

# Jennifer K. McCabe

www.harmoniopianostudio.com  
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## EDUCATION

Collaborative Piano Studies with Dr. Dana Brown	2022-Present
Wolfe Piano Services, Apprentice, Piano Tuning/Servicing/Repair	2021-2022
Middle Tennessee State University, Graduate Studies towards MM, Music Ed. & Performance	1997-1998
Northern Illinois University, Graduate Studies towards MM, Music Education	1996-1997
Northern Illinois University, BA, Piano	1990-1995

## COLLABORATIVE PIANO

**Staff Collaborative Pianist: North Park University** 2023-Present

- Played piano for voice/instrumental lessons, studio classes, auditions, master classes, and juries.
- Coached college students one-on-one weekly on repertoire, diction and musicianship.
- Collaborated with professors and admin on scheduling, payroll entry, IT trainings

**Collaborative Pianist: DePaul Summer Voice and Voice Department Pianist** 2021-Present

- Played piano for voice lessons, studio classes, juries and auditions
- Accompanied high school and college singers for master classes and lessons
- Coached college students weekly on repertoire, diction and musicianship.

**Pianist/Coach: Opera Inter Alia** 2011-Present

- Played 2-5 performances each year
- Sightread a multitude of genres spanning opera, musical theater, and pop for performances without rehearsal
- Provided video and audio piano tracks for virtual concerts during the Covid-19 pandemic

**Pianist: ColorBox Theatre** 2017

- Played piano for the fully staged world premiere of the operetta, *High Fidelity* composed by Philip Seward, at the Royal George Theater
- Accompanied 6+ hours of rehearsals per week for 2 months and 9 total performances

**Pianist: Chicago NATS Song Salons and Regional Competition** 2011-2013 & 2023

- Accompanied 5+ professional voice teachers in twice yearly song salons
- Sightread genres including musical theater, opera, and art song
- Played piano for college and pre-professional singers in competition

**Pianist/Coach: MERIT School of Music - Renee Fleming Voice Initiative** 2011-2013

- Coached 30+ high school singers in opera and musical theater scenes
- Instructed singers on diction, technique, style, and basic musicality each week
- Accompanied singers in master classes with Renée Fleming, Elizabeth Futral, and Michael Ehrman
- Collaborated with students for live radio broadcasts in multiple performances
- Played piano for audition prescreening videos for students

**Pianist/Music Director: Lingerie Lyrique Opera Company** 2011-2012

- Played all rehearsals and performances of *A Stranger Here Myself*, burlesque operatic excerpts by Kurt Weill
- Directed and rehearsed the pit orchestra for performances

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## **Non-Profit Director/Pianist: Opera on Tap** 2009-2012

- Organized, judged, and played piano for auditions and shows
- Maintained current non-profit status with registration forms and legal materials in accordance with Illinois state laws
- Created bi-monthly newsletters to deliver updates to the roster of singers, and the community
- Organized shows, repertoire, talent, venues, donors, volunteers, community relations, and financial information via Google Suite
- Planned show line up, thematic content, and music submissions for each upcoming 3-months of shows
- Managed and balanced all bank accounts, paid pianists, and consulted with a tax professional to ensure the organization's financial status
- Secured performance venues by forging relationships with venue owners and stage managers
- Networked with regional opera companies and professionals
- Recruited board members and delegated duties appropriately
- Researched and wrote grants to secure funds for the organization
- Edited website, MC-ed shows, coordinated tv and print spots, designed flyers and virtual advertisements

## **Eurhythmy Pianist: Chicago Waldorf School** 2009-2018

- Played piano for 4 movement classes per week
- Improvised piano accompaniment in a classical style
- Coached seniors for their final performances
- Collaborated with teachers to choose suitable repertoire for students
- Played for spring student performances and continuing education summer workshops for teachers

## **Pianist: The Opera Divas** 2009-2011

- Helped found a touring operatic ensemble for the Musical Offering
- Traveled to elementary school to perform child-friendly opera scenes
- Co-created themed shows and collaborated to write accompanying scripts
- Played piano for professional recording sessions at SPACE, a prominent Chicago area music venue

## **Pianist: North Shore Opera Hour** 2010

- Played all rehearsals and performances for *Le Tragédie de Carmen* at the Skokie Theater
- Collaborated with Roy C. Smith to ensure a successful production

