



Private Lesson Teachers

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Adrian Kessler

piano, oboe

Adrian Kessler is a current Music Education major student in her final year of schooling at Duquesne University. Prior to working at Brighton Music Center, Kessler taught for her hometown of Brookville's high school marching band as a clarinet and flute instructor, worked at Central Oaks Heights music camp for two years as an elementary camp counselor, and taught private lessons. Throughout this part year, Kessler took over as the marching band director of Sto-Rox High School for their marching band season, and she worked for St. Benedict the Moor School as an instrumental instructor. One fun fact about Miss Kessler is that she absolutely loves the movie "The Princess Bride"



Marissa Lyerly

clarinet, saxophone, piano

Marissa Lyerly is a clarinetist and teacher based in Pittsburgh, PA. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree in clarinet performance at Westminster College in 2017, where she graduated magna cum laude. Marissa continued her education at Youngstown State University after receiving a Graduate Assistantship, where she earned a Master of Music degree in clarinet performance in 2019. Throughout her college years, she studied with many esteemed musicians, including Dr. Alice Wang, Dr. James Flower, and Daniel Heasley. Marissa earned the role of concertmaster and principal clarinetist in the Westminster College and Youngstown State University Wind Ensembles, Orchestras, and opera ensembles. She also regularly performed solo and in chamber groups around campus. Outside of her performance career in College, she served as president of the Dana Clarinet Society at Youngstown State University and president of the Pennsylvania Collegiate Music Educators Association at Westminster College.

As a freelance musician, Marissa has performed with the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra, Warren Philharmonic, and Opera Western Reserve. Some of her most memorable performances have included Sarah Brightman's Hymn Tour in 2019, Hanson's String Theory Tour in 2018, and the 2019 Super Bowl performance of America the Beautiful. In addition to performing, Marissa taught clarinet, saxophone, and piano from 2018-2021 at Mark's Music in Hermitage, PA before moving out of the area. She has also taught at Austintown Intermediate School as a clarinet instructor for the fifth grade Jumpstart band program. As a proud alumni, Marissa has also been frequently featured as a guest masterclass instructor and performer for the Westminster College Woodwind Day and networking events for the college music majors and high school students in the area. Currently, Marissa is teaching woodwinds and piano at Brighton Music Center in Pittsburgh. It is her passion to share and support music in our schools and communities.



Barb McNamee

flute

Barbara McNamee has been teaching private flute lessons to students ranging from the ages of 10 through 70, beginner through advanced since 1981. She believes in the individual approach. Each student is unique, therefore; lessons are geared toward individual needs and skill level.

Barb graduated from West Liberty State College (currently West Liberty University) with a BS in Music Education K-12. Barb is available Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at the Pittsburgh location. Saturday at the New Brighton location.



Haley Wills

saxophone, piano, clarinet

Haley Wills is originally from Shaler township and studied at Edinboro University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. Haley's primary instrument is the saxophone, which she studied under Dr. Patrick Jones. Haley has been teaching woodwind and piano lessons for nine years. She has performed with the Edinboro Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Saxophone Quartet, and University Singers. Haley recently moved back to Pittsburgh from Virginia where she was an elementary music teacher for four years. Haley is a member of Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) as well as the North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA). Haley started taking lessons at Brighton Music Center over 15 years ago and is happy to be back where it all started.



Ulises Ramirez

trumpet

Ulises Ramirez is originally from Idaho. He started playing the trumpet at age 11 and went on to study trumpet performance at Idaho State University, where he earned his bachelor's in music. During his time at ISU, he performed in the wind ensemble, jazz band, several chamber groups, and was second/assistant principal trumpet in the Idaho State Civic Symphony. He holds a Master of Music from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, where he studied with professor Edmund Cord. Ulises has taught private lessons since 2012 and loves getting to teach what he is most passionate about. Fluent in several genres, Ulises currently is a freelancer in the Pittsburgh area and is the trumpet player for Mariachi Internacional de Pittsburgh and other Latin groups.



Ron Steffanina

all beginner instruments, flute & trumpet (advanced)

35 years after earning his B.S. in Music Education from IUP, Ron retired from the Western Beaver School District, successfully teaching thousands of elementary through high school band students has been an enjoyable and rewarding career to Ron.

