

AFTER SCHOOL MUSIC INSTRUCTORS BIOS



James Bruni - piano, voice

James Bruni is a professional musician with more than 30 years experience as an educator, accompanist, organist, and choir director. Graduating magna cum laude from the Hartt School of Music, James directed award-winning choirs at Berlin High School, Berlin, CT, and Canton Middle/High School, Canton, CT. He also served as vocal coach for The Hartford Stage Summer Youth Theater in Hartford, CT. Most recently, James distinguished himself as Director of The Madrigals, the auditioned singing group at Convent of the Sacred Heart.

This is James's fifth year with the After-School Music Program at CSH, providing instruction in piano and voice to students of all ages. His students know him to be a patient, dynamic teacher with a unique blend of motivational, coaching, and problem solving techniques. James is certified to teach music in grades K-12 by the State of Connecticut, and he has been a member of the Music Educators National Conference and the American Choral Directors Association. James is also an instructor in piano and voice at the Music & Arts Center, Fairfield, CT.



Christopher Bush - clarinet, saxophone

Christopher Bush holds the position of principal clarinet with the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra and was a founding member of contemporary ensemble the Callithumpian Consort. He was principal clarinetist with the Boston Civic Symphony, and has also performed with the Boston Philharmonic, Albany Symphony, New York String Orchestra, Indian Hill Symphony, Cape Cod Symphony, Nashua Symphony, Granite State Opera, Granite State Symphony, New England Philharmonic, DiCapo Opera, Seoul Philharmonic and the North Country Chamber Players. Christopher has also performed as soloist with the Glens Falls Symphony, the New England Conservatory Symphony, and the New York University Symphony. He is also the co-founder of the Summerland Music Society in upstate New York.

He is currently the orchestra director at CSH and professor of clarinet at New York University.

Christopher has performed in concert series throughout the world, including Les Flaneries Musicales d'Ete in Reims, France, the Open Air Klassik Hoppegarten in Berlin, London New Winds Festival (UK), the New School Concert Series, Harvard Group For New Music, Boston's New Gallery Concert Series, NEC's Keller Jazz Series, the Boston New Arts Initiative, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's Young Artists Showcase, and New London's Summer Music Series in New Hampshire. In Boston's Jordan Hall, he has taken part in the Composer's Series, Enchanted Circle Series, Tuesday New Music Series, and annual Festival Weeks. Additionally, Christopher has performed in New York's Galapagos Art Space, The Tank, Alice Tully Hall, and Carnegie Hall.

He has worked with composers Gunther Schuller, Steve Reich, Frederic Rzewski, Lee Hyla, Alvin Lucier, Michael Finnissy, Joan Tower, Pozzi Escot, Lowell Liebermann, Paul Elwood, Walter Zimmermann, John Heiss, Tamar Diesendruck, and Malcolm Peyton on performances of their own music. With the Glens Falls Symphony, Christopher commissioned and premiered Michael Gandolfi's Anthem for solo clarinet and string orchestra. With frequent recital partner and pianist Carol Minor, Christopher has commissioned works from composers Yumi Hara Cawkwell, Curtis Hughes, Izzi Ramkissoon, Pozzi Escot, and Lawrence Dillon. Israeli composer Guy Barash's Talkback for Clarinet and Electronics was also written for Mr. Bush.

Christopher's performances have been broadcast on WGBH (Boston) and KBS (Korea) radio stations. On television, Christopher has performed on the PBS special, "A Taste of Chanukah" and Korea's MBC, SBS, KBS, and Arirang networks. A featured soloist on the soundtrack to the Huntington Theatre's production of "Dead End," Christopher has also recorded for Albany Records and Mode Records.

He completed his M.M. and B.M. degrees at the New England Conservatory and is a PHD candidate at New York University. His principal teachers include Thomas Martin, Robert Listokin, and Dr. Esther Lamneck.