## **MUSICAL THEATER**

### **Music Director/Lyricist/Arranger/Pianist: The Musical Offering, Music Stars Camps** 2010-2020

- Researched existing musicals, and planned mashups to create 3 original shows per summer
- Selected all vocal excerpts, wrote lyrics for parodies to match the show's plot, arranged music to fit the needs of the ensemble, and placed music appropriately into each show
- Co-ran auditions and helped cast each production
- Music directed, played piano, and coached 10-15 instrumentalists and vocalists, ages

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10-18, per camp

- Choreographed and rehearsed 2-4 numbers per production
- Managed a team of interns to help rehearse all aspects of the shows
- Designed and constructed some of the costumes and props
- Instructed summer camp participants in basic vocal technique, stage directions, stage presence and rules, and character development
- Ensured the safety of all campers and communicated with parents regarding daily assignment and other concerns
- Planned acting games to further the campers' craft
- Co-created a virtual process to ensure the camp's continuation during the pandemic

## **Music Director/Pianist: Cult Camp Productions**

2015

- Directed pit rock band and played piano for all rehearsals and performances of *Altar Boyz* at the Mayne Stage Theater
- Trained keyboardists to use electronic special effects for the shows
- Coached 5 professional adult singers to help prepare them for performances

## **Pianist & Producer: Kerfuffle**

2012-2014

- Co-planned and played piano for 3 classical music concerts for children
- Collaborated with other professional musicians to create appropriate concerts

## **Pianist/Coach: MIC, vocal studio of Jennifer McCormick**

2011-2015

- Played for all studio recitals and rehearsals
- Coached singers on musicality, breathing, and stage presence

## **Music Director/Pianist: Music Institute of Chicago**

2009-2010

- Directed and played piano for all rehearsals and performances of *Jungle Book Jr.* and *The Aristocats*
- Chose incidental music and made cuts as necessary to the score
- Judged auditions and helped cast singers in each show
- Collaborated with a choreographer and drama teacher to plan activities for the campers

## **Pianist: Big Shot Piano Bar**

2009-2010

- Played piano for recurring cabaret series, A Little R & R
- Collaborated with 10 singers per show

## **Music Director/Pianist: JCC Skokie**

2009

- Directed and played piano for all rehearsals and performances of *Hello, Dolly!*
- Coached singers aged 12-18 on vocal technique, projection, and diction
- Facilitated a smooth transition by stepping in as the music director halfway through the rehearsal process

## **Music Director/Pianist: Davenport's**

2008-2010

- Played for multiple *Anthony Escobar Cabaret* concerts at Davenport's
- Directed and rehearsed the pit orchestra for some of the Davenport cabarets
- Secured rehearsal venues for the ensemble
- Arranged and transposed music to fit the specific instrumentation of the pit and needs of the vocalists

## **Pianist: Northwestern University, studio of Melissa Foster, Music Theater Program**

2008-2009

- Played piano for weekly freshman studio classes and private voice lessons
- Sightread an hour of musical theater repertoire per week

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- Music Director/Pianist: Actors Training Center** 2008
- Directed and played piano for *Into the Woods* summer camp production
  - Coached 15+ singers aged 10-18 in rhythmic accuracy and part learning
  - Altered the musical score to fit the needs of the camp
- Pianist: NIU Summer Theater Arts Camps** 1995-1996
- Played piano for end-of-summer performances, featuring 20 high school aged vocalists
  - Played piano for 1 week of rehearsals to help prepare campers for their concert
- Pianist: Elgin Community Children's Theater** 1995-1996
- Played piano in the pit orchestra for *Bye, Bye Birdie* and *The Music Man*
  - Accompanied singers throughout rehearsal process

