

Shandra Love

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Obtained Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Certification in Piano in November 2024. As of November 2024, I am an MTNA Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. Talented and skilled pianist with two Master of Music degrees in Piano Pedagogy and Performance. The first Masters degree was in Piano Pedagogy and Performance and the second Masters degree was in Injury Preventive Keyboard Technique.

Dedicated pianist who is meticulous in honing her piano performance and accompanying skills. Experienced in accompanying instrumentalists at the university level and building a collection of diverse collaborative works. Proficient in sight-reading and learning music in a brief timeframe. Works well independently but solicits feedback from the Music Department Chair and applied music faculty to ensure a superior level of performance.

EDUCATION

Salem College

Master of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy (Injury Preventive Keyboard Technique),
May 2023

- Applied piano lessons with [Dr. Barbara Lister-Sink](#), author of **Freeing the Caged Bird (DVD)**
- Applied organ lessons for two semesters with [Dr. Timothy Olsen](#)
- Prepared and memorized solo piano literature for studio class and bi-monthly performance seminars
- Presented a fifty-minute graduate recital on April 23, 2023
- Learned specific techniques in preparing a compelling performance (MUSIC 508)
- Took two pedagogy classes on training and teaching a student in the Lister-Sink Method
- Created powerpoint presentations on specific areas to highlight when training a student in the Lister-Sink method.
- Perfected keyboard harmonization, transposition, improvisation techniques and modal scales

Salem College

Graduate Certificate in Injury Preventive Keyboard Technique, May 2021

- Piano studies with Dr. Barbara Lister-Sink (Included end of semester juries evaluated by piano and organ faculty)
- Analysis and written reflections of Thomas Hanna's *Somatics*, Norman Doidge's *The Brain that Changes Itself* and Thomas Mark's *What Every Pianist Needs to Know About the Body*
- In-depth technical mastery of the "Basic Stroke" and assimilation of the Lister-Sink Method
- Application of injury preventive technique from elementary to advanced repertoire
- [PowerPoint](#) presentation on body mapping; similarities between pianists and flutists
- [PowerPoint](#) presentation on focal dystonia in pianists; focused on causes, symptoms, effects on the brain and treatments, including retraining
- Application of the Alexander Technique in musical performance; Private sessions with Professor Suzy Perkins at Salem College in efficient muscle use and body alignment while performing advanced piano repertoire;

George Mason University (GMU)

Masters of Music in Piano Pedagogy and Performance, May 2011

- Piano studies with [Dr. Joanne Haroutounian](#) and [Dr. Ana Balakerskaia](#), Fall 2006-Fall 2008 (Included end of semester jury examinations) Studied with the following teachers from 2006-2011, [Julie Hahn](#), [Andrey Kasparov](#) and [Eric Ruple](#)
- Learned and examined keyboard literature from Baroque to Contemporary eras
- Piano pedagogy courses with Dr. Joanne Haroutounian, Fall 2008- Spring 2009
- Presented graduate recital, Fall 2008
- Private piano lessons with Darya Gabay, 2008-2009 (Preparation for graduate lecture-recital)
- Presented graduate lecture-recital, "Brahms: A Pedagogical Gem," Fall 2009
- Teaching Internship, "Teaching the Younger Beginner," Fall 2009
- Accompanying/Musicianship III and Advanced Techniques of Accompanying, Fall 2009-Spring 2009 (Courses included transposing Italian art songs to various keys, preparing instrumental and vocal accompaniment, sight-reading Suzuki violin books (Levels 1-6) and preparing final accompaniment performance with a professional violinist and GMU Vocal Professor)
- Received applied flute lessons from the late Judith Lapple as an elective for a secondary instrument

University of California, Los Angeles

Bachelor of Arts in Music, Flute Performance, 1989-1994

- Flute Studies with the late Sheridan Stokes (Los Angeles studio musician who played background flute music for the movie, *Roots*, a 1977 television miniseries based upon the novel by Alex Haley)
- Enrolled and learned piano for music majors
- Music theory and music history courses spanning the Baroque to Contemporary genres
- Condensed and played orchestral scores on piano
(Prepared and performed Don Juan, Op. 20 by Richard Strauss, Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber, and Petrushka for Four Hands by Igor Stravinsky)
- Participated in the UCLA Wind Ensemble for four years
- Participated in the UCLA Symphony Orchestra for two years
- Participated in various chamber ensembles
- Presented junior flute recital
- Presented senior flute recital

