

Kate Johnston

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Values and Belief Statements

As performer and educator, my efforts are focused on bringing communities together to celebrate live performance in a world of increasingly isolated music consumption. Through the discipline and performance of music, students discover unique aspects of themselves that imbue the rest of their endeavors with confidence. I am passionate about the value of having music delivered in public schools as an essential component to educating the whole person.

Professional Achievements

Current & Recent Work

Walter Payton College Prep HS

- 2012 – Present: Director of Choirs – Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced 180+ students enrolled
- 2012 – Present: Director of “Sounds of Sweetness” 32-voice men’s a Capella ensemble
- 2012 – Present: Musical & Stage Director for musical theater productions, revues, and major works

UIC College Prep HS (Noble Network Charter School) – Founding Teacher

- 2011 – 12th Grade Instructional Chair, UIC College Prep High School
- 2011 – 12th Grade Advisory Chair, UIC College Prep High School
- 2009 – 2012, Founding Music Department Chair, UIC College Prep High School
- 2008 – Present, engaged Northwestern University Neuroscience Lab in a longitudinal study of cognitive development in teen brains in subjects studying music and ROTC as a part of the academic curriculum.

Organizations Established

- 2013 Broadway Gems program to encourage musical theater at Payton, Chicago, IL
- 2008 – Founded Varsity Singers - UIC College Prep, Chicago, IL
- 2006 – Founded and directed Invitational Choir Festival at Lincoln American International School to collaborate with bi-lingual high school choirs in Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1997 – Founder and performer, “Brown Bag Concerts” - Pueblo, CO (ongoing) (CO)
- 1993 – Co-founder, Olympic Boys Choir, Port Orchard, WA
- 1984-1989 – Founded Northwest Academy of Fine Arts, combined computer lab/private piano.
- 1983 – Co-founder of Columbia Children’s Choirs, Bellevue, WA.

Publications & Presentations

- 2016 Presenter: Universidad Nacional de las Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2013 Co-author, “High School Classes Enhance the Neural Processing of Speech”. *Frontiers in Educational Psychology*.
- 2007 – Presenter, “The Temporal Community: The Multi-Dimensional Way Arts Shape Us as Human Beings”, 13th Annual Conference on Thinking in Norrköping, Sweden
- 2007 – Led Cultural Event Evening bringing conference participants together as *Choir in the Square*, 13th Annual Conference on Thinking in Norrköping, Sweden
- 1985 – 2001 – Authored articles published in *Computer and Music Educator*, *Music Teacher’s National Association Journal*, and *Pueblo Chieftain*.
- 1989 – Edited education software articles for Music Teacher’s National Association Journal.
- 1989 – Coordinated technology symposium for National Music Teacher’s National Association Convention, Kansas City, KS

Curriculum Design

- 2008 – 2012, Designed college readiness standards for four-year music sequence at UIC College Prep that aligns and supports core subject areas.
- 2006, 2007 – Collaborator on K-12 Music Scope and Sequence for Lincoln American International School, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 1984 – 1989 – Designed and implemented music theory curriculum sequence incorporating Apple 2GS software, Pitch Master, and Tap Master for Temporal Acuity Products, Seattle, WA.

Other Projects

- 2002 - Present – prepared and conducted soloists, choruses, and pit orchestras for 18 main-stage productions.
- 2005 – Incorporated various participants (soloists, children’s choir, local instrumentalists, etc.) to create a unique event for First Night Evanston and directed the production.
- 1987, 1989 – Piano accompanist for major European and American concert tours with Columbia Children’s Choirs.

Recent Professional Development

- 2017 American Choral Director’s Association National Convention, Minneapolis, MN
- 2015 Choral Conductors Workshop with Rod Eichenberger, July 13 – 17 – selected as performance conductor at final concert.
- 2015 AP Music Theory Training – Rice University, Houston TX
- 2014 Kodaly Level I Certification – DePaul University
- 2014 American Choral Director’s Association Eastern Division Conference – Baltimore, MD
- 2011 Illinois Music Educator’s Conference, Peoria, IL
- 2011 American Choral Director’s National Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2010 Sibelius, The Cloud, and Music Education, VanderCook College of Music, Chicago, IL
- 2008, 2009, 2010 “Five Dysfunctions of a Team”, *Teamwork training, Chicago, IL*
- 2007 International Conference on Thinking, Norrköping, Sweden
Presenter, cultural event leader, and participant
- 2006 *The Question is the Answer: Smart Uses of New Technologies for Thinking and Problem Solving*, Jamie McKenzie, presenter, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2006, 2007 XI & XII Encuentro Coro Internacional de Niños y Jovenes, Corrientes, Argentina
- 2006 Universidad San Andrés, Buenos Aires, Argentina:
Assessment: A Tool for Improving Teaching and Learning
- 2003, 2006 American Choral Director’s Association Summer Retreat, Illinois

