



2014 Conference Presenters



Isaac Bickmore is a doctoral student and TA in music education at Arizona State University. His research interests include adolescence, popular music, and critical pedagogy. Previously he taught for five years in the Salt Lake City School District at a K-8 school where he taught general music K-8 and ran the after-school honors choir and the 7th and 8th grade Rock n' Roll History Choir. He loves ukuleles, robots, Van Morrison, riding his bike, Aretha Franklin, good food, and the Beatles. His true loves are his wife Lesley and his two boys William and Van.



Pat Bissell received degrees in piano and composition from Peabody Conservatory and Yale, and was a Fulbright scholar. She has been a music instructor at Gateway Community College in New Haven, CT for ten years. She has published several articles about creativity and keyboard instruction, such as “Improvising Attitudes” in the *American Music Teacher*, and has authored “Nitty-Gritty Cosmic Secrets; Play and Create Melodies with Chords” (in press). Pat also taught K-12 music in suburban and inner-city schools, operated piano studios, and played in church and clubs. Early on, she was pianist-arranger for women’s gymnastic floor exercises, including two Olympics.

Scott Burstein is the Director of Music Education for Little Kids Rock. He taught music in the Los Angeles public school system for twelve years before joining the Little Kids Rock. Scott received his degree from University of California, Santa Barbara, studied and taught music theory at the doctoral level at the Eastman School of Music, and is currently working on his dissertation in Music Education at the University of Southern California. While primarily a guitarist, Scott has played a variety of instruments as a performer in the fields of classical music, jazz, mariachi, and salsa music and has taught music theory, marching band, concert band, guitar, rock band, jazz band, mariachi ensemble, and keyboards. He misses working directly with his students but loves working with fellow educators and helping them reach their students through Little Kids Rock!



Debra Byrd is the Vocals Program Chair at MI. Named by Oprah Winfrey as “America’s Top Coach For Best Vocal Advice,” Byrd has worked with Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, Carly Rae Jepsen, Jennifer Hudson, and hundreds of singers from *The Voice*, *American Idol*, *Canadian Idol*, *The Next*, the Grammy Awards, *High School Musical*, and many more. She has toured and/or recorded with The Eurythmics, UB40, Lyle Lovett, Roberta Flack, Bob

Dylan and Barry Manilow. Byrd has also performed extensively for Hollywood films and Broadway shows. As an actress, she received outstanding reviews for her leading role in the national tour of Broadway’s *Bring In ‘Da Noise, Bring In ‘Da Funk*, among others. Currently, Byrd is a vocal coach on NBC’s Emmy Award-winning show, *The Voice*.



Ken Caillat is founder of MMP and CEO of Sleeping Giant Music Group.

An award-winning producer, engineer, author, and entrepreneur, he has produced/engineered such artists as Fleetwood Mac and most-recently his daughter, Colbie Caillat.



Caleb Chapman Since 2005, Caleb’s students have been honored with 22 DownBeat Awards and 11 “Best of State” awards for Utah. Caleb was named Utah’s “Best Educator” (2011) and “Best Music Educator” (2012) by Utah Best of State, as well. Graduates of his program have been placed in the top music schools in the country including Juilliard, the University of Miami, the Berklee College of Music, USC, the Manhattan School of Music, and many others with annual scholarship offers for seniors topping \$1,000,000. In 2013, Caleb released his first book with Alfred Publishing, *The Articulate Jazz Musician*. The text explains Caleb’s celebrated method for

teaching jazz articulation and style to young musicians and features 14 original tunes from multi-Grammy winning member of the Dave Matthews Band, Jeff Coffin. He also writes a regular column for the Daily Herald Newspaper entitled "Sound Thinking". Caleb is a Board Member for the Jazz Education Network (JEN), as well as a past president of the Utah Unit of the International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE) and a member of the organization's Resource Team. Additionally, Caleb serves as Festival Director for the Peaks Jazz Festival, the Puerto Vallarta Jazz Festival, and the JENerations Jazz Festival.



