



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.



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.



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: Beginner to Intermediate Level: Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone (All types)
Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba, Piano
Beginner to Advanced: Clarinet (All Types), Saxophone (College Prep only), Trombone

Time Played: Clarinet: 15 years; Trombone: 5 years

Experience: BM in Music Education from Mercyhurst University (2025)
Privately teaching for 3 years, additionally teaching marching band for 3 years
Music Teacher at Collegiate Academy in Erie Pennsylvania (2025)
Assistant Band Director at Iroquois School District (2025)

Background: Jazz, Classical, Solo and Chamber repertoire, Beginning to Collegiate level ensemble; Co-founder / Band Leader of Swing Syndicate: Jazz Combo
Trombonist of “The iSh”; Participant in Gem City Jazz band, and Mercyhurst Civic Orchestra;
Board Member of Heberle’s Heartstrings: Musical Nonprofit

Additional Info: I believe everyone, no matter age, disability, or experience should have access to music, and music education. Come on in for a lesson and let’s work toward something 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.



Carter Houston

Teaches: Voice (all levels) and Piano (Beginner-Intermediate)

Time Played: 15+ years

Experience: Carter's teaching approach is grounded in extensive training. He holds a Master's Degree in Voice Performance from Florida State University, where he served as a graduate teaching assistant. His education also includes a Bachelor of Music from the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State University. Beyond his academic achievements, Carter is an accomplished performer with experience in opera and musical theater. He is also a music director and has been a featured soloist in concerts and recitals. This past summer, he was a studio artist at the renowned Lehrer Vocal Institute at Music Academy of the West and is a multiple-time competition winner, including a finalist in the 2025 Madame Rose Palmai-Tenser Vocal Scholarship Competition

Background: As a dedicated voice teacher and performer in the Erie area, Carter believes that music is for everyone, regardless of age or experience. He welcomes students of all backgrounds and enjoys teaching a wide range of styles, from classical to contemporary. Whether you want to prepare for musical auditions, festival choirs, or want to sing better at Karaoke night, I would love to work with you!

Additional Info: Outside of music, Carter enjoys walking, reading, learning new languages, and walking his four dogs.



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!