

Musical Avenues

2009 Teacher Biographies

Joellen Burns received a BA degree in music education from Mount Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa with piano as her primary instrument. She also did graduate work at DePaul University School of Music in Chicago. She prefers the Faber Series of method books but also incorporates supplementary material from other publishers. She is a member of MMTA (Minnesota Music Teachers Association) and performs locally at the Normandale Lake Office Building. Joellen teaches piano at Westwood and Oak Grove Middle School.

Carol Dahlen studied piano at the University of Northern Iowa and Luther College. She has taught in the Musical Avenues program for the past 18 years. Beyond being an educator, she has served as a church organist and pianist throughout the United States. She is a solid promoter of the Faber and Faber series and firmly believes in students sharing their talents with their community. Her students have performed at the Prodigy Awards at the Radisson, the Mall of America, and with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, to name just a few. Carol teaches piano at Oak Grove Middle School.

Daniel Gauper is a graduate of Luther College and has a Masters Degree in trombone performance from the University of Northern Colorado. He has been teaching band for the past 20 years in Minnesota and Nebraska. He teaches trombone, trumpet, French horn, baritone, and tuba. He is presently the band director at Olson Middle School where he also teaches private lessons.

Craig Randal Johnson has taught piano and double bass for the past ten years with Musical Avenues. He holds a BA from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Music Degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. His background includes experience as a recitalist/accompanist, double bassist, and as a conductor. His solo programs focus heavily on the 20th Century American and Finnish music. Craig emphasizes the practical aspects of piano playing including good reading skills, rhythmic accuracy and technical capability. He is also a member of MMTA (Minnesota Music Teachers Association). Craig teaches piano and bass at Olson Middle School.

Marilyn Keenan has a Bachelor of Music in education from North Central University in Minneapolis with a Master of Arts in counseling from St. Thomas University. She has over fifty years of experience in piano and voice music as a pianist, organist and soloist in churches. She has also taught for 30 years as a vocal music teacher in the Minneapolis Public Schools. She especially enjoys teaching students with the John Schaum Piano courses. Marilyn teaches piano lessons at Oak Grove Elementary.

Enid Lang graduated from Lawrence College Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wisconsin and earned a Master of Arts in music education from St. Thomas University. She has taught for 22 years in the Bloomington Public School District as a music specialist. Her primary instruments are flute and piano and she teaches all beginning instruments as well. Enid especially likes using the John Thompson piano series. She teaches at Olson Elementary.

Bill Lang has been a teacher and professional woodwind player for forty years. His primary instrument is saxophone but he also teaches and plays flute and clarinet. He likes to combine a technical method with a more popular approach to jazz, rock and roll, blues and improvisation. He believes in building a solid foundation in reading, tone and technique to enhance enjoyment. Bill frequently performs in the cities at local establishments. He teaches at Olson Middle School.

Barbara Marick has a BA in music education from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire. She has taught orchestra, band and general music for the last 21 years at Oak Grove Middle School. Her primary instruments are piano and string bass. She selects teaching material to suit the age of the student and their musical knowledge. Barb welcomes beginning students of all ages and teaches piano and string instruments. She teaches at Hillcrest Community School.

Beth Miller is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus with a Bachelor of Arts in music. She has taught for the Musical Avenues Program for 10 years. She had the privilege of studying at Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, France. Beth plays both piano and clarinet and is currently an accompanist for Edina Covenant Church. She likes to include theory, sight-reading, performance techniques, and ear training. She teaches at Ridgeview, Normandale Hills and Westwood.

Terri O'Brien has a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Kansas State University. She has taught piano for the last twenty seven years and is an active member of the Minnesota Music Teachers Association and Music Teachers National Association, to name just a few organizations. Terri has performed in master classes and continues to study in piano pedagogy. She teaches piano at Ridgeview and Olson Middle School.

Barbara Olson is a graduate of Bethel University with a vocal performance and church music degree. She also has a Master of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Minnesota and has studied piano and organ extensively. She uses a traditional approach to teaching concentrating more on classic material while using a variety of teaching method books. Barb has taught privately for many years. She will be teaching piano at Olson Elementary, Poplar Bridge and Ridgeview.

