

# SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS INSTRUCTOR BIOS

“The study of music enhances the quality of our lives, enriching our sense of beauty and inspiring our imagination. There are countless cognitive, personal, and developmental benefits of music study for children as well.”



**Rita Zurzolo / Administrator, School of Fine Arts**

## RANDY BERGMANN / Guitar

**Randy Bergmann** enjoys the challenge of finding what works for each individual student. He is thrilled by watching his students grow in knowledge, ability and becoming accomplished in their skills and in finding the great joy of making music themselves!

Randy has had the opportunity to learn from several accomplished professional musicians over the years. He is an experienced music educator having taught guitar, electric guitar, bass, and ukulele. He began his teaching career at Charleswood Music in 1982 and since 2010 has taught private and group lessons at the now closed Whyte Ridge Music Studio and privately.

Randy has contributed to numerous recordings for various solo artists, commercial television and radio productions, musicals and has recorded his own original music. For 20 years he was part of the LAE worship band at Grant Memorial Church and he has played at countless private and public social gatherings, weddings, musicals, memorials, and churches. Randy has experience in all styles of music. He shares the accumulated knowledge and skills he has gained through many years of passionately learning and performing with his students.



## GARY BRENNER / Piano, Guitar

**Gary Brenner** received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Manitoba in 1978. As a musician, he has worked with many local performers in a variety of popular musical styles. Gary served in Worship Ministries at Grant Memorial Church for many years. He currently directs the Golden Echoes Choir. Gary has been teaching music since 2003.

Gary believes that all students have unique interests and goals when learning music. As students practice and study, they discover they have certain musical aptitudes. Some discover a style of music they love to play; some discover that they have an ear for music; others may find it easy to read music. Though each student begins with similar curriculum, (learning to read notes and rhythms, interpreting articulation and dynamics, studying form and chord progressions, etc.) the students' abilities and interests will lead them on their own musical paths. As a teacher, Gary will work with each student, designing a personal program that will serve their interests and abilities.





## CLANCY DOIRON / Drums

**Clancy Doiron** is a passionate musician with a love for teaching. Clancy attended LCS and started playing percussion in Grade 8. Soon after, he purchased his first drum kit and the rest is history! He has trained with a national class drummer privately for several years. He has played gigs at weddings and in diverse venues with his band. He is a regular performer as a drummer and a singer on the Grant Memorial Church Worship team.

Clancy has taught private drum lessons to children and adults. He has classroom teaching experience as well through his education studies. He is currently completing the English as an Additional Language Teacher Certificate Program. His goal is to help immigrants coming to Canada by teaching English as an Additional Language to adults.

His hobbies include songwriting, playing acoustic guitar, ice skating and floor hockey.



## KARLA ZOLINSKI (FILLION) / Piano, Piano Duet, Adult Piano Studies, Intro and Beginner Piano Composition, History, Pedagogy

**Karla Zolinski (Fillion)** is a member of the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association. She has been teaching piano and theory for over 40 years (20 of these years at SOFA). Karla was awarded the Certificate of Merit from the Royal Conservatory of Music for having received the highest mark in Canada for both Music History and Piano Pedagogy. She has had numerous students who have won their classes in the Winnipeg Music Festival.

She has prepared students to enter the University of Manitoba School of Music, where they have been awarded scholarships based on their auditions. She has spent 25 years accompanying numerous church and school choirs, instrumentalists and vocalists. Karla recently was a Master class clinician at the University of Manitoba Preparatory Studies Division. Karla's goal is to instill a love of music; traditional, pop, jazz, praise, worship or any other style, in each student. Her students receive the lifelong benefits of learning to love music for their own enjoyment and momentum towards a career in music.



## HEATHER GRAFE / Piano

**Heather Grafe** feels grateful to be a music educator. She studied piano from age 7 to 30 (ish). She completed a Bachelor of Sacred Music at Briercrest Bible College, an ARCT in piano performance, a Bachelor of Fine Arts and then a Bachelor of Education from York University. She studied piano under Dale Wheeler, Barb Cornish, Christian Petrowska Quilico and Karen Rymal. At York University, she discovered the thrill of piano accompaniment and chamber music. She learned the most important foundations in music pedagogy for young children at the Merriam School of Music in Oakville, Ontario while teaching there.

As a classroom teacher for twenty (ish) years, Heather has learned to prioritize and enjoy the relationship with her students above programs and curriculums. As a studio piano teacher, she enjoys the freedom and responsibility to tailor a learning program unique to each student's abilities, interests and personal goals. She desires to inspire and equip her students with music skills and habits as well as the attitudes and beliefs that will help them engage wholeheartedly in music learning and appreciation.

