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Dear friends,

Welcome to the Upper Valley Music Center's 30th anniversary season! Ever since UVMC was founded in a local living room, our mission has been to help people come together to make music. During this special year, we'll be celebrating through gatherings and performances of all sizes and shapes, including children in their first recital, adults in orchestra or chorus, and our accomplished faculty and guest artists.



Concerts like today grow out of transformative teaching, which is at the heart of Upper Valley Music Center. From a baby's first song to a professional musician refining their craft, a teacher or a mentor can have a profound influence on the music we make. UVMC faculty are dedicated to helping people of all ages find their music so they can sing and play with friends and family.

Performers and audiences now gather in more ways than ever before. We hold performances in all kinds of places – concert halls, churches, parks, schools, libraries, parking lots, backyards, sidewalks, tunnels, to name a few – and technology means that we are no longer limited by a physical location. Friends, family, and neighbors can join from anywhere in the world, whether stuck at home in the snow or living on a different continent. No two performances are the same and, through these unique moments of melody, harmony, and rhythm, we share joy, solace, comfort and strength.

I hope you enjoy the music, and please join me in thanking everyone who has made today's performance possible – students, faculty, parents, businesses, donors, and friends in the community!

Let's make music!

Benjamin Van Vliet
Executive Director



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Upper Valley Music Center (UVMC) was the brainchild of three founders: a parent with a background in marketing, a professional string teacher with extensive experience in academic and business administration, and an amateur chamber musician with years of involvement in the nonprofit field.

Founded in 1995, UVMC initially focused on providing ensemble opportunities and chamber music, including two choruses for young people, a community orchestra for adults, and string ensembles for young instrumentalists. In 2002, UVMC established a Suzuki Program, a philosophy and method that teaches music using the principles of language learning. The success of the Suzuki Program, which included individual instrumental instruction, paved the way for a growing faculty in a variety of instruments and voices.

In 2008, UVMC moved to 63 Hanover Street in Lebanon and expanded further to become the region's only full-service community music school. New program offerings included individual lessons, group classes, ensembles, workshops, and master classes with guest artists. Early childhood and adult programs grew quickly.

In January 2017, UVMC's Board of Directors launched Securing Our Future, a capital campaign to acquire a permanent home at 8 South Park Street in Lebanon, located off Colburn Park. The campaign was met with immediate

generosity and UVMC moved into the new facility in September 2017.

In 2021, the Bringing Us Together campaign helped UVMC install a state-of-the-art, energy efficient HVAC system. This forward-thinking investment provides fresh, filtered air to everyone making music, and helps UVMC be a good environmental steward.

In 2025, UVMC will be celebrating 30 years of making music in the community. Our mission continues to be providing and promoting the best in music education throughout the Upper Valley and ensuring everyone has access regardless of their means. We hope you'll join us!

Did you know?

*In the last year,
Upper Valley Music Center:*

- Welcomed almost 2,000 participants
- Provided 9,656 hours of classes and lessons
- Partnered with 71 local organizations
- Presented more than 75 student, faculty, and guest artist performances

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Jaclyn Ager, *Voice*, is a classically trained soprano, musical theater performer, and Upper Valley native. After graduating from Dartmouth College, Jaclyn worked as an actor, stage manager, and theater educator in New York City before returning to New Hampshire to be the Associate Director of Education at Northern Stage and now to work at her alma mater. She is excited to be joining the faculty at UVMC to work with students of all ages, especially young emerging singers in elementary, middle, and early high school.

Annie Arrington, *Choral*, is a passionate music educator and mother of three. She and her husband of almost 20 years have lived in Idaho, Mississippi, Washington, Georgia, and New Hampshire. She has held a variety of teaching, conducting, and leadership positions over the years, including high school and church choir, private voice and piano, and small business administration. She is also a choral composer, songwriter, and avid researcher of the singing voice.