Ron Dziubla As a saxophonist/multi-instrumentalist (guitar and keyboards), Ron Dziubla has performed and recorded with artists such as Duane Eddy, Los Straitjackets, Ricky Martin, Raphael Saadiq, Royal Crown Revue, Chayanne, Franco de Vita, James Intveld, Deke Dickerson, Janiva Magness, Richard Hawley, Christina Aguilera, John Fogerty, Jimmy Buffett, Jarvis Cocker, Ellie Goulding, Linda Perry, Link Wray, Kim Wilson, Kid Ramos, Lynwood Slim, Nikka Costa, and many more. As a session musician, you can hear Ron's saxophone in such films as *Burlesque*, *Thirteen*, and *Contact*. His television appearances include the 2007 and 2010 Latin Grammy Awards Telecast, *The Oprah Show*, *The Ellen show*, *The View*, and the *Today Show*. As an educator/guest artist, Ron has taught and performed for such entities as the University of Missouri, Coral Park High School (Miami, FL), The Help Group, the U. S. Department of State, and the Egyptian Ministry of Culture. Ron is also an artist in his own right, having released three records. Brian Parrish of KSYM in San Antonio called his release on Little Silver Records, *Melenhead*, "one of the best intro releases of 1999." Dan Forte of *Vintage Guitar Magazine* said of Ron's record *Some Strange Blues* "A great self-produced collection of vintage/timeless rock and roll and, yes, some strangely appealing blues." His third release produced by Pete Curry of Los Straitjackets, *Nasty Habit*, was recently released at the end of 2011. A highlight for the Ron Dziubla Group was October 2010, when the group was a featured artist at the Jazzmania Festival in Cairo, Egypt. In June of 2011, Ron performed at the Glastonbury Festival in England with Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Duane Eddy. He was also featured on Duane's first release in 25 years, *Road Trip*. Ron Dziubla is a graduate of the University of Miami, FL Frost School of Music. His professional affiliations include The American Federation of Musicians, Local 47 and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS). At MI, Ron teaches Harmony & Theory and Ear Training.



Dr. David Lee Fish, Ph.D., serves as the chair of the Music Department as well as the director of both the college's Popular Music and Music Business degree concentrations. He is also the current chair of the Association for Popular Music Education, a national organization he helped found that is made up of leading colleges and universities with programs of study in that area. At Catawba, Fish teaches courses on **music business, songwriting, the theory of popular music, music technology, and world music**. He also directs the Vernaculars, a contemporary popular ensemble.

Robert (Bobby) Green is a student at SUNY Oneonta currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Music Industry with a minor in Audio Arts Production. He has also worked for several years as a teacher at the Farmingdale, NY branch of School of Rock, and is an active performing keyboardist, composer and songwriter. Most notably, he has performed as a keyboardist in Oneonta Frank Zappa tribute band The Mothers of Intention, and has most recently released an album titled Scrapbook under the moniker Keib.

Rich Hall is course leader at the Nexus Institute for Creative Arts; a private, popular music higher education institution based in Coventry. In addition to this he is a professional guitarist, clinician and has worked as a music examiner. His interests reside in developing popular music education that equips students with the relevant skills to work successfully within the popular music industries. Rich has a BA honours degree from Leeds University and is currently undertaking a PhD, the title of which is: “an investigative study into the cognizance between HE popular music performance courses and the popular music industry”.



Dr. Darla S. Hanley is Dean of the Professional Education Division at Berklee College of Music, which includes Music Business/Management, Music Education, Music Therapy, Professional Music, and Liberal Arts. She holds a Ph.D. and M.M. in Music Education Research from Temple University and a B.M in Music Education/Vocal Performance from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. In addition to her work at Berklee, Darla is an internationally known clinician, author, and composer who often presents on topics such as vocal jazz, popular music education, and creative movement. She recently presented at the *Panama Jazz Festival*(Panama City), *Liceu Conservatory* (Barcelona), *Södra Latins Gymnasium* (Stockholm), and *The Boston Conservatory* (Boston) and is

looking forward to her first APME presentations in LA.



