

# TEMPO

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## Alumni News

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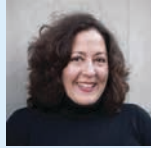
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# Alumni News

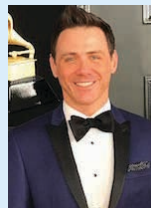
## 1990s



**Dr. Rosemarie Piccioni** (M.M. Education, 1991, B.S. Music Education, 1989)

was recently appointed as Associate Provost, Online Education for the ArtCenter College of Design. Piccioni has also been instrumental in various initiatives and innovative educational programs for the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Walt Disney Company, and Carnegie Hall.

**Fr. Matthew S. Ernest**, S.T.D. (B.M. Performance, 1998) recently published two articles: "Lasting Penitential Consequences In the Late Fifth And Early Sixth Century Gallican Church: Investigations And Current Applications." [Ephemerides Liturgicae 131 (2017): 257-273] and "The Development of the Vigil for the Deceased in the Order of Christian Funerals (USA)" [1969-1989, in Ecclesia Orans, the liturgical journal of the Pontifical Liturgical Institute of Sant' Anselmo in Rome.]



**Dr. Donald J. McKinney** (B.S. Music Education, 1999), Director of Bands at the University of Colorado Boulder,

was nominated for a GRAMMY Award for his work on *John Williams: At the Movies*, an album for the Dallas Winds. In addition, McKinney has also been featured on the cover of *The Instrumentalist*, a prominent journal for instrumental music educators.

## 2000s



**Darryl Yokley** (B.M. Performance, 2004), saxophonist, recently released a jazz album

called *Pictures at an African Exhibition* and has received favorable reviews from the *New York Times* and *Downbeat Magazine*, and the album was a top 10 jazz album on BandCamp the month it was released. Yokley continues to enjoy an active career performing nationally and internationally, as well as maintaining an active career as an educator.



**Gretchen Chardos Benner**, LMSW, MT-BC (B.S. Music Therapy & B.M.

Performance, 2007) founded and runs Piedmont Music Therapy, LLC (PMT), a private practice servicing the Carolinas. In early 2018, PMT became a Certification Board for Music Therapists and has been able to expand service offerings beyond music therapy and music instruction to the Greater Charlotte Area by also supporting the educational growth of music therapists. Training courses so far have covered topics such as diversified treatment approaches, researched practices, and ethical considerations.



**Nicholas Will** (B.M. Performance, 2008) has been appointed Director of Liturgical Music

at the Pontifical North American College, Rome. There, he will oversee all musical activity, serve as primary organist, conduct the 45-voice Seminary Choir, and offer musical instruction to the seminarians. Will leaves his position of Director of Music & Liturgy at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Carnegie, Pennsylvania and will take a leave of absence from his position of Coordinator of the Sacred Music Program at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.

## 2010s



**Matthew Pickart** (M.M. Performance, 2010) recently accepted a faculty position at the Community

Music School of Webster University. He is also responsible for the creation of the Clazz International Music Festival in Arcidosso, Italy, a three and a half week summer educational program incorporating both internationally recognized jazz and classical faculty including GRAMMY Award winners, top crossover artists, soloists, and leading orchestral players.

At the Mary Pappert School of Music, we are immensely proud of our ever-growing alumni community. Our students have great role models in our alumni: highly successful professionals who have chosen careers throughout the varied disciplines of music, as well as in business, medicine, and elsewhere.

To learn more about the services we provide to our alumni, and to stay up-to-date with what our alumni are doing, please visit [duq.edu/MusicAlumni](http://duq.edu/MusicAlumni).



**Jayla Griggs** (M.M. Music Education, 2017; B.S. Music Education, 2015) recently began teaching at

Community College of Allegheny County - South Campus as an Adjunct Music Professor. She also gives private voice and piano lessons. Additionally, Griggs is the Music Director and organist at Central Baptist Church in the Hill District. A lifelong pursuer of education and music, Griggs anticipates obtaining a doctoral degree in the next few years.



**Chris Molinari** (M.Ed. Clinical Mental Health Counseling 2017, B.M. Music Performance

2014) released *Electric Yoga Class* using the electric guitar as the primary instrument in forming ambient and post-rock soundscapes. It is regularly used by yoga instructors for their classes and has an international listenership. His upcoming release, *Ramayana EP*, is a cinematic dark ambient aural collage depicting scenes from one of the world's oldest and longest epic poems, the Ramayana.

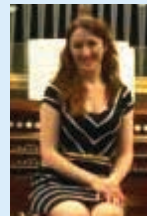
**Lydia Sewell** (M.M. Performance, 2017) recently completed a tour of China, beginning in Beijing and travelling through Shanghai, Hangzhou, Wuxi, and Shenzhen in a series of "offline events" offered through online music conservatory Discover Melody. She is currently an Associate Member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and has played with the Pittsburgh Ballet, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Wheeling Symphony, Johnstown Symphony, and Westmoreland Symphony Orchestras.



**Clayton Heath** (M.M. Performance, 2018) has recently worked as the Adjunct Lecturer of Low Brass at

Frostburg State University. In Pittsburgh, Heath is a member of The Brass Roots and serves as their Director of Communications. Additionally, he is an active substitute with the River City Brass Band and Beauty Slap, is in a one-year trial with Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and is a member of the funk-brass band Run the Meat. Beyond his performances and teaching, Heath is producing Iron City Incline, a podcast for Pittsburgh's music and arts scene celebrating the innovators who are contributing to the progression of Pittsburgh's arts industry.

**David Sykut** (B.M. Music Technology, 2001), currently an Adjunct Professor of Music Technology for the Community College of Allegheny County and freelance theatrical sound designer, has accepted the position of Production Manager for MCG Jazz, Pittsburgh's GRAMMY Award-winning venue and record label dedicated to the preservation and education of jazz.



**Emily Lapisardi** (M.M. Sacred Music, 2016) was recently appointed Director of Musical Activities

for the Catholic Chapel at the United States Military Academy (West Point, New York). She will direct the Catholic Cadet, Family, and Children's Choirs both at the chapel and for touring engagements and play for all Catholic liturgies at West Point, including weekend Masses, weddings, and funerals. Additionally, she will assist with weddings and funerals at the Protestant Cadet Chapel as needed, playing the largest church organ in the world.

## In Memoriam

**Gabe D'Abruzzo**

(B.M. Performance, 1997)