

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Sarah Grace

She/Her

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Broadway Bound:
Improv/Drama Games
Teacher

Sarah Grace is a performer, writer, and teaching artist who hails from metro-Detroit. Thanks to the robust community and youth theater offerings in her home state, Sarah was able to pursue her passions for performing as well as teaching from an early age. By the time she left for college, Sarah had acted in over forty productions, as well as student taught youth theater competition teams and classes. Keeping her passion for performing and teaching, Sarah graduated New York University with honors, obtaining a B.F.A. in Drama and a minor in applied theater.

Since then, Sarah has worked as a teaching artist for Irondale Theater Ensemble, Opening Act, Educational Alliance, and Riverdale Country School. Through Wingspan Arts, Sarah has programmed and facilitated drama enrichment at almost two dozen NYC elementary schools. Sarah is also a dedicated performer, writer (plays, prose, and poetry), and producer. Acting credits include "Law and Order: SVU", dozens of independent short films, and endless off-off-Broadway plays. As a teacher and an artist, Sarah believes everyone deserves a safe space to find and express their authentic voice. When not at the theater or on set, Sarah can be found coaching fitness classes, listening to Kate Bush, or eating cookie dough.

Meet Our 2024 AARY Teaching Artists



Jahlani
Roberts

He/Him

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Play All Day:
Steel Pan Teacher

Jahlani Andrew Roberts is a multi-instrumental performance artist. Despite the absence of formal musical training, or introduction to instruments before freshman year of high school, he has become a literate Orchestrator, Educator, Composer, Teaching Artist, and Percussionist. Within the multicultural ocean of East Flatbush, Brooklyn he has developed a unique style of Steelpan music, often collaborating with local and international artists. Commissioned by Something Positive Inc., Mr. Roberts was artist in residence while touring Morocco, Abidjan, and Senegal. He's performed at The Wendy Williams Show, The View, the Today Show, the Barclay Center, Citi Field and The Trinidad and Tobago National Steelband Competition as well as starred in a lead role in a Musical "The Pan Man". Currently, Jahlani is a NYC DOE Vendor, teaching Steel Pan to children throughout the city, while continuing to release new music and projects.

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



William Black

He/Him

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Early Period:
Group Piano and Music
Fundamentals Teacher

William Black is a two-time winner of the Elinor Remick Warren Award for significant achievement in music composition, once for acoustic composition and once for electronic composition. He is the recipient of the Outstanding Musicianship Award at the Berklee Jazz Festival and First Chair in the Maine All-State Jazz Festival, among other accolades for academic jazz accomplishments. William studied composition and music theory at Occidental College under Adam Schoenberg, Irene Girton, and Dina Ormenyi; he graduated summa cum laude and was inducted into prestigious honor society Phi Beta Kappa.

Originally from Maine, William is a composer and music teacher specializing in music theory, ambient music, and 20th-century Western Art music. His distinct style of teaching is centered around adaptation to the needs of each student and emotional engagement with the music. William's courses center on the importance of understanding all aspects of music, including theory, performance, history, and production. He firmly believes in the mediative and healing power of music, which he explores both in his approach in the classroom and in his Harold Budd-esque ambient compositions that feature a mixture of piano and electronics.

In addition to composing and arranging customized pieces for his students at Brooklyn Music School, William continues to work on his ambient music and other genres of electronic music. He is currently commissioned to compose a song cycle based on the poems of James Joyce.

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Mieke Moll

She/Her

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Dance All Day:
Jazz Teacher

Mieke has studied dance for over 20 years in all genres including jazz, ballet, hip-hop, tap, lyrical, and musical theatre. She recently graduated from Syracuse University with a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. Some favorite performance credits include Judy in A Chorus Line and Sister Mary Robert in Sister Act. Mieke is an experienced teacher, dance captain and choreographer for children and adults in dance and theater. Her most recent choreography credits include Honk Jr., The Wizard of Oz at Riverdale Children's Theatre and The Music Man at Grand Rapids Circle Theatre. She is so excited to be sharing her love of jazz dance at Brooklyn Music School!

