

# Benjie Messer

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## Teaching and Academic Work

- Private Music Teacher** 1995-2009  
Taught private lessons in piano, guitar, trombone, euphonium, and voice. Used various series books, the Suzuki method, and often created custom methods for individual students. Taught technique, reading, ear training, theory, classical literature, and jazz improvisation.
- The Learning Project Elementary School**, Music Teacher 2002-'06  
Taught general music to grades 1-6, directed choruses. Ran a Kodály-based program, emphasizing understanding music through songs and singing games, choral performance, folk dance, instruments (recorder and drum ensemble), reading and notating, composing, conducting, and thoughtful listening.
- Research Assistant** 2002  
Assisted gospel scholar Horace Boyer (University of Massachusetts-Amherst) for his upcoming *Biographical Dictionary of African-American Gospel Musicians*.
- University of Massachusetts Music Department**, Teaching Assistant 2000-'02  
Assisted with two large undergraduate courses, Jazz History and American Popular Music. Ran review sessions, tutored students, graded papers, proctored tests.
- Experimental Program in Education and Community (EPEC)**, Director 1998 – '99  
Coordinated an educational program at Hampshire College, which included student and staff-run classes, workshops, and other learning activities. Wrote publicity and promotional materials, scheduled events, distributed a \$2500 budget.
- Interlochen Arts Camp**, Intermediate Boys Counselor 1998  
Supervised a cabin of twelve boys, ages 11-13. Planned and ran recreational activities and talks, taught crafts and games, dealt with conflicts.
- Spencer Butte Middle School**, Jazz Director 1994-'95  
Directed two bands. Taught students about improvisation, ear training, teamwork, respect, etc.

## Education

- Kodály Music Institute**, Boston, Mass. 3-Summer Certificate 2003-'04  
Advanced studies in the Kodály method of music education, including pedagogy, conducting, solfège, choral work, and various special topics.
- University of Massachusetts**, Amherst, Mass. Master's in Music Education 2002  
Studied trombone performance, conducting, composition, and instruments, in addition to music education. Cumulative GPA: 3.8.
- Hampshire College**, Amherst, Mass. Bachelor of Arts 1999  
Self-designed double major focusing on music and community involvement.

## Current Work

### **One Light Music Productions, Composer/Arranger**

2007-present

Composed original music for various clients, using Logic Audio and various professional sample libraries. Created original sing-along arrangements of religious music in various styles (orchestral, contemporary, ambient, world, etc.) for sale on the Spiritrax.com website. Produced music for sing-along recordings of Broadway musicals for Stage Star Records and theaters nationwide, often requiring extensive orchestral transcription. Wrote lead sheets with Sibelius 2.0. Helped run stock media website Productiontrax.com, including writing newsletter articles, searching out new markets, and assisting customers with music licensing procedures and copyright law.

### **Professional Musician**

2000-present

Maintained a busy schedule of composing for film, leading bands, and performing on trombone, tuba, and piano for live concerts and recordings.