

**Teacher Biographies**

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Eric Brewer

Teaches: Guitar and bass

Time Played: 10+ years

Teaching Experience: 10+ years

**Background:** Eric has been playing professionally since he was in high school. In addition to playing in over 25 bands of just about every style you could think of, Eric has been featured in Guitar Player Magazine twice. He also has over two years of experience with touring the U.S. and has performed numerous sessions for local and national artists.

**Strengths:**

* Proficient at nearly every style of guitar
* Experience in both academic and professional fields
* Very quick learner

Chris Bumbera

### Teaches: Guitar

### Time Played: 10+ years

### Teaching Experience: 5+ years

#### Background:

Chris has been a teacher at the World of Music since 2008. During this time, he has taught over 100 students of all ages. Chris enjoys many styles of music including metal, rock, industrial, electronic, classical, some blues and jazz, and various forms of country. In addition to his own interests, he enjoys being exposed to new music from his students. Chris has a great interest in the recording and production side of music.

#### Strengths:

* Proficient in many genres
* Flexible and laid-back teaching style with a focus on personal developmental goals of the student
* Highly encourages his students to read music

Mike Dattilo

### Teaches: Bass Guitar

### Time Played: 35+ years

### Teaching Experience: 25+ years

#### Background:

Mike has performed in many local bands since the 1980s, some of which have had great success. With these bands, Mike has toured with Kevin Dubrow's Quiet Riot, and shared the stage with Jeff Martin of Racer X, Henrik Ostergaard of Dirty Looks, and Ryan Roxic of Alice Cooper. Mike is very grateful that he has had an eventful career as a full-time musician.

#### Strengths:

* Strives to keep students interested by guiding them to their musical goals
* Emphasis on maintaining student's individuality and not guiding them to play the same way Mike does.

Preston Lindey

### Teaches: Guitar, Bass, Harmonica, Banjo, Mandolin, and Piano

### Time Played: 40+ years

### Teaching Experience: 30+ years

#### Background:

Preston has played in numerous bands in the tri-state area. In addition to playing in bands, he has performed with the Erie Philharmonic Orchestra. Preston is very proficient in every instrument he teaches and has had many of his students move on to form bands of their own. He has also written numerous guitar instruction method books covering topics such as advanced jazz chord theory, rock guitar, and beginning through advanced music theory.

#### Strengths:

* Aims on teaching materials that maintain maximum interest for the student
* Proficient in music theory
* Experienced in many genres of music

Dan Monacella

Teaches: Guitar, Bass, and Piano

Time Played: 25+ years

Teaching Experience: 20+ years

**Background:** Dan has been teaching guitar since 1992. During this time, he has taught hundreds of private students as well as basic and advanced guitar classes at Mercyhurst Prep High School. Since joining the World of Music in the summer of 1998, Dan has performed on guitar, bass, and keyboard with many bands, in addition to many solo performances in the classical piano style. Many of Dan's students have become successful players, including Steve Brown and Leroy Hamp, who are the founding members of the internationally touring band, 'War of Ages.'

**Strengths:**

* Welcomes guitar and piano students of all interests and styles
* Theory, technique, and reading music
* Allows the students to grow in their own interests

Zack Orr

### Teaches: Guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, songwriting, voice

### Time Played: 25+ years

### Teaching Experience: 15+ years

#### Background:

Born in Atlanta, GA, the list of places Zack Orr has called home has spanned the globe from London to Austin, Los Angeles, Portland, and Boston, where he attended Berklee College of Music. He now lives in Erie, Pennsylvania.   
  
Zack Orr is an independent singer/songwriter on the rise. His debut album, The Unstoppable Lift, was called "stunning and inventive" by legendary rock journalist Ben Fong-Torres of Rolling Stone fame, adding "…he just may be unstoppable." His latest release, Francisco The Man, was nominated for Best Concept Album by the 10th Annual Independent Music Awards and was featured on the cutting edge music blog Consequence of Sound.