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Ebie Prideaux

She/Her

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Broadway Bound:
Musical Theatre Teacher

Ebie Prideaux is a chai tea latte with an extra dash of cinnamon. Always ready to collaborate, she is on a mission to help everyone (and herself) find their utmost joy. She holds degrees in both Theatre Performance and Government/Politics from the University of Maryland. Ebie may be seen teaching theatre, acting, or dance throughout the city. She looks forward to storytelling and creating safe spaces for all in her future.

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Amanda Tabor

She/Her

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Early Period & Strings n
Things: Group Piano
Teacher

Amanda has been fortunate to travel the world as a musician, performing in Italy, Germany, England, China, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. She learned under the baton of Pierre Boulez as a member of his Lucerne Festival Academy and worked closely with Sir Peter Maxwell Davies to realize his Lighthouse opera, in which she had a solo role. Knowing that these experiences were the direct result of a strong music education program in the California community she was raised in, Amanda has always made teaching a priority.

Amanda fiercely believes that music education plants seeds of creativity, resourcefulness, and resilience in students; critical qualities for all, no matter their background or goals. As a music educator her goal is to give students a strong technical and theoretical foundation, to help expose them to music that peaks their interest, and most importantly to encourage them to find joy in music.

Amanda holds a B.F.A. from California Institute of the Arts, an M.A. from UC San Diego, and a D.M.A. from SUNY Stony Brook; she lives happily in Brooklyn.

Meet Our 2024 AARY Teaching Artists



Samuel Weissberg

He/ Him

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Ready to Rock, Movin' and Groovin', and Rhythm Nation: Rock band and Group Guitar Teacher

Sammy Weissberg is a multi-instrumentalist, composer and arranger based out of NYC. He has contributed string and wind arrangements for projects by artists such as Caroline Rose, Kristine Leschper, The Cradle, Girlpool, and more. Sammy is also a prolific composer in his own right. His latest release, "Music for Strings and Winds" features compositions for string quartet, clarinet quintet and flute quintet.

Sammy is an active performing guitarist and bassist in the New York Scene. He's also toured the US extensively, as well as Internationally in Mexico and Japan. Sammy has performed at esteemed venues such as The Green Mill in Chicago, Le Poisson Rouge, Summer Stage, Lincoln Center and many more.

Sammy has been teaching professionally since graduating from the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in 2016. He is currently on faculty at The Brooklyn Music School and Gowanus Music Club. He has also taught at Third Street Music School and The Manhattan School of Music Pre-College division.

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Fitz Sam

He/ Him

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Rhythm Nation:
World Percussion Teacher

Mr. Fitz" has been a teaching artist at Brooklyn Music School since 2017. He brings 20 years of experience fostering musical and educational growth through instrument play, singing, and movement.

He has taught students from 6 months to 90 years old. Mr. Fitz's approach to drumming provides an outlet for creativity, energy, and joy for every kind of student. Part of this stems from his 15 years of experience working with special needs students in public and private schools.

Although he's studied many different styles of drumming, Mr. Fitz specializes in the traditional music of the Congolese people, he uses it as a starting point as well as a springboard to other styles of African, Caribbean, and American styles of drumming.

On his journey to mastering the drums, he studied with Kevin Jones, Marvin "Buggalu" Smith, and Coster Massamba. Mr. Fitz has also worked as an accompanist for various dance classes. Harlem School of the Arts, Alvin Alley, Cumbe Center for Dance, and Adelphi University African Dance class, to name a few. At the moment he is drumming for Mfoumbila and Fusia dance companies. He is currently a teaching artist with several music organizations.

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Ken O'Rourke

He/ Him

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Movin' and Groovin':
Drum Kids & Rhythm
Fundamentals Teacher

Ken O'Rourke is a multi-instrumentalist and educator. He began studying drums at age 7, and went on to study guitar, bass guitar, and classical percussion. As a percussionist in school, he participated in the New Jersey All-State Youth Orchestra as principal timpanist at age 14, and received best soloist awards in region-wide high school jazz band competitions both as a drummer and as a vibraphonist. He received his BM in Music Education and Percussion with a Jazz Minor at Ithaca College. In his career as a percussionist, he has performed in such venues as the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, NJPAC, Le Poisson Rouge, and the Rudolfinum in Prague, and has worked with conductors Alan Pierson, Michael Riesman, and James Baker. As a drummer he performed with The Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage and at Poor People's Campaign rallies in Binghamton NY and Gouldsboro NC alongside Rev. William Barber II. As an electric bassist, drummer, and percussionist, he continues to perform extensively with many bands and projects of varying styles in and around NYC, including regular residencies at venues such as The Bitter End. He currently lives in Jersey City where he continues to teach and perform.

