



Amy Riffle-Kouyeas

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Degrees Earned:

- **Master of Music** in Piano Performance with specialization in Pedagogy, West Virginia University (WVU) - Morgantown, West Virginia. May 2004. Cum Laude.
- **Bachelor of Science** in Music Performance (Piano), Frostburg State University (FSU) - Frostburg, Maryland. May 1999.

Undergraduate Instruction Experience:

- **Garrett College** McHenry, MD **September, 2008- Present**
Instructor of Music
Currently, I am teaching eleven piano and voice students and Music Appreciation. In addition to my duties as instructor, I am also working with the Dean of Academic Affairs to create a new Music program at Garrett. We are hoping to offer an Associate Degree Program beginning Fall, 2009.
- **Taylor University** Upland, IN **January, 2007- May, 2008**
Staff Accompanist, Music Department
At Taylor, I am responsible for accompanying students in five different studios and opera theatre classes. I help students prepare for lessons, accompany lessons, and accompany for regular Performance Classes.
- **Ball State University** Muncie, IN **August 2006-January 2007**
Staff Accompanist, Department of Theatre and Dance
While at Ball State, I organized weekly rehearsal times for thirty students in two different voice studios and played for two different master classes per week.
- **Mount Union College** Alliance, OH **August 2004- July 2006**
Faculty Piano Instructor
I taught piano with the rigorous Preparatory Division at Mount Union. I had students ages 6 to adult. My students performed in musicales each semester, showing solo and duet work.

Elementary Education Experience:

- **Richmond Heights Christian School** Cleveland, OH **August 2004- June 2006**
Music Teacher
I taught music for grades K-6. The curriculum included general music appreciation and instruction as well as performance studies in singing, recorder, and piano. Students performed these work at annual Christmas and spring musicals and concerts. My lesson plans incorporated fundamental aspects of rhythm, and music theory, as well as world and Christian music.

Preparatory Instruction Experience:

- **Cumberland Music Academy** Cumberland, MD **September, 2008- Present**
Piano Instructor
I teach students from age 5- adult various styles and methods of playing piano.
- **Arts Place, Inc.** Portland, IN **September 2006- May 2008**
Piano Instructor
As an instructor at Arts Place, Inc., I teach both piano and voice students at all levels. My students perform in one recital per year showing both solo and duet music.
- **Water Street Music** Kent, OH **June 2004-August 2006**
Studio Owner, Instructor
Owned and operated preparatory music studio within the arts district of Kent, Ohio. Covering all duties for the studio I taught over 30 students during a two year period. Student accomplishments include, performance in OMTA recitals, the Cleveland Solo and Ensemble Festival, and a personal favorite one student performed with Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Bernie Worrell from Parliament-Funkadelic at Nelson Ledges Quarry Park. All of my students regularly participated in studio recitals.
- **Cumberland Music Academy** Cumberland, MD **September 2000- May 2004**
Piano Instructor
I taught over 30 students ranging in age from 5-adult using a large variety of pedagogical methods and materials. All of my students performed in two recitals a year. Student accomplishments include, participation in the Frostburg State University Piano Festival Auditions, Allegany County's Solo and Ensemble Festival (consistently earning high scores), and a talented student received an arts scholarship through Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth. In addition to solo performance, my students also performed duets.

- **Cumberland Music Academy Piano Camp-** *During the summer semester, 2003, I created a Piano Camp directing all aspects of the program. CMA Piano Camp combined elements of piano with general music appreciation and music theory. It was a huge success; everyone who participated had a great time.*

Performance Experience:

Theatrical Music Direction, Conducting:

- **Victor/Victoria, Frostburg State University** September- October, 2008
Rehearsal and Show accompanist
- **Godspell, Muncie Civic Theatre** Muncie IN March-April, 2008
- **Ragtime, Muncie Civic Theatre** February, 2008
- **Review Muncie Star-Press stated: "Musically, it is an enjoyable production. The show opens with an enthusiastic rendition of the title song Ragtime. In fact, the opening number alone is worth the price of admission."*
- **Seussical!, Muncie Civic Theatre (Conductor Only)** April-May, 2007
Musical Director, Julie Barber
- **Under the Gaslight, Frostburg State University** April-March, 2001
In addition to directing, I was also responsible for arranging selections from the 1890's for our pit orchestra (piano, bass, and violin) and six singers.