Amy Cann, *Fiddle*, is a fiddler, violinist/violist, and contra/English country dance caller/bandleader. “I was lucky twice — my first degree came from the Crane School of Music, where my violin teacher was a past student of Ivan Galamian’s and my accompaniment coach had collaborated/toured with Leonard Rose. My second ‘degree’ came from listening to and improvising with a host of old-school master fiddlers, players whose names might not be known to the wider world, but who helped their neighbors dance for decades.”

Alicia Casey, *Suzuki Violin*, received a Bachelor of Music from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Australia where she was a student of Elizabeth Morgan and a Master of Music from the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she was a student of Elizabeth Chang. Alicia has performed with orchestras, quartets and as a soloist throughout the United States, Australia, and Europe. Alicia grew up as a Suzuki student starting at the age of 3 and has registered Suzuki training in Books 1-10.

Alison Cheroff, *Piano*, studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and received her master’s in piano performance from Hunter College, studying with Edna Golandsky. She is a former faculty member of the Preparatory Division of the Mannes College of Music in New York and the Taubman Institute of Piano at Amherst College. She specializes in teaching musicians a coordinate and free technique, which prevents and relieves pain such as tendinitis, and helps pianists to reach their highest musical potential. Alison published a beginning piano book, *Bananas Hardly Say Anything During the Day*, in 2018.

FACULTY, CONT.

Rachel Clemente, *Harp*, a pedal and traditional Scottish harpist, began her training as a student of the Suzuki method and is now a certified teacher and avid supporter of the methodology of nurturing the whole child/student. She is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy, earned a bachelor's in traditional Scottish music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow, and won the U.S. National Scottish Harp Championship (2016) and the Princess Margaret of the Isles Clàrsach Competition (USA, 2021). Rachel works to spread awareness and access to the lever harp through her program, Hands on Harps.

Elizabeth Clendenning, *Violin*, received a Bachelor of Music from the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia where she was a student of Ivan Galamian. She earned a Master of Music from Cleveland Institute of Music and played in the Cleveland Orchestra under George Szell for six seasons. Since moving to Hanover, New Hampshire, she has been concertmaster of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and Opera North. She has taught violin at St. Paul's School and Dartmouth College. Because of her husband Bill's love of opera, she has heard beautiful music in many lovely places.

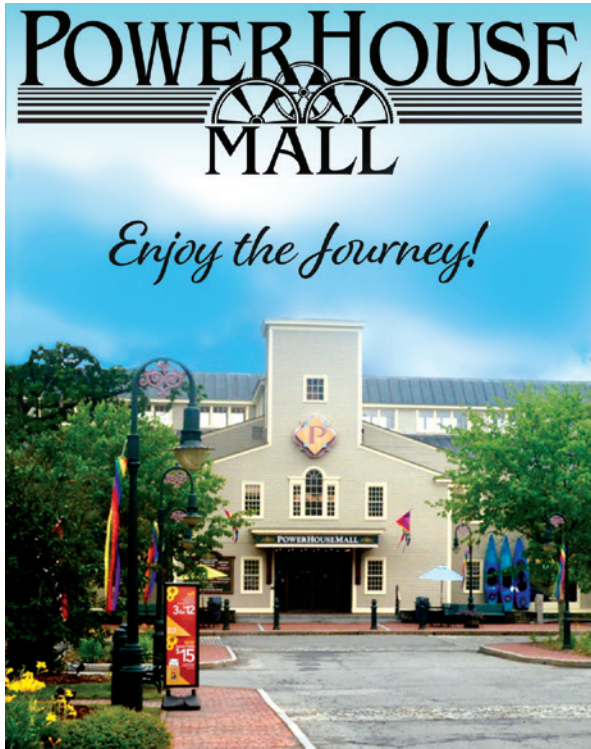
Tim Cohen, *Percussion*, attended Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music in Winchester, VA, where he studied under John R. Beck for percussion performance and William Averitt for music composition. He has performed with the New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra, Connecticut River Valley Orchestra, South Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Haddonfield Symphony Orchestra, Atlantic Brass Band, East Bay Jazz Ensemble, and many other ensembles.