## TEACHING

- The Musical Offering** 2008-Present  
Private Piano Instructor
- Instructed 75+ students in proper technique, music theory, music history, and different musical styles
  - Taught performance etiquette and performance anxiety strategies
  - Created customized practice plans for students and mentored them in the art of practicing
  - Taught students how to collaborate as part of piano ensembles
  - Introduced students to the music of under-represented composers
  - Taught beginning composition to students
  - Retained and built new client relationships from existing student base
- Festival Coach, The Bach Festival 2010-Present
- Coached 15 instrumentalists on baroque solos and duets each year to prepare for the annual Bach Festival recital
  - Mentored instrumentalists on stylistically appropriate ornamentation and performance practices
  - Educated young musicians about baroque history and composers
- Chamber Music Coach 2015
- Coached 5 ensembles of a variety of instruments
  - Mentored ensemble participants on how to successfully communicate with their fellow musicians regarding cues, ensemble goals, and artistic decisions
  - Instructed ensembles in musical style, rhythmic accuracy, and intonation
- Private Piano Instructor: Morton Grove Park District** 2008-2016
- Instructed 100+ students in proper technique, music theory, music history, and different musical styles
  - Customized piano lessons for neurodiverse students with varying abilities ranging from Autism to Down's Syndrome
  - Implemented teaching and visual aids to make lessons child-friendly
- Teaching Artist: Chicago High School for the Arts, Piano Ensemble** 2011-2012
- Taught piano ensemble class to 5-7 students
  - Taught students how to write program notes for their pieces
  - Assigned weekly listening and writing homework
  - Developed rubrics and graded students through TeacherEase software
  - Created a musical field trip for students to see the Chicago Duo Piano Festival

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- Collaborated with piano faculty to purchase a grand piano for the department
- Substituted for the piano accompanying class
- Played for vocal auditions and voice recitals

**Adjudicator: Chicago Citywide Piano Contest** 2009-2012

- Judged pianists ages 5-18 for a day-long contest
- Scored pianists based on artistry, musicianship, presentation, and memorization
- Coached pianists on proper contest attire, musical score preparation, and technique

**Volunteer Piano Instructor: Inspired Youth Summer Tutoring Program** 2002 & 2006

- Taught free piano lessons to children in underserved populations
- Prepared students for an end-of-summer recital
- Instructed students in note reading, rhythm, and technique

**General Music & Choir Teacher: Burlington Central Middle School** 1996-1997

- Managed 2 classes of 30 students each
- Participated in IEP meetings to make accommodations for students with special needs
- Prepared students for choral contests and concerts
- Created lessons plans for general music education and choral classes
- Conducted chorus and played piano simultaneously
- Managed a music library and budget

**Freelance Private Piano Instructor** 1990-2008

- Traveled to students' home to teach private piano lessons
- Taught basic musicianship, healthy piano technique, and varying musical styles

## WORSHIP

**Music Assistant: All Saints Parish (St. Isaac Jogues and St. Martha)** 2022-Present

- Managed and hired highly skilled musicians for the music ministry at SIJ
- Directed combined choir every other month
- Played piano and organ for at least 3 services per week
- Played piano and organ for funerals, weddings and special liturgical dates
- Administered all aspects of the choir program at SIJ-directing weekly services and rehearsals, planning choir anthems and prelude music
- Recruited choir members from the congregation and community
- Engaged new choir members in extra vocal training
- Maintained an online choir library of recordings, PDF's, calendars and lists for choir members
- Collaborated with the Music Director on music planning and scheduling

**Music Director/Pianist: Edgewater Presbyterian Church of Chicago** 2018-2022

- Managed and hired highly skilled musicians for the music ministry
- Executed payroll, managed music budget, evaluated employees, and administered all aspects of the choir program
- Planned worship music based on the liturgical needs of the church
- Directed weekly choir rehearsals (in person and virtual) to facilitate successful services
- Researched and maintained licenses to ensure compliance with music copyright law
- Digitized and annotated all worship sheet music and created 500+ sound recordings for the music ministry
- Researched and implemented Covid-19 precautions for singers in order to keep employees and congregants safe while worshipping
- Edited video and sound to allow worship to continue virtually using software such as *Audacity*, *Movavi*, and *Zoom*

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- Developed standards and procedures virtual worship including contingency plans for technical difficulties during live streamed virtual worship

## **Temple Beth Israel**

2012-2022

### Collaborative Pianist

- Played piano for weekly choir rehearsals, biweekly Shabbat services, B'nai Mitzvot, special holiday services, and choir concerts
- Improvised accompaniment for new songs from lead sheets
- Lead sectionals for choir twice monthly to help singers learn music
- Performed and participated in Hebrew Union College's *Mifgash Musicale* conference to continue furthering music education within the Jewish faith

### Choral Director Sub

- Ran choral rehearsals with minimal notice
- Devised warm-ups for the choir
- Coached singers on their vocal parts and proper Hebrew diction
- Played piano and conducted the ensemble