Christopher has been on the faculties of the Boston Community Music Center, the Chestnut Hill School of Music, the Brimmer and May School, the Lincoln Public Schools, the Northampton Community Music Center, and Fidelity Mutual's Future Stages Project.



Eva Carrasquero – piano

Eva studied piano and vocal performance at Jacksonville University in Florida. She continued her studies as a Rotary Scholar at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. She holds a Masters Degree in Music from Manhattan School of Music with a concentration in vocal performance. She teaches LS music at CSH and directs the Chancel and Youth Choirs at Riverdale Presbyterian Church in New York City.



Annette Etheridge - voice

Annette Etheridge studied music education at Valdosta State University, and has a Masters Degree in vocal performance from the University of Tennessee. She has sung with many opera companies including Knoxville Opera, Orlando Opera and Connecticut Grand Opera. She has been teaching private voice to young girls for more than six years and still studies privately herself. She is also the soprano soloist/section leader for the adult choir at the Church of St. Joseph's in Bronxville, NY. She is currently the Director of the Upper School Madrigals, A Ca-Bella Chorus, Madeleine Chorus, Nightingale Chorus, and a Middle School music teacher at CSH.



Diane Flieger - piano, voice

Diane Flieger has been working in the music field for more than 35 years. She studied voice and piano at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Diane worked for 15 years in advertising for Backer & Spielvogel in New York City as a radio producer, music producer, and manager of the music department, working on jingles and underscores for clients such as Mar's Candies, Fisher Price, Wendy's, Miller Genuine Draft, and Campbell's. Diane spent five years as executive producer at Red House Music NYC, a music production company that provided original music for TV, film and advertising. She and her family relocated to London, living there for eight years. Diane began teaching voice and piano to students attending The American School in London. Diane currently freelances at Analogue Muse NYC, developing new talent. She has been teaching voice and piano at CSH, for six years.



Suki Guerrier - piano

Suki Guerrier, Haitian-American pianist, was introduced to the piano at the age of five. She studied with Stephanie Brown at the Conservatory of Music at SUNY Purchase, Lev Natocheny at the Manhattan School of Music, Antonio Fermin of the Julliard School, Arpy Tchiroyan, Dorothy Taubman and New England Conservatory. Over the years, she has participated in various piano competitions in New York and nationally.

As a member of the New York Youth Symphony Orchestra, she participated in master classes with world renowned pianist Andre Watts. Suki has attended the International Piano Festival in Merano, Italy and Frankfurt Conservatory of Music in Germany under the guidance of Lev Natocheny. During the past four years, Suki participated in the Beethoven Piano Institute of Mannes, receiving master classes from Tom Sauer, Robert MacDonald and The Brentano String Quartet.

Suki received her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in fine arts and piano performance from the Conservatory of Music at SUNY Purchase. She currently operates her music school in Westchester, N.Y.



Ben Goldstein - drums

A New York City native, Ben Goldstein was born into a family of musicians. In 1996. He moved to Baltimore, but later returned to New York, where he earned his bachelor of music degree in studio production at Purchase College Conservatory of Music. Ben began teaching drums in high school. Since then, teaching has been an integral part of his musical life.

"I think I have developed a very diverse approach to teaching, which includes technique, reading, improvisation, ensemble and soloing concepts, learning a diversity of styles through familiarity with important drummers of the past and present, and developing good practice habits. I also feel

strongly that the lessons should be enjoyable. After all, that's why we play music!" In 2007, Ben received the Outstanding Soloist Award at the North Texas Jazz Festival.



Katty Mayorga-guitar

Katty Mayorga, classical guitar and electric guitar, graduated with her undergraduate degree Magna Cum Laude from the State University of New York at Purchase and recently finished her masters under the instruction of Fred Hand. Performing as a soloist and in ensembles, she has an extensive repertoire from Renaissance to neo-classical as well as flamenco, pop, metal, rock and folk.