Courtney Kaiser-Sandler is a unique performer and educator whose expertise spans genres from western classical and baroque to folk, pop, and world music. She is a founding member of the Indianapolis Children’s Choir and appeared in leading roles with members of the Indianapolis Symphonic Orchestra and Opera Company. She studied voice, piano, and cello at the Interlochen Center for the Arts and studied vocal performance at Indiana University. While at Indiana University she created a world vocal music major under the mentorship of Dr.

Mary Goetze and Dr. Sue Tuohy, focusing on Hindustani and Southern African folk singing. Ms. Kaiser-Sandler is in demand as a pop artist and singer songwriter. She has toured and recorded with John Mellencamp, The Wallflowers, Sean Lennon, Petra Hayden, Yuka

Honda, Sufjan Stevens and Tracy Bonham. She has fifteen album credits on iTunes and has had great success in both TV and film, with multiple performances on the David Letterman show and song placements from her duo Kaiser Cartel. After earning a Masters degree in elementary education, Courtney has become a pioneer in music education. She created music programs for Brooklyn Heights Montessori School, Blue School (founded by the Blue Man Group) and her current position as the founding instructor for the singer songwriter program at Interlochen Arts Academy. At the core of her creative pedagogy is a philosophy that students first deeply explore their humanity before sharing their art to make a change in the world.



Jamie Knight is a professional musician turned educator and has taken his students to play at the world famous Cavern Club in Liverpool. His students produce three mainstage productions a year that rival professional, televised rock concerts. Knight has been teaching Popular Music at the High School level for eleven years and Jamie was awarded the OCMA “Outstanding Arts Educator” award. His MMET program has been recognized by Apple Inc. as an Apple Distinguished Program and Knight has raised over \$500,000.00 to fund the media complex at the HB Academy for the Performing Arts.



Tim Kobza is an L.A.-based guitarist and recording artist who divides his time between composing, producing, performing, and teaching. His style ranges from rock, jazz, blues, and R&B to electronic sound design. His music can be heard on TV, film and pop records ranging in style from hip hop to jazz.



Ulrich Krieger is a German composer and saxophonist living in Southern California. He works in a variety of contexts from classical and new music, reductionism, drone, minimalism, and just intonation to free improvisation and rock. His special field of interest is the cross-pollination of rock and new experimental music, in the limbo where noise, metal, silence, ambient, and experimental chamber music meet. He collaborated, performed and toured with artists like Lou Reed, Lee Ranaldo, LaMonte Young, Phil Niblock, Merzbow and Christian Marclay. He is professor for composition, experimental sound practices and rock music at the California Institute of the Arts. www.ulrich-krieger.com



Andy Krikun is Associate Professor of Music at Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey, where he teaches songwriting and music business. He received his M.A. in Ethnomusicology from UCLA and his Ph.D. in Music Education from NYU. His articles have appeared in the *International Journal of Community Music*, the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, and the *Journal of Historical Research in Music Education*, and he has presented at international academic conferences. As a singer-songwriter, Dr. Krikun continues to perform and record with his band, Andy and the Rattlesnakes, as well as other eclectic musical projects.



Stig Mathiesen - Stig's education includes a D.M.A. and Master's Degree in Studio/Jazz Guitar from University of Southern California as well as six years of classical training from Tromsø University College in Norway, where he taught studio technology and guitar from 1999-2006. In 2007, Stig was tapped to join a reunion of the seminal band Alcatrazz, which launched the careers of former guitarists Yngwie Malmsteen and Steve Vai, that resulted in the 2010 album *Bleed Like Me* (released under the band name Ashdown). His recent projects include an album recorded at Conway Studios with a band fronted by singer Paige Williams and his debut instrumental solo album, set for release in 2012, featuring three-time GRAMMY nominee and Emmy Award-winning bassist Philip Bynoe (Steve Vai) along with drummer and LAMA instructor Sandro Feliciano. At MI, Stig teaches Open Counseling, Private Lessons, Single String Improvisation, Rhythm Section Workshop, Theory, and Ear Training.