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Crystal Rose Speros

She/Her

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Rhythm Nation:
Songwriting Teacher

With tingly, warm sounds, Crystal Rose weaves her musical cloth of slow grooves, personal songwriting, improvisational melodies, and subtle textures. Most recently, Crystal Rose helped co-produce and co-write the single "In My Dreams" released by Annique Monet, and released her song "CRS" an improvised piece she recorded. Other works of hers include "Anew" EP and "It's Raining in Here" LP. In her role as an educator, she aspires to always provide the tools necessary to help her students uncover their confidence and unique musical voice. She has learned the value of support and guidance through her education with musicians such as Nick Hakim, Jamie Leonhart, LaTanya Hall, Claudia Acuña, Scott Kettner, Kevyn Lettau, Glen Fisher among others, and during her time earning her BFA in Jazz and Contemporary Music from the New School. Crystal Rose currently has private students in voice, songwriting, ear training, and guitar. She also has worked with elementary and high school students in the classroom setting, leading them through songwriting exercises, and helping them learn to make music collaboratively. Crystal Rose grew up performing in San Diego, CA and is currently based in Brooklyn, NY, where she creates, performs, teaches, sends the universe questions, and does her best to keep on listening. She is currently recording a new EP, and learning more about engineering through her internship at Big Orange Sheep Studios. You can find her whereabouts on her website @ crystalrosesperos.com.

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Samuel Boateng

He/Him

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Dance All Day:
Afro Beats/Afro Dance &
Rhythm FUNdamentals
Teacher

Samuel Boateng is a jazz pianist, composer, dancer, visual artist, filmmaker, and scholar from Ghana. He has a Ph.D. in Jazz Studies from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.A. in Ethnomusicology from Kent State University. Samuel's Ph.D. research is located at the intersections of jazz transnationalism, decolonization, critical cosmopolitanism, Black internationalism, music communities, and intellectual property. In his current book project, *The Jazz Thing Is Great, But: Music, African Migration, Diasporic Dialogues, and Scene*, he investigates the intercultural collaborations of Ghanaian musicians in Britain, United States and Ghana in order to unsettle traditional narratives of jazz that place Africa only in the past of the music's development, and he highlights the continuous and mutual influences between Africa and the Black diaspora. In 2019, his research paper "Jazz and Contemporary Music Making in Ghana: Making a Case for Decolonizing African Music Research" was awarded the African Libraries Student Paper Prize through the African and African Diasporic Section of the Society for Ethnomusicology. He is one of two recipients of the inaugural Immersive Dissertation Research Fellowship through the Andrew Mellon Humanities Engage Program at University of Pittsburgh, and he was also awarded an Andrew Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in 2020. In 2021 he was awarded the American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

BROOKLYN MUSIC SCHOOL

As a musician, Samuel has collaborated with various bands and collectives across diverse genres including jazz, funk, reggae, hip hop, highlife, Afrobeat, dangdut, traditional African music and dance. He has performed at the John F. Kennedy Center, Kelly Strayhorn Theater in Pittsburgh, National Theater (Ghana), Lincoln Center, and Indosiar TV (Indonesia). In 2015, he was awarded the Outstanding Performance Award at the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival. In 2019 he collaborated as a pianist with funk and soul legend Betty Davis on her new song "A Little Bit Hot Tonight." As a composer and a 2019 ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composers Award winner, his works have been performed by the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra, Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Kent State Orchestra, Ion Sound, Adepa Ensemble, Hugo Cruz and Caminos, Quartetto di Venezia, and Afro Yaqui Music Collective.

