

Christopher Waterman

Profile

Christopher Waterman, dean of the School of the Arts and Architecture (UCLA Arts), oversees the new UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music an overarching umbrella that aligns the departments of Ethnomusicology, Music and Musicology.

UCLA Arts is comprised of the Departments of Architecture and Urban Design, Art, Design | Media Arts, Ethnomusicology, Music and World Arts and Cultures. Also falling under Waterman's purview are three internationally acclaimed public arts units: the Fowler Museum at UCLA, the Hammer Museum, and a major performing arts program, UCLA Live; and five centers: the Art | Global Health Center, the Art | Sci Center, the Center for Intercultural Performance, the Experiential Technologies Center, and the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts.

Waterman is an anthropologist and musician who specializes in the study of music and culture in Africa and the Americas. He joined UCLA in 1996 as a professor in the Department of World Arts and Cultures, becoming chair of the department in 1997 and was appointed Dean in 2003. He has conducted extensive field research among the Yoruba people of Nigeria, and he is the author of "Juju: A Social History and Ethnography of an African Popular Music" (University of Chicago Press, 1990) and co-author of "American Popular Music: From Minstrelsy to MP3" (Oxford University Press, 2007).

In his capacity as a bassist, Waterman has performed with such artists as Zoot Sims, Larry Coryell, Buddy Emmons, the Glenn Miller and Jimmy Dorsey orchestras, and I.K. Dairo (M.B.E.) and His Blue Spots.

His work has been recognized with Fulbright and Social Science Research Council fellowships, a post-doctoral fellowship at Cornell University's Society for the Humanities, and awards such as The Ethel Curry Distinguished Lectureship in Musicology from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), the Class of 1960 Professorship at Williams College, and the Robert Trotter Lectureship, awarded by the College Music Society. Waterman was cited by *Rolling Stone* magazine for his innovative course on world popular music in 1992.

Prior to joining UCLA, Waterman was associate professor of music at the University of Washington, where he served as head of the ethnomusicology program and chair of the African studies committee. He received his Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a B.Mus. degree in composition and electric bass from Berklee College of Music.