Jonathan Newkirk is the Program Chair of Audio Engineering at Musicians Institute. As a 15 year Hollywood veteran of the music industry, Jonathan got his start by recording such high-end clients as Slash and Roger Daltrey. Realizing his passion for business, he purchased a major two room facility, and was soon catering to the music industry's elite like Snoop Dogg and Universal Records. Jonathan then became the Executive Director of the Power Chord Academy, a nationwide summer rock-n-roll institute for aspiring teenage musicians. During this time, he earned an Executive MBA from the University of Southern California, before joining MI.



Joseph Michael Pignato, Associate Professor at the State University of New York, Oneonta, has presented research in the United States and abroad. The editor of *Pop!* a publication of the Association for Popular Music Education, Pignato has published extensively in the fields of music education, composition, and improvisation. He holds degrees from Boston University (DMA), New York University (MA), and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (MA). Pignato

plays drums in *atom3* and produces drum tracks for electronic music producers such as *M A N I K*. He is an artist endorser for Taye Drums, T-Cymbals, and Boso Drumsticks.

Dr. Bryan Powell is the Director of Programs at Amp Up NYC, a partnership between Little Kids Rock and Berklee College of Music in support of the New York City Department of Education's efforts to expand Modern Band music education programming for thousands of public school students in the district. In addition to his work at Amp Up NYC, Bryan serves as the Executive Director of GOAL- Giving Open Access to Learning, a non-profit organization that provides social, emotional, enrichment, and academic programming to under served public school students in East Harlem. Dr. Powell also works as an adjunct professor of music and education at Hunter College and Bergen Community College. Additionally, Dr. Powell serves as the Executive Director of the Association for Popular Music Education. He is a music educator with elementary and secondary experience in the New York City public school system. Dr. Powell is a highly active advocate for music education, especially for those programs targeting students in disadvantaged communities. Dr. Powell has presented at several research conferences in the areas of popular music pedagogy, Modern Band, and music technology. His research interests include alternative music education, informal learning practices, popular music education, urban education, music technology, philosophy of music education, and community music research.



Joe Rapolla is the Chair of the Music & Theater Arts Department at Monmouth University. A recognized music industry innovator, Joe built and led marketing departments at Universal and Warner Music Group. He also helped build a Direct-To-Consumer Marketing Agency and a Social Research Agency. Joe has directed programs for top talent, such as Madonna, U2, Green Day, and Sting, and has partnered with the world's leading entertainment, media, and consumer brands. He has earned Gold Records for his work at the music companies. He is also a performing songwriter

and producer. He has released three studio CDs, a film soundtrack, collaborates with top writers and artists in NYC and Nashville, and continues to perform locally and abroad.



Scott Robbins's compositions are highly awarded and performed, receiving awards from ASCAP, Yale's Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, NACUSA, American Music Center, International Prokofiev Award, MTNA, Clefworks, and others, and being recorded and performed by the Warsaw Philharmonic, Czech Radio Orchestra, Prague Radio Symphony, Dale Warland Singers, Trio Chromos, Ensemble Radieuse, and pianist Wael Farouk. His soundtrack for CINE-Eagle award-winning film "The Clearing" has been broadcast on Bravo and HBO. He holds degrees from Wake Forest, Duke, and Florida State universities and is Professor of Composition and Musicology at the Petrie School of Music at Converse College.