ACCOMPANIST EXPERIENCE

Piano Accompanist

Sterling, VA

February 2011-December 2021

- Accompanied string, woodwind and brass students in middle and high school for Fairfax County and Loudoun County Solo and Ensemble Festival
- Accompanied woodwind and brass students for competitions
- Provided accompaniment for three clarinet studio recitals in 2013, 2014
- Provided a recording of the piano accompaniment so the instrumentalist could collaborate during their individual practice sessions

Freedom Hill Elementary School

Vienna, VA

Piano Accompanist

April 2018-May 2018

- Accompanist for fourth, fifth and 6th grade chorus
- Recorded choral accompaniment in advance of rehearsals so that students could rehearse in my absence

John Champe High School
Piano Accompanist

Aldie, VA
May 2015
May 2016

- Professional accompanist for woodwind and brass high school musicians for Loudoun County Solo and Ensemble Festival
- Worked for Loudoun County Public Schools as an independent contractor

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Music & Arts

Yorktown, VA

Piano Instructor, 2003-2006

- Taught thirty-minute private lessons to school-aged children and adults with the desire to instill a life-time joy of music
- Provided piano lessons which incorporated technique, scales, music theory, classical, popular and sacred repertoire
- Set weekly attainable goals for every student at each lesson
- Prepared students for annual recitals and special holiday performances at the Patrick Henry Mall
- Drafted written contract of student expectations to maintain highest level of professional teaching as well as consistent and diligent practice

Love's Music Studio

High Point, NC

Piano Instructor, 2006 - present

Flute Instructor, 2006-2021

- Taught online piano lessons via Zoom and Skype during global pandemic
- Operated a traveling piano and flute teaching business in the Northern Virginia area for 17 years
- Provided professional piano and flute instruction to children and adults in their home.

- Taught elementary, intermediate and advanced piano repertoire with focus on musicality, proper technique and appropriate interpretation of musical genres
- Focused on teaching proper piano technique, i.e., correct hand and wrist position, firm fingertips, proper rotation of the wrists, released forearms and wrists that are not tense, stiff or locked
- Assigned major and all three forms of minor scales, technical exercises (Schmitt Preparatory Exercises) and etudes (Czerny Opp. 139, 261 (Passage Playing), 299, 335, 337, 355, 365, 453, 553, 599, 636, 718 (exercises for the left hand), 740, 821, and 823) and virtuosic etudes (Moszkowski, Opp. 72 and 91) and Cramer etudes on a weekly basis
- Incorporated sight-reading exercises from the “Russian School” (Books 1-2) and “Specimen Sight Reading” (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music “ABRSM” books 1-8) at every lesson
- Prepared students for the Virginia state theory and sight-reading exams 2009-2020
- Prepared students for two studio recitals per year, National Guild of Piano Teacher “NGPT,” national piano playing auditions, National Federation of Music Clubs “NFMC” Spring Festival and Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association “NVMTA” Sonata Festival

PROFESSIONAL FESTIVALS

Washington International Piano Festival
 Nikita Fitenko, Artistic Director
 Catholic University of America, July 2013

- Received private piano lessons from Dr. Nikita Fitenko, Ivo Kaltchev, Li-ly Chang and several international guest artists
- Participated in a master class with Brian Ganz and performed *Danzas Argentinas*, Op. 2, No. 1, “Danza del Viejo Boyero” and no. 2, “Danza de la Moza Donosa”
- Selected by audition to perform at the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage on August 2, 2013. Performed ***Danzas Argentinas, Op. 2, No. 1***, *Danza del Viejo Boyero* and no. 2, *Danza de la Moza Donosa*
- Attended a lecture by Scott McBride Smith about the importance of fingering in standard piano literature. Dr. McBride Smith also discussed weak “tendons” between 4th and fifth finger and area below thumb

PianoSummer at New Paltz

Vladimir Feltsman, Artistic Director

State University of New York (“SUNY”) New Paltz, July 2009

- Received private piano instruction from Susan Starr, Robert Roux, and Robert Hamilton
- Performed in a master class with Vladimir Feltsman and played the Partita No. 4 in D Major, BWV 828, No. 2, *Allemande*
- Performed the Partita No. 4, BWV 828, No. 1, *Overture* in a participant recital in Studley Theatre

