

Alan Turry, DA, LCAT, MT-BC
Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapist

New York University
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions

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Education

New York University - Doctor of Arts, 2007

- Dissertation Advisor: Barbara Hesser

“The Interconnections Between Words and Music in Clinical Improvisation.” This doctoral research examined the relationship between lyrics and music in improvised songs that were created in the context of music therapy with a woman diagnosed with cancer.

New York University - Master of Arts, 1990

- Major: Music Therapy
- Pi Kappa Lambda Society Award for Musical Excellence

New York University - Bachelor of Arts, 1981

- Major: Music Therapy

Academic Positions

- Director of Training, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. Nordoff-Robbins Center for Music Therapy, 2006 to present.
- Director of Research, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. Nordoff-Robbins Center for Music Therapy, 2006 to present.
- Faculty, Codarts University for the Arts. Department of Music Therapy, 2022-present.
- Adjunct Faculty, St-Mary-of-the-Woods College. Department of Music Therapy, 2001-present.
- Adjunct Faculty, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions, 1987-present.
- Visiting Professor, Conservatorio di musica Pescara, 2016.
- Visiting Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. School of Music Studies, 2015.

- Visiting Professor, University of Hokkaido. Music Therapy Re-Learning Program, 2008-2015.
- Visiting Professor, Senzoku University. Gakuen College of Music, 2006-2014.
- Adjunct Faculty, Montclair State University. John J. Cali School of Music, 2017-2021.

Professional Clinical Experience

- Director of Music Therapy Services, Nordoff-Robbins Center for Music Therapy, New York University, New York, NY 2006-Present.
- Supervisor of Music Therapy Services, Nordoff-Robbins Center for Music Therapy, New York University, New York, NY 1990-2006.
- Supervising Music Therapist, Bellevue Hospital, New York, NY 1986-1990.
- Coordinator of Music Therapy, Metropolitan Hospital Department of Adolescent Psychiatry, New York, NY 1981-1986.

Graduate Level Instruction

- New York University
 - Adult Methods in Music Therapy (2021-Present)
 - Piano Foundations (2020-Present)
 - Clinical Improvisation (1995-Present)
 - Music Skills for Music Therapists (1991-1995)
- St-Mary-of-the-Woods College
 - Clinical Improvisation (5 Day Seminar/Workshop and Distance Learning Course) (2001-Present)
- Codarts University for the Arts
 - Music-Centered Music Therapy (2020-Present)
- Montclair State University
 - Piano Improvisation (2017-2021)
- Lesley University
 - Clinical Musicianship (2011)

Thesis Advisement

- “Handling Crisis on Inpatient Mental Health Units: How Music Therapy Influences the Process of De-escalation,” Melanie Castro-Pacheco, Master of Arts in Music Therapy

Program, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, Pending publication.

- “Exploring Musical Intimacy as a Therapeutic Element: A Phenomenological Inquiry,” Allison Payonk, Master of Arts in Music Therapy Program, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, December 6, 2021.
- “It’s Child’s Play: Pretend Play and Improvisation with Neurodiverse Individuals,” Veronica R. Manges, Master of Arts in Music Therapy Program, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, April 8, 2021.
- “The Effect of Individual Music Therapy on Whole-Person Care in Adult In Patient Rehabilitation,” Jonathan Tang, Master of Arts in Music Therapy Program, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, December 12, 2018.

Research Grants

- 2018 Mid-Atlantic Region Research/Special Project Award, Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Music Therapy Association, Digital Archival of Video-taped Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Sessions, Principal Investigator, \$5000, 2018-2019.
- Arthur Flagler Fultz Funded Research, American Music Therapy Association, Music Therapy/Upper Limb Therapy - Integrated (MULT-I) Group Intervention to Enhance Well-Being and Functional Recovery Post-Stroke, Principal Investigator, \$15000, 2012.
- NYU Steinhardt Challenge Art & Culture Grant, NYU Steinhardt, The effectiveness of Nordoff-Robbins music therapy on the development of communication and social interaction in young children with early developmental disabilities, Principal Investigator, \$5000, 2010.

