



Private Music Instruction at Shaker Road School

Our Music Instructors



Mike Effenberger

Piano, Low Brass

Mike Effenberger is a recording and performing artist who has been teaching at Shaker Road School since 2007. He received the Young Beacon in Jazz award from New School University in New York City, from which he graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance. Mike plays throughout New England with a wide variety of bands including Jazzputin and the Jug Skunks, the secular gospel choir Rock My Soul, OURBIGBAND, Dan Blakeslee, and many others, along with leading Weird Turn Pro in playing his compositions. He tours nationally with Soggy Po' Boys and internationally with Bing and Ruth. He appears on countless recordings, from independent releases to larger labels, including RVNG International and 4AD, and is also active as a producer.



Eric Klaxton

Saxophone, Jazz Piano, Composition, Audio Production

Eric Klaxton earned his BA in Saxophone Performance at the University of New Hampshire in 2011 and will complete his Masters Degree in Jazz and Contemporary Music from Longy School of Music in the spring of '22. Notably, he has studied saxophone with Noah Preminger and Bill McHenry, as well as composition with Ben Allison and Frank Carlberg. Eric is a founding member of The Soggy Po Boys and can be found playing woodwinds in Sojoy and OurBigBand. In addition to his work with collective ensembles, he writes and arranges original works for various groups of his own, imbued with traditions from jazz, rock, folk, and electronic music. Visit www.ericklaxton.com.



Rachel Minsinger

Woodwinds, Brass, Piano, Voice, Xylophone, Ukulele

Rachel Minsinger attended Susquehanna University where she received her Bachelor of Music in Music Education with a clarinet concentration in 2009. She also attended Gordon College where she received her Masters of Music in Music Education in 2015. She has been teaching since 2009 and has been at Shaker Road School since 2015. Mrs. Minsinger teaches all of the students at SRS from infants through middle school. She also directs the concert band and chorus. Mrs. Minsinger is a member of the National Association for Music Educators, the New Hampshire Music Educators Association, and the Feierabend Association for Music Education. Mrs. Minsinger has performed with various ensembles including the Upper Valley Community Band, the Claremont Community Band, the Newmont Military Band, and the Newport Area Choir. Mrs. Minsinger has performed at many locations from Carnegie Hall, to the Gettysburg Battlefield, as well as at many, many churches and town greens. When Mrs. Minsinger is not teaching, she enjoys playing her ukulele and playing with her sons, Eli and Oscar.

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Debbie Potter

Ukulele

Debbie Potter has been playing ukulele since 2012. She has always had music in her life; singing with her family, playing clarinet for 12 years in band, and integrating music in her elementary classes. Ukulele fits right in to her musical life. "It is nice to play an instrument and be able to sing along. Pretty tricky with a clarinet!!" Debbie has been the early childhood music teacher at SRS as well as many other positions here. In addition to being a ukulele teacher, she currently is the Librarian and a Pre-K teacher. Debbie plays ukulele with 3 ukulele clubs around the state. Debbie has studied with David Surrette at the Concord Community Music School and accompanied the Songweavers at a concert. She has played ukulele at various open mics as a solo artist, as a duo with her husband, Bill, and with ukulele groups.



Scott Solsky

Guitar, Bass, Violin, Drums, Xylophone, Voice, Woodwinds, Brass

Scott Solsky has been a professional performer and music educator in New England for over two decades. After studying at the University of Southern Maine and privately with the region's top guitar players (Tony Gaboury, Jay Carlson, Phil Sargent, and Randy Roos), Scott has developed a style that effortlessly morphs from one genre to another, while maintaining a distinct sound. Scott has been teaching music at the Shaker Road School since 2003 in many different capacities. He is currently teaching the SRS rock and jazz bands and teaching private lessons on most instruments. Through the work Scott has done with bands such as Pat and The Hats, Brasbe, and Donkilo! Afrofunk Orchestra, he has been awarded many regional awards, including a New England Music Award (best pop act of 2015), multiple Best in NH awards from Hippo Press, multiple Best in NH awards from NH Magazine, and was a member of the Union Leader's "Forty under 40" class in 2013. In addition to performing with Trade (original six piece soul and Motown group), Scott is also a solo performer and can be found playing with Lynne Taylor, Mike Walsh, and Jared Steer. Scott also teaches out of his home studio, Sideroom Music, in Concord where he lives with his three children.



Mike Walsh

Drums

Mike Walsh has been drumming for over 30 years and has been full-time drum instructor and performer for the last 20 years. Mike graduated from UNH with a B.A. in Music Performance and studied with Bob Gullotti, Les Harris Jr., and Nancy Smith. In recent years, Mike has continued private studies with Dave Dicenso, Steve Michaud, Dan Weiss, and Peter Moutis. Mike is currently the drummer for several NH Seacoast bands in styles ranging from jazz, soul, funk, reggae, and rock. The last 20 years of performing music have brought Mike throughout New England as well as New York City, Las Vegas, Toronto, and Mexico City. In addition to teaching at Shaker Road, Mike teaches a full schedule of drum students at Portsmouth Music and Arts Center. When not performing or teaching drums, Mike also works part-time at The Drum Center of Portsmouth.