

Zhiran Xu “Karen”, Audio Designer

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EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University, Entertainment Technology Center (ETC), Pittsburgh, PA

Master of Entertainment Technology, May 2021

College of the Holy Cross (HC), Worcester, MA

Bachelor of Arts, Music and Computer Science, May 2019

University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

Study Abroad Semester, Spring 2018

Relevant Coursework: Building Virtual Worlds, Visual Story, Data Structures, Algorithms, Artificial Intelligence, Computational Vision, Computer Graphics, Music Theory 1-4, Music History 1-2, Coding Music, Symphony, Piano & Voice studies

SKILLS

Music Composition: Max/MSP, Avid Pro Tools, Logic Pro X, Adobe Audition, Audacity, MIDI Composition and Orchestration, Foley, Field Recording, advanced keyboard skills

Programming: Java, C++, Python, Swift, OpenGL, R, Matlab

Creativity & Production: Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office Suite

Language: Fluent Mandarin and English

ACADEMIC PROJECTS

Building Virtual Worlds, Entertainment Technology Center, Sound Designer and Producer, Fall 2019

- Created games in two-week cycles on multidisciplinary teams of 4-5 using different types of platforms including Vive (VR), Magic Leap (AR), Kinect and The CAVE
- Used Logic Pro X, Audacity, Adobe Audition to compose music and sound effects through MIDI composition, orchestration and Foley, create voice-overs and used field recordings for projects, and assisted with post-production mastering in Unity
- Directed group meetings with multidisciplinary teams, participated in communicative and iterative teamwork

Visual Story, Entertainment Technology Center, Sound Designer and Video Editor, Fall 2019

- Created visual stories working in a group of 5 students using traditional media
- Composed and designed audio for visual story assignments, used Logic Pro X and Audition, as well as Foley, voice over techniques, conducted field recordings
- Edited videos and conducted final mastering

Weiss Summer Research Program in the Humanities, Social Sciences & Fine Arts, College of the Holy Cross

- Received grant to compose an original electronic score for Charlie Chaplin’s “The Immigrant” (1917)
- Screened film with new score for the 2017 Research Symposium

EXPERIENCE & LEADERSHIP

HC Gateways Orientation, International Student Orientation, Student Coordinator, Fall 2018

HC Gateways Orientation, Orientation Leader, Worcester, MA, Summer and Fall 2016, Fall 2017

- Interviewed and selected candidates, planned, organized and implemented various changes to program
- Worked cooperatively with faculty, staff and students, supervised and acted as "group leader" to peers
- Trained 6 Orientation Leaders to facilitate Orientation programs for 23 international students in 2018
- Eased transitions, fostered sense of community and built lasting relationships with first-year students

HC Student Advisory Council, Music, Member, April 2016 – May 2019

HC Student Advisory Council, Math and Computer Science, Member September 2018 – May 2019

- Organize activities for the Music Department, such as Music Madness concert, the board of Music Majors, etc
- Present for departments at Open House, Second Year Opportunities Program, etc
- Distribute Course Evaluation Forms, advise departments on faculty tenure promotions

HC Office of International Students “Buddy Program,” Mentor, October 2018 – May 2019

- Met with a first-year mentee once every two weeks and offered advice on how to adapt to college life
- Completed session reports after completion of each meeting for improvements of the program