Current Research Priorities

- Measuring Musical Engagement as the key component of Music Therapy
 - Principal Investigator: Developing the Music Engagement Scale, an ordinal scale with a focus on assessing the impact of musical engagement on reaching clinical goals
- Collaborations with Music Audio Research Laboratory at NYU
 - fMRI study: The effects of live music making in stroke rehabilitation
 - MULT-I: Music Therapy/Upper Limb Therapy Integrated
 - BEAT (Bridging Education & Art Together): Beat boxing as a clinical tool

Professional Contributions

- Editorial Board Member
 - *Music Therapy Perspectives*, 2012-Present.
 - *Music and Medicine*, 2009-Present.
- Reviewer
 - *Voices, A World Forum of Music Therapy*, 2021-Present.
- Board of Directors
 - Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Foundation, 2006-Present
- Trustee
 - International Trust for Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy, 1997-Present
- President
 - International Trust for Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy, 2000-2002
 - International Association for Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapists, 1998-2002
- Vice President
 - International Trust for Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy, 1997-2000
- Scientific Board Member
 - 9th World Congress of Music Therapy, 1999
- Executive Board Member
 - American Association for Music Therapy, 1994-1997

Fellowships and Awards

- ***Edith Hillman Boxill Award*** for Distinguished Achievement in Music Therapy, New York University, 2009

Publications

Books

- Turry, A. (2011). *Between music and psychology: A music therapist's method for improvising songs*. Germany: Lambert Academic Publishing.

Book Chapters

- Turry, A., & Scott-Moncrieff, S. (in press). Experience Oriented Approaches. In M. Viega, A. Dos Santos & B. Wheeler, (Ed.). *Music Therapy Handbook, Edition 2*. London & New York: Guilford Press.
- Turry, A., Birnbaum, J., Aslan, M., Fu, J.H.Y., & Kandler, Z. (in press). Symbolic Play in Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy: Themes of Transformation. In J.Z. Robarts, (Ed.). *Symbolic Play and Creative Arts in Music Therapy with Children and Families*. Oxford: London & Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

- Guerrero, N., Marcus, D., & Turry, A. (2016). Poised in the creative now: Principles of Nordoff-Robbins music therapy. In J. Edwards, (Ed.). *The Oxford Handbook of Music Therapy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Guerrero, N., Marcus, D., & Turry, A. (2015). Nordoff-Robbins music therapy. In B. Wheeler, (Ed.). *Music Therapy Handbook*. New York, N.Y.: Guilford Press.
- Guerrero, N., & Turry, A. (2013). Nordoff-Robbins music therapy: An expressive and dynamic approach for young children on the autism spectrum. In P. Kern and M. Humpal (Eds.). *Early Childhood Music Therapy and Autism Spectrum Disorders*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
- Marcus, D., & Turry, A. (2003). Using the Nordoff-Robbins approach to music therapy with adults diagnosed with autism. In D.J. Weiner and L.K. Oxford (Eds.). *Action Therapy With Families and Groups* (pp. 197–228). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.
- Turry, A. (2002). Don't let the fear prevent the grief: Working with traumatic reactions through improvisation. In J. Loewy & A. Frisch Hara (Eds.). *Caring for the Caregiver: The Use of Music and Music Therapy in Grief and Trauma* (pp. 44-53). Silver Springs, M.D.: American Music Therapy Association.
- Turry, A. (2000). Supervision in the Nordoff-Robbins training program. In M. Forinash (Ed.). *Music Therapy Supervision* (pp. 351-378). Gilsum, N.H.: Barcelona Publishers.
- Logis, M., & Turry, A. (1999). Singing my way through it: Facing the cancer, darkness, and fear. In J. Hibben (Ed.). *Inside Music Therapy: Client Experiences* (pp. 97–118). Gilsum, N.H.: Barcelona Publishers.
- Turry, A., & Turry, A.E. (1999). The use of improvised songs with children and adults with cancer. In C. Dileo (Ed.). *Music therapy and medicine* (pp. 167–177). Silver Springs, M.D.: American Music Therapy Association.
- Turry, A. (1998). Transference and countertransference in Nordoff-Robbins music therapy. In K.E. Bruscia (Ed.). *The dynamics of music psychotherapy* (pp. 161–212). Gilsum, N.H.: Barcelona Publishers.