#### Strengths:

* Very proficient in songwriting and music theory
* A lot of experience with recording and music production software
* Versatile musician

Steve Barone

### Teaches: Drum set

### Time Played: 25+ years

### Teaching Experience: 10+ years

#### Background:

Steve began playing the drums at age 9. During his middle and high school years, he performed in concert band, jazz band, marching band, and percussion ensemble. After graduating, Steve performed in a number of rock and jam-style bands, including Frog Tree Gorge Band and Spooner. He also enjoyed stints as marching percussion instructor for Northwestern High School (1999) and General McLane High School (2005-2008).

Steve currently plays with the rock/funk/jam band Eric Brewer and Friends, a band that's very active in the Erie music scene. He was voted "Erie's Favorite Drummer" in the 2010 Rock Erie Music Awards. Steve has also been the percussion specialist here at World Of Music since 2003, helping area drummers with sales, service, and advice from his years of performance experience.

#### Strengths:

* Steve is fluent in ALL aspects of drum set playing, including rock, metal, funk, jazz, blues, reggae, afro-cuban, bluegrass, and rudimental/marching.
* He stresses the importance of reading music, creative listening, and developing good technique.
* Steve likes helping students get to the core of their drumming by using counting and coordination exercises.
* He uses real-world examples to apply varying drumming techniques to different styles of music.

Tory Shatto

### Teaches: Drums and percussion

### Time Played: 15+ years

### Teaching Experience: 1 years

#### Background:

Tory has been a part of numerous bands and ensembles since High School. Some of the bands that Tory has performed with include 5-to-1, Harmony Drive, Scorch the Sky, Paddy Whacked, Waiting for Never, Black Lung Choir, and Red Morning Hour. In 2007, during the first year of the Rock Erie Music Awards (R.E.M.A), Tory was awarded "Erie's Favorite Drummer."

#### Strengths:

* Specializes in several types of rock, metal, and pop music.
* Experience with tenors/quads/quints in marching band.
* Strong double-bass drumming technique.

Brian Strobel

### Teaches: Drum set

### Time Played: 35+ years

### Teaching Experience: 10+ years

#### Background:

Brian has been playing drums for the majority of his life, and he has enjoyed every minute of it! He developed his drum and percussion skills both in private lessons and while playing for many theater productions. To date, he has played over 100 shows for area high schools and theaters. Brian is the drummer for the Riverside Inn in Cambridge Springs and plays every year for Harborcreek High School. He is also the musical director for his church and plays in the Mulligan's Irish Rock band. The Mulligan's play shows ranging from local venues to venues in New Jersey and New York. The Mulligan's are also the official St. Patrick's Day in-studio band for Rocket 101.

#### Strengths:

* Very personable and easy to get along with
* Teaches the skills needed for a drummer to be comfortable playing shows
* Flexible in his lesson plans while teaching the skills needed to be well-rounded

Jim Watkins

### Teaches: Drum set

### Time Played: 25+ years

### Teaching Experience: 10+ years

#### Background:

Jim has always had a passion for playing the drums, and that passion can easily be seen in his lessons. He has been playing in local cover bands since 1986. During this period, he has played in a wide variety of styles including Rock, R&B, Soul, Rap, Reggae, and Metal. From 1991 to 1995, Jim was in an original band called "STOMP." They recorded 2 CD's of original material, in addition to playing many shows in New York City. Jim's current cover band, Geek Army (formerly known as Nerds Inc.) won the 2007 Rock Erie Music Award for best cover band.

#### Strengths:

* Enjoys working with both adults and young students
* Particularly enjoys playing and teaching funk-style drumming
* Extremely personable and outgoing
* Can easily learn and teach songs by ear

Jim Caspar

### Teaches: Flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone

### Time Played: 35+ years

### Teaching Experience: 20+ years

#### Background:

Jim has had the privilege of playing with numerous ensembles including The Buzz Jones Big Band for their European tour, The Altoona Symphony, and the Fred Waring Orchestra. Jim can also be heard on a live CD recording of the Buzz Jones Big Band when they performed at the Montreaux Jazz Festival in 1995.

