



## Teacher Biographies

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## Eric Brewer

**Teaches:** Guitar, bass, ukulele, banjo

**Time Played:** 15+ years

**Experience:** Attended Duquesne University for music. Toured the country playing thousands of gigs. Over 10 years of teaching experience.

**Background:** Rock, funk, jazz, prog, blues, bluegrass, classical, recording and music tech.

**Additional Info:** Seven time Rock Erie award winner for Guitar and Best Jam Band. Three time winner of Best of Erie for Best Local Musician. Appeared in Guitar Player magazine. Has been teaching at World of Music for over 10 years.

## Chris Bumbera

**Teaches:** Guitar

**Time Played:** 20 years

**Experience:** 10+ years at World of Music

**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.

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

## Mike Dattilo

**Teaches:** Guitar (acoustic & electric)

**Time Played:** 39+ years

**Experience:** Mike has been helping students of all ages and backgrounds reach their musical goals since 1989. Recognizing that all people learn music differently, Mike tailors each lesson to the person before him in order to maintain motivation and increase success.

**Background:** A steadily working musician, Mike actually “practices what he preaches.” From an insider’s perspective, he knows both music and the business of music. Since the 1980’s he has played in numerous local bands, many of which have had great regional success.

In 2004, Mike was the touring guitarist in Kevin DuBrow’s solo band. Kevin was the lead singer of multi-platinum rockers Quiet Riot. He’s also shared the stage (or worked with) Jeff Martin (Racer X), Henrik Ostergaard (Dirty Looks), and Ryan Roxie (Alice Cooper)...to name a few.

**Additional Info:** Whether a student wants to learn a few favorite songs, delve into beginner or advanced music theory, or is already a player and looking for some new ideas....Mike can help.

## Preston Lindey

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

**Time Played:** 40+ years

**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.

**Additional Info:** Aims on teaching materials that maintain maximum interest for the student, proficient in music theory, experienced in many genres of music.



## Stephen Maynard

**Teaches:** Steve is proficient in teaching creativity, guitar & bass (in all styles), banjo, mandolin, songwriting, composition, home recording and music theory; from beginner through college level playing. Steve also specializes in and has experience working with students who have special needs, autism and down syndrome.

**Time Played:** 29 years

**Experience:** Steve is in his 15th year as a professional music teacher. He has taught at: World of Music (Erie, PA), The Nolan School of Music (Erie, PA), The Starving Musician (Berkeley, CA), The Paul Green School of Rock (San Francisco, CA), group and private classes for The Gertrude Barber Center and Life Works Erie (Erie, PA), Penn State Behrend (Erie, PA) and Sacred Heart Elementary School (Erie, PA). He also possesses his act 33 & 34 clearances.

**Background:** Steve spent most of his youth enrolled in music lessons at several local music shops. When he became more serious about his playing, in his late teens he sought out and studied for a number of years with Basil Ronzetti at Ronzetti's Music School (Erie, PA). In his early 20's he went to Slippery Rock State University (Slippery Rock, PA), where he studied Elementary Ed/Special Ed with a minor in music. It was at Slippery Rock that Steve got his start teaching music. Giving guitar lessons on the side for extra money in what ever open room he could find in the music hall. He began breaking down his own playing and started thinking about how many perspectives or situations could be applied to and/or taken from any given chord, note, scale, idea or motif; the deeper side of music in general...

On a whim one summer after university, Steve fell into teaching music at World of Music in Erie, Pa and hasn't slowed down since. Always revising his own personal teaching style and adding new spins on old techniques to keep his students constantly engaged and looking for more. Everyone gets a custom tailored education in music were their goals, influences and favorite songs lay down the back bone for examples and act as a springboard for their own playing and ideas.

**Additional Info:** Steve's not just a teacher he's a player as well. Having played in several noteworthy local, regional and national acts (mostly hardcore and thrash metal) with releases on a handful of minor or independent record labels. He's toured the country, played shows in

Canada and gigged extensively up and down the east coast. He's played blues jams and open mics, even playing guitar for a group of school age children at a bus stop in Oaxaca Mexico!?!

Laidback, patient, easy to work with, quick with a joke and loves to laugh. He loves thrash metal, hardcore, punk rock, indie rock, jazz, blues and outlaw country music. Steve really loves what he teaches, knows and does. Check him out, bet you'll love it too!



## Dan Monacella

**Teaches:** Guitar, Bass, and Piano

**Time Played:** 25+ years

**Experience:** BA in Music Performance, BS in Psychology, teaching at World of Music since 1998

**Background:** Piano and guitar performance videos may be found on YouTube under user names VagueReality and DanMonacella (averaging around 5,000 views a month).

**Additional Info:** Specializing in teaching students with learning disabilities and other mental challenges. Also has worked with professional national acts such as War of Ages and White Wives specializing in theory, lead playing and song writing.



## Mike Moore

**Teaches:** Guitar, bass, ukulele, mandolin

**Time Played:** 25 years

**Experience:** Ten years of teaching music lessons, three years at World Of Music. Over ten years of studio experience as a record/mix/mastering engineer/producer. Toured the country numerous times with various bands for the last 15 years.

**Background:** Plays metal, prog, math-rock, indie, blues, jazz, classical, punk/hardcore, electronic. Has played in numerous rock, punk, hardcore, and metal bands in Erie and Portland. Has owned/operated/worked in numerous recording studios in Portland, Or.