Patrice Rushen is an award-winning musician and composer who is also one of the most sought after artists in the music industry. She is a classically trained pianist who originally found success in the 70's and 80's with her signature fusion of jazz, pop and R&B. During this era, she composed and recorded the hit song, "Forget Me Nots," which has been frequently covered and sampled by other artists. Rushen is also a four-time, Grammy nominee who has composed scores for movies and television. She has been the first female musical director for many of the entertainment industry's top award shows, which include the Grammy Awards, the Emmy Awards, the People's Choice Awards, the NAACP Image Awards and HBO's "Comic Relief V." Considered one of the world's top jazz pianists, she has performed with and produced for such esteemed artists as Stevie Wonder, Herbie Hancock, Prince, Nancy Wilson, Sheena Easton, Carlos Santana and Freddie Hubbard. She is an award-winning composer of symphonic music, some of which was commissioned by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Rushen received an Honorary Doctorate of Music degree in 2005, from Boston's prestigious Berklee College of Music for her "outstanding contribution to music and culture" where she is also the Ambassador For Artistry In Education. Most recently, she has been appointed Chair of Popular Music at the USC Thornton School of Music. Rushen also spends time working with the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, NARAS "Grammy In The Schools" program, the Young Musicians Program in Northern California and other organizations dedicated to establishing music education and mentorship programs for underserved youth.



Dr. Brian E. Russell is the Director of Contemporary Guitar Studies for the Bruce Hornsby Creative American Music program and the Director of Assessment at the University of Miami Frost School of Music. Dr. Russell is a dedicated guitarist and educator from South Florida who incorporates a wide range of musical influences into his performance, research, and teaching. His research has been presented at conferences both nationally and internationally and is published in journals such as the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Bulletin for the Council of Research in Music Education* and the *International Journal of Music Education*.



Chris Sampson has enjoyed a diverse and multi-faceted career as an educator, producer, performer and administrator. Chris currently serves as the Vice Dean for the Division of Contemporary Music at the USC Thornton School of Music. In 2009, Chris founded the Popular Music program at USC Thornton, regarded as the first program of its kind at a major university. In its brief existence, the USC Thornton Popular Music program has made a significant impact compelling Rolling Stone magazine to describe it as a "cutting-edge department that's become the site of one of Los Angeles' most productive new music scenes." As a professor of songwriting and through the Popular Music program, Chris' students have penned number one hit songs, toured nationally and internationally, secured recording and publishing contracts, placed numerous songs in films and television, are among the most subscribed musicians on YouTube, won national television competitions and international songwriting competitions, and work in multiple areas of the music industry including A&R, publishing and administration. Chris has also serves as the songwriting instructor and faculty director for educational programs offered through the GRAMMY Foundation. Additionally, Chris has produced events or presented seminars with Sir Elton John, Brian Wilson, Steve Miller Band, Alan Parsons, Lamont Dozier, Chaka Khan, John Fogerty, Randy Newman, David Foster, Smokey Robinson, Linda Perry, Kara DioGuardi, and Lindsey Buckingham among many others. Chris served as the first elected Chair for the Association for Popular Music Education. For the Popular Music program, he has developed lasting and powerful partnerships with the Songwriters Hall of Fame, KORG, Roland, Gibson and the GRAMMY Museum among others. As an administrator, previous appointments include Assistant Dean for Enrollment at USC Thornton School of Music and Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Wisconsin Conservatory. He has also served on the faculty of the recording industry program at Middle Tennessee State University.



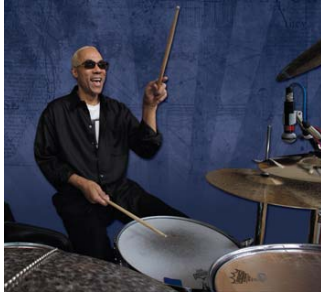
Rey Sanchez is associate dean for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation at the University of Miami Frost School of Music, where he is an associate professor of music and also serves as the program director for the Bruce Hornsby Creative American Music Program. He is the immediate past chair of the Department of Music Media & Industry at Frost. Rey Sanchez holds degrees in Composition and Studio Writing/Production from the University of Miami. Sanchez is a professional guitarist with an extensive list of credits and was the long-time musical director for Latin superstar Chayanne. He is a voting member of National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. Rey Sanchez is actively involved in songwriting and record production, working with EMI Music Publishing, Sony BMG, Universal and others. He also authors educational guitar books for FJH Music Publishing.