Carol Compton, *English Country Dance Music*, has a Master of Education from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Arts from Haverford College. In college she gave up performing classical music to play contra, English, and Colonial dance in the mid-Atlantic before returning to her native New Hampshire in the 1990s. She's performed at the Smithsonian, Winterthur, and Gettysburg; played festivals and dances from Ontario to West Virginia; and played for Morris dancers from the hills of southern New Hampshire to the streets of southern England. Carol plays piano, recorder, accordion and leads dance musician workshops and open bands for contra, family, and English dances. She is also the Operations Coordinator/Education Programs Director at the Brattleboro Music Center in Vermont.

Joni Cushman, *Early Childhood Piano, Music Together*, graduated from the University of Florida, where she studied English and music performance. She has participated as a pianist and percussionist in classical, marching, and jazz ensembles throughout Florida. She received her Music Together certification in 2022. Joni is thrilled to be working with the UVMC community and enjoys helping kids build skills, confidence, and a love for making music.

Lois Fein, *Music Together*, studied music composition with Elliot Forbes, guitar with David Wilcox, and songwriting with The Kingston Trio's John Stewart. She is a pre-K/kindergarten teacher in Reading, Vermont and a congregational song leader at Shir Shalom in Woodstock, Vermont. As an educator for more than 20 years and founder of The Full Moon EarthSONG Singalong, Lois has taught and performed at cafes, folk festivals, and many other venues. She has released one album, *Step Into the Water* (Demetri Sterling Records, 2006), and is working with children on a new album of original music called *Sound Play*.

George Fowler, *Fiddle*, trained classically as a youngster and started fiddling in the late 1970s, learning tunes from lobsterman and folk fiddler Albert Collins of South Blue Hill, Maine. He was a founding member of Oakum Bay String Band (1981-2011), a member of The Montville Project, a repertory dance band which has recorded two albums of New England dance music. He also recorded a personal album, *Never Better*. George was on staff at Maine Fiddle Camp for 15 years, and also taught for many years at Fiddle Hell in Massachusetts and Acadia School of Traditional Music and Arts.



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Yvette Garnham, Trombone, has been one of the music teachers at Lebanon Middle School since 2012, where she teaches classroom music, chorus, and brass lessons to beginners. Previously, Yvette taught at Seminary Hill School from 2007-2012. She graduated from University of Vermont in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education, and, in 2011, she completed her Master's degree in Music Education at Gordon College. Yvette has been a trombone player for the past 30 years, most recently playing with the Newmont band. She lives in Grantham with her two daughters and husband.

Faith Goodness, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, has been a private instructor since 1999. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Rhode Island (*summa cum laude*) as well as an MBA. She has had the opportunity to study with professional artists and composers: Dr. Kerry Walker, Gary Schocker, Jennifer Higdon, Ali Ryerson, Susan Thomas, and the late Julius Baker. In addition to her teaching background, Faith is an active performer. She has performed in chamber groups and large ensembles in a broad variety of musical styles, especially classical and jazz. She lives in Enfield, New Hampshire.



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FACULTY, CONT.

Jennifer Carol Hansen, *Voice, Mezzo-soprano*, is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Dartmouth College. She has performed as soloist with orchestras and choruses throughout Northern New England, and has been a semifinalist in the Oratorio Society of New York Annual Solo Competition. She is a cantor at St. Denis in Hanover, New Hampshire. She teaches voice on the faculty of UVMC and Brattleboro Music Center. Her students have gone on to study in music or theater programs at Oberlin, St. Olaf, Malloy, Belmont, Elon, Ithaca, Sarah Lawrence, Dartmouth, and others.

Sean Hay, *DJ Academy, a.k.a. DJ Sean*, has been a DJ, MC, and event promoter for more than 15 years. Sean learned the art of DJing from his family, who moved from Jamaica to Long Island in 1985. As he grew up he graduated from watching to carrying equipment to DJing his first event in high school, quickly moving from private parties to night clubs in New York City. After moving to Vermont with his family, Sean began his own entertainment company and partnered with UVMC to create the DJ Academy, passing on his knowledge and skills to the next generation.

