



Stevens

COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

MUSIC DEPARTMENT 2016/2017

The musicians that are part of the music department at Stevens Cooperative School have many years of experience in both the teaching and the performing world - internationally, in NYC and around the tri-state area.

Read about *who* they are, *where* they have performed, *who* they have played with, and *where* they play now.



HOLLY HAMPTON

***DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, 3rd-8th GRADE,
SAXOPHONE, CLARINET, FLUTE, AND BAND DIRECTOR***

Holly is a jazz saxophone player from London, England. She received her BA in Performing Arts from Middlesex University. Holly also studied under Rufus Reid and Joe Lovano in the jazz program at William Paterson University. Holly also teaches piano, clarinet and flute.

As a musician, Holly was fortunate enough to win the title of ‘Young Jazz Musician of the Year’ in the UK, and has performed in jazz clubs around the world, from the Blue Note in NYC, to Ronnie Scott’s in London. Holly has toured the world with her jazz quartet, performing at international jazz festivals such as The Ochos Rios Jazz Festival in Jamaica, the Sofia Jazz Festival in Bulgaria, and the Glasgow International Jazz Festival to name a few. Her live album, “Holly Slater-The Mood Was There” was recorded live at Ronnie Scott’s jazz club in London. Holly has appeared on NBC’s “The Today Show,” on BBC’s “Eleventh Hour” and on the BBC TV series’ “What’s that Noise?” and “Music Matters.”



GIANCARLO SARI **LOWER SCHOOL MUSIC**

This is **Gian's** third year teaching Lower School Music and Movement at the Stevens Cooperative School, and his ninth year as an educator. Prior to his time at Stevens, he received his teaching degree from New York University's Steinhard School. While teaching privately, and in NJ's school systems, he worked for his MA in Music Education, and received further training from NYU's Kodály Institute.

Gian has performed around the NY/NJ area with various ensembles, acting as bassoonist and arranger for the Bluecat Wind Quartet, and playing bassoon for the Adelphi Chamber Orchestra and Penta-Winds.

Music is an integral aspect of a child's education, Gian is proud to help the students of Stevens learn and perform.



JACK BRESLIN **CELLO**

Jack is a Jersey City-based bassist and cellist, originally from the Boston area. He received a Bachelor's degree in music from Drew University and a Masters degree in jazz bass performance from NJCU in Jersey City. He plays with many bands in the North Jersey and NYC area, as well as across the U.S.

Ben leads his own jazz group, often under the name The Jack Breslin Trio/Quartet. He also plays the RFJ Trio, a piano trio focusing on classical works from composers such as Mozart and Mendelssohn. Ben teaches privately, but loves the experience of working with our classes at Stevens Cooperative.



MARIO CORREA
TROMBONE AND TRUMPET

Mario is a performer and teacher with a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University.

While attending Mason Gross, Mario studied classical trumpet with David Krauss, Principal Trumpet of Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. While performing in the Rutgers Wind Ensemble Mario was fortunate to have been under the baton of some of

the top conductors in the field. At Rutgers he also played Baritone Saxophone in the Rutgers Saxophone Ensemble under Paul Cohen.

Mario has performed in a wide range of venues throughout New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Some of his favorites include: St Jean Baptiste Church in New York City, The Allen Room at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City, Richardson Auditorium at Princeton University, and Victoria Theatre at NJPAC in Newark.



KIM FOSTER
VIOLIN/VIOLA/ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR

Kim has been teaching violin and viola privately for more than 10 years. She is a highly sought after chamber music performer in the New York concert scene with regular performances at such venues as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. She also serves as a faculty member of several adult chamber music workshops throughout the year. Kim received her B.M. from the Eastman School of Music and her M.M. from the Yale School of Music.



SIMON HOLLAND: **WOODWINDS**

Simon graduated from Trinity College of Music in London and spent the next 20 years playing and conducting in London's West End Musicals. He took a sabbatical to travel the world working as a Musical Director for Royal Caribbean International and it was during that time that he met his American wife. They continued to work on sea but eventually decided to get back to dry land and settled down in New Jersey. For the last nine years Simon has worked as an Artistic Director for Beauville Arts, an international youth theatre training company with courses in France and Hong Kong. He also regularly performs in the

Theatres and Jazz Clubs of NYC. Professional theatre credits include CATS, Starlight Express, My Fair Lady, Caroline or Change, Sister Act and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



MATT LEPEK **SAXOPHONE, CLARINET, AND** **FLUTE**

Matt is a freelance musician based out of the New York City and New Jersey Area. He received his Masters in Performance from New Jersey City University with a specialization in Multiple Woodwinds. While in school Matthew studied with many notable performers in the fields of musical theatre, rock, jazz, and classical music.

He has performed across the United States and Canada on saxophone, oboe, English horn, flute, and clarinet in various groups and arrangements. He has performed in the pit orchestras of such shows as Heathers, Fun Home, If Then, Pippin, Amazing Grace, Something Rotten and the Radio City Christmas/Summer Spectacular. Matt has also toured with numerous rock and hip hop groups while on The Vans Warped Tour and has toured with the TV comedy group "The Impractical Jokers." He was last a regular in the orchestras of the Broadway musicals GiGi and Rothschild & Sons.



PAUL OGNISSANTI **STRINGS**

Paul has been a professional, performing Electric & String Bassist and Cellist for more than 30 years. He has taught general music, cello, electric bass, theory and chamber orchestra skills at Steven's Cooperative School, The Hudson School the Christian Ministry, Academy of the Sacred Heart, and New City Kids.

Paul has performed on cello and bass working with diverse world-class artists including Joan Rivers, Queen Latifah and many others.

Paul has performed with Dizzy Gillespie, Ink Spots and Billy Eckstine. He has contributed to the music tracks and appeared on film in movies such as "Riding in Cars with Boys," "August Rush" and "Julie & Julia."



DUSTYN RICHARDSON **FLUTE**

Originally from Calgary Canada, **Dustyn** is a freelance woodwind musician in the NYC area. He has subbed on Broadway (*Something Rotten, Kinky Boots, Pippin, If/Then, Honeymoon in Vegas*), at Radio City Music Hall and with the New York City Ballet Orchestra. Dustyn is also a faculty member at the Turtle Bay School of Music on the Upper East Side in Manhattan.

Dustyn completed a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education at the University of

Calgary and a Master's Degree in Multiple Woodwind Performance at New Jersey City University.



BEN WILLIAMS
TROMBONE AND TRUMPET

Ben has extensive experience performing and teaching as a freelance artist and educator in the New York area. A co-recipient of a Jazz Fellowship Grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, Ben has recorded for Concord Records as well as many independent labels, and has done soundtrack work for TV and movies. His

appearances have included Late Night with Conan O'Brien and the movie "*Little Manhattan*."

As an educator, Ben was music director for "Music For Kids," a hands-on program designed for children and adults based in Maplewood, NJ. He has conducted clinics throughout the country on trombone performance, improvisation, and is a Visiting Artist at the Tyson School of Performing Arts in East Orange, NJ. A graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, Ben is also an adjunct faculty member at Newark Academy in Livingston, NJ, The Hudson School in Hoboken, NJ and has taught privately for over 25 years.