

Melinda Leigh Packer Ellis

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Education

University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA

- Masters Degree in Viola Performance- May 2017
- Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance - January 2014
- Bachelor of Music in Music Education - January 2014

Certification

- Massachusetts teaching license K-12 Instrumental, General, and Choral
- California teaching license K-12 Instrumental, General, and Choral

Teaching Experience

Vacaville Unified School District, Vacaville CA, August 2017-Present

- Director of three instrumental ensembles at Vacaville High School
- Elementary instrumental music teacher for fifth and sixth grade beginning strings at five schools throughout the district
- Visual and Performing Arts Department lead 2020-present

Young Artists Conservatory of Music, Vacaville, CA, January 2018- September 2020

- Co-Director of the school's three a cappella groups for 9-18-year-old students
- Private and group lesson string instructor
- Instrumental director of two youth rock bands

Vocal Percussion Educator/ Clinician- 2014- Present

- Directed workshops on vocal percussion and beatboxing for students at elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels ranging in groups of 10-150 people
- Clinician at Music Education Conferences and A Cappella Festivals:
 - 2014 Massachusetts Music Educators Association Conference, 2016 Florida Music Educators Association Conference, SoJam A Cappella Festival 2016, New England Voices A Cappella Festival 2017, Boston Sings A Cappella Festival 2016 and 2017, National A Cappella Convention 2018 and 2019, 2019 California Music Educators Association Conference

Teaching Assistant, University of Massachusetts, Amherst-2015-2017

- Taught undergraduate Viola lessons, coached undergraduate string quartets, performed as a member of the graduate string quartet
- Instructed and designed a freshman seminar course for performance arts majors
- Facilitated discussion sections and graded papers as a TA for an undergraduate music appreciation course

A cappella Director

- Green Street Brew, Northampton MA- 2016-2017
 - Music Director and Vocal Percussionist for a 12-person adult a cappella group
- Berktones, Berkshire Hills Music Academy- 2016- 2017
 - Founded and directed an a cappella group and beatboxing ensemble at a

- music school for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- S#arp Attitude, UMass Amherst, Amherst MA- December 2011-2014
- Co-founder, Music Director for four years, vocal percussionist
- Vocal Percussionist on acclaimed first album 'Deja Vu'

Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional Turners Falls High School- Montague, MA- January 2015- June 2015

- 1:1 support for a 21-year-old student with severe intellectual and cognitive disabilities in a life skills program for 18-22 year olds
- Substitute teacher for a variety of subjects at both the middle and high school levels

Algonquin Regional High School- Northborough, MA- Aug. 2014-November 2014

- Student Teaching: Conducted band and orchestra, taught AP Music Theory, led sectional rehearsals

Hadley Elementary School- Hadley, MA- November 2014-January 2015

- Student teaching: Taught general music classes to kindergarten through sixth grade, third-sixth grade choir, and an advanced Orff ensemble

Teaching Artist- in-residence at Quabbin Regional High School-Barre, MA: 2013-2014 and Williston- Northampton School- Easthampton, MA: 2014-2015

- Taught beginning though intermediate Violin and Viola lessons to high school students

Secondary Instruments

- Violin, Cello, Double Bass, Electric Bass, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Beatboxing

Ensemble Experience

Orchestral Violist 2017-present

- Principal Violist Solano Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Napa Valley, Orchestra of Northern California, Vallejo Symphony Orchestra

Pit Orchestra's 2017-present

- Missouri Street Theater: Sweeney Todd, Gypsy, She Loves Me, Three Benefit Concerts

Musical Conducting Experience

- Solano Youth Theater's Fall 2019 production of Peter Pan
- Missouri Street Theatre productions: Elf the Musical, Into the Woods, Avenue Q, The Sound of Music, two galas and concerts
- Missouri Street is a professional theater company that typically has 12-20 show runs in a theater seating up to 400.

Professional Memberships

- National Association for Music Education
- American String Teachers Association
- Contemporary A Cappella Society of America
- California Teachers Association
- Sigma Alpha Iota: International Women's Music Fraternity

Leadership Positions

- President, Solano Symphony Orchestra board of directors (November 2021)

- Director of Education on the Operational Board of CASA (Contemporary A cappella Society of America)
- Department Lead for the Visual and Performing Arts Department at Vacaville High School
- Board member and Director of the Solano Symphony Orchestra's Young Artists Competition
- Education Coordinator for the 2020 Los Angeles A Cappella Festival (LAAF)
- Executive Producer for the 2019 Women's A Cappella Association's WeSing Vocal Festival

References

Andrea Kamman- Vice Principal of Vacaville High School

Ed Santopadre- Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources for the Vacaville Unified School District and Former Principal of Vacaville High School

Dae Spring- Missouri Street Theater Company Manager