Draa Hobbs, *Guitar*, has been a professional musician and educator for close to four decades. He has performed in music venues throughout the Northeast and in



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Europe. He has performed in concerts with Don Friedman, Ron McClure, Eliot Zigmund, John Stowell, Peter Bernstein, Steve Cardenas, and vocalist Kendra Shank. Hobbs teaches guitar and ensemble classes at the Vermont Jazz Center and led a series of masterclasses at the Grafton Inn playing host to world class guitarists who travel to Vermont to share their knowledge with professional musicians.

Katie Kitchel, *Music Together*, graduated from Dartmouth College and Woodbury College with degrees in government and conflict management, but music and performing have always been powerful siren calls. After completing her training in 2004 with Music Together Co-founder Lili Levinowitz, she has been inspiring families to make “music together” for almost two decades. Katie has a passion for performance and youth theater education and truly loves to work with the younger members of the community.

Benjamin Kulp, *Suzuki, Traditional Cello*, graduated from St. Olaf College with a Bachelor of Music in Performance and has a Master of Music from Ball State University, with further studies with Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi and Brant Taylor. He is an active solo and chamber performer in the Upper Valley. He is a former member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and the Miami Symphony Orchestra, and teaches at workshops and institutes across the United States.

Emma McAlister, *Suzuki Violin/Viola*, earned a Bachelor of Music in Performance from the University of Wisconsin Whitewater and a Master of Music with an emphasis in Suzuki Talent Education from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. She has extensive experience teaching private violin lessons, group classes, and coaching orchestra sectionals. She had the privilege to be concertmaster of the UW Whitewater Symphony and the Chamber Orchestra and the assistant concertmaster of the UW Stevens Point Symphony. She enjoys working with students of all ages and skill levels.

Jeremiah McLane, *Traditional Ensembles*, has served on the faculties of SUNY Plattsburgh, the Summit School for Traditional Music, and is the founder and director of the Floating Bridge Music School. He has a master’s in Contemporary Improvisation from The New England Conservatory, and performs in a wide variety of genres, including blues, jazz, Celtic, Québécois, French, and other roots-influenced music. He teaches regularly at summer music programs throughout the United States, including Ashokan, American Festival of Fiddle Tunes, Maine Fiddle Camp, Lark in the Morning, John C. Campbell Folk School, and Pinewoods camps.

Marshall Meade, *Violin, Viola, Cello*, is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and Interlochen Arts Academy. He is the concertmaster of the Upper Valley Symphony Orchestra. He has recently retired from the Hanover Public Schools



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where he was orchestra teacher at the high school and middle school. He teaches for the EPIC string program in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. He has been Concertmaster of the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra and Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestras. He has taught at Western Michigan University, the University of Connecticut, Olivet College, and Mary College. During the summer, he performs with the Silver Bay String Quartet on Lake George in New York.

Mark Nelson, *Theory, Preparing to Hear Masterworks, Upper Valley Symphony Orchestra*, is a multifaceted musician with more than 30 years experience as a conductor, composer, and musicologist. He has been Performing Arts Chair at four independent schools, conducted instrumental and choral ensembles in schools, colleges, and communities, and as a composer has pursued interests in American experimental and electronic-music traditions. Dr. Nelson has also undertaken extensive study of North Indian classical vocal music in Pune, India and Javanese gamelan at Wesleyan University.

Julie Ness, *Voice, Soprano*, has been living and teaching in the Upper Valley since 2006. After training at Oberlin Conservatory, she sang professionally for years in opera and concert work. As a singer, she now focuses on the intersection of bluegrass, folk, and classical music. With an active private voice studio, as well as teaching at the Upper Valley Music Center, Northern Stage's Boot Camp program, and Dartmouth College, her students can be heard throughout the Upper Valley musical scene as well as competing regionally and nationally at NATS, All State, NEMFA, and ACDA.