**Additional Info:** Lessons have always been centered around a student's interests. Learning songs by artists they enjoy is always a good way to learn the basics of playing, theory, and development. Lessons are tailored to each student, starting from scratch, or learning advanced theory and/or playing techniques.



## 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:** 28 years

**Experience:** 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).

**Background:** 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, 2014 and 2015 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.

**Additional Info:** 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:** Beginning drum set, advanced drum set, Latin, Marching, Concert and Orchestra percussion.

**Time Played:** 20 years (since age 14).

**Experience:** Played in bands since age 14, has been teaching at World of Music for over 3 years, performed in all music programs (middle & high school), one year of Edinboro jazz & wind ensemble

**Background:** Performed in rock bands such as: Waiting for Never, Paddywacked, Red Morning Hour, Black Lung Choir, Scorch the Sky and 5-to-1. Performed in school programs such as: Edinboro Jazz & Wind Ensemble, 1 year of Mercyhurst intern program, 4 years of marching band, 3 years district jazz band, 1 year of district orchestra.

**Additional Info:** Loves Batman...

## Brian Strobel

**Teaches:** Drum set

**Time Played:** 38 years; has been teaching at World of Music since 2004.

**Experience:** Played in a local band since 2000. Has played in over 300 different musicals around town in local theaters and high schools.

**Background:** Started playing drums at age 6. Brian also sings and is the choir director at his church.

## Jim Caspar

**Teaches:** All wind instruments, beginning piano and beginning guitar

**Time Played:** Has played trumpet and trombone for 30 years

**Experience:** Performance: Altoona Symphony, Penn State Philharmonic, Fred Waring Big Band, Buzz Jones Big Band, Gem City Concert Band.

**Background:** Received a Bachelor's Degree in Music Ed. From Penn State. Was the Band director at Mt. Pleasant High School in Delaware from 1991 to 1998. Is the Band Director at Wattsburg Area School District from 2001 to present. Is the Jazz Ensemble Director for Gem City bands from 2010 to present.

## Elva Newcomer-Kocher

**Teaches:** Violin and Viola

**Time Played:** 47 years

**Experience:** Taught violin and viola over 20 years

**Background:** Plays with 5 symphony orchestras, first violinist for Three Seasons string quartet. Plays for weddings and other events. Was Concertmaster for the Erie Civic Orchestra.

**Additional Info:** Director of finance and fundraising for the Greenville Symphony Orchestra.

## Andrew Leeds

**Teaches:** Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet

**Time Played:** 30 years

**Experience:** Different musical contexts; jazz, rock, show bands & cruise ship

**Background:** Has played in several bands

**Additional Info:** Respects the students and try to use materials consistent with their goals.  
Recognizes the legitimacy of their goals.





## Rob Morrison

**Teaches:** Violin & piano

**Time Played:** 22 years on violin and 30 years on piano

**Experience:** 10 years teaching both violin and piano

**Background:** Received a bachelor's degree in music (violin and piano) from Mercyhurst University.

**Additional Info:** Rob plays at church as well as several local bands around Erie including Taylor Maid, Hiway Starr and The Year. He teaches all styles of music and has students ranging from ages 5 to 60.

## Dave Tatar

**Teaches:** Violin, viola & 'cello

**Time Played:** 'Cello- 25 years

**Experience:** Band and Orchestra Director - 12 Years - Baltimore County Public Schools, Baltimore MD; Girard School District; Fort LeBoeuf School District. 'Cellist for various local churches, chamber ensembles, community orchestras and related music events.

**Background:** Pittsburgh Native. Graduated from Mercyhurst College with a Music Education degree in 2005. Graduated from Bloomsburg University with a Masters of Instructional Technology degree in 2016.

**Additional Info:** Married with 2 children; Morgan (9) and Daniel (4).



Riley Droney

**Teaches:** Piano & Vocals

**Time Played:** 15 years

**Experience:** Several shows at the Erie Playhouse, sings at St. Stephens Episcopal Church and Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church. Trained classically for over 5 years.

**Background:** Majored in voice and minored in piano at Indianan University of Pennsylvania.



## Erika Kuhn

**Teaches:** Voice & Piano

**Time Played:** Voice: 10+ years, Piano: 7 years

**Experience:** Has been singing and playing music since childhood. Has performed in 13 musicals, 2 operas and multiple gigs around the Erie area. Sang the National Anthem at the Bayhawks game.

**Background:** Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy with a concentration in vocal studies.

**Additional Info:** Also plays guitar. Went to Slippery Rock University (class of 2016). Loves working with students of all ages.



## Charlie Meyer

**Teaches:** Piano, Trumpet, and beginner/rhythm Guitar

**Time Played:** 30 years

**Teaching Experience:** I have been teaching for 12 years, have played in bands for 20 years, and have 8 years of classical training on piano.

**Background:** After my classical training, I focused on jazz, blues and rock 'n roll music which would eventually turn into writing/arranging/composing for myself or within the construct of a band. Comfortable teaching students with special needs.

**Additional Info:** You can have all the scale/music theory training in the world, but it means nothing without rhythm. My rhythm studies/experiences are what propelled my playing to the next level. So even if you don't "play drums"...you should start! Listening to all styles of music, no matter your preferences, will start you on the path of true musicianship!