Rick Schmunk, chair of the Music Technology program, teaches within the Music Industry, Popular Music and Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television programs at the USC Thornton School of Music. His research interests include the integration of technology in music instruction and music performance. Rick has presented papers at the Association for Technology In Music Instruction (ATMI), International Society for Music Education (ISME), International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE), Jazz Educators Network (JEN), and Technology for Music Education (TI:ME) national and international conferences. His recent publications include Ableton Live 9 Essentials (Lynda.com), Finale 2014 Essentials (Lynda.com), and Advanced Sequencing (TI:ME).



Gareth Dylan Smith is a drummer, teacher, scholar and writer based in London, England. He plays drums in alt. rock, punk and musical theatre bands. He teaches for Boston University, and at the Institute of Contemporary Music Performance. Gareth's research interests include drummers, higher music education, popular music education, embodiment in musical performance, intersections of music, education and entrepreneurship, pedagogy and gender, identity and learning realization, and (auto)ethnographic methodologies. He has presented research on five continents and been published in peer-reviewed journals and books. In 2013 Ashgate published Gareth's monograph *I Drum Therefore I Am: Being and becoming a drummer*.



Tony "Thunder" Smith, teaches at Berklee College of Music and actively balances performing, touring, and recording with teaching. He has performed with a legendary list of artists including Lou Reed, Carlos Santana, Bruce Springsteen, Sheila E., Eddie Van Halen, Al Green, Martha Davis, Chick Corea, the Jan Hammer Group, Herbie Hancock, and others.



Gordon J. Snyder is the Director of Instrumental Music for Kannapolis City Schools at A.L. Brown High School and adjunct instructor at Catawba College. His high school program has gained notoriety year over year as he has developed programs for a variety of musicians. At the college level, he teaches the Catawba Praise Band as well as mentors students enrolled in popular music and worship arts degrees. Before teaching, he served as a Music

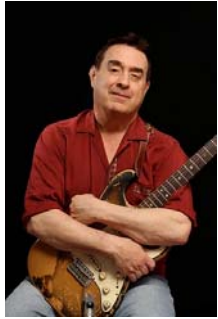
Associate for Hickory Grove Baptist Church as well as an Event Merchandiser for Integrity Inc. and Logistics Manager for Audio Ethics. Overall, he is passionate about developing the whole musician.



Daniel Strange has performed on a variety of stages from Carnegie Hall to NBC's The Today Show with critically acclaimed artists representing multiple genres including Arturo Sandoval, Mark O'Connor, Norm Lewis, Noel Paul Stookey and two-time Tony award winner Sutton Foster. Daniel is the director of contemporary keyboard studies at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music and directs the Music Media and Industry department's top ensemble, the American Music Ensemble. Music. He is also the director of the CGCC CAP All-Star Jazz Ensemble, a two-time finalist Jazz At Lincoln Center's Essentially

Ellington competition.

Sony Tiwari enjoys a varied career in the arts as a composer, performer and Instructor of Music at Bergen Community College in Paramus, NJ, where he leads courses in music theory, the humanities and music business. Mr. Tiwari is a former MA graduate from New York University and current Ed.D. student in Music Education at Columbia University. Between teaching and research projects, he produces various music concerts across New York and New Jersey while continuing to serve as Chief of Production at Reativity Music Group, a company dedicated to independent artists and multimedia projects.



Steve Trovato is a faculty member in the Studio/Jazz Guitar and Popular Music Departments at the USC Thornton School of Music. A world-class guitarist, he has released several recordings under his own name that all received favorable reviews. Trovato's masterly technique, intoxicating spontaneity, and mesmerizing choice of material never fail to dazzle audiences everywhere. His kaleidoscopic mixture of genre hopping is at once exhilarating and soothing, handily ranking him as one of the most accomplished and emotionally affecting guitarists in the world. As a renowned educator, he has published dozens of guitar instruction methods for Warner Brothers, Hal Leonard, and Alfred Music Publishers. He has been interviewed by Guitar Music Publications world-wide and is the recipient of numerous awards as both educator and artist. Recording extensively as a session player, he may be heard on several television and motion picture scores. He supplements his teaching with a rigorous touring schedule of clinics, master classes and artist in residence appointments. He studied with jazz greats Tal Farlow, Chuck Wayne, and Pat Martino.



