



Andre Madatian, a graduate student in Music Composition, began his studies at MTSU in fall 2020. As of today, he has had over 80 placements on over 20 television networks such as NBC, CBS Sports, Bravo, TLC, and the Oprah Winfrey Network to name a few. The most popular television show that his music has been placed on is "America's Got Talent" on NBC. ♦ He shares more below about mentorship from his professors and his positive experience working in the Music department. MTSU School of Music **MTSU College of Liberal Arts**

Where are you from and where did you complete your undergraduate?

I was born and raised in southeast Pennsylvania in a suburb named Exton. I completed my undergraduate studies at Berklee College of Music in Boston with a degree in Film Scoring.

How did you choose your program in Music?

I have been a performing guitarist longer than a composer, however, composition has always been an area of study that I wanted to explore further beyond my undergraduate studies. My mentor and composition professor at MTSU, Dr. Paul Osterfield, has created an environment in which he recognizes my compositional style and is helping me fine tune it as opposed to suggesting a different aesthetic. This is quite freeing as a creative since there is no pressure to abandon what I feel is my own unique approach to composition.

What would you say has been your favorite class and why?

My favorite class thus far in my academic career here at MTSU has been "Film and Music" with Dr. Kathryn Fenton. The class consisted of deep analysis, score study, open discussions, and a history of music as it solely pertains to film.

Tell me more about your experience of composing custom music through music licensing and the process.

Music licensing is a great opportunity for composers to compose custom music for a licensing company with the intent of having their music placed in a variety of multi-media including film, television, advertisements, internet ads, etc. Often times, when composing for music licensing companies the composer is not working with visuals and instead is given a "brief". Here, either a music licensor, music supervisor, or even the producer of a television show or film may give a synopsis of the story line with the inclusion of desired instrumentation, moods, tone colors, and other musical key words that will help guide the composer in creating a piece of music that is appropriate for the particular brief. Once a composition is submitted and approved, it is then in the licensor's hands where it is pitched to a variety of different projects outside of just the one particular brief. Often times, I am notified either via the music licensor or through my performance rights organization (in my case this would be ASCAP) where my music has been placed.

What can we find you doing when you aren't in classes or composing music?

As mentioned before, I am a guitarist and also have a passion for performing. When not composing, one might find me playing in Nashville or touring with several Nashville-based artists. Additionally, spending quality time with my wife Desirea and cat named Rigby is my favorite thing to do!

Is there anything else we should know about you, what you think about the Music program or your experience at MTSU?

My time at MTSU has been truly invaluable. The faculty, students, and academic integrity is top notch. Additionally, the opportunity of being a graduate teaching assistant under the direction of Professor Angela Tipps has been especially rewarding. A future goal of mine is to continue my academic studies at the doctoral level and to one day teach at a university. With the opportunities provided by MTSU and the School of Music, I feel more confident in this endeavor as well as in my growth as a musician/composer.