



Private Music Instruction at Shaker Road School

Our Music Instructors



Melissa Elsmann *Piano, Voice*

Melissa Elsmann, classical singer and voice teacher, has been performing classical music for over 20 years. Her education includes a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Boston Conservatory and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Chicago College of Performing Arts. She continues her studies with renowned countertenor, Mark Crayton. She is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and teaches voice to children and adults from beginner to advanced. Melissa teaches many styles ranging from classical to pop. Melissa performs a wide variety of music ranging from early classical to new music and has a special interest in discovering and performing lesser-known works, particularly those by women composers. She has performed in Boston; Chicago; Los Angeles; Verona, Italy; and many locations in New Hampshire. Melissa is a guest lecturer and performer at Chicago College of Performing Arts, focusing on romantic era Parisian composer, Augusta Holmès. When Melissa is not performing or teaching, she enjoys going on long runs and hiking adventures!



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 sons, Eli and Oscar.



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.

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Tom Robinson

Piano

Tom Robinson is a performer and music educator based out of central New Hampshire. He received his B.M. in Jazz Studies in 1994 from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio where he studied saxophone and piano. Tom has taught at The Concord Community Music School, St. Paul's School where he also directed the jazz ensemble, Plymouth State University where he taught jazz piano, jazz studies and directed the jazz ensembles, as well as having a private studio. Tom enjoys a busy performing schedule throughout New England with many various bands and projects, as well as leading and composing for his own groups. He recorded a collaborative CD of original music in 2006 titled "Skylight."



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.



Jared Steer

Drums

Jared Steer is an active performer/educator based in central NH. He received a BA in Music Performance from Plymouth State College. There he studied drum set and percussion with Tim Gilmore, Eric C. Hughes, and Craig Fahey. After receiving his degree he continued studies with Rakalam Bob Moses, Bob Gullotti, Jeff Ballard, Dave Dicenso, Jerry Leake, Steve Michaud, Thierry Arpino, and Greg Hutchinson. In 2017 he went back to PSU to take classes toward obtaining a music education degree.

Jared either currently or has held faculty positions at the Manchester Community Music School, Holderness School, New Hampton School, Fryeburg Academy, Tilton School, Waterville Valley Elementary School, Interlakes School District, and Sant Bani School. He facilitates drum workshops from school to community events. He has been asked to be an artist-in-residence for programs such as Artward Bound at the Holderness School, Arts Day at New Hampton School, and the A.I.R. program at Holderness Central School. He performs and records regionally as well as nationally with a variety of groups and ensembles.