Journal Articles

- Birnbaum, J., Turry, A., Kandler, Z., Aslan, M., & Hoi Yan Fu, J. (in press). Music Therapy with Autistic Children: Creating an Intersubjective Field of Play through Improvisation. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*.
- Palumbo, A., Aluru, V., Battaglia, J., Geller, D., Turry, A., Ross, M., Cristian, A., Balagula, C., Ogedegbe, G., Khatri, L., Chao, M. V., Froemke, R. C., Urbanek, J. K., & Raghavan, P. (2021). Music Upper Limb Therapy-Integrated (MULT-I) Provides a Feasible Enriched Environment and Reduces Post Stroke Depression: A Pilot

Randomized Controlled Trial. *American journal of physical medicine & rehabilitation*. doi.org/10.1097/PHM.0000000000001938.

- Grau-Sánchez, J., Segura, E., Sánchez-Pinsach, D., Raghavan, P., Münte, T.F., Palumbo, A., Turry, A., Duarte, E., Särkämö, T., Cerquides, J., Arcos, J., Rodríguez-Fornells, A. (2021). Enriched music-supported therapy for chronic stroke patients: a study protocol of a randomised controlled trial. *BMC Neurology*. doi.org/10.1186/s12883-020-02019-1.
- Turry, A. (2018). Actually, music therapy does work. *Music and Medicine*, 10(2), 113-114.
- Turry, A. (2018). Response to effects of improvisational music therapy vs. enhanced standard care on symptom severity among children with autism spectrum disorder: the TIME-A randomized clinical trial. *Nordic Journal of Music Therapy*, 27(1), 87–89.
- Raghavan, P., Geller, D., Guerro, N., Aluru, V., Eimicke, J.P., Teresi, J.A., Ogedegbe, G., Palumbo, A., & Turry, A. (2016). Music upper limb therapy – integrated: An enriched collaborative approach for stroke rehabilitation. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 10:498. doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2016.00498.
- Hartley, M., Turry, A., & Raghavan, P. (2010). The role of music and music therapy in aphasia rehabilitation. *Music and Medicine*, 2(4), 235-242.
- Turry, A. (2010) Integrating musical and psychotherapeutic thinking: research on the relationship between words and music in clinically improvised songs. *Qualitative Inquiries in Music Therapy*, 5, 116–172.
- Turry, A. (2009). Integrating musical and psychological thinking: The relationship between music and words in clinically improvised songs. *Music and Medicine*, 1(2), 106-116.
- Turry, A. (2005). Music psychotherapy and community music therapy: Questions and considerations. *Voices: A World Forum for Music Therapy*. Retrieved July 22, 2006, from <http://www.voices.no/mainissues/mi40005000171.html>.
- Turry, A., and Marcus, D. (2005). Teamwork: Therapist and cotherapist in the Nordoff-Robbins approach to music therapy. *Music Therapy Perspectives*, 23(1), 53-69.
- Ritholz, M., & Turry, A. (1994). The journey by train: Creative music therapy with a 17-year-old boy. *Music Therapy*, 12(2), 58–87.

Doctoral dissertation

- Turry, A. (2006). *The Connection between words and music in music therapy improvisation: An examination of a therapist's method*. New York University. DAI-A, 2007, AAT 3247771.