Stacy Turner is the Music Business Program Chair at MI. An independent consultant and owner of Turn It Up! Entertainment, where she provides management, representation and development of talent in the form of producers, songwriters and artists in the genres of Urban/R&B, Pop and Gospel/Inspirational as well as offers A&R/creative consultation, production/studio coordination and event management services. Clients and recording projects have included Grammy nominated producer/songwriter Rex Rideout, Ledisi, Lalah Hathaway, Kem, Will Downing and more; tribute projects, compilations and live shows including the Grammy-nominated *Forever, For Always, For Luther* CD as well as the subsequent *Vol. II* and accompanying live benefit concert at Madison Square Garden, *Silky Soul Music: All-Star Tribute To Maze Featuring Frankie Beverly*, *United We Cure* breast cancer benefit CD. Prior to these, Stacy had the privilege and honor of working for over a decade under legendary icon, Quincy Jones, having held the position of Director of A&R for his label Qwest Records, and working with such artists as Quincy Jones himself, Tamia, Tevin Campbell, Patti Austin and more.



Maurice Verloop A native of the Washington, DC area, Maurice Verloop was an Honors graduate from Musicians Institute, where he received the "Outstanding Student" award. Maurice's busy local and international performing credits include Carl Anderson, Zakk Wyllid, Alessandro Cortini, Nick Menza, Shannon Larkin, and Virgil Donati, as well as various original projects. At MI, Maurice teaches core classes, electives, and LPW.



Dr. Janis Weller heads the General Education Department of McNally Smith College of Music in St. Paul, also teaching a capstone course, *Creating a Life in Music*, and woodwinds. She co-authored *Life in the Real World: Making Music Graduates Employable*, published by Common Grounds Press. Dr. Weller specializes in artist career development, career transitions, and curricular design, presenting frequently nationally and internationally. As a flutist, Dr. Weller has premiered more than 100 new works ranging from traditionally notated pieces to graphic notation and sculptural scores. She performs with Improvestra, the Crocus Hill Trio, and freelances in the Twin Cities.

Troy C. Wollwage is the Marketing Manager for Percussion Instruments with Yamaha Corporation of America, the world-wide leader in musical instruments. Troy's leadership at Yamaha oversees all aspects of marketing and R&D for this group. With an MBA from Boston University and a BS in Business Administration from the USC, Troy has provided experience to Yamaha in business concept analysis, financial risk assessment, product launch, marketing, media planning and social media. His leadership has led to the successful launch over sixty new products in eleven years.



Rachel Yoon is the Dean of the School of Performance Studies at MI. Rachel began playing piano at age 2 and composing at age of 7 under the tutelage of her father, a classical composer and professor. She went on to enter Seoul National University as the top-ranked student and earned a BA and MA in Composition. Rachel also received a Ph.D. in Composition from UCLA. Professionally, Rachel regularly consults for Jazz ensembles (e.g., the Yellowjackets) and film composers on orchestration and music preparation. She has played with noted Jazz bands such as Shapes, R&B producers including Wah-Wah Watson and many other popular and contemporary Christian music groups. Rachel has performed as both as arranger and keyboardist at some of the premier venues in Los Angeles including the Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl. In the past, she also worked as a professional orchestrator and arranger in South Korea. As a teacher, Rachel's classical training combined with her contemporary music experience allows her to provide instruction that is both theoretically sound and practical. Rachel has lectured at UCLA and taught at several colleges in South Korea. Her courses have included Western Music History, World Music History, Theory, Ear-training, Composition, Keyboard Proficiency, and individual instruction.