Heather also enjoys choral singing and directing and has been known to exploit its potential for fun, worship, community building, cross-cultural understanding, and world peace. She moved to Winnipeg in 2020 after living in Kenya for 14 years.



## NIKITA LABDON / Voice, Elementary Piano

**Nikita Labdon** is an alumni of Linden Christian School as well as of the School of Fine Arts. She has completed her Bachelor of Music Vocal Performance degree at the University of Manitoba and has since been enjoying performing and teaching piano and voice. Nikita has been teaching for seven years and loves how rewarding teaching music is!

Nikita has studied and performed opera and art song in Oxford, England, New York City, Edmonton and of course Winnipeg.

Nikita's work through the University of Manitoba includes leading roles in two operas and performing in countless opera scenes. Nikita's passion for music and theatre flourished in her time as a student in SOFA and she is thrilled to be a part of this program teaching voice and elementary piano.





## LISA MENDES / Art Classes

Winnipeg based illustrator, print maker and published graphic novelist **Lisa Mendes** received her BFA (Honours) from the University of Manitoba. She works primarily in digital, traditional pen and ink, and screen printing.

Lisa values the art of storytelling through the medium of comics and published her first graphic novel "Curb Angels" in 2019. In her daily life Lisa enjoys sharing her love of art by teaching adult and youth art classes at several local studios and schools.



## CAROLYN SCHOLZ / Violin

Carolyn Scholz started violin in Medicine Hat, AB and studied violin and viola, chamber music, and orchestral playing in the Academy program at the Medicine Hat Conservatory under Paul VandeSloot, Dean O'Brien, Nancy Richardson, Robert Bardston, Bill VanderSloot and Michael VanderSloot. In 2003-2004, Carolyn taught group violin lessons in Blankenhagen, Germany at a British military school. While there she also participated in various ensembles; the Junge Sinfoniker based in Bielefeld, Nord-Rhine Westphalia, and one allowing her to perform with a choir at the Grosses Festspielhaus in Salzburg.

In 2004-2005 Carolyn studied viola performance at McGill university with Andre Roi, chamber music under Marcel Saint-Cyr and Elizabeth Dolin, and played in both the McGill University orchestra and their McGill Baroque Ensemble. From 2002-2007, Carolyn toured intermittently with a small orchestra to the UK, Brazil, and New Zealand.

Since 2010, Carolyn has been a freelance musician in Winnipeg, MB touring with JP Hoe's *Mannequin* tour across eastern Canada, recording on several albums including KEN mode, Don Amero, and Katy Hurt. She has played concerts with Diana Krall, the Trans-siberian Orchestra, Disturbed, Sarah Slean and local groups such as Don Amero, Prairie Voices, Musaica Orchestra, At Home with Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice Balls, Manitoba Guitar Society, Westminster chamber orchestra and many more. She also regularly plays with classical and pop chamber music ensembles in town. She was a pianist and occasional violinist at St Vital Catholic Parish from 2014-2019 and is currently, since 2017, the music director at First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, MB. Carolyn has a BA Hons, in Theology and History from Canadian Mennonite University. She teaches violin privately at her home and at Linden Christian School.



## MICHAEL SCHOLZ / Violin, Viola

**Michael Scholz** will be in his 13th season with the WSO where he is a member of the viola section. He has taught for 5 years at Sistema Winnipeg as well as having his own studio of violin/viola students. Many of his students have gone on to study music at universities across Canada. Michael is on the board of the Rosemund Summer Music Academy and teaches in the summers at the International Music Camp.

Michael came from Alberta, where he attended the University of Calgary with degrees in Music Performance and Political Science. He attended the Banff Centre for the Arts for an extended period of time. Michael has also held administrative and policy positions within the Manitoba Government and has completed a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg.



## MARGOT SIM / Voice, Piano, Voice / Piano Combo, Introduction To Musical Theatre

**Margot Sim** believes that everyone (all ages and levels of ability) can benefit from singing lessons. Finding one's "voice" and developing clear, confident communication is a life-skill that lasts into adulthood. A firm believer in the "fun" of fundamentals, Margot has been enthusiastically encouraging music students for over 45 years. She holds performance diplomas in Voice (LMM, ARCT), Piano (ARCT), Organ (ARCT), and Recorder (AMM) and is a member of the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association, National Association of Teachers of Singing, and the Canadian Actors' Equity Association. After training and performing in Toronto (including work with the Canadian Opera Company and Canadian Opera Company Children's Chorus), Margot resettled back in Winnipeg where she is the Minister of Music at Grace Bible Church. Her students have been festival trophy winners and examination medalists.

In her spare time, Margot tries to keep track of her three daughters and convince her Yorkie "Disney" that he is not the boss.

