



Chet Chwalik

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🌐 http://www.sacjazzmessengers.com/

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Accomplished Business Owner and Director of Music & Performing Arts at Unity of Sacramento, I excel in Finale Music Software and people management, demonstrating a knack for fostering high retention rates and cultivating key partnerships. My tenure includes pioneering online music resources and leading diverse performances, showcasing my adept project management and creative composition skills.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- MD for numerous concerts, requiring management of hired vocalists, hired instrumentalists, choir and band, as well as all related sheet music (horn parts, string parts, vocal parts, bass parts, lead sheets)
- MD for freelance groups, including the Valerie V Jazz Orchestra, which had a run at Cache Creek Casino. Managed all arrangements and parts, and hiring of band personnel.
- Memorable piano solo/performance of "I'm Glad There Is You" with vocalist Bruce Kelly (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJ_TWSol8sw)
- Founded the Sacramento Classic Jazz Messengers, a sextet playing some of the best selections from the Art Blakey group of the mid-60's, as well as a number of original compositions.

SKILLS

- Proficient with Finale
- Conductor
- Piano Tuning
- Decision-making
- Project management
- Composer, Arranger
- Choir Director
- Verbal and written communication
- People management

WORK HISTORY

DIRECTOR, MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS *01/2022 to CURRENT*

Unity of Sacramento | Sacramento, CA

- Manage the Music Ministry, including the hiring of musicians and subs, and additional musicians for concerts and special events (horns, strings, etc.)
- Choose music for services; Compose new pieces for choir and soloists
- Arranger, including original arrangements for choir; create horn and string parts for various performances
- Choir Director: manage rehearsals, provide vocal parts; manage the choir leadership; lead the choir and band (e.g., with any live deviations to

arrangements, dynamic cues, endings, etc.)

- Secured key partnerships with local vocal groups and soloists.
- Perform at Sunday services; lead church band "Chakra".
- Cultivate a positive environment that fosters positive engagement and overall team morale, which helps maintain high retention rate of band members.
- Work with church youth to include them in various Sunday and concert performances.
- Manage all sheet music relevant to services, including new chart creation on frequent basis.
- Facilitate positive collaboration with Spiritual Life Center, another new thought church, including its leadership and choir for joint performances.
- Developed and maintain "CCM" (Chakra Catalog of Music), an online database application which allows access to our entire library of music, including performance dates, soloists, audio clips, charts, lyrics, song keys, composers, and more
- Developed and maintain online version of the Wings of Song hymnal, and African American Heritage Hymnal: website includes screen captures of the sheet music and .pdf version to print, lyrics, key signature, time signature, no. of pages, and .mp3 audio sample.

OWNER/INSTRUCTOR

06/2006 to CURRENT

The Tuning Note Music Studio | El Dorado Hills, CA

- Established www.TheTuningNote.com: website for home-based music business (private instructor, professional freelance musician, chart creation/transcription, accompanist, conductor, piano tuning)
- Private Instructor of all ages (piano, trumpet, trombone, French horn, Baritone horn; jazz improvisation for all instruments).
- Each student receives their own "Online Music Portfolio" website (OMP) (includes Glossary page, Audio Samples/Video Links Page, Games and Learning Tools Page).
- Annual recitals, including annual End of Summer driveway concert with stage and hired professional musicians to accompany jazz students. Separate recital for adult students.
- Member of Music Teachers Association of California (MTAC, 14 years); participated as Treasurer (6 years), Vice-President (2 years). Help students prepare for annual event "Certificate of Merit" (evaluation areas include Theory, Ear Training, Sight-reading, Technical Requirements, and 2-4 performance pieces)
- Created the Jazz Expressions Sheet (listing various harmonic options, rhythmic options, and other aspects of jazz improvisation).
- Created the Jazz Listening Worksheet for students. This form asks such things as: key, what instruments do you hear, personnel, time signature, the type of feel, intro-related questions, form, length of form, what instruments are playing the head, which instruments solo and how many

choruses, and type of ending. Backside includes questions related to singling out one player: are they communicating well, taking risks, etc.

- Custom piano arrangements created for adult students (e.g. hard to find songs, easier arrangements than those published).
- As many as 70 students, current load ~35-40.
- Professional Freelance Musician.
- Audio Transcription: hired to create charts/lead sheets for a number of vocalists (and gigs as needed) (e.g., transcribe from audio; condense vocal/piano scores down to 1-3 pages)
- Speaker/Presenter (Master Class on jazz improvisation, Woodcreek's 23rd Annual Jazz Festival, Woodcreek H.S., Roseville, CA 2/7/2025)
- Developed and maintain "Instrument Studies" comprehensive website for several instrument home pages. Each instrument home page includes: Parts of the Instrument, Fingerings, Tips, History of the Instrument, Duets, Repertoire, Greatest Classical Players, Greatest Jazz Players, and more)
- Past accompanist for choirs at Folsom High School, Sutter Middle School, and Folsom Middle School (Ginger Ekroth, Director)
- Past accompanist for Cantare (adult choir based in Placerville, CA)
- Past Choir Director for Children's Christmas Choir, St. John the Baptist, Folsom, CA
- Hosted long-standing weekly Jazz jam session at Clarion Hotel
- Performer with Folsom Lake Symphony Orchestra (Jan. 2007) (trumpet)
- Performer with Roanoke Symphony Orchestra (Dec. 2006) (trumpet)
- Piano Tuning (and light repair: replace strings, re-glue loose jack, pedal adjustment, etc.)

DIRECTOR, MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

01/2013 to 01/2014

Unity of Sacramento | Sacramento, CA

ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR

01/2008 to 12/2012

Unity of Sacramento | Sacramento, CA

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Music | Music Performance (4yrs Jazz Trpt, 1yr Jazz Piano) 05/1988

College-Conservatory of Music (Univ.of Cincinnati), Cincinnati, OH

Included coursework in studio recording; sound production for the stage; advanced arranging, advanced theory, and advanced improvisation; conducting; Spanish. Involved as Secretary for Phi Mu Alpha Professional Music Fraternity, CCM Tribunal (student government) and SOPHOS Honor Society.

AFFILIATIONS

- Music Teachers Association of California (MTAC)

CERTIFICATIONS

- Computer Programming Professional Certificate (Univ. of Cincinnati).

AWARDS



- Distinguished Minister's Service Award
- Charles Cooper Jr. Spirit of Excellence Award