Mindy Peterson has a Bachelor of Music degree from DePauw University School of Music. She studied piano, voice, and saxophone and received her Orff Schulwerk training at St. Thomas University. Mindy has been an elementary music specialist for 11 years at Poplar Bridge. She especially likes the Alfred series of method books and teaching students a love for learning many styles of music. She also teaches piano at Poplar Bridge.

Joleyne Presthus has numerous degrees in K-12 music, elementary education, and early childhood/parent education. She graduated from the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks. She has taught music in Germany along with 20 years in the public school system. She likes to teach theory and technique to young players and wants students to enjoy both classical and popular music. Joleyne especially likes to work with the Bastien and Faber method books. She teaches piano at Normandale Hills.

John Rasmussen has taught six years with the Musical Avenues Program and has had fifteen years experience in directing musical events. He holds a Bachelors Degree from St. Olaf College

and a Masters Degree. He prefers the Piano Adventures (Faber and Faber) method books with a focus on guided independent learning and performance. He likes a wholistic teaching approach to students as individuals. John is teaching piano at Normandale Hills and Olson Elementary.

Christine Robertson has an ASA degree from Normandale College in piano performance and plans on furthering her education. She has played piano for 14 years and uses the Alfred method books. She likes to adapt each lesson to the individual learning style of her student and teach them to have fun while playing. She teaches piano at Oak Grove Elementary and Poplar Bridge.

Jan Swanson graduated from St. Olaf College with a music education degree. She taught in the public school system for several years and also did private piano lesson in her home for 25 years. Jan has attended classes at MacPhail and workshops at Schmitt Music. She has performed at the Normandale Lake Office Building for over 20 years. She teaches piano at Oak Grove Middle.

Elizabeth Therkildsen has taught in the public schools for 10 years. She has a BA Degree in music education and voice from St. Cloud State and a Masters in Education Administration from St. Mary's. She also has taken Suzuki training at MacPhail. Elizabeth teaches beginning piano, guitar, and advanced strings. She prepares students for solo and ensemble contests and All State Orchestra. She will be teaching at Olson Middle, Oak Grove Middle and Valley View Middle Schools.

Kelly Thompson has a Bachelor of Arts in music education from Northwestern College in St. Paul. She has taught classroom instrumental music for the past eleven years and is presently at Washburn Elementary. In addition to her classroom teaching, she has been teaching private piano lessons for the past 17 years having experience with traditional as well as the Suzuki method of instruction. Kelly teaches piano, beginning brass and strings, along with all levels of woodwinds at Washburn.

Ashley Tuttle is a graduate of the University of St. Thomas with an elementary education degree. She is presently teaching in the Bloomington School system. She took lessons with Carol Dahlen and the Musical Avenues Program for nine years. Ashley is excited to start new students and especially likes the Faber and Faber method series. She teaches piano at Indian Mounds Elementary.

Sandra Wagner is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a brass major and piano minor. She also has a Masters Degree in string performance. Sandy teaches piano, beginning woodwinds and strings. She has taught as a district music teacher in the Bloomington Schools for over 30 years. She performs in many orchestra groups such as the Minneapolis Civic Orchestra, the Mankato Symphony, and Exaltate Chamber Orchestra. She teaches at Ridgeview, Hillcrest and Indian Mounds.

Barbara Wallace has a Bachelor of Arts in music education from Carleton College. She has taught strings and orchestra in the public schools for 15 years and did graduate work in violin at the University of Wisconsin. She has played in several orchestras in the Twin Cities and is currently concertmaster of the J.C.C. Orchestra in St. Paul. Barb is an avid chamber music player and manager of the Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis. She teaches violin, viola and cello at Pond Family Center.

Kathy Weingarden received her Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Macalester College. She began her musical studies at the age of five and has over thirty years of experience teaching guitar and percussion. She has also performed with a wide variety of musical and rock groups. Kathy teaches at Olson Middle and Oak Grove Middle Schools. She also teaches group guitar lessons in the Adult Community Education Program.