William Ögmundson, *Collaborative Piano*, is an award-winning composer and an accomplished pianist. He has performed on three continents, and his recordings have more than 20 million streams on Spotify, Pandora, and Apple Music. William has written numerous musical scores for the stage and television, and he has performed at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris and St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, where he was honored to have been the organist for a Sunday morning mass. William resides in New Hampshire with his wife, Heather, and three children, and is the music director at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Lisa Piccirillo, *Music Together*, has been singing her whole life. She has toured the country performing as a solo artist and as a member of Hotels & Highways. Lisa plays guitar, ukulele, piano, and percussion instruments, but considers vocal harmony her specialty. Lisa graduated from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY with a major in elementary education and went on to receive her Music Together certification. She can be seen performing around the Upper Valley with her pop-rock cover band, The Tricksters, and her original records, *Momentum* and *Radiate*, are available on all streaming platforms.

FACULTY, CONT.

Allison Whiteside Pollard, *Music Together, Children's Chorus, Voice, Soprano*, is a classically trained soprano, choral director, music educator, and board-certified music therapist. Following her graduation from Miami of Ohio, Allison performed with Cincinnati-area professional choirs, including solos in Haydn's *Creation* and Handel's *Samson*. She has performed in many musical theater and operatic productions, including *Carmen* with Opera North and Leonard Bernstein's *MASS* with Cincinnati May Festival. Allison graduated from Lesley University with a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Music Therapy. She recently became board certified in music therapy and is looking forward to introducing this practice to the Upper Valley.

Christine Rua, *Recorder, Early Music, Oboe*, graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Music from the Crane School of Music at Potsdam, NY with a teaching degree and a focus in oboe. She recently completed a 10-year tour with Cirque du Soleil's show *Varekai*. While with Cirque she played a wide range of instruments including recorders, flutes, oboe, clarinet, shawms, bombards, bagpipes, percussion and performed as a vocalist. Chris has performed, recorded, toured, and taught Early Music with a focus on the Renaissance and Baroque periods.

Erin Smith, *Music Together*, is a fiddler, early childhood music educator, contra and square dance caller, and passionate arts administrator. She completed Music Together training in 2018, and has taught music and dance at UVMC and in schools, camps, barns, dance halls, and senior centers. Erin has a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Clemson University and a Master of Education in Arts in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She started Suzuki violin lessons at age 3, and now plays bass and fiddle for contra dances and community events.

Nathan Sperl, *Ukulele, Guitar*, began his musical journey at the age of 6 when he first picked up a guitar, and he's been playing ever since. Nate brings with him a wealth of experience, enthusiasm, and a deep-rooted love for teaching that is apparent in every lesson. Nate's teaching repertoire extends from private one-on-one sessions to engaging group lessons that encompass both guitar and ukulele proficiency, as well as the art of songwriting.

Christian Terry, *Percussion*, is currently the Band Director and Music Teacher at Lebanon Middle School in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Christian graduated from Keene State College in Keene in 2020 with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education. Christian holds a Master of Music Education from the Longy School of Music. Christian has been playing percussion from a young age and is an avid performing musician from around the area including pit orchestras, community bands, and community orchestras. Christian also teaches at Cardigan Mountain School teaching percussion and the wind band.

Jennifer Turbes, *Suzuki and Traditional Viola/Violin*, earned a Bachelor of Arts from St. Olaf College and Master and Doctor of Musical Arts in viola performance from the Eastman School of Music. She has registered Suzuki teacher training in Books 1-5. Jennifer is passionate about instrumental study as a valuable vehicle for developing many of life's necessary skills. She enjoys performing viola throughout Vermont and New Hampshire and also plays the Norwegian Hardanger fiddle.

Benjamin Van Vliet, *Suzuki Violin/Viola, Fiddle*, holds a Master of Music in Violin Performance from the University of Massachusetts Amherst where he studied violin with Elizabeth Chang and viola with Kathym Lockwood, and a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Vassar College. Ben has registered Suzuki teacher training in Books 1-10. He has performed solo, in chamber ensembles, and in orchestras in the United States and Europe, as well as with the Lighthouse Chamber Players, the Folger Consort, and the Bahn Quartet.

