

Anya Badaldavood is a Ph.D. candidate in the field of historical ethnomusicology. She completed her BA in Ethnomusicology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During her tenure at the University of Minnesota, she completed an MA in Ethnomusicology and is currently working on her dissertation on premodern music iconography and organology in Central Asia. She studies musical instruments and practices during the Timurid Dynasty (1370-1507). Her research lies at the intersection of poetry, miniature paintings, and calligraphy. Her methodology involves juxtaposing these art forms with the compendium of musical instruments and their associated descriptions featured in the 15th-century treatise on Persian music theory by Al-Maraghi. By doing so, she aims to emphasize the cultural interplay between the various courts of Eurasia, which has culminated in the exchange of musical instruments and practices.

Her academic pursuits in organology have exposed her to traditional musical customs in premodern Japan and Korea. She investigates the transmission and development of string instruments, particularly lutes, as they migrated from one culture to another. In juxtaposing music iconography and organology, she strives to retrace the pathways these instruments traveled from Central Asia to Japan in the East and the Iberian Peninsula in the West and how each transfigured to suit the local musical taste and practice.