Las Vegas Music Festival

Artistic Director, Mykola Suk

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, July 2007

- Received full scholarship to attend a two-week intensive music and piano festival
- Performed in masterclasses and received private lessons from James Giles and Dr. Mykola Suk and several other faculty members

SOLO PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Salem College, Shirley Recital Hall, April 23, 2023

- Performed the following repertoire:
1. Sonata No. 10 in C Major, K. 330 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
 - I. Allegro Moderato
 - II. Andante Cantabile
 - III. Allegretto
 2. Prelude I, No. 6, “*Des pas sur la neige*” Claude Debussy
 3. *Romanze* in F Major, Op. 118, No. 6 Johannes Brahms
 4. Prelude in C Major, Op. 28, No. 1 Frederic Chopin
 - Prelude in G Major, Op. 28, no. 3
 - Prelude in A-flat Major, Op. 28, No. 17

5. *Three Visions*

William Grant Still

II. Summerland

I. Dark Horseman

The Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage

Washington International Piano Festival, August 2013

https://www.dropbox.com/h?preview=2013_08_02+Washington+International+Piano+Festival.mov (Scroll to 29:01 to see my performance)

- Selected by Audition to perform at the Millennium Stage on August 2, 2013
- Performed *Danzas Argentinas*, Op. 2, No. 1, Danza del Viejo Boyero and no. 2, Danza de la Moza Donosa by Alberto Ginastera

PROFESSIONAL ADJUDICATOR EXPERIENCE

National Guild of Piano Teachers

Austin, TX

Board of Judges

October 2017-Present

- Provided adjudication for National Piano Playing auditions in Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and Pennsylvania
- Provided constructive feedback to elementary up to advanced level pianists who prepared a district, state and national program of four to ten contemporary and, classical pieces representing four genres

LITURGICAL EXPERIENCE

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Purcellville, VA

October 2022-Present

May 2, 2021-September 5, 2021

October 2020-December 2020

- Prepared hymns from *1984 Episcopal Hymnal*, prelude, offertory and postlude music for Sunday services
- Prepared special services including twelve Christmas (hymns) for a Christmas service in December 2020, Maundy Thursday and Blue Christmas Service
- Selected appropriate prelude, offertory and postlude music for the liturgical setting
- Created a balance of classical music and advanced hymn arrangements to enhance Sunday services and Communion
- Modulated between two separate hymns for Communion to encourage congregational singing
- Accompanied vocal soloist(s) during Sunday services
- Provided music for funerals and weddings as needed

United Baptist Church
Church Pianist

Winston-Salem, NC
November 2021-October 2022

- Prepared hymns, preludes, offertories, communion and postlude music for weekly Sunday services
- Performed hymns and sacred piano arrangements for Hanging of the Greens service, Maundy Thursday and funerals
- Prepared anthems and orchestral reductions with choir on selected Sundays
- Provided a diverse selection of hymn arrangements and appropriate classical music by Chopin, Mozart, Brahms, Schubert and other selected composers for Sunday services
- Presented classical or sacred repertoire on select Sundays for “Special Music” series

Pivotal Books for Professional and Amateur Pianists

1. *Famous Pianists & Their Technique* by Reginald R. Gerig
(This book examines the notable schools of piano teaching and playing. Highlighted schools include Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Carl Czerny, Joseph Haydn, Johannes Brahms, Rudolph Serkin and Theodor Leschetizky.)
2. *Basic Principles in Pianoforte Playing* by Josef Levhinne
(This book outlines the “Old Russian Method” of playing with a flatter finger like Vladimir Horowitz to achieve a better sound versus using a firm fingertip to strike the

piano key. Levhinne also speaks about musical phrasing and various practice techniques for playing scales and fast technical passages.)

3. *What Every Pianist Needs to Know About the Body* by Thomas Mark

(Thomas Mark discusses the various parts of the body involved in piano playing. Most importantly, Mark discusses the relationship between the skull and spine, the shoulder and arm, involving your entire body in piano playing and the principles of co-contraction.)

4. *Music At Your Fingertips: Advice for the Artist and Amateur on Playing the Piano* by Ruth Slenczynska

(Ruth Slenczynska was a child prodigy but she provides the tools in becoming a sensitive and outstanding pianist. She discusses the benefits of perfecting music by Mozart, Bach and Scarlatti on a daily basis. “Training the mind before we train our hands...” is of utmost importance for a pianist.

