

## 2021-2022 Artful Living and Learning Teaching Artists

### DANCE



#### **Jessica Bennett**

Jessica Bennett is thrilled to be a dance teaching artist. She is currently the assistant director of the Cleveland Dance Project and is excited to be rehearsing to perform in their Season 8 Showcase. To complement her experience as a professional dancer and choreographer, Jessica is also a certified yoga teacher who specializes in prenatal yoga.



#### **Megyn Bostic**

Megyn Bostic has been a ballet instructor for 7 years with the Ohio Conservatory of Ballet. She loves teaching young ballerina classes and can't wait to share dance with more preschoolers through Artful Living and Learning-- it's a perfect combination of both of her passions and she can't wait to get started! Megyn is also studying to be a children's librarian.



#### **Angela Casey**

Meet Angela Casey who is a dance/movement instructor. She studied dance since age 3 and has competitive dance experience and performance experience in all genres, but primarily ballet, modern and contemporary dance styles. She is passionate about creating & choreographing. Angela received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from The Ohio State University, a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education (Preschool- Grade 3) from the University of Akron, and completed graduate work at Ashland University (Curriculum and Instruction). She is excited to be working with the Pre-K students!



#### **Emily Gordon**

Emily Gordon was born and raised in Stark County and has always had a passion for dance and young children. She trained with Canton Ballet for 16 years throughout her childhood and as a young adult. She has experience teaching dance to children of all ages and greatly enjoys the smiles brought by young children while watching them learn and grow. Emily resides in Stark County with her husband, Derek and their two young boys.



### **Katie Guist- Dance**

Katie began taking ballet classes at the age of three and received the majority of her training at Nan Klinger Excellence In Dance in Cuyahoga Falls, OH. She was a member of the Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet, now Ballet Excel Ohio, where she performed in ballets choreographed by world-renowned choreographers. Katie was a member of the Mercyhurst Ballet Theater graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Mercyhurst University.

Katie has danced professionally with Ballet Concerto and Pointe West Performances. She has been teaching ballet in the Northeast Ohio area since 2006, including at the Canton Ballet and with Reach Out And Dance®, a premier dance outreach program where she taught dance education in Northeast Ohio public schools. Katie is also a Certified Yoga Teacher (200 hrs), teaching yoga classes weekly.



### **Brittani Harris**

Brittani Harris has danced her whole life. She started dancing competitively with Judy Bourn School of Dance, then continued her dance training with the Canton Ballet, where she has subbed as an adult. Brittani has a passion for ballet and for children. She's loved being able to share dance with so many preschoolers throughout her 6 years at Artful Living and Learning. Brittani has four children.



### **Aundi Stedman**

Aundi Stedman resides in Uniontown with her husband of 16 years and three young children. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Akron and her Master's degree from Malone University, working part-time as a Clinical Mental Health Counselor. She was a competitive cheerleader and dancer for 12 years, and now enjoys watching her daughter pursue her love for dance at the Canton Ballet. Aundi is currently an active member on the "Friends of the Ballet" committee at the Canton Ballet. She enjoys volunteering at church, helping at her children's school, and traveling with her family. Aundi is very excited to begin another exciting year with the Artful Living and Learning Program a Dance and Movement Teaching Artist. Introducing the arts to young children is truly one of her passions.

## **DRAMA**



### **Molly Crock**

Molly Marie is 22 years old and has probably 22 different passions. Molly is the founder of The Luminescent Moon Theatre Company and Shooting Star Princesses working with storytellers, dreamers, and the community. She is a big fan of the night sky, and loves looking through the telescope to explore what's above. You can catch her at the McKinley Museum Planetarium once in a while. When Molly isn't looking at stars or singing in a field of flowers somewhere, she adores being at the horse barn and riding the day away. Though if she isn't any of those places, she may just be writing a paper, as she attends Kent State to further her education in musical theatre and American Public University for Astronomy. Molly is very excited to be a drama teaching artist this year and to be a part of helping little imaginations grow.