#### Strengths:

* Experience teaching privately and in public schools
* Live performance experience

Andrew Leeds

# Andrew Leeds

### Teaches: Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet

### Time Played: 35+ years

### Teaching Experience: 25+ years

#### Background:

Andrew began teaching at World of Music about 10 years ago. In addition to teaching for numerous years prior to WoM, Andrew has performed with cruise ship bands, big bands, jazz quartets, blues bands, rock bands, and show music bands.

#### Strengths:

* Believes it is important to listen to what the student wants out of lessons
* Diverse musical background
* Passionate about learning new things in lessons from his students

Rob Morrison

### Teaches: Violin, beginner piano

### Time Played: Violin: 20+ years Piano: 25+ years

### Teaching Experience: 6+ years

#### Background:

Rob achieved his B.A. in Music from Mercyhurst University. Since then, Rob has been an active member of the Erie music scene by playing in bands such as Chasing Moira and Taylor Maid.

#### Strengths:

* Focuses on keeping students attentive and interested in lessons
* Relates lessons to songs and music that the student enjoys, motivating them to learn the music that they like

Elva Newcomer-Kocher

Dave Tatar

Sally Wilcox-Santon

### Teaches: Violin, Viola, Cello

### Time Played: 35+ years

### Teaching Experience: 25+ years

#### Background:

Sally is an enthusiastic, versatile, and dedicated recitalist, teacher, and freelance violinist and violist. Basically, she has dedicated her adult life to the study of these instruments and their pedagogy. Her teaching techniques include the ideas of Ivan Galamian as well as Suzuki concepts. In her studio you will find students from ages four to sixty, and each of these students receives lessons that are tailored to fit their individual needs. Some students work on classical repertoire, while others move forward on jazz selections. Sally is particularly interested in adult students and holds recitals and group classes which aid in their development. Some of her students have gone on to major in music while others have continued to play in amateur orchestras.

#### Strengths:

* Passionate about teaching
* Extensive knowledge of orchestra instruments
* Refined teaching methods

Riley Droney

### Teaches: Piano/Vocal

### Time Played: 10+ years

### Teaching Experience: 1+ year

#### Background:

Riley has a Bachelor's Degree in Voice with a minor in Piano from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He has performed in numerous musicals and operas in college and continues to perform around town at the Erie Playhouse and other local theaters. His training in voice and piano has aided him to be able to teach any genre of music.

#### Strengths:

* Can teach both men and women of all ages
* Uses techniques to maintain vocal stamina
* Strives for his students to be able to read and play music at a proficient level

Erika Kuhn

Charlie Meyer

### Teaches: Piano, Trumpet, and Beginner Guitar

### Time Played: 20+ years

### Teaching Experience: 6+ years

#### Background:

Charlie has had 8 years of classical piano training, after which he began studying Rhythm and Blues music. As soon as he began to exhaust the blues, naturally he moved on to jazz music. Having played trumpet for most of his classical piano playing, he already 'had an ear' for jazz. Later he would gather some like-minded friends and form the Secret Agent Band. They played free-form jazz rotations on top of African rhythms with no vocals - it was purely instrumental. After almost 4 years of fine-tuning his 'chops' in the group, he began to fall in love all over again with rock 'n roll. Led Zeppelin, Allman Brothers Band, Traffic, and The Black Crowes were some of his favorites. He joined the group Soulicious which would later morph to become Monday Mourning. Monday Mourning would eventually turn into Five Empty Chambers. He has enjoyed working and teaching at World of Music since that time. Charlie has currently been performing with Eric Brewer & Friends.

#### Strengths:

* Very personable and easygoing
* Caters lessons to individual students' personalities
* Works well with all age groups
* Comfortable learning atmosphere in lessons