2025
- Residency Grant from Aargauer Kuratorium for research in Athens, November 2021
- Music for Podcast “Wie die Geranie nach Bern verschleppt wurde” 2020
- Solo album “wurzeln” for Voice, Oud und Electronics, Unit Records Bern, November 2019
- Interdisciplinary Music Theatre Tilt, Klangbox Ensemble 2017
- Interdisciplinary Music Theatre MA'AT RA', IMTGC Ensemble, Kairo 2016
- Interdisciplinary Music Theatre “Out of Cage”, Duo Performance, Klangbox 2016
- Composition contribution price from Aargauer Kuratorium for Oratorio “Hypatia” 2016
- Composition Commissions for different ensembles and choirs
- Bern Musikfestival Composition Commission Jahrmarktorgel 2013
- Bern Musikfestival, Finalist in the Compositions Competition Fluchtwege 2011
- Biennale Bern 2010
- Bern Festival 2009
- Artist in Residence ProHelvetia Switzerland 2008
- Global Interplay Project “Musik der Jahrhunderte” Residencies and Seminars in Accra, Shanghai, Berlin, New York and Stuttgart 2006
- ISCM World Music Festival Stuttgart 2006
- First price für best Composition und Arrangement in Al-Dar Al Baidaa Song Festival, Casablanca 2002

Experiences as an instructor and artistic consultant:

- „Music as a bridge“ Research Residency in Sri Lanka, January - February 2026, sponsored by Pro Helvetia, Aargauer Kuratorium, Stadt Bern, Stiftung Dialog Basel, and Burgergemeinde Bern.
- Workshop instructor on the frame of Textur Festival Basel „Traditional Music in the Sight of Here and Now“, Secondary School Binningen, October 2024
- Grant from Aargauer Kuratorium for Research “The land needs new men”, June 2021 - October 2022
- Workshop instructor “Tönstör”, Bern 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
- Workshop instructor, Music theatre, Project “Time to move”, Bern 2019 – 2021
- Project director/workshop instructor “room s sounds”, IMTGC Ensemble, Kairo, a cooperation with Prohelvetia, February 2018
- Workshop instructor “Time for Change” Cultural project from City Bern and Schlachthaus Theatre Bern May/June 2017
- Project director MA’AT RA’, IMTGC Ensemble, Cairo, a cooperation with Prohelvetia, November 2016
- Project director – “Out of Cage” Klangbox Ensemble, Cairo – a cooperation with Prohelvetia, March 2016
- Assistant at The University of Arts Bern 2012 – 2015
- Musical consultant/Mentor oriental ensemble/Oud player by the modern opera „Der unbekante Vogel“ composed by Martin Derungs, 2015
- Inter-cultural Workshop „Weltwoche“, Privatschule Muristalden Bern 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015
- Private vocal coaching and singing technique instructor since 2000
- Singing and Choir instructor in different adult and private schools in Switzerland since 2010
- Teacher/Assistant for Music theories and composition at the Academy of Arts – Higher Institute of Arabic Music, Egypt, 1999 – 2006

Experiences as Performer, Composer, Singer and Oud player:

- Colomboscope Contemporary Art Festival, Colombo, Sri Lanka, January 2026
- Music Performance „My Sound, My Journey“, 2025
- Textur Festival für Alte Musik in neuen Kombinationen, Duo Tamar Eskenian & Wael Sami Elkholy, Basel, October 2024
- CoFounder/Composer/Singer/Oud-player by Bächlin & Elkholy Duo, first Album „BeLonging“. Album Release April 2023, Tour 2024
- CoFounder/Composer/Singer/Oud-player by Almwaya Band, first Album „Riding a Camel in the Middle of the Sea “. Swiss tour March 2022. Album Release May 2022. Swiss tour June 2023 & Hammana Festival, Lebanon August 2023.
- Theatre piece „Gilgamesh Origin“ from *The Codes & Al Kasba Theatre*, Bern/ Basel/Winterthur 2022
- Residency AUA WIR LEBEN Theatre Festival Bern, Artists' Lab Mai 2021
- Music Performance “Sirag - Ein Leuchten” – CD “wurzeln” Tour 2020 – 2021
- Theatre piece „Other World/Coraline“ from *Weltalm Theatre*, Bern & Aarau 2019/ Zurich 2020
- “Black.Space.Race” Afrobeat Performance von Manaka Empowerment Prod., Bern Dezember 2018
- Murten Classics Festival, August 2018
- Quartet ab3ad; Swiss tour “Ancient love reborn” May 2018
- Theatre piece „Heimat Kosmos“ from *Club 111*, Bern 2016, Aarau/Zurich/Chur 2018
- The Musical “Sit so get s.v.p.” from Kämpf/Urweider/Schwabenland/Hari, Bern/ Lucern 2017
- Trio ab3ad; Concerts' tour in Switzerland and Jordan at Karama Human Rights Film Festival 2016
- Interdisciplinary Music Theatre MA'AT RA', Cairo 2016
- Interdisciplinary Music Theatre “Out of Cage”, Duo Performance, Klangbox Ensemble 2016
- Theatre piece „Hotel Kosmos“ from *Club 111*, Bern, Zürich, Chur, 2015 and 2016
- Composer/Singer/Oud player by Trio ab3ad, first album „Ancient love/Alte Liebe“ May 2015
- Theater piece „Mitleid mit dem Teufel“ from *400asa*, Zürich and Basel 2011 und 2012
- Interreligiöse Bettagsfeier, KKL Luzern, main hall.
- Concert with Kamilia Joubran, Banlieues Festival, Paris 2012
- Main role in Musiktheater Piece „Der Wunsch, Indianer zu werden“ Stadttheater Bern, 2011
- Performances as a solo artist in Switzerland, Europe, Middle and Far East: (Music festivals u.a. in Austria, France, Denmark, Bahrain, Tunis, Oman, China
- Pop – Album Mirage Records 2006
- Performances as a soloist in Festival of Arabic Music, Cairo, 2001 – 2010
- Singer in The Arabic National Music Group – Cairo Opera House 1998 – 2006
- Singer/Performer in Television and Theatre productions 1985 – 2008

Sponsored by:

- Aargauer Kuratorium
- Pro Helvetia
- Stadt Bern
- Burggemeinde Bern
- Schweizerische Interpretienstiftung SIS
- Kanton Bern
- Stiftung Dialog Basel
- Süd Kultur Fonds