### **Kyle Jozsa**

Kyle Jozsa is the primary Storyteller and Director of Education with Wandering Aesthetics, a theatre company based in Akron. He began his teaching career in 2010 with Weathervane Playhouse. Since that time, Jozsa has worked full-time as a preschool teacher, developed curriculum for traditional and non-traditional classes alike, and led many workshops for students of all age groups throughout Northeast Ohio. Currently working full-time as a Teaching Artist and Shelter Advocate for Project RISE, Jozsa continues to build Wandering Aesthetics' play-based theatre programming from the ground up.



### **Amanda Medley**

Amanda Medley is a teaching artist and performer holding a M.M. from NYU Steinhardt in Vocal Performance: Musical Theater and Advanced Certificate in Vocal Pedagogy, B.S. in Music Education from Olivet Nazarene University, and is a graduate of Hoover High School. Amanda spent ten years teaching K-8 General Music and working as a Private Voice Teacher, Vocal Coach, Music Director, Assistant Director and Director in Northeast Ohio Schools and Theaters before moving to New York to pursue her Graduate Degree. Recently back in NE Ohio, Amanda maintains an online Private Voice Studio working with adult performing professionals across the United States including recording artists, opera singers, and musical theatre performers. Amanda has served as Director, Assistant Director, and Musical Director for High School and Community Theatre Productions.



### **Chey Schubert**

Chey Schubert has been a part of Artful Living and Learning as a drama teacher for the past 5 years. She taught drama, speech and English at Sandy Valley High School for 12 years. She also taught at Jackson High School as a teacher in the Arts School. She retired from Jackson High School in 2009. Chey has written murder mysteries performed for Pegasus, for Wine, Women and Shoes (raising money for Mercy Medical Center's Breast Cancer Foundation) and for community fund raisers. She has directed over 30 musicals and dramas/comedies for high schools and for her community. Chey also has written shows for young performers for Christmas presentations at Cibo's Restaurant in Waynesburg. Chey and husband Frank live in Magnolia and have a daughter, Briana and son-in-law Kristian, who reside in NYC.



### **Liz Simpson**

Liz enjoys an active life with her hubby and all four of their singing, theater loving, cheerleading, volleyball playing children. This past summer she was thrilled to join a movie cast as an extra in Chosen, a film about Ohio's growing need for more foster & adoption families.



# MUSIC



## Alex Christ

Dr. Alex Christ recently retired from teaching music and being a lead mentor in the Northwest Local School district after forty years. Dr. Christ has a dual Bachelor of Music degree in music education and music theory-composition. He also holds a Master's Degree in Music Education and a Doctorate in Education. Alex Christ is also the music director at St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church in Canton. He enjoys teaching music and sharing his passion for the arts.



## Jaime Madrigal

Jaime Madrigal is a community orchestra conductor for the New Horizons Music Program of Summit and Stark Counties. Jaime spends her evenings teaching violin, viola, cello, and bass to adult community musicians at beginner, intermediate, and experienced levels. She conducts and performs throughout the year at festivals, churches, patriotic events, and local nursing homes. In between preschool and evening adult classes, she offers private lessons on a variety of instruments to elementary, middle, and high school students. Whether her students are young, vintage, green, or seasoned, it's Jaime's life goal to be an active musician and teacher for her community.



## Tom Pylinski

Tom Pylinski earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music. He also earned a Master of Music degree from the University of Akron. He also studied with Massimo La Rosa, Rick Stout, Hal Reynolds and John Marcellus. Today, Tom maintains an active career as a freelance trombonist and private music teacher in Northeast Ohio. He is a member of the Akron Symphony Orchestra, the Canton Symphony Orchestra and the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra. He has performed with the orchestras of Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo, Buffalo, Syracuse, Miami (FL), Wheeling, Erie and many others. In addition to his orchestral posts, he is a member of the Starkweather Brass and the brass quintet at the Basilica of Saint John the Baptist in Canton.



## Sandy Simpson

Sandy Simpson was a music teacher in the Plain Local School District from 1985 – 2011. She is currently the director of music at Hudson United Methodist Church, keyboardist for the Jazz Society Big band, teaches private piano lessons and workshops, and is an accompanist for local universities and school districts. In addition, she is a performing member of the MacDowell Club, American Guild of Organists, and volunteers in outreach ministries for children. Sandy is a strong supporter of the arts in a diverse spectrum of forms through educational collaboration, including the Canton Symphony Orchestra; she also sings in A Chorus for a Cause. She enjoys travel and the outdoors, and has three grown children and six granddaughters, all who live locally.



