**Recommended Lessons Teachers**

**Melissa Curtis**- melcurt@gmail.com (312) 391-4219

Melissa Curtis, soprano, holds a B.M. in Commercial Music from Millikin University. While at Millikin she was privileged to perform with the prestigious Millikin University Choir as well as the vocal jazz group “One Voice”. Upon graduating, she was accepted to study and perform early music in Italy at the Centro Studi Urbania. Melissa is a sought after soprano in the Chicagoland area and is known for her variety of vocal stylings. She is a founding member of the early music ensemble The Marion Consort, and is also the soprano section leader for the Wicker Park Choral Singers. Outside of her studio and performance life, she enjoys writing and recording original music as well as collaborating with other recording artists and singing with her band Revolutionary Lion. Melissa currently resides in Chicago, Illinois and is a piano and vocal instructor in Chicago, Geneva, Lockport, Frankfort, and Lombard. Melissa is also a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), and is the director of Lincoln Way East's Vocal Jazz ensembles.

**Jeanne Fornari**- jeannemarie60510@gmail.com (630) 550-6678

Jeanne Fornari is a classically and commercially trained vocalist based in Batavia, IL. Fornari studied music education and vocal performance at Illinois State University and DePaul University. She has over 30 years experience in performing in all genres including classical, chamber, jazz, pop, Broadway, and also considers choral ensemble singing technique as a specialty. Fornari integrates a comprehensive approach to instruction including mastering sight-singing, tonal memory, breathing technique, and performance analysis. Fornari spent over a decade with Lyric Opera of Chicago working in Public Relations, and is currently a soprano with the acclaimed St. Charles Singers. 30 or 60 minute sessions are available. Contact Jeanne at for more information.

**Kate Hahn**- [katehahnmusic@gmail.com](mailto:katehahnmusic@gmail.com) (630) 945-0617

Kate Hahn is a mezzo-soprano who has been trained in jazz, classical, musical theatre and pop singing and pedagogy. She is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago with a B.A. in Vocal Performance and a B.A. in Advertising & Public Relations, where she studied voice with Sarah Ponder and sang in multiple ensembles directed by Kirsten Hedegaard. Kate has been the lead singer in a jazz combo for over five years and founded Loyola’s premier vocal jazz ensemble, The LUC Jazzuits, in 2017. She sang and was a section leader in Loyola’s Chamber Choir and University Chorale, where she was a soloist in Mozart’s Requiem, David Lang’s Little Match Girl Passion, Paul Winter’s Missa Gaia and Beethoven’s Choral Fantasy, as well as a recital performance of Durufle’s Requiem. In addition, Kate has significant experience in masterclass and workshop settings with artists such as Felicia Finley and the St. Charles Singers. She currently writes and records music.

**Christopher Jackson-** christopherjacksontenor@gmail.com (513) 349-9944

His voice has been described as “a warm lyric voice with a high extension,” tenor, Christopher Jackson, is a versatile singer with experience ranging from the early music of the Baroque period through to Gospel. While at home on the operatic stage, he also has experience as a voice teacher and coach, professional chorister and recitalist.

Christopher’s opera credits include (but are not limited to) Rinuccio in Gianni Schicchi, The Vendor and Gherardo in Puccini’s Il Tabarro, King Kaspar in Amahl and the Night visitors, Belmonte in Die Entführung aus dem Serail and Ferrando in Così fan tutte.

His solo concert repertoire consists of Bach's Mass in B minor, Magnificat, Mass in D minor, Handel's The Messiah, Mozart's Requiem, and James Whitbourn's The Mystery of Love and Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis.

As a choral musician he has sung with Chicagoland ensembles St. Charles Singers, Heartland Voices, Eclectic Choral Artist, Cor Cantiamo and The Canterbury Singers of Dixon. Experiences in choral ensembles have taken him to perform at venues such as Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center in NYC and national conferences like American Choral Directors Association (ACDA).

Christopher holds a Master of Music and Performer's Certificate in Voice from Northern Illinois University where he studied under the tutelage of bass Myron Myers. He also holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Bowling Green State University where he studied with tenor Christopher Scholl.

**Zachary Owen-** [charleszowen@gmail.com](mailto:charleszowen@gmail.com) (815) 262-5892

Born and raised in Illinois, American bass-baritone Zachary Owen has performed with such companies as the Glimmerglass Festival, Arizona Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Kentucky Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Central City Opera, Opera North, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and Opera Santa Barbara. He has performed the roles of Dulcamara in L’elisir d’amore, Alidoro in La Cenerentola, Ashby in La fanciulla del West, Don Fernando in Fidelio, Figaro in Le nozze di Figaro, Nick Shadow in The Rake’s Progress, Frank Maurrant in Street Scene, the Commendatore in Don Giovanni, der Sprecher in Die Zauberflöte, Spencer Coyle in Owen Wingrave, and the title role in Don Pasquale. In the 2018 season, Mr. Owen returned to the Marion Roose Pullin Studio at Arizona Opera and performed several roles including Don Basilio in Il barbiere di Siviglia, Angelotti in Tosca, and Lycos in Hercules vs. Vampires. A returning member of the Glimmerglass Festival, he went on to perform the Badger and the Parson in The Cunning Little Vixen, cover Don Basilio in Il barbiere di Siviglia, as well as perform supporting roles in West Side Story and cover the French General in Silent Night. Coming up, he will return to Kentucky Opera for his mainstage debut as Don Bartolo in Le Nozze di Figaro.

**Piano Instructors**

**David Kellen-** dkellen@chicagopianos.com (630) 461-5966

David Kellen is a man of many talents. Studio Owner, teacher, freelance jobbing musician, director of church music. The owner of Studio K Music in Aurora, Illinois, he has mentored hundreds of youth and adults in piano and keyboard instruction since 1991. Over the years Studio K has been one of the most successful piano studio in the western suburbs of Chicago,. His secret to success has been helping kids and adults develop a love for piano and keyboard by keeping it fun and using a great deal of popular music, as well as standard repertoire.

David performs throughout the Chicago Area with many different ensembles, large and small, including Swing Assembly and the Matt Stedman Ring of Music. Kellen Graduated in 1988 with a Bachelor's Degree in Keyboard Performance from Northern Illinois University, with an emphasis on Organ and Jazz Piano. He studied with Dr. Robert Reeves on organ, Dr. Lawrence Rast on Group Piano and Harpsichord, and Jazz icon Frank Caruso. Since 1985 he has been a Freelance Jobbing Musician, playing solo piano, jazz quartet, and with various big bands for numerous events, weddings and corporate events in the Chicago area. In 1990 he coached a student to the Yamaha National Electone Festival Finals, and in 1991, he was himself a finalist, composing a piece dedicated to the war efforts in the Persian Gulf entitled ""Persian Gulf Update"".

He has released several piano CDs and has recorded on numerous projects.