

# TESS NIELSEN, D.M.A.

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## EDUCATION

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Boston University, Boston, MA

Doctor of Musical Arts, *Summa Cum Laude*, 2016

Dissertation: "Teen Playlist: Digital Music Discovery, Production, and Sharing Among a Group of High School Students"

Advisor: Dr. Joseph Pignato, Associate Professor, SUNY Oneonta

The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

Master of Music in Vocal Pedagogy, Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, 1993

*Benjamin T. Rome Scholarship Recipient*, 1990, 1991

Vienna Conservatory, Vienna, Austria

Certificate in Operetta and Music Theater, 1985

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Bachelor of Music Education, 1984

## TEACHING AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

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Rowan University / August 2014 to present

### **Adjunct Professor, College of Performing Arts**

- Designed and led a group piano course for Music Industry majors
- Developed and taught Music Appreciation course for undergraduates
- Advised and supervised student teachers in the field
- Wrote student evaluations using Danielson and EdTPA protocols
- Taught choral, vocal, and piano students at Rowan Prep Community Music School

Montclair State University / June 2015 to present

### **Instructor, Gifted & Talented Program**

- Taught Filmmaking, Creative Writing and Debate
- Facilitated students' creation of digital portfolios

Ranney School / January 2002 to June 2014

### **Director of Performing Arts / Upper School Music Teacher**

#### *Teaching duties*

- Taught AP Music Theory, Chorus, Music Theater, Drama, Music Appreciation
- Advised high school students in college application and audition processes
- Directed concerts, musicals, stage plays, and community arts events
- Advised Tri-M<sup>®</sup> Music Honor Society, Music Technology, and Debate teams
- Developed and managed extracurricular and summer arts education programs

### *Administrative duties*

- Managed a comprehensive arts program in an independent school serving 850 students
- Collaborated with Admissions and Development on high-visibility arts events
- Facilitated Middle States Accreditation for the department
- Hired, managed, and evaluated faculty; supervised faculty professional development
- Chaired preK-12 performing arts curriculum development
- Managed departmental budget, operations, facilities, and student travel

Avon-by-the-Sea Education Foundation / 2011 to present

#### **Vice-President & Past-President**

- Founded and managed a local 501(c)3 organization
- Wrote grants to obtain funds from state, national, public, and private funders
- Administered marketing plan that raised over \$80,000 in 3 years
- Partnered with local agencies in childhood literacy and educational technology programs
- Organized and led summer learning programs for adults

Hope Presbyterian Church / 2010 to present

#### **Director of Music**

- Responsible for all aspects of service music for 450-member church
- Conducted and accompanied traditional choir and contemporary ensemble
- Organized and presented community concerts and musical outreach events
- Played organ, piano, guitar, hand bells, and performed as vocal soloist

Music Sales Corporation / G. Schirmer Music Publisher / January 1992 to May 1996

#### **Music Production and Editorial Associate**

- Proofread and edited notated music and texts
- Estimated multimedia and print production costs
- Hired and supervised print publication contractors

### **PUBLICATIONS**

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*American Jazz, Rags, and Blues Sight-Singing Course Module*. (2015). [Release 6.0. Computer Software Module]. Egaa, Denmark: EarMaster ApS.

Challenges and Rewards of Teaching Connected Children. *Two River Times* (2013, January 11), p. 41.

The Digital Aesthetic: Changing the Musical Mindset. (2010, January). *TEMPO Magazine*, pp. 26-28.

Embracing the Levels of Connected Learning. (2011, Winter). *Columns Magazine*, 8, 32-33.

A Reflection on Performing Arts at Ranney School. (2010, Winter). *Columns Magazine*, 7, 50-52.

## **PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS AND INVITED TALKS**

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*Jaime and the Beat: Adolescent Technical Fluidity and Musicianship.* Poster presented at Technology Pre-Conference Workshop, College Music Society, Santa Fe, NM, October 2016.

*Take it from the Top: Traits of the Great Music Entrepreneurs.* Invited Talk at Rowan University Emerging Leaders Conference, Glassboro, NJ, September 2016.

*Emerging Themes in Digital Music Discovery, Production, and Sharing.* Poster presented at Boston University Graduate Symposium, Boston, MA, March 2015.

*Video Assessment in Music Education.* Workshop conducted at NJ Music Educators Association Workshop, College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ, 2012.

*Media Convergence: The Digital Aesthetic and Its Implications in Music Education.* Workshop conducted at NJ Association of Independent Schools Conference, The Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, NJ, 2010.

*The Digital Aesthetic and Its Implications in Music Education.* Paper presented at Boston University College of Fine Arts Regional Conference, New Brunswick, NJ, Feb. 2010.

*Teaching Music in the Conceptual Age: Responses in Music Education.* Paper presented at The Arts Education Conference, Steinhardt School of Education, NYU, March 2009.