Selected Music compositions

- Turry, A. (2021). With a Smile on Her Face and Love in Her Heart. Improvised farewell song. (unpublished).
- Turry, A. (2021). Isn't It Nice To Have Dad That Loves You. A song for father and son to cultivate their relationship. (unpublished).
- Turry, A. & Flores, E. (2021). Soon I'll Dance For You. A song that invites sadness, strength, joy and hope. (unpublished).
- Turry, A. & Aslan, M. (2020). I am shocked! A song encouraging expression of feelings during lockdown. (unpublished).
- Turry, A. & Aslan, M. (2020). It's time to say hello...hello. A greeting song composed specifically to adapt to a telehealth audio environment. (unpublished).
- Turry, A. (2018). It's okay...back in music today. A greeting song to help with speech. (unpublished).
- Turry, A. & Aslan, M. (2017). What did you do this weekend? A song to invite social connection. (unpublished).
- Turry, A. & Flores, E. (2014). Especially Now. A song that reminds us of the importance of reaching out to those you love. (unpublished).
- Turry, A. & Logis, M. (2012). All my life. [Song recorded by Maria Logis]. On *Room for something new*. Maria Logis.
- Turry, A. & Logis, M. (2012). Dead to my own heart. [Song recorded by Maria Logis]. On *Room for something new*. Maria Logis.
- Turry, A. & Logis, M. (2012). If I were not alone. [Song recorded by Maria Logis]. On *Room for something new*. Maria Logis.
- Turry, A. & Logis, M. (2012). Room for something new. [Song recorded by Maria Logis]. On *Room for something new*. Maria Logis.
- Turry, A. & Logis, M. (2012). Days full of smiles. [Song recorded by Maria Logis]. On *Room for something new*. Maria Logis.
- Turry, A, Flores, E., & Fernandez, B. (2011). Moments are special. A song about the potential of memories to help during difficult times. (unpublished).
- Turry, A, Flores, E., & Fernandez, B. (2009). Best friend is you. A song to encourage friendship with others and most importantly with yourself. (unpublished).
- Turry, A. & Flores, E. (2007). Falling is a part of Learning. A song to help children to learn from challenges. (unpublished).

- Turry, A. & Marcus, D. (2003). We just want to say...goodbye. In M. Ritholz & C. Robbins (Eds.) *More themes for therapy from the Nordoff Robbins Center for Music Therapy at New York University*. New York: Carl Fischer.
- Turry, A. & Marcus, D. (2003). Singing on the microphone. In M. Ritholz & C. Robbins (Eds.) *More themes for therapy from the Nordoff Robbins Center for Music Therapy at New York University*. New York: Carl Fischer.
- Turry, A. & Marcus, D. (2003). The play-a-long song. In M. Ritholz & C. Robbins (Eds.) *More themes for therapy from the Nordoff Robbins Center for Music Therapy at New York University*. New York: Carl Fischer.
- Turry, A. & Robbins, C. (2003). It's good to see you. In M. Ritholz & C. Robbins (Eds.) *More themes for therapy from the Nordoff Robbins Center for Music Therapy at New York University*. New York: Carl Fischer.
- Turry, A. & Mahoney, J. (2003). It's fun to make music. In M. Ritholz & C. Robbins (Eds.) *More themes for therapy from the Nordoff Robbins Center for Music Therapy at New York University*. New York: Carl Fischer.
- Turry, A. & Robbins, C. (2003). Up so tall. In M. Ritholz & C. Robbins (Eds.) *More themes for therapy from the Nordoff Robbins Center for Music Therapy at New York University*. New York: Carl Fischer.
- Turry, A. (2001). Six strings on the guitar. A song promoting fine motor skills by encouraging the child to play and count each string separately. (unpublished).
- Turry, A. (1999). How many people in the room? In M. Ritholz & C. Robbins (Eds.) *More themes for therapy from the Nordoff Robbins Center for Music Therapy at New York University*. New York: Carl Fischer.
- Turry, A. (1999). Oriental Temple. In M. Ritholz & C. Robbins (Eds.) *More themes for therapy from the Nordoff Robbins Center for Music Therapy at New York University*. New York: Carl Fischer.
- Turry, A. (1999). Uh oh! In M. Ritholz & C. Robbins (Eds.) *More themes for therapy from the Nordoff Robbins Center for Music Therapy at New York University*. New York: Carl Fischer.
- Turry, A. & Beer, L. (1999). Let me introduce myself. In M. Ritholz & C. Robbins (Eds.) *More themes for therapy from the Nordoff Robbins Center for Music Therapy at New York University*. New York: Carl Fischer.
- Turry, A. & Beer, L. (1999). What time is it? In M. Ritholz & C. Robbins (Eds.) *More themes for therapy from the Nordoff Robbins Center for Music Therapy at New York University*. New York: Carl Fischer.