Teaching since 2003, Katty finds ways to make her lessons both interesting and enjoyable for all age groups. Her versatility with various genres helps her find what is right for every student while still focusing on proper technique. Katty has also studied with Peter Press, Giacomo LaVita, Sharon Isbin and Jon LaRotonda.



Mimi Melkonian - piano, voice

The highly respected and versatile pianist Mimi Melkonian, who speaks five languages, is a professor emerita of the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music, where she taught for 10 years. Many of her students received scholarships to study with artists such as Daniel Barenboim and Yo Yo Ma, and at conservatories in Germany, Switzerland, Italy and France, as well as here in the United States.

Mimi regularly performed with the trio that she founded and also as a collaborative artist with many notable musicians at important embassies in Beirut and throughout the Middle East. Mimi and her husband, Howard Aibel, regularly perform as a piano duo. She is also the executive assistant of the New York Concert Review, Inc. web-magazine. She has judged international competitions in Europe and the Middle East, and was appointed good will ambassador by the Governor of Arkansas.

Prior to her professional career, she graduated with honors in piano and pedagogy from The Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music in Beirut. She received post-graduate training from the Conservatoire de Boulogne-Billancourt in Paris, and was awarded an H.N.D. with distinction in mathematics from the Polytechnic of North London.

During the summer months, Mimi teaches Arabic at the Middlebury-Monterey Language Academy. She has had a private teaching studio for many years, and she also currently teaches piano, voice and Arabic at CSH.



Carol Minor - piano

Pianist Carol Minor performs internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. She has appeared in recitals in New York, Boston, London, Taiwan and Canada. Recent venues include London's Regent Hall, Kaosiung County Recreational Hall (Taiwan), Jordan Hall in Boston, The Stone NYC and the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra's Musicbridge Festival. An avid interpreter of contemporary music,

Carol has commissioned works from Pozzi Escot, Curtis K. Hughes, Yumi Hara Cawkwell, Guy Barash and Izzi Ramkissoon and worked closely with composers Karel Husa and Joan Tower. She has also taken part in the Institute and Festival for Contemporary Performance at Mannes College and New England Conservatory's Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice. In demand as a lecturer as well as a performer, she has given lecture recitals on women in music at the Scarsdale and Dobbs Ferry Public Libraries and Trinity St. Paul's Church in New Rochelle, NY. Other performances include the Kleshinski Concert Series (Boston), New York University, Manhattanville College, University of New Haven, South Nyack Festival for the Arts, Tolland (CT) Arts Council, Upper Hudson Musical Arts, and the Hyde Collection Museum.

She received a master of music degree from the State University of New York at Purchase as a student of Marc Silverman and Diane Walsh. She earned a bachelor of music degree from the Hartt School (University of Hartford) with Margreet Francis. She studied chamber music with the Emerson String Quartet and harpsichord with Anthony Newman. She has been coached by Stephen Drury, Claude Frank, Lilian Kallir, Ursula Oppens and Jerome Lowenthal. She was formerly a faculty member at the Hartwick College Summer Music Festival, New England Music Camp, Rockland Conservatory, Music School of Westchester and Church Street School for Music and Art in Manhattan. She currently teaches at Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY and is a staff accompanist at CSH. She is the artistic director of Summerland Music Society, a chamber music series in the Adirondacks.



Jessica Raposo - flute

A Connecticut native, Jessica is a freelance flutist, conductor and teacher in Fairfield County. She has earned music degrees from the University of Michigan, the Royal Academy of Music (London), and the University of British Columbia (Vancouver). In addition to her private teaching, Jessica has taught at Fairfield University, and the Norwalk, Naugatuck Valley, and Jackson State (TN) community colleges. She also conducts the flute choirs of the Stamford Young Artists Philharmonic program.