As a skilled musician on numerous instruments, Ron has performed with a variety of ensembles from rock to polka and jazz, wedding soloist, community bands, and even the Rapid City Symphony with solo trumpeter Doc Severinsen. Ron has also directed and played in over 50 high school musicals, the San Rocco Festa Band, and the Beaver County Symphonic Wind Ensemble. As a member of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, Ron was a guest conductor for District 2 Jazz Band, and received the PMEA Citation of Excellence Award for his outstanding concert bands.



Vince Gorman

double bass, low brass, bass guitar, guitar

Vince teaches electric/double bass, trombone and low brass at our North Hills location. He is skilled in any style music including jazz, rock, classical, rockabilly, country, and metal. He majored in Double bass with a minor on trombone at Slippery Rock University. With 20 years teaching experience and 15 years of experience in music retail, he can help with any musical questions you may have!

Vince is a freelance bassist in the Pittsburgh area. You can see him regularly with Tuesday Night Big Band, the Pittsburgh Doo-Wop Big Band, Whiskey Rebellion, or with his own band Triad Jazz. In the past Vince has played with Johnny Angel, Dr. Zoot. John Galt Theory. Azucar Salsa Band, the Platters, Harptones, Paragons, and the Jesters. He also was on the national tour of a Broadway musical.



Katherine Araya Rizzo

violin

Katherine Araya - originally from Santiago, Chile - starts her musical education when she was nine years old, being a self-taught learner. At the age of 13, Katherine had the opportunity to study at the Universidad de Chile, starting the Basic stage of the Music Performance degree. In 2017, she got her bachelor's degree in Music Performance in Violin, finishing her last two years with a full scholarship. In 2019, she got accepted into the Artist Diploma Program at Duquesne University, where she studies with Professor Charles Stegeman (who is concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Opera and Ballet).

She has participated in many music festivals in Chile and Brazil like FIMP, Otto Derolez Music Festival, FEMUSC, etc. She has had the opportunity to take lessons with Leon Spierer, former concertmaster of Berliner Philharmonic, Otto Derolez concertmaster of Brussels Philharmonic, Ole Bohn Professor of the University of Sidney, Marc Danel 1st violin of Danel string quartet, and Hector Viveros Concertmaster of the Orquesta Sinfonica de Chile. Katherine is a current member of Butler County Symphony Orchestra and Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra, where she performs in many concerts of the season. She has more than five years of experience teaching children, teenagers, and adult people in schools and music schools.



Lisa Bleil

Voice

LISA BLEIL has been singing professionally since she was 18. She attended the Carnegie Mellon University School of Music where she majored in Classical Vocal Performance, and since then has performed in nearly every facet of the music business. From musical theater to jingle singing to television to teaching...she even did singing telegrams in college!

Lisa is currently on the faculty of West Virginia University's School Of Music where she teaches Vocal Jazz. She also spent several semesters as the Voice Instructor for the City Music Center at Duquesne University.

Over the years, Lisa has been the voice of numerous radio and television jingles including work for Eat N Park, Wendy's, Brusters, Baierl and Molyneaux. She can be seen on the nationally-televised PBS series, "My Music" performing with Frankie Valli, Frankie Avalon, Darlene Love, Englebert Humperdink, and Ronnie Spector, among others. Lisa was also a member of the house band on the Emmy Award-winning "Live From Studio A" series on WQED.

Lisa maintains a steady performance schedule, and can be heard singing at concerts, events, and clubs around Pittsburgh and surrounding areas.



Amelia Catanzaro

voice, piano

Amelia's first degree was from Bucks County Community College in Newtown, Pennsylvania where she graduated with an Associates of Arts in Music. While there she was involved in the Madrigals Ensemble, Concert Choir and Opera Ensemble. Afterwards she transferred to Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pennsylvania where she majored in Music Education with a dual major in Vocal Performance. Amelia's coursework included; Music teaching and methods, instrumental methods for all instruments, Special Education applications for music, Vocal Pedagogy, Vocal Literature, Diction, Piano teaching and methods, composition/orchestration and multiple conducting courses. She has also had the privilege to be part of the Wig & Buckle Theater company as an actor (2014-2018) the Vocal Director (2017) and the Costume Designer (2014-2017). Amelia graduated with a Bachelors in Science in Music Education and a Bachelor's of Arts in Music and plans to pursue a masters in Conducting, vocal pedagogy and/or musical theater pedagogy.