### **Robyn Taylor**

Robyn Taylor began playing the piano at age 4. She received her Bachelor's degree in Flute Performance from Brigham Young University. She is an accompanist and substitute organist at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Massillon. She maintains a private flute and piano studio from her home.



### **Cynthia (Cyn) Warren**

Cynthia Warren earned her B.M. in Oboe Performance from the University of Akron and attended the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music for her graduate studies. Cyn holds English horn positions with the Akron and Canton Symphony Orchestras, Pittsburgh Opera, and Pittsburgh Ballet Theater. An accomplished oboe player as well, she is the Principal Oboe at Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theater, as well as second oboe with the Blue Water Chamber Orchestra. Since 2000, she has appeared as a featured soloist numerous times with The Akron, Canton, Wooster and Wheeling Symphonies, as well as having the honor of presenting two world premieres. Cyn serves as Instructor of Oboe at The College of Wooster and The University of Pittsburgh, and maintains a private studio in Akron besides having written and presented educational programs for organizations including Blue Water Chamber Orchestra, Canton Symphony, Akron Symphony, and Wheeling Symphony.

## **VISUAL ARTS**



### **Carol McGill**

Carol McGill grew up in Canton, Ohio and graduated from Kent State University where she studied art. After graduation, she moved to Indianapolis where she owned a painting and decorating business and was featured in the Indianapolis House and Home magazine. She enjoys painting abstract landscapes on canvas, as well as painting furniture. Carol's artwork has been exhibited at the Minerva Art Spot, Journey Art Gallery, Second April Galerie and Kent State Stark 6000 Gallery. Carol was on the cover of About magazine in which she was featured as one of the area's "Seven Artists You Should Know."

In addition to creating and selling art, Carol has been a substitute teacher for 14 years and enjoys working with children. She lives outside of Minerva with her children, husband, and many pets.



### **Amanda Morena**

Meet Amanda Morena! She is a local artist working mainly in acrylic and oil paint, collage and mixed media. Amanda has an excitement for studying art and practicing new techniques. She gathers inspiration from intuitive design, the study of human history and art as well as nature's designs, patterns, and rhythms.



### **Alivia Tissot**

Alivia Tissot is a visual artist who recently graduated from The University of Akron. She enjoys working with clay. Alivia creates ceramic pieces and sells them at a few local coffee shops. She is very excited to be a part of the Artful Living and Learning team this year!



### **Emily Vigil**

Emily Vigil has been a professional artist for over 20 years. She earned a BFA in Painting from Marshall University in 2000, and an MFA in Painting and Drawing from Louisiana State University in 2003. She also works at Massillon Museum, where she coordinates two contemporary art galleries, Studio M and the Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery. Her own artwork can be viewed at [emilyvigilstudio.com](http://emilyvigilstudio.com). Her latest solo art exhibition will be installed Charleston, West Virginia in October.



### **Dyanne Williams**

Dyanne Williams has been making mosaic art for 20 years. She specializes in creating architectural installations in homes and businesses from Hawaii to Florida. In addition to creating art, she taught fine art mosaic classes in her Beverly Hills studio for 7 years. After moving to Ohio, Dyanne started working with Arts in Stark as a teaching artist, integrating art with core standards to help kids create fanciful art including permanent mosaic installations to beautify their schools. She is excited for her first year with Artful Living!



### **Diane Brant- Literacy Arts (Massillon Public Library)**

Diane Brant is the Literacy Teaching Artist. By combining stories, songs, rhymes, and creative movement, she plans to share a love of books and reading with the children and help develop their early literacy skills needed to get them ready to learn to read later. Diane is a published author and reporter. She has worked as a Children's Programming Specialist at the Massillon Public Library for 15 years performing story-times and programs. She has worked as a Literacy Teaching Artist for Artful Living and Learning for the last 12 years. She looks forward to bringing her puppets and reading with your students once again!