Worship Leader/Music Director:

- **Christ's Reformed Church of Hagerstown, MD** September, 2008- Present
I direct three choirs: Cherub (children 4-6), Canticle (children 7-9), and Chancel (adult). In the short time that I've worked here, I've managed to re-introduce the use of handbells during services, pulled together "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" as our Christmas Cantata, and started a performance series- this December, our organist performed a Christmas Concert featuring many different soloists and many different instruments- piano/organ duets, clarinet, vocalists, trumpet, etc. This January, I helped organize a performance by the Watoto Children's Choir, a Choir from Uganda. This year, we will also feature other performances including: my own solo recital, Brian Plitnik, trombone, a combined choir singing Faure's Requiem, and Joan Dixon, organ.
- **First Presbyterian Church of Hartford City, IN** November, 2006- July, 2008
Responsibilities included: choosing and leading weekly praise songs, preparing the hymns for both organ and piano, leading the monthly choir, and bringing in various special music groups. In 2007, I led the choir in a choral 'Tenebre' service.
- **Atwater Congregational Church of Atwater, OH** June, 2004- August 2006
During my time at Atwater, I was responsible for leading the hymns on both organ and piano and preparing the children's choir for weekly anthems. I also led music during the Christmas and Easter and other special services.
- **Christ United Methodist Church of Cumberland, MD** September 2000-2003
While at Christ United Methodist Church, I was responsible for preparing the weekly hymns on the piano, leading the choir in weekly anthems, and organizing special music during the summer months, and preparing annual Christmas Cantatas.

Accompanist:

- **Joanna Moomaw, Senior Vocal Recital, Shepherd University** November, 2008
Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson (3,4,9)- Copland, Fiancailles pour rire (IV, VI, V)- Poulenc, I Wish it So from Juno- Blitzstein, I Won't Mind- Blumenkrantz, Not a Day Goes By from Merrily We Roll Along- Sondheim, Somewhere from West Side Story - Bernstein/Sondheim, Saga of Jenny from Lady in the Dark- Kurt Weill
- **Alex Sacco, Junior Horn Recital, Shepherd University** October, 2008
2 Sonatas for horn or English horn (complete) - Cherubini, Sonata for Horn and Piano Andante-Allegro Molto- Ewazen
- **Matthew Sims, Junior Vocal Recital, Shepherd University** September, 2008
Allerseelen, Nichts- Strauss, Deh vieni alla Finestra from Don Giovanni- Mozart, Les Berceaux, Mandoline- Faure
- **Those Killing Faeres- A New Baroque Musical Monodrama** June, 2008
Created by Julie Barber, Those Killing Faeres combined the music of Henry Purcell with the novelist Aphra Behn to tell the story of Cynthia and Leander, lovers whose lives are tragically cut short, in tradition of Romeo and Juliet. Based on Aphra Behn's serial novels Love Letters Between a Noble-Man and his Sister (1684), Love Letters From a Noble Man to his Sister (1685), and The Amours of Philander and Sylvia (1687). Purcell's music included: Since From My Dear, Music For A While, Sweeter than Roses, Man is for the Woman Made, Cupid, The Slyest Rogue, When I Have Often Heard, Thrice Happy Lovers, What Can We Poor Females Do?, I Attempt from Love's Sickness to Fly, If Music Be the Food of Love, The Fatal Hour, We Sing to Him, and Evening Hymn.
- **A Comically Classical Christmas Cabaret featuring the music of PDQ Bach** December, 2007
This was a cabaret arranged by Julie Barber and Darrin Murrell for Muncie Civic Theatre. I primarily acted as accompanist, but also sang the missing parts when it was a cappella four part harmony. Featured music included: Four Folk Song Upsettens, Perueckenstueck, Ground Rounds, "Howdy There", from Oedipus Tex, and A Consort of Choral Christmas Carols.
- **Cotton Patch Gospel, Jay County Civic Theatre** Portland, IN April, 2007
I played both the piano and keyboard, covering the various missing instruments (mandolin, bass, violin) and playing piano during rehearsals.
- **Thoroughly Modern Millie, Ball State University** November, 2006
I acted as rehearsal pianist, responsible for assisting singers in learning voice parts, and played piano during the rehearsal process.
- **Into the Woods, Kent State University** February, 2006
- **West Side Story, Porthouse Theatre** (RegionalTheatre) Cuyahoga Falls, OH August, 2005

- **Love's Labour's Lost, Frostburg State University** November, 2002
I worked with the singer and recorded the spring and winter songs for the production.
- **You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, Westmar High School** March, 2002
In this production, I acted as rehearsal pianist and played the show covering all orchestral parts.
- **Woodwind Recital, Scott Silbert, Shepherd College** Sheperdstown, WV April, 1998
Sonata No. V for flute- Bach, Aria for Clarinet- E. Bozza, Aria for Saxophone- J. Ibert
- **The Wizard of Oz, The Maryland Theatre** Hagerstown, MD July, 1999
I assisted the conductor in leading the all-county orchestra in this production.
- **St. Marks Episcopal Church** Boonsboro, MD January, 1997- May, 1999
Acted as organist for the weekly family service.