Madeline Brook

piano, voice

Madeline is an enthusiastic teacher and musician who loves to work with kids of all ages! Madeline graduated in 2017 from Millersville University. She has a Bachelor's degree in Music Education with a specialty in Voice. For the last 4 years Madeline has taught K-5 classroom general music at Poquoson City Public Schools in Virginia. In the last 7 years, she has also been self employed as a private instructor and has taught many students in voice and piano. Madeline prefers a classical approach to music teaching and learning. Madeline strives to make her students' lessons fun, engaging and productive through a variety of quality repertoire in several genres. There is an included emphasis on music theory and technique as part of her lessons as well. Making music is one of Madeline's greatest passions and she is excited to help every student become a better musician!



Bert Lerini

percussion

Bert has an extensive performing background. He has played with the New Sousa Band, Wheeling Symphony, Erie Philharmonic and Youngstown Symphony. Bert is the drummer for The River-Franklin Park Church, Wil E Tri's Bluescasters, and the Elite Showband. He has also played drums for country music artists Sydney Hutchko and Nancy Deckant. Musical theater work includes national touring productions of Little Shop of Horrors, and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Pittsburgh CLO productions of Always...Patsy Cline and Judge Jackie Justice and numerous regional productions. Bert has backed Jim Nabors, Bobby Vinton, Sandy Duncan, Don Rickles, Regis Philbin, and "Wicked's" Kristen Chenoweth. Bert has also been featured as a xylophone soloist on numerous occasions

As a teacher Bert has teaches privately in Aliquippa Pennsylvania, at Lazier's Harmony Music Studio, at Anderson Music Academy, and both Brighton Music locations. His private students have won numerous awards and scholarships. Bert has worked with competitive and non competitive drum lines and currently works with the Quaker Valley Drumline. Bert has been on staff as Principal Percussionist for Allegheny College Band Camp for Adult Musicians and serves as Percussion Coach of the River City Youth Brass Band.



Arthur Boehm

guitar

Duquesne University – BA, MA 1990 Music Performance

Art has been mastering the art of musicianship on guitar since his youth. He was raised in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, and has been honored to receive tutelage from some of the most prominent musicians in the city, including Jazz virtuoso and legendary personality Joe Negri. By age 12, he began his career in performance as a solo artist, sharing the stage with artist twice his age, to a great deal of acclaim, including media profiles. He has led and participated in musical projects ranging from local clubs, to Pit orchestra participation in off-Broadway shows, highlighting his arrangement and collaboration skills.

Art's recording and production abilities have led to radio play of original recordings. His present performance presence is as the guitar player for local pop band Totally 80s. Totally 80s has been one of the most prominent and successful local bands over the past 10 years, regularly playing to capacity crowds locally and across a range of several states, performing on their own, and supporting artists such as Donnie Iris.



John Baker

guitar, ukulele

John has been teaching at Brighton Music Center for several years and is currently teaching electric, acoustic, and bass guitar as well as the ukulele. John's instruction styles include; Classic rock, blues, jazz, pop and country. While John teaches many genres, he has extensive performing experience in blues, classic rock, and dance music.



Jesse Ort

guitar

Jesse teaches anything, and he'll help you build your funk chops or show you how to put a little more twang in your country. From beginners to advanced players anyone can play guitar with Jesse's help. Classic Rock and Heavy Metal are his wheelhouse, but Jesse's plays it all! Want to learn to play your favorite tunes?! Jesse cites Yngwie Malmsteen, Randy Rhodes, Steve Lukather, Ace Frehley and Ford Thurston as his biggest influences. Jesse is a veteran of the Pittsburgh music scene. Whether it's playing in Bon Journey, or with BowieLive or in his own group Trevolta, his knowledge and ability are built on practical experience. Jesse is ready to help you to discover your playing talents and to assist you in becoming the kind of guitar player you really want to be!



Kirsten Heibert

piano, ukulele, voice

Kirsten Heibert is a singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Originally from Wexford, Heibert spent the last 8 years performing and teaching all over the country. She is an accomplished vocalist and recording artist, proficient in a wide variety of vocal styles. Heibert began studying classical voice and opera at a young age, and eventually earned her Bachelor's Degree in Theater Performance at Point Park University. As an instrumentalist, she studied piano and music theory with a private instructor for many years, and taught herself how to play the guitar. She has taught students at various studios in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and NYC. She specializes in music theory & songwriting. Her work as a recording artist can be found under Paging Doctor Moon on all platforms