



Private Music Instruction at Shaker Road School

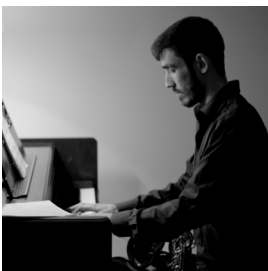
Our Music Instructors



Mike Effenberger

Piano, Low Brass

Mike Effenberger is a recording and performing artist who has been teaching at Shaker Road School since 2007. He received the Young Beacon in Jazz award from New School University in New York City, from which he graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance. Mike plays throughout New England with a wide variety of bands including Jazzputin and the Jug Skunks, the secular gospel choir Rock My Soul, OURBIGBAND, Dan Blakeslee, and many others, along with leading Weird Turn Pro in playing his compositions. He tours nationally with Soggy Po' Boys and internationally with Bing and Ruth. He appears on countless recordings, from independent releases to larger labels, including RVNG International and 4AD, and is also active as a producer.



Eric Klaxton

Piano, Woodwinds

Eric Klaxton received his Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance and Jazz Studies at the University of New Hampshire. As an active performer, Eric has chosen to pursue jazz among other contemporary musics. He is also well versed in the classical tradition and continues to study the compositions of the masters. Eric feels a responsibility as a musician to teach his craft and pass along the traditions that have made him the musician he is today. He is currently an active member of notable ensembles including: The Soggy Po Boys, Sojoy and OurBigBand. In addition to his work with collective ensembles, Eric is often writing and arranging original works for various groups of his own. In addition to saxophone, Eric teaches piano, clarinet, composition, improvisation, and music theory lessons.



Matt Langley

Woodwinds, Brass, Piano

Matt Langley has studied with saxophonist Stan Strickland, has had an Aebersold Jazz Camp encounter with "Blue Lou" Marini and David Baker and a visit to UNH's Summer Youth Music School. Since beginning his professional career directly out of high school, Matt's love of music has taken him from blues bars in Waterville, Maine to the famous Green Mill in Chicago. Matt has recorded extensively with the Charlie Kolhase Quintet, with his own group, "Color" with pianist Pandelis Karayorgis' "System of 5", and with Pianist Ted Brancato whose CD "The Next Step" features Matt extensively on Soprano and Tenor Saxophone. Ted and Matt toured the Pacific Northwest in the Fall of 2013 performing music from the CD in concert halls, colleges, and nightclubs with some of the finest jazz musicians from the Seattle area. Recent recordings include "Sojoy" and "The Adventures of Oliver Z Wanderkook" with Sojoy and "The Repeatedly Answered Question" and "Let me be unwound" with Mr. Effenberger's band Weirddturnpro. Matt has shared the stage or recording studio with Ben Allison, Ron Carter, Richie Cole, Fred Hersch, John Tchicai, John Medeski, Billy Martin, Chris Wood, Dave Fuzinski, Matt Wilson, Charlie Kohlase, Tiger Okoshi, Roswell Rudd, Gene MacDaniels, Dave Douglas and many others. This summer Matt taught at three different music camps with ensembles ranging from small jazz combos to a symphonic band with 120 members!

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Rachel Minsinger

Woodwinds, Brass, Piano, Voice, Xylophone, Ukulele

Rachel Minsinger attended Susquehanna University where she received her Bachelor of Music in Music Education with a clarinet concentration in 2009. She also attended Gordon College where she received her Masters of Music in Music Education in 2015. She has been teaching since 2009 and has been at Shaker Road School since 2015. Mrs. Minsinger teaches all of the students at SRS from infants through middle school. She also directs the concert band and chorus. Mrs. Minsinger is a member of the National Association for Music Educators, the New Hampshire Music Educators Association, and the Feierabend Association for Music Education. Mrs. Minsinger has performed with various ensembles including the Upper Valley Community Band, the Claremont Community Band, the Newmont Military Band, and the Newport Area Choir. Mrs. Minsinger has performed at many locations from Carnegie Hall, to the Gettysburg Battlefield, as well as at many, many churches and town greens. When Mrs. Minsinger is not teaching, she enjoys playing her ukulele and playing with her son, Eli.



Debbie Potter

Ukulele

Debbie Potter has been playing ukulele since 2012. She has always had music in her life; singing with her family, playing clarinet for 12 years in band, and integrating music in her elementary classes. Ukulele fits right in to her musical life. "It is nice to play an instrument and be able to sing along. Pretty tricky with a clarinet!!" Debbie has been the early childhood music teacher at SRS as well as many other positions here. In addition to being a ukulele teacher, she currently is the Librarian and a Pre-K teacher. Debbie plays ukulele with 3 ukulele clubs around the state. Debbie has studied with David Surette at the Concord Community Music School and accompanied the Songweavers at a concert. She has played ukulele at various open mics as a solo artist, as a duo with her husband, Bill, and with ukulele groups.



Scott Solsky

Guitar, Bass, Violin, Drums, Xylophone, Voice, Woodwinds, Brass

Scott Solsky has been a professional performer and music educator in New England for over two decades. After studying at the University of Southern Maine and privately with the region's top guitar players (Tony Gaboury, Jay Carlson, Phil Sargent, and Randy Roos), Scott has developed a style that effortlessly morphs from one genre to another, while maintaining a distinct sound. Scott has been teaching music at the Shaker Road School since 2003 in many different capacities. He is currently teaching the SRS rock and jazz bands and teaching private lessons on most instruments. Through the work Scott has done with bands such as Pat and The Hats, Brasbe, and Donkilo! Afrofunk Orchestra, he has been awarded many regional awards, including a New England Music Award (best pop act of 2015), multiple Best in NH awards from Hippo Press, multiple Best in NH awards from NH Magazine, and was a member of the Union Leader's "Forty under 40" class in 2013. In addition to performing with Trade (original six piece soul and Motown group), Scott is also a solo performer and can be found playing with Lynne Taylor, Mike Walsh, and Jared Steer. Scott also teaches out of his home studio, Sideroom Music, in Concord where he lives with his three children.



Mike Walsh

Drums

Mike Walsh has been drumming for over 30 years and has been full-time drum instructor and performer for the last 20 years. Mike graduated from UNH with a B.A. in Music Performance and studied with Bob Gullotti, Les Harris Jr., and Nancy Smith. In recent years, Mike has continued private studies with Dave Dicenso, Steve Michaud, Dan Weiss, and Peter Moutis. Mike is currently the drummer for several NH Seacoast bands in styles ranging from jazz, soul, funk, reggae, and rock. The last 20 years of performing music have brought Mike throughout New England as well as New York City, Las Vegas, Toronto, and Mexico City. In addition to teaching at Shaker Road, Mike teaches a full schedule of drum students at Portsmouth Music and Arts Center. When not performing or teaching drums, Mike also works part-time at The Drum Center of Portsmouth.