## **TECHNOLOGY AND LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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Educational technology and learning management software

Banner / Canvas / Starfish / Blackboard / TK20 / Moodle / Google for Education  
Constant Contact / DonorPerfect

Multimedia audio / video editing software

Adobe Creative Suite: Photoshop, Premiere, Audition, Illustrator  
Audacity / HTML 5 Editors / UI and UX Design  
Agile Production and Workflow

Languages

Proficient in German  
Reading Knowledge of French and Italian

## **GRANTS**

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*Proposals written and funding received for Avon-by-the-Sea Education Foundation*

Constellation Community Champions Grant, \$1,000	2016
NAMM Support Music Merit Award, Avon School	2015, 2016
Monmouth County Arts Council, \$500	2014
Lowes Toolbox for Education, \$4,750	2014
PNC Bank, \$1,000	2013, 2014
Goldman Sachs Gives, \$10,000	2012, 2013
The Community Foundation, \$500	2013

*Proposals written and funding received for Ranney School*

Wireless Microphone System, \$25,000	2013, 2014
Yamaha Grand Piano, \$27,500	2009
Ranney School Summer Professional Development Grants, \$2,400—\$4,000	
Doctoral Residency Program, Boston University, MA	August 2010
Orff-Kodaly Summer Institute, Boston University, Boston, MA	August 2009
Distance Teaching and Learning Conference, Madison, WI	August 2006

**SELECTED PERFORMANCES: CHORAL MUSIC AND MUSIC THEATER**

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Rowan Prep Youth Chorale	September 2016
<b>Music Director</b>	
Continuo Arts Foundation and Civic Chorale	August 2014 – June 2015
<b>Conducting Fellow</b>	
• Assisted in directing seven community choirs	
• Conducted in three seasonal community concerts	
• Performed with <i>Sonare</i> , a professional chamber chorus	
• <i>Hunchback of Notre Dame</i> Symphonic Choir, Papermill Playhouse	
Our Gang Players, SurfFlight Theater, Beach Haven, NJ	January 2015
<b>Music Director</b> , <i>Footloose</i> by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie	
Ocean Professional Theater Company, Atlantic City, NJ	December 2014
<b>Music Director</b> , <i>Ebenezer</i> by William and Rosemary Mearns	
Ranney School Winter Extravaganza at Carnegie Hall	
<b>Producer and Choral Director</b>	January 2013
Pacific Encore Opera Company at Ranney School	
<b>Guest Conductor</b>	March 2011, January 2010
Ranney School 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert	
<b>Producer and Choral Director</b>	March 2010
<b>Ranney School Music Theater Director</b>	
<i>The Threepenny Opera</i> by Brecht and Weill (Basie Best Musical Nominee)	March 2014
<i>Man of La Mancha</i> by Mitch Leigh	May 2013
<i>Drood</i> by Rupert Holmes	March 2012
<i>Little Women</i> by Jason Howard	March 2011
<i>The Fantasticks</i> by Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones	March 2010
<i>Into the Woods</i> by Stephen Sondheim	March 2009
<i>The Apple Tree</i> by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick	March 2008
<i>Pirates of Penzance</i> by Gilbert and Sullivan	March 2007
<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i> by Alan Menken and Harold Ashman	March 2006

## ADJUDICATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

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Rowan Prep Summer Piano Festival <b>Co-Founder and Teaching Artist</b>	August 2016
Festivals of Music <b>Choral Adjudicator</b>	April – June 2016
Monmouth Teen Arts Festival <b>Choral and Music Theater Adjudicator</b>	March 2016

## SELECTED AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS

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Rowan University Faculty Online Teaching Certificate	2015
Educational Testing Service PRAXIS and MoPTA Online Rater	2015–2016
Ranney School Headmaster’s Award for Outstanding Leadership	2008
New Jersey K-12 Teaching Certificate with Advanced Standing	1999

## INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

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Rowan University Music Education Futures Committee Member	2016
Pearson EdTPA Leadership Training	2016
Ranney School Middle States Accreditation Departmental Leader	2002, 2008
Ranney Fund Committee	2005–2014
Ranney School Technology Department Member	2002–2012

## MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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American Choral Directors’ Association	College Music Society
American Federation of Teachers	National Association for Music Education
American Guild of Organists	TI:ME: Technology for Music Education

## REFERENCES

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Dr. Rick Dammers, Music Dept. Chair College of Fine Arts, Rowan University dammers@rowan.edu 856-256-4557	Dr. Candace Wicke, Artistic Director Continuo Arts Foundation, LLC candace@continuoarts.org 908-264-5324
Dr. Anna Skrupky, Rowan Prep Director College of Fine Arts, Rowan University skrupky@rowan.edu 856-256-4556	Dr. Lawrence S. Sykoff, President Headmaster Emeritus, Ranney School lsykoff@gmail.com 732-245-0855
Dr. Joseph Pignato, Associate Professor SUNY Oneonta joseph.pignato@oneonta.edu 607-436-3500	Dr. Paul Rack, Pastor Hope Presbyterian Church paulrack@optonline.net 908-625-1844