Relevant Employment History & Leadership

2012 – Present	Walter Payton College Preparatory School, <i>Chicago, IL</i> <i>Director of Choirs and Musical Theater</i>
2008 – 2012	UIC College Prep High School, <i>Chicago Illinois</i> <i>Founding Music Educator, Choirs & Music Department Chair</i> <i>12th Grade Instructional Chair, 12th Grade Advisory Chair</i>
2006 – 2008	Lincoln American International School, <i>Buenos Aires, Argentina</i> <i>Director of High School and Middle School Choirs</i>
2002 – 2006	Chicago Waldorf School, <i>Chicago, IL</i> <i>Director of Choruses and Music Department Chair – Grades 2 – 12</i>
2003 – 2006	Music Institute of Chicago, <i>Evanston, IL</i> <i>Director of Children’s Choruses and Chorus summer camps</i>
2002 – 2003	Music Institute of Chicago, <i>Evanston, IL</i> <i>Rehearsal & Concert Accompanist - Adult Chorale</i>
1996 – 2001	Ascension Episcopal Church, <i>Pueblo, CO</i> <i>Organist/Choirmaster - Adult Chancel Choir and Children’s Choir</i>

Relevant Employment History & Leadership continued . . .

2000 – 2001	Pueblo Summer Fine Arts Academy, <i>Pueblo, CO</i> <i>Instructor, Piano and Music Theory</i>
1994 – 1996	Olympic Boys Choir, <i>Port Orchard, WA</i> <i>Founder and Co-Director</i>
1985 – 1990	Northwest Academy of Fine Arts, <i>Seattle, WA</i>
1983 – 1989	Temporal Acuity Products, <i>Bellevue, WA</i> <i>Consultant: Curriculum design for sequencing music education software</i>
1984 – 1988	Columbia Boys Choir, <i>Bellevue, WA</i> <i>Concert Choir Accompanist, Training Choir Director,</i> <i>Preparatory Choir Curriculum Design</i>
1983 – 1984	Northwest Boys Choir, <i>Seattle, WA</i> <i>Preparatory Instructor</i>
1982 – 1990	Seattle Pacific University, <i>Seattle, WA</i> <i>Adjunct Professor, Piano and Music Theory</i>

Other Leadership

2008 – 2016	President, Ridgewood Condominium Association, <i>Chicago, IL</i> <i>Oversaw all aspects of maintenance and funds distributions for 26-unit building</i>
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Education

AP Music Theory College Board Certification	Rice University	2015
Kodaly Level I Certification	DePaul University	2014
Illinois State Teacher Certification, (<i>Music K – 12</i>)	Northern Illinois University	2005
Master of Arts, <i>piano - Magna Cum Laude</i>	Boston University	1982
Student of Bela Boszormenyi-Nagy, <i>piano professor</i>		
Bachelor of Arts, <i>piano - Magna Cum Laude</i>	Seattle Pacific University	1980
Marcile Mack, Daniel Pollack, Bela Boszormenyi-Nagy, <i>piano professors</i>		

Honors and Awards

2014 – 2016	Students selected for Illinois District 1 Regional Choir Students selected for Illinois All State Choir Students selected for All State Musical Theater productions
2013 – 2017	Superior & Honors Superior Ratings for All-City Choral Festival
2011	Chicago Tribune article featured as one of their “Remarkable Women”
2009 –	Received \$10,000 Grant for Broadway Project at UIC College Prep, 2010 (now an annual gift)
1996 – present	– <i>Kate Johnston Music Award</i> : awarded annually to a volunteer who assists in furthering music education at South Colby Elementary School, Port Orchard, Washington.

References

Mr. Timothy Devine, Principal Walter Payton College Prep High School 773-534-0034 tpdevine@cps.edu	Oliver Sicat, Founder/CEO – ednovate.org Ednovate Schools – 213-454-0599 X10001 osicat@ednovate.org
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