



## **Teacher Biographies**

### **Guitar & Bass Teachers**

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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



## Ethan Foulk

**Teaches:** Guitar, Bass Guitar, Mandolin

**Time Played:** Guitar & Bass for 12 years, Mandolin for 1 year

**Experience:** Taught private 1:1 lessons from home before accepting a teaching position at World of Music

**Background:** From Waterford, PA, Ethan has been making music since he was a child, playing multiple instruments but primarily guitar. He can frequently be found playing local venues in Erie and the surrounding area. Ethan covers a wide variety of genres, not tied down to one single style.

**Additional Info:** Delivers quality, individualized instruction. Carefully crafts lessons to the individual learner's strengths, interests and pace.

## Preston Lindey (virtual lessons only)

**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.



Connor McCray

**Teaches:** Guitar/Bass

**Time Played:** 15 years

**Experience:** 10 years teaching, 8 years touring

**Background:** I began playing at 15 and began touring at age 21. Now I work with many music companies on a professional level while teaching, touring and recording.

**Additional info:** Artist with Engl, Siggie Braun Guitars and ML Sound Lab. Has done guest work for a variety of bands and musicians.



## Dan Monacella

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

**Time Played:** 30+ 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 Monacella Guitar Productions (averaging around 5,000 views a month).

**Additional Info:** Specializing in teaching students of any skill level including those 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. Dan has published 3 books of guitar music available at World of Music and on Amazon.



## Claire Stuczynski

**Teaches:** Beginning rhythm guitar

**Time Played:** 28+ years

**Experience:** 20+ years of Singer/Songwriter/Cover artist playing live professionally. Blue Moon Managements Artist roster 2005-2013. Winner of Rock Erie Music Awards Best Acoustic Artist. Top 3 of Erie's Choice Award for Best Musician, Alumni of The Erie All Stars. Has been on the lineup multiple times for festivals such as The Great Blue Heron Festival, Downtown Edinboro Arts & Music Festival, The Gathering at Chaffee's, Celebrate Erie, 814 Fest, and Erie's Porch Festival. Has played popular stages such as House of Blues, Hard Rock Café, Reg Lenna Center for the Arts. Has opened up for nationally touring act Donna the Buffalo and for world touring act and winner of Australia's Got Talent; Joe Robinson (seriously check this guy out).

**Background:** Self-taught guitarist and singer songwriter, plays solo and with hired gun musicians for duos, trios and full piece band projects. I play in the tristate area now so I can focus on family (FAMILY is everything) and to begin passing my skills on to the next generation of musicians. Follow me on Facebook to see where I am playing NEXT!

**Additional Info:** I started playing guitar at 13 years old, I taught myself how to read tabs through my dad's James Taylor Facebook. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!!! Practice makes perfect; memorize those chords and everything else will fall into place. And ALWAYS have a guitar nearby; it's the best therapy! Let's dive into reading tabs and learning how to play rhythm guitar, start playing your favorite songs you know and the songs you didn't know you would love!

Philippians 4:13



Larson Foltz

**Teaches:** Drum set, mallet percussion, general percussion, marching percussion

**Time Played:** 18 years drum set, 15 years general percussion, 8 years marching percussion

**Experience:** Freelance drum set for jazz combos for 6 years, jazz big bands for 10 years, local bands, private lessons for about 2 years

**Background:** primarily a jazz drummer, experience in multiple genres from hard rock to bossa nova

**Additional Info:** Focus on technique and flexibility on drums, can work with any genre; jazz and rock are a favorite, experience in other genres like metal, funk, Latin, etc.



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, 5-to-1, Riff Riders, Flight, Daytona Beach 2000 and Penny Racer. 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.

## Elva Newcomer

**Teaches:** Violin and Viola

**Time Played:** 50+ years

**Experience:** Taught violin and viola over 20 years. Has taught and coached choir and music classes in a private school setting. She has formerly played with the Erie Playhouse.

**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:** Former Director of finance and fundraising for the Greenville Symphony Orchestra and board member of the Presque Isle Pro Musical.



Kole Wentling

**Teaches:** Beginning/Intermediate trumpet, French horn, baritone, tuba, flute, oboe, bassoon and saxophone. Beginning/advanced clarinet and trombone.

**Time Played:** I've been involved with music for 12 years

**Experience:** Classical, jazz; I teach with local marching bands and taught privately for 1 year.

**Background:** Current music education major at Mercyhurst University. I play classical clarinet and jazz trombone and play trombone with the concert band of NW PA.

**Additional Info:** I am willing to work with all ages and any experience. I'm always happy to work toward what you want to accomplish!



## 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!