- Turry, A. & Robbins, C. (1999). Shake out music. In M. Ritholz & C. Robbins (Eds.) More themes for therapy from the Nordoff Robbins Center for Music Therapy at New York University. New York: Carl Fischer.
- Rickard-Lauri, P., Groeschel, H., Robbins, C., Robbins C.M., Ritholz, M., & Turry A. (1997). Snow White: A Guide to Child-Centered Musical Theatre. Gilsum, NH. Barcelona Publishers.
- Turry, A. (1986). Perhaps Kids Meeting Kids Can Make A Difference. A song promoting solidarity among diverse communities. (unpublished).

Selected Conference and Invited Presentations

- Invited keynote speaker, “Creative Music Making to Invite Engagement: Some Essential underpinnings of Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy,” The Music For Kiddos Symposium, Online via Zoom, November 4, 2022.
- Invited keynote speaker, “Steps to Therapeutic Creativity: How to use our imagination to generate music that will benefit the client,” At The Center of Sound - EURAC Academy, Bolzano, Italy, October 1, 2022.
- Invited roundtable guest, “Music therapy and autism: Different perspectives around the globe,” 12th European Music Therapy Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, June 11, 2022.
- Invited lecturer, “Music Centered Remote Clinical Practice in Music Therapy: Facing the Challenges, Discovering the Difficulties - and the Surprising Potential Benefits,” Hong Kong Music Therapy Association, Online via zoom, April 17, 2022.
- Invited workshop leader, “Using Musical Improvisation As A Treatment Strategy,” Open Center: Integrative Sound & Music Certificate Program, Online via zoom, April 10, 2022.
- Invited roundtable guest, “Healing Arts New York Launch Event: The Arts and Wellbeing - Arts & Health @ NYU Launch”, An NYU event co-produced by CultuRunners in partnership with the World Health Organization and the Museum of Modern Art, Online via zoom, September 20, 2021.
- Invited roundtable guest, “Showing Up: Presence as the Essential Ingredient in Just About Everything,” Academy for Jewish Religion Retreat: Mindfulness, Music Therapy and the Brain that Speaks to Them Both, Online via zoom, November 14, 2021.
- Invited keynote speaker, “Honoring One’s Core Musicality: What Engaging in Music Can Do for People,” Academy for Jewish Religion Retreat: Mindfulness, Music Therapy and the Brain that Speaks to Them Both, Online via zoom, November 15, 2021.