As a 2021 artist in residence at Pittsburgh's New Hazlett Theater, and with the support of the Heinz Endowment for the Arts, Samuel's original musical *Sunsum is Spirit*—an exploration of myth, migration, and collaboration in the African diaspora—was premiered in 2021. Samuel's new film, *Accra Jazz Dialogues*—which explores the implications of jazz beyond the borders of the United States through conversations and performances with artists in Ghana's jazz scene—was premiered at the 2022 University of Pittsburgh Humanities Engage Symposium and has since been screened in Ghana and Canada. As a dedicated teacher, Samuel has over seven years of experience teaching music and dance courses as well as directing ensembles across various academic levels. He has taught courses in history of jazz, jazz improvisation, African music and dance, music theory, world music, piano and musicianship, music recording studio, and Afropop ensemble.

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Kelley
O'Malley

She/Her/Hers

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com

Dance All Day:
Ballet/Contemporary
Teacher

Kelley O'Malley began her dance training in Fishers, Indiana studying various styles of dance. Here she had the opportunity to perform at the Colt's Half Time show, Kings Island and Walt Disney World. She continued her studies at the University of South Florida in 2016. Here, she had the pleasure of performing in multiple spring and dance concerts for the Dance department as well as performing in their production of Sweet Charity and Cabaret. She also had the opportunity to study abroad in Paris, France under the tutorage of Michael Foley. While in college she began teaching at All American Dance Factory in Tampa. Kelley graduated USF in 2020 with her BFA in Modern dance and BA in Communication. After college she moved to NYC to continue learning and completed Broadway Dance Center's professional semester program. Kelley is excited to return to teaching and can't wait to join Brooklyn Music School next semester!

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Marija
Kovacevic

She/Her

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Strings n Things: Violin
Teacher

Born in Serbia, Marija began playing violin when she was seven years old, and has continued her love affair with music ever since. From the age of 10 she started training, under the tutelage of Georgy Zazrovic, at The School for Musically Gifted Children in Cuprija, one of three institutes in Europe exclusively devoted to the teaching of stringed instruments. During these years, and before moving on to university, she traveled throughout Europe, competing and winning multiple summa cum laude musical festival awards for solo and ensemble playing. She also attended master classes in Salzburg at Mozarteum with Tomas Hagen, and in Serbia with Yuri Bashmet and Gordan Nikolic.

Marija earned her master's degree and graduated in 2010 from the University for Music Arts in Belgrade, where she studied with Fern Raskovic, who was a student of David Oistrakh, and with Maria Spangler. During her college years, she took masterclasses of chamber music: "Sommeracademie Prague-Vienna- Budapest" with members of Prague Quartet, Artist Quartet, Bartok Quartet and Petersen Quartet; and "Virserum Musikdagar" in Sweden held by Michael Ude.

BROOKLYN MUSIC SCHOOL

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Marija began developing an interest beyond classical music and started working with "Dah Theater" which took her on a tour through Serbia with a play called "In/Visible City." Just months after graduation, she moved to New York City, where she continues to reside, and which opened the doors for her to not only expand her music horizons even more, but to also further pursue her love of theater.

She joined and continues to be part of "The Talking Band" company – pioneers of downtown avant-garde and experimental theater in New York since the 1970s. The current work in progress that she collaborates on has resulted in a show called "The Goldent Toad" at LaMama Theater. Marija more recently became a member of another theater group called "The Million Underscores" performing at MoMa, The Museum of Modern Art. The work in this company encouraged her to improvise on both violin and viola, and she has started adding electronics (pedals) to music that she creates and now records on soundtracks.

Marija's affair with tango music began after meeting Emilio Solla, through whom she met a number of tango musicians and eventually became a member of "Astoria Tango Orchestra" the only "Orquestra Tipica" in USA led by Maestro Daniel Binelli (who played with Astor Piazzolla in his famous "New Tango Sextet"). They played at Lincoln Center in the summer of 2016, among other places. She also became a member of "The Aces Of Rhythm," a Tango Sextet led by Pablo Aslan – playing at Lincoln Center in the summer of 2017. Marija has performed in many other ensembles playing all kinds of music (Willie Colon, Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin, Marie Christine Katz, Ibo Cooper, Freddy McGregor, Ken Boothe, Hamish Kilgour to name a few) – performing with some of these musicians in venues in front of 20,000+ people.

Along with exploring and expanding her repertoire, Marija privately teaches violin to students of all skill levels.

