# 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 CSH's 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 (MENC) and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). 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. Previously, he was principal clarinetist with the Boston Civic Symphony, and 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.

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 him.

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. at the New England Conservatory and is a candidate for the PhD 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. He is currently the orchestra director at Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich and professor of clarinet at New York University.

# 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 master's degree in music from Manhattan School of Music with a concentration in vocal performance.

She teaches Lower School music at CSH and directs the Chancel and Youth Choirs at Riverdale Presbyterian Church in New York City.

# Claire Collins-voice & piano

Claire has been studying, playing, and composing music since the age of six, and comes from a long line of musicians. She graduated from Colby College in 2008 with a B.A. in music, and is currently working on a masters in music education at Lehman College.

She has been the director of the Asbury Handbell Choir and the assistant conductor of the Croton Chorale for four years. She plays piano, cello, guitar, lap dulcimer, and theremin, and sings with Angelica Women's Voices as well as the Croton Chorale.

Claire believes that every child deserves to be introduced to all the joys of making music – particularly singing – that have made her own life so blessed.

# 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 studies privately herself. She is also the leader of the soprano soloists' section 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 the 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 for eight years, where she taught voice and piano at The American School in London. Diane currently freelances at Analogue Muse (NYC), developing new talent. She has been teaching voice and piano at Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich for six years.

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# Suki Guerrier - piano

Suki Guerrier, a 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 at the 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 Natochenny. 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 SUNY Purchase College Conservatory of Music. She currently operates her music school in Westchester County.





### Hsiao-Ling (Grace) Hsu-piano

Hsiao-Ling (Grace) Hsu has diverse teaching experience over 7 years, including students with Autism. She teaches every student according to their specific needs and finds the best approach for each individual with patience.

Grace teaches in English and Mandarin. Ms. Hsu had given several recitals and concerts both in Taiwan and New York. She was a member of Hwa-Kang wind symphony orchestra, and also played in Master classes of pianists Marcella Crudeli and Hung-Kuan Chen.

Ms. Hsu holds a masters degree in piano performance from SUNY at Purchase College, under the mentor of pianist Stephanie Brown, and also minored in percussion in college.



### Sean Jackson - piano

Organist and pianist Sean Jackson, one of Barbados' most distinguished émigré classical musicians, has performed internationally both as a soloist and accompanist in countries including the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, Germany, Taiwan, China, Canada, the United States of America and the Caribbean. Jackson's accolades include a National Youth Award from the Barbados government, and numerous prizes and awards achieved during his undergraduate and graduate studies including the Parratt, Walford Davies, and Geoffrey Tankard organ prizes,

the Douglas Whittaker Chamber Music Prize all from the Royal College of Music (London); the A.H. Kuhn Memorial Scholarship, the 1999 William Schumann Prize, and the C.V. Starr Doctoral Fellowship from The Juilliard School.

He has performed as soloist and with orchestras in prestigious concert halls and churches such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall in Philadelphia, Washington National Cathedral and Coventry Cathedral in the UK. Jackson's recordings include two organ solo CDs, *Organ Favorites Volumes 1 and 2*, both recorded at St. John's Episcopal Church in Stamford, CT, where he is currently organist; a CD, *The Way*, with soprano Meaghan Joynt, accompanied on piano and organ and recorded at St. James the Less Episcopal Church in Scarsdale, NY; and a Christmas choral CD, *Christmas at Trinity*, recorded at Trinity Church on Wall Street, where he was assistant organist from 1998 to 2004.

In his latest recording, he is collaborative pianist for the dean emeritus of The Juilliard School, violinist Stephen Clapp and his daughter, soprano Amy Clapp Dye in the CD *It Is Well With My Soul*, featuring spirituals and short violin works.

Jackson has been teaching piano privately and in schools for the past 20 years. His ebullient nature combined with his knowledge, skill and patience have resulted in students becoming motivated, inspired and confident in the instrument. In addition to teaching in Fairfield County, he serves as collaborative pianist for the Sarah Lawrence College chamber choirs in Bronxville, NY. Jackson lives with his wife, Sally, in Stamford.





#### 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 SUNY Purchase 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.

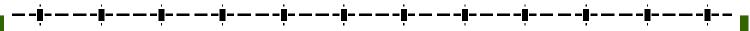


#### Tomoya Kano-piano

Tomoya Kano earned his bachelor's degree from the Manhattan School of Music and his master's degree from SUNY Purchase, studying piano performance and orchestral conducting.

He has performed numerous solo recitals and chamber concerts in Japan, the United States, and England. His principal teachers include Frank Wibaut, Nina

Svetlanova and Paul Ostrovsky for piano, and Jesse Levine for conducting.





### Katty Mayorga - guitar

Katty Mayorga, classical guitar and electric guitar, graduated magna cum laude with her undergraduate degree from SUNY Purchase and recently finished her masters there under the instruction of Fred Hand.

Performing as a soloist and in ensembles, she has 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.





# 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 Master Class 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, Connecticut 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*.

# Julie Uygur - voice

Julie Hill Uygur is a multi-faceted music industry professional on stage and behind the scenes. She is a vocalist and 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 U.S. and Europe, including broadcasts on National Public Radio and on television. She has recorded three CDs. Her vocal competition awards 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. Her 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, and National Honor Society.

Her 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.

# Chie Yoshinaka - violin, viola & piano Chie started her violin studies at the age of five

Chie started her violin studies at the age of five in Japan. A winner of the Lillian Fuchs Memorial Chamber Music Competition, she has appeared in concerts throughout the United States and Japan.

In 2011-2012, Chie's performances included solo performances at the Secret Theater in New York City, and playing Vivaldi's *Winter Concerto* from the *Four Seasons* with St. Paul's

Episcopal Church's chamber orchestra in Connecticut. During the summer of 2012 she will perform with AIMS Festival Orchestra in Graz, Austria. For the 2012-2013 season, she will perform a recital at the Mark Twain Library in Redding, Connecticut and rejoin the Secret Theater to perform with her chamber music group, MuSE Quartet.

She has regularly performed with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Waterbury Symphony (CT), the Northwest Indiana Symphony, and the New York Asian Symphony. Until she joined Civic Orchestra in 2007,

Chie had long been based in the New York area. She was under management with Asian Artists and Concerts and performed at the Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Centre and the United Nations.

Chie is also a dedicated teacher. She has been on the faculty at many music schools and at Camp Encore/Coda (Maine) for many years. She is a teaching artist of youth orchestras such as the Chicago Youth Symphony. In private lessons, Chie encourages her students to think rather than copy her demonstrations. She believes that the goal of music lessons is to go beyond the successful performance of musical pieces. She encourages her students to gain skill in focusing, problem solving and above all to enjoy playing instruments and making music.

She is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music (B.M.) and New York University (M.A.) where she received the Graduate Education Scholarship and a member of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society of educators. Her major teachers include Naoko Tanaka, Neil Weintrob and Peter Winograd.