Solo Pianist:

- **Solo Recital, Windsor Hall** January 24, 2009
Bachianas Brasileiras No. 4 (I)- Villa Lobos, A minor Sonata, Op. 164 (complete)- Schubert, Nocturnes- F minor Op. 55 no. 1, E minor, Op. 72 no. 1- Chopin, F minor Variations, Haydn
- **Staff Recital, Taylor University** February 21, 2008
F minor Variations- Haydn, A minor Sonata, Op. 164 (complete)- Schubert, Nocturnes E-flat major Op. 9 no. 2, F minor, Op. 55 no. 1, E minor, Op. 72 no. 1- Chopin, Children's Corner Suite L. 113- Debussy, Toccata for Piano- Emma Lou Diemer
- **Masters Recital, West Virginia University** April 20, 2004
Rondo in a minor KV 511- Mozart, Prelude in D-flat major "Raindrop", Op. 28, no. 15, Nocturne in f minor Op. 55- Chopin, Toccata- Khachaturian, Children's Corner Suite L. 113- Debussy, Four Piece Suite- divertimento for two pianos- R.R. Bennett
- **Chamber Recital, West Virginia University** November 2, 2003
Music, when soft voices die, Love's Philosophy- Quilter, Heart, we will Forget Him- Copland, Love Went a-Riding- Bridge, Dolly Suite, Op. 56- Faure, Piano Trio in E-flat major D. 897 "Notturmo"- Schubert, Danzon Cubano- Copland
- **Solo Recital, Potomac State College** November 18, 2001
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring- Bach (arr. Myra Hess), Sonata in c minor K. 457(complete)- Mozart, Polonaise in A major "Military" Op. 40 no. 1- Chopin, Rhapsody in b minor Op. 79 no. 1- Brahms, Romanian Folk Dances (Complete)- Bartok
- **Senior Recital, Frostburg State University** April 25, 1999
Fantasia in c minor, KV. 475- Mozart, Intermezzo in a minor, Op. 116 no. 2- Brahms, Nocturne in e minor op. 72 no. 1- Chopin, Suite for Piano op. 14- Bartok, Piano Variations (1930)- Copland
- **Junior Recital, Frostburg State University** May 15, 1998
Prelude and Fugue XXII in b-flat minor BWV 867- Bach, Sonata in D major Op. 10 no. 3- Beethoven, Toccata for Piano- Emma Lou Diemer, Polonaise in f-sharp minor, Op. 44- Chopin

Graduate Studies:

- Mentorship and Training with Christine Kefferstan and Connie Arrau-Sturm, West Virginia University, Joan DeVee Dixon-Broyles, Frostburg State University.
- **Thesis:** "Welcome to the Jungle: Tame the Wildness by Teaching with a Learning Styles Awareness"
 - *Educational Counselor Keith Golay is an expert on identifying student learning styles and adapting classroom instruction to accommodate these styles. By understanding the different temperament types and learning styles, teachers can tailor their teaching to address skills and concepts in a way that all the students in a classroom should be able to understand. This project introduced the philosophies of Keith Golay, with other learning style theories, and then applied these theories to both individual piano lessons, and then group instructions.*
- **Walter Hautzig Master Class, Winthrop University** June 1998-1999
Fantasia in c minor, KV 475- Mozart, Intermezzo in a minor Op. 116, no. 2 (1998), Sonata in c minor K. 457-Mozart (1999)
- Graduate Assistantship Winthrop University
 - Assistant to Music Librarian, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC.

Related Experience:

- Previous employment:
 - Administrative Assistant, Arts Place, Portland, IN. 2006-2008
 - Retail sales, Kauffman Music, Cumberland, MD 2000-2002
 - Retail sales, McFadyen Music, Charlotte, NC 2000
- Performer of several instruments including: organ, mallet percussion, and alto voice.
- Active member of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA)
- Alumnus: Delta Omicron.
- Knowledge of piano technology. Trained with Nancy Salmon, RPT on voicing, regulating, refinishing and tuning. Also assisted Dr. Dean Shank on voicing and regulating two Steinway "D" pianos.
- Computer and internet skills. Knowledge of Microsoft Office, Excel, Frontpage, and PowerPoint also familiar with Adobe Acrobat, and Photoshop. Capable of building internet sites.
- Experience with music software includes: *Finale, EZ Vision, Cakewalk, Practica Musica, Sony Sound Forge/Acid.*

References:

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