
Maurita Eberly Hanford

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EDUCATION:

Masters in Music, Piano Performance, May 1998, James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA) *Summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Music in Sacred Music/ Piano, May 1995, Moody Bible Institute (Chicago, IL) (MBI is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and the National Association of Schools of Music)

Graduated *Cum laude* (3.7 GPA), *Who's Who in American Universities & Colleges*, and *Delta Epsilon Chi*

SPECIAL SKILLS:

- 25 years experience in piano teaching
- Extensive experience in piano performing ~ solo and accompanying
- Enjoys relating to people, especially children and youth
- Experience in preparing piano students for university music degree programs
- High-rate student retention
- Kodaly Level I certified
- Good understanding of piano music, eras, genres, and styles
- Fluent in Italian and working knowledge of French

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:

- Fostering a love for music
- Personalizing lessons to each student's interests, personality, and learning style
- Choosing motivational repertoire
- Developing well-rounded musicians through the study of rhythm, music theory, ear training, music history, and varied musical genres
- Helping students become confident, expressive, accurate performers
- Guiding the development of a safe technique for a lifetime of passionate playing

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2001-present

Private Piano Instructor (studio of up to 31 students, ages 6-60):

Harrisonburg, Virginia and Dana Point, California:

- Weekly one-on-one lessons
- Christmas & spring piano recitals at various church venues or intimate in-home settings
- Community recitals, such as nursing homes
- Yearly shared masterclasses with piano studio of Paulo Steinberg, James Madison University, and Cory Leckrone of Harrisonburg
- Training for HMTA (Harrisonburg Music Teachers Association) Piano Festival & recitals
- Encouraged and prepared all high school seniors for their own or shared Senior Piano Recitals
- Extensive coaching of high school seniors preparing for college music auditions

- Students accepted into music degree programs at the following universities: James Madison, Eastern Mennonite, George Mason, Florida State, Wheaton College, Virginia Tech, Belmont University, & Chapman University
- Officer in HMTA ~ Treasurer ~ 7 years
- Students performed for the following master teachers: Dr. Paulo Steinberg, Dr. Lori Piitz, Dr. Gabriel Dobner, Marvin Blickenstaff, Dr. Andrew Willis, Dr. Rosita Mang, Dr. Lise-Keiter-Brotzman, Dr. Ludmila Lazar, Ieva Jokubaviciute, and Barbara Lister-Sink
- Preparing students for the Certificate of Merit program of the MTAC

- 2009-2016 **As Principle Accompanist of the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir** (Harrisonburg, VA)
- Taught the SVCC's Advanced Musicianship Class, including advanced solfege and music theory
 - Conducted sectional rehearsals
- 2002-2003 Conducted summer **children's choral camps** in Palermo and Bari, Italy
- 1999-2001 **Music missionary** in Italy, serving under Virginia Mennonite Missions
- Helped establish private school of music
 - Taught music classes and private piano lessons to children, teens, and adults
 - Designed and developed Music Theory Worksheets in the Italian language
 - Directed adult and children's choirs
 - Translated American choral music into the Italian language for publication
- 1996-1998 **Masters student** in Piano Performance/Accompanying and **Graduate Assistant** at James Madison University (Vicki Berneking-Cavendish, instructor)
- Teaching assistant: Class Piano Instructor (under Dr. Patricia Brady, Professor Emeritus,
 - Assistant accompanying coach for Accompanying and Ensemble Class
- 1994-1995 **Music Intern** at First Presbyterian Church, Waukegan, IL (Dr. Elizabeth Naegele, director)
- Assistant children's choir director/pianist
 - Singer/pianist for adult choir
- Teacher's Assistant** at Moody Bible Institute: **Music Theory 201-202**
- Grading assignments
 - Private tutoring

PERSONAL INTERESTS:

Playing the pedal harp, cooking and baking, gardening, bird watching, hiking, walking, travel, and married life!

REFERENCES: Available upon request