

Teresa Nakra

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC



UNOFFICIAL TITLE: Interactive Music Maestra 🎻

EDUCATION: BA, Music (Harvard University); MA, Ph.D, Media Arts and Sciences (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). 🎵

INTERESTS: *The intersection of music, technology, and emotion. Playing the violin. Developing ways of thinking about, measuring, and understanding why music is so cool. Finding new ways to express myself through music.*

🎧 **LANGUAGES:** English, Hindi, MIDI, C/C++,

Max/MSP, Pd, Labview, Arduino ✳️ **ON HER IPOD:**

The iTanpura app, which beautifully synthesizes the complex overtones of a traditional North Indian instrument.

🔮 **PREDICTIONS:** “No matter what new technologies are invented in the future, we will always find new ways to play music on them.” 🎧 **SECRET VICE:** *The*

“4 Chord Song” by Axis of Awesome 🎵 **FAVORITE**

QUOTATION: “Talking about music is like dancing about architecture.” —Steve Martin 🎧 **PRESS INK:**

Professor Nakra has been featured in The New Yorker, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, among many others. 🎵 **CLASSES TAUGHT:** Musicianship

1–3, Interactive Music Programming, Electronic Music Skills & Literature, Studio Composition & Audio Signal Processing. She’s one of four team-teachers

for Conducting Robots.

“Many students (and especially their parents!) ask me what they can do with an undergraduate education in music. At TCNJ many of our students are interested in teaching, and our Bachelor of Music in Education degree program is an excellent way to get certified to teach in K–12 school systems. While it is important to find full-time employment doing something you love, music also has a very important (and sometimes hard to quantify) role in society and in our individual lives. I honestly believe that the best thing a student can do is pursue a major that they are passionate about and develop their skills as far as they can. Musical activities develop technique and muscle memory, and they also exercise cognition and critical thinking. At TCNJ, the Bachelor of Arts in Music has been designed to provide maximum flexibility for students who might want to combine music studies with other majors, as in double majors or major/minor combinations.”

“Regardless of the career path the student takes after college, he or she will benefit from the knowledge and discipline and process-oriented approach that their music studies have built. Those skills are transferable. Studies have shown that when people pursue topics that they are enthusiastic about, they are generally more successful. In fact, music is the motivating reason why I get up and go to work smiling every day. It has been a powerful force for good in my life and has transformed the lives of countless others throughout human history.”