

Prof. Alon Schab – Bio June 2025

I am a faculty member in the Department of Music at Bar-Ilan University, where I research various historical and analytical aspects of Western music from the 16th century to the present. My musical background is both as a composer and a recorder player, and I earned my bachelor's and master's degrees in performance (with Prof. Michael Melzer) and composition (with Prof. Haim Permont) at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. In 2007, I decided to expand my focus into academic research and was admitted as Ussher Fellow to the doctoral program at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. My dissertation traced the compositional techniques of the English composer Henry Purcell and identified underlying patterns of symmetry and palindrome that likely formed the structural basis of his works.

After returning to Israel, I taught theoretical and analytical subjects at the Jerusalem Academy, and later joined the faculty of the Department of Music at the University of Haifa. During these years, I continued working on Purcell's music, authored a book that expanded upon my doctoral findings (University of Rochester Press, 2018), was invited to serve on the committee of the British Purcell Society, and significantly broadened my research fields. In 2010, I was fortunate to participate in the discovery of an unknown manuscript associated with the Viennese cantor Salomon Sulzer, which led me to explore this area as well. Co-teaching a course with Prof. Eran Shalev sparked a research interest in rock music—particularly Israeli rock—which led to two co-authored articles and, hopefully, a forthcoming book. My current research spans composers such as John Dowland, Georg Muffat, and George Frideric Handel; music in Mandate Palestine; source studies and manuscript research; scholarly editing of music; completion and reconstruction of fragmentary works; and historically informed performance. My second book, in the latter field, was published by Oxford University Press in 2022.

From 2019 to 2022, I served as chair of the Israeli Musicological Society. In 2023, I joined the faculty of Bar-Ilan University and received the Rector's Prize for Scientific Innovation. Over the years, I have been awarded teaching innovation grants from Yad Hanadiv and research and publication grants from the Israel Science Foundation. I regularly collaborate with musical ensembles in Israel and abroad. I am married to Sivan Shenhav-Schab (a composer, lecturer,

music analyst, and expert on Israeli music), and we are the proud parents of Yotam, Yair, and Dori.