Chenyu Wang, *Piano*, earned her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Eastman School of Music in 2015, a Master of Music in Piano Performance from the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University Bloomington in 2017, and a Doctor



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FACULTY, CONT.

of Music in Piano Performance at the Hartt School of Music in 2021. Dr. Wang has performed across the United States, Europe, and Asia. She is an award-winning pianist in national and international competitions, including the American Prize (2019), IBLA Annual International Music Competition, and the Bartok-Kabalevsky-Prokofiev International Piano Competition.

Peter Warsaw, *Piano*, trained at Harvard and Eastman School of Music under Russell Sherman, Leonard Shure, and Maria Luisa Faini. He has performed solo recitals, concertos — including Ravel's G Major with the Boston Pops — and chamber music, including Beethoven and Debussy sonatas with Lynn Harrell and Yo-Yo Ma respectively. Following a career at Phillips Academy Andover (where he taught piano, chamber music, and music theory/composition) and Deerfield Academy (where he founded both the chamber music and orchestral programs), Peter founded and led three schools in China.

Judy Wild, *Violin*, received her master's in violin performance from the Royal Northern College of Music and a honors degree in music. She has teaching diplomas in violin and piano from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, the most influential teachers being Andrew Watkinson (Endellion String Quartet) and pianist Frank Wibeaux. She worked as a freelance violinist in the United Kingdom and as a member of the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra in Europe. In the Upper Valley, Judy has played with Opera North, Dartmouth Gospel Choir, Handel Society, Dartmouth Symphony, and is a founding member of the Sterling String Quartet. She is passionate about teaching violin and piano and enjoys working with all age groups.

Brooke Wilkinson, *Music Together*, has taught at UVMC since 2012. Brooke brings music to many children throughout the Upper Valley through Dartmouth Child Care Center and the White River Valley Supervisory Union. She also can be heard singing grownup music as part of an acoustic duet.

Jane Woods, *Theory*, received her Bachelor of Music in Music Education (piano/vocal) from the University of Delaware and her Master of Music (choral conducting under Elaine Brown) from Temple University. She did further choral studies at Westminster Choir College and with Helmuth Rilling at the Oregon and Stuttgart Sommerakademie J.S. Bach. Jane conducted high school, college and church choirs in the Philadelphia area before becoming Choral Director at Hanover High School, where she conducted Chorus, Footnotes, the spring musicals, and taught Music Theory. Retired after 21 years at HHS, Jane is currently the Conductor of Bel Canto Chamber Singers and Musical Director for North Country Community Theatre (NCCT) teens.

Nicholas Zannoni, *Violin, Viola, Chamber Music, Youth Ensembles*, is a charismatic violinist and music educator based in the Upper Valley. He provides string instruction to students of all ages and abilities, conducts and coaches various ensembles, and creates opportunities for his community to connect musically through chamber music. Nicholas holds bachelor degrees in Music Education and Violin Performance, and a Master of Music in Education and Violin. He is trained in Suzuki Violin books 1-6, and is a certified K-12 music teacher.

Michael Zsoldos, *Saxophone, Improvisation*, is a senior lecturer in Jazz and Classical Saxophone and Music Theory, and is Director of the Performance Lab in Jazz Improvisation in the music department at Dartmouth College. Michael leads the Michael Zsoldos Quintet and performs as a member of Jota Sete, led by guitarist Jason Ennis. He is also a member of the Colombian/Jazz fusion band, the Convergence Project, and Chilean singer Natalia Bernal's project, En Diablada, which has a forthcoming album in fall 2024. Michael is on the teaching faculty of Interplay Jazz & Arts and Vermont Jazz Center in Brattleboro, Vermont. He enjoys teaching highly motivated jazz enthusiasts of all ages.



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