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Matt Graham

He/They

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@gmail.com

Broadway Bound:
Musical Theatre Teacher

Matt Graham is a Canadian musical theatre artist currently living and working in NYC! Matt holds a bachelors degree in jazz and contemporary music from MacEwan University and recently graduated from NYU TISCH with an MFA in musical theatre writing. As a performer, writer, teacher, composer and musical director Matt has been working in musical theatre for over ten years. Favorite credits include music direction for productions of Hedwig and The Angry Inch, Bat Boy the Musical, Bring it On and RENT, and performing in productions of [title of show], Seussical and Spring Awakening as well as the title role in Calvin Berger (Canadian Premiere). Matt and his collaborators have also enjoyed producing runs of their two original musicals Almost Heroes (Edmonton International Fringe Festival) and Marnie Day (NextFest). Check out the original cast album for Almost Heroes @bandcamp.com! Most recently Matt has enjoyed being the musical director for several new works here in New York including All We Know of Love and Fire (Lime Fest @ the Tank), The Story of a Daughter (Arts Incubator, Mercy College), The Angel Makers (Abrons Art Centre), and his own short musical The Talk (nominated for best short at New York Theatre Festival).

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Christopher Costa

He/Him

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Dance All Day:
Hip Hop/Breaking Teacher

Chris 'Push' Costa, began dancing in high school, performing in shows and rallies until moving to NYC at age 18, becoming a regular in the underground street dance scene where he began competing in battles and building a community of break dancers to train with. Drawing inspiration from some of NYC's innovators & teachers, he began to mix waving, house, and animation styles with his break dancing.

In 2012, Chris began his teaching career with a Youth Breaking Program in Queens for ages 4-16, along with adult workshops. Expanding his residency in 2014 teaching classes at PMT, Coming Scope, RNNL, IDS, and various Workshops. He began performing weekly throughout NYC with funk band 'Days of Wild' led by Papa Guyo (Sly and The Family Stone), touring in the Montauk Music Festival in 2014, 2015, & 2016. Chris has performed hundreds of shows at major venues including; Blue Note, BAM, Barclays Center, B.B. Kings on 42nd, NYC Summer Stage, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Lincoln Center, MMAC, Bowery Electric, Nublu, The Red Lion, The Cutting Room, the Delancy, Riverside Church Theater, NYSOM, Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theater, PMT Showcases, NYAFF, and many more.

In 2019 he founded 'Free Focus Dance Company' bringing together various street dance styles and performing throughout the east coast working with major brands such as Boost Mobile, CHASE, 88 Rising, LIV, Tiger Sugar, U.S. Open, Staten Island Children's Museum, and many more.

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Raphael Gouldschwartz

He/Him

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Ready to Rock, Strings n
Things, and Movin &
Groovin': Rock Band &
Ukulele Teacher

Raphael Gould-Schwartz has been involved in music for 14 years. Through playing and writing music (extra curricular programs, HS jazz band, garage bands) his lead him to study Studio Composition at Purchase college, where he developed a large catalogue of original works including instrumental and film music, as well as singer-songwriter oriented pieces. Raphael also supported other artists in college as a sideman. After graduation Raphael has continued to compose music for commissioned projects, and work on his solo project GOM, he has also continued supporting other artists as a sideman. Raphael specializes in guitar, bass, and voice. He teaches rock band, and guitar classes as well as private lessons. He focuses on developing group cohesion through active listening and thoughtful playing.

Meet Our 2024 ARY Teaching Artists



Tiffany Wilhelm

She/They

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Broadway Bound, Movin & Groovin': Choir Teacher

Tiffany (she/they) is a New York based composer, arts educator, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist with 15+ years of experience writing, performing, and teaching professionally.

As an instructor, Tiffany's focus is on fostering students' passion for music. She utilizes a student-centered approach, via adaptive pedagogy and coaching-oriented frameworks, to develop well-rounded, confident artists supported by comprehensive musicianship skills.

As an artist, Tiffany composes, collaborates with other artists, is a songwriter and lyricist, and has performed around the world. She currently performs at various cabaret and similar venues around NYC.

A multi-hyphenate professional, Tiffany additionally stage manages live and virtual theater productions and is a member of the wardrobe crew for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Tiffany is also Executive Director of BostonFIG, a non-profit serving indie games development and community - for which she has produced festivals and other programming, designed metaverse spaces, composed and designed music and soundscapes, and more!