## **Pianist/Cantor/Musical Director(sub): First Presbyterian Church**

2018

- Played piano for weekly worship services including Preludes and Postludes
- Lead congregational singing from the piano
- Chose appropriate hymns and offering music for each service

## **Interim Pianist: Niles Community Church**

2016-2018

- Played solo and collaborative piano for services including a Prelude, Postlude, and Offering
- Accompanied the choir for rehearsals and services
- Planned solo piano music to create an environment of worship

## **St. Peter Damian Catholic Church**

2012-2016

### Teen Band Director

- Chose and arranged music for teen church band
- Trained young singers to cantor masses
- Lead weekly band rehearsals

### Pianist/Cantor

- Sang and played piano to lead congregation in musical worship for 3 weekly masses
- Mastered microphone technique
- Played piano for all religious services and additional engagements as needed

### Music Director

- Researched and planned musical program for 3 masses each week
- Collaborated with 2 other music directors to meet the church's musical needs
- Managed sound system for the church

## **Substitute Pianist: Berry Methodist Church**

2011-2013

- Played piano for services when regular pianist was unavailable
- Collaborated with singers on the Offering music

## **Pianist: Newman Catholic Student Center**

1992-1996

- Played piano for 2 masses each week
- Accompanied weekly choir rehearsals
- Consulted with music director
- Played for special liturgical holidays, weddings, and funerals

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## CHORAL PIANIST

<b>North Park University</b>	2023-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pianist for Upper Voice Chorale and Chamber Singers</li><li>• Played for weekly rehearsals and several concerts per year</li><li>• Led sectionals and collaborated with guest conductors</li></ul>	
<b>Le Cantanti di Chicago</b>	2015-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Played 3+ concerts and 15+ rehearsals per year for this all women's choir</li><li>• Traveled to Washington D.C. for touring concerts to accompany choir</li><li>• Chosen to accompany the choir in the world premiere of a specially commissioned piece in honor of Ida B. Wells at the Kennedy Center</li></ul>	
<b>Taft High School</b>	2013-2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Played for 2 days of concert-prep rehearsals and corresponding concerts 3 times each year</li><li>• Helped acquire appropriate sheet music for non-standard repertoire</li></ul>	
<b>Chicago Waldorf School</b>	2010-2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Played for 2 choral rehearsals per week</li><li>• Accompanied 2-3 choir concerts per year</li><li>• Sightread non-standard choral repertoire</li></ul>	
<b>Lincoln Park High School</b>	2008-2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Played for week-of-concert rehearsals and 4-6 concerts each year</li><li>• Accompanied over 400 students in choirs every hour for roughly 6 hours daily</li><li>• Played for choral contests and solo and ensemble contests</li></ul>	
<b>Lincoln Hall Middle School</b>	2007-2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Played for 2 weekly choir rehearsals</li><li>• Played for 3 choir concerts each year</li><li>• Coached and played for musical theater rehearsals and productions in the spring of each year</li></ul>	
<b>Hinsdale Central High School (Staff Pianist)</b>	1995-1996
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Resident staff pianist for 5+ school choirs</li><li>• Played for daily rehearsals, 5+ concerts, solo and ensemble contests, and choral competitions</li><li>• Coached and played for the musical theater production and corresponding rehearsals</li><li>• Managed the music library via an online database and a physical filing system</li></ul>	

**Professional Affiliations:** MTNA, ISMTA, CAMTA, Steinway STEPs Teaching Artist, Associated Artist with Working in Concert

## Awards and Recognition

Best of 2019 Chicago, Harmony Piano Studio-Piano Instructor, IL  
Legacy Award, Music Hall of Fame, Sycamore High School, 2020, IL

**Master Classes:** Ramsey Lewis, Jane Bunnell, Renee Fleming(2), Elizabeth Futral, Michael Ehrman, Katelyn Lee

**TV Features:** WCIU and Chicago Tonight (Opera on Tap) 2010

**Radio:** WFMT Live from Gottlieb Hall, MERIT, 2012-2014

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**Additional Instrumental Experience (Proficient):** Lead Sheets (25 yrs), Harpsichord (5 yrs), steel pan (4 yrs), marimba (4 yrs), xylophone (4 yrs), celeste (1 yr), saxophone (3 yrs), clarinet (8 yrs), organ (2 yrs)

**Other Skills:** choral conducting, lyric writing, arranging, non-profit management, virtual teaching, parties, weddings, funerals