- Invited roundtable guest, “Self-doubt, Insecurity, and Other Unwelcome Lessons,” Academy for Jewish Religion Retreat: Mindfulness, Music Therapy and the Brain that Speaks to Them Both, Online via zoom, November 16, 2021.
- Invited lecturer, “Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy: Sharing Past Experiences/Meeting Future Challenges,” International Nordoff-Robbins Association - Deep Roots, New Branches Lecture Series, Online via zoom, January 14, 2021.
- Invited lecturer, “Accessible Data for Music Therapy Research: An Online Archive for Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Sessions,” Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Music Therapy Association, Reston, VA, March 9, 2019.
- Invited keynote speaker, “Neurodiversity, Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy, and the Autism Spectrum Disorder,” Neurodiversity, Music Therapy, and the Autism Spectrum Sponsored by the Music Therapy Program at NYU, New York, New York, June 25, 2016.
- Invited keynote speaker, “Music Therapy and Special Education,” 13th Annual World Congress of Music Therapy, Seoul, South Korea, July 7, 2011.
- Invited keynote speaker, “Integrating Musical and Psychotherapeutic Thinking: Research on the Relationship Between Words and Music in Clinically Improvised Songs,” 3rd International Music Therapy Research Conference: Improvisation – Exploring the Art and Science of Clinical Practice, Waterloo, ON, Canada, May 13, 2011.
- Invited workshop leader, “Musical Competencies in Clinical Improvisation,” Centro Toscano Musicoterapia, Florence, Italy, July 4, 2009..
- Presenter, “The Use of Live Music in Professional Presentations,” Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Music Therapy Association, Cherry Hill, NJ, March 13, 2008.
- Presenter, “Innovations in Research,” American Music Therapy Association, Louisville, KY, November 19, 2007.
- Invited keynote speaker, “Examination of words and music in improvised songs,” First Annual Clive Robbins Research Symposium, New York University, New York, NY, July 21, 2007.
- Invited keynote speaker, “New Techniques in Improvisation,” 3rd International Nordoff-Robbins Symposium, Witten/Herdecke, Germany, June 12, 2006.
- Presenter, “The Relationship Between Music And Lyrics in Improvised Song,” American Music Therapy Association, Orlando, FL, November 19, 2005.
- Presenter, “When Community Music Therapy and Music Psychotherapy Meet: Issues That Have Emerged Working with a Self-Referred Adult Client,” Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Music Therapy Association, Garden City, NY, March 16, 2005.

- Invited roundtable guest, “Panel on Clinical Improvisation in Music Therapy,” Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Music Therapy Association, Garden City, NY, March 12, 2001.
- Invited lecturer, “Lecture on Music Therapy,” Training Institute of Mental Health, New York, NY, April 17, 2000.
- Invited workshop leader, “Clinical Improvisation,” 9th Annual World Congress of Music Therapy, Washington DC, November 19, 1999.
- Invited keynote speaker, “Developments in Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy,” 8th Annual World Congress of Music Therapy, Hamburg, Germany, July 12, 1996.
- Presenter, “Preliminary Research on the Music Therapy Training Group,” 8th Annual World Congress of Music Therapy, Hamburg, Germany, July 12, 1996.
- Invited lecturer, “Music Therapy in Psychiatry,” Music Therapy in Psychiatry, Aarhus, Denmark, October 6, 1992.

Media

- Reclaiming Inner Narratives Through Music - DISASTERSHOCK, Reporter's Notebook Video Podcast Episode 3. Invited interview. Published online, December, 2022. <https://youtu.be/BA6hQkfdSso>
- Exploring Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy AMTA-Pro Podcast Series, (with Jacqueline Birnbaum) Invited interview. Published online, August 2017. <http://amtapro.musictherapy.org/?p=1834>
- MT Mentor Video Podcast: Episode 7, Invited interview. Published online, January 26, 2021. <https://youtu.be/axgAywjz-10>

Certifications

- New York State Licensed Creative Arts Therapist (LCAT), 2005-present
- Nordoff-Robbins Trainer (Level III), 1995-present
- Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapist (Level II), 1993-1995
- Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapist (Level I), 1991-1993
- Music Therapist Board Certified (MT-BC), 1998-present
- Advanced Certified Music Therapist (ACMT), 1992-1998
- Certified Music Therapist (CMT), 1981-1998