Her orchestral experience includes the Vancouver Symphony, Burnaby Symphony (principal flute), Michigan Pops Orchestra (principal flute), and the Rome Festival Orchestra. An avid chamber musician, Jessica was flutist with the Wolverine Winds quintet, the Goodenough Chamber Orchestra, and Trio Euterpe. She is principal flute of the Tempest Flute Ensemble and plays with the Cumulus Winds. She performed for Sir James Galway at the University of British Columbia's FluteFest in 2005, and won the 2007 National Flute Association's Piccolo Masterclass Competition, leading to a performance and class with Walfried Kujala at the annual convention in Albuquerque, NM. A firm advocate of music education, Jessica has worked as a band director in the Westport, Ct public schools, and has led workshops and classes for middle and high school students throughout her 19 years of teaching experience. Jessica's research into the flute's English performance history, the basis of her M.M. and D.M.A. degrees, won her the National Flute Association's 2008 Dissertation Competition. She has written for *Pan*, the magazine of the British Flute Society, and the NFA's *The Flutist's Quarterly*.



Laura Sciavolino - violin, viola, cello

Laura Sciavolino, violinist, has established herself as a performer and educator throughout New York and Connecticut. Laura received training as a teacher through Suzuki programs, and public school programs. She has experience teaching students of all ages and levels, and is proficient on viola, cello, bass, and piano in addition to violin. She has served as string instructor for the Community Unity Music Education Program, Convent of the Sacred Heart, and maintains a private studio. Laura is an advocate of healthy and efficient instrumental studies. She is dedicated to finding the most natural way for each student to make music.

As a violinist, Laura enjoys playing varied genres of music including classical, folk, jazz, and pop. Laura has performed in master classes with Arnold Steinhardt, and Rachel Barton Pine. She has also participated in the Summit Music Festival and the Apple Hill Music Festival. An avid interpreter of contemporary music, Laura recently premiered a new composition by Dennis Bell with her quartet, the Summit String Quartet, and the Sidra Bell Dance Company. With the Summit String Quartet, she also gave several performances of George Crumb's "Black Angels for Electric String Quartet." In the upcoming year, Laura will premiere a violin concerto written by Michael Craig. Laura has also served as concertmistress for the Purchase Symphony Orchestra.

Laura began her violin studies at the age of nine. She received her bachelor's degree in music performance and education from Ithaca College where she was awarded the President's Scholarship. At Ithaca, Laura's major teachers included Rebecca Ansel and Susan Waterbury. Laura received her Master's degree in violin performance from Purchase College Conservatory of Music, where she studied under Calvin Wiersma. Laura is currently pursuing her Artist Diploma at Purchase College Conservatory of Music.



Julie Uygur - voice

Julie Hill Uygur is a multi-faceted music industry professional on stage and behind the scenes. She is a vocalist, instructor, and heads up a small production company. She teaches singing, acting, performance techniques, music appreciation, and public speaking. She also conducts master classes and adjudicates competitions.

As a vocalist, Julie has performed with orchestras and opera companies throughout the USA and Europe, been broadcast on NPR and television, and recorded three CDs. Her vocal competition winnings include the Metropolitan Opera auditions (regional finalist), American Opera Auditions, Beniamino Gigli Competition, and multiple National Association of Teachers of Singing competitions.

As a broadcaster, Julie has written, programmed, produced, hosted, engineered, and managed commercial and public radio shows including talk shows, classical music programs, and commercials. Her syndicated series on NPR have included the Houston Grand Opera, Houston Symphony, and the Festival at Round Top.

As an Audio Engineer, Julie has recorded live performances by the world's leading orchestras, chamber ensembles, and performers. She edits and prepares shows for broadcast, produces CDs, mixes music for productions, including music used by Olympic figure skaters in live performance and televised productions.

Memberships include: National Association of Teachers of Singing, Alliance for Women in Media, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Mortar Board National Honor Society, Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity, National Honor Society.

Education includes: Master of Music in Performance from the University of Miami, Bachelor of Music in Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City; Film Studies Certificate from University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts; extensive postgraduate, technical, and language training.

Julie lives with her husband and three children in Greenwich. Her daughters, Arielle and Claire, attend CSH.