

Michael is a talented, dedicated traditional string instructor, guitarist, singer-songwriter, and violinist who combines a love of music with his desire to help others who want to achieve their highest musical potential. That passion shows in everything he does! Michael has taught private music lessons for public & private schools, churches, music stores, recording studios, and other venues, as well as holding numerous clinics covering guitar, violin, songwriting, and computers in songwriting, training the teacher (how to teach and maintain students'), techniques, theory, and performance. He has performed and taught various styles of guitar/violin in contemporary and traditional worship, folk, Indie folk, and classical. Michael's studies and expertise include classical guitar/violin, fingerstyle, sacred and worship, and folk. He has studied at numerous colleges, including Berkeley College of Music, out of Boston, MA, and Liberty University. He has traveled across the country performing with multiple praise teams, constantly focusing on the ministry of music. Michael has established himself over the last 35 years as a top musician and music instructor who has genuinely been gifted as a teacher of music.

Michael is a member of the American String Teachers Association and the Michigan American String Teachers Association, Original Michigan Fiddlers Association Princessy (OMFA), Michigan Fiddlers Association (MFA), Songwriters Guild of America (SGA), Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAIN), and the Nashville Christian Songwriters Association. He has also written articles for several forums and is the director and owner of Trinity North School of Music.



Matthew Dickey

Matthew Dickey (violin) earned a Master of Music from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music in 2015 studying with Piotr Milewski. He has performed widely in the Midwest with orchestras such as The Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, the Dayton Philharmonic, and the Queen City Opera Company; he was also on the faculty at the Toedtman School of Music and the Northern Kentucky School of Music. Mr. Dickey has also served as Concert Master of the Booth-Tarkington Theater in Indianapolis and as Assistant Concertmaster on tour with the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players. He has been actively teaching and performing for over 10 years.



Jamie Listh

Jamie has been studying violin and piano since she was 10 years old. In her 20 years of playing experience, she has acquired a particular passion for chamber music and loves to play viola in wedding quartets and other small ensembles. In her spare time, she is developing her skill as a cellist and solo and ensemble accompanist.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Alma College where she served as the principal viola of the Alma Symphony. By far her favorite settings to play, in addition to worship services and the Holland Symphony, are in the pit of a musical production or at farmers' markets with friends each summer.

"I have long enjoyed and appreciated the versatility of string instruments and the mix of ensembles and friendships open to me as a result. It brings me immense joy to witness my student's blossom as they master challenging skills and discover the boundless possibilities music has for expression and connection with others."



Elyse Behnke

Enjoys watching her students grow and find what they love about music. She has a strong drive for

excellence and loves helping her students strive for the same. Elyse enjoys teaching because it

gives her the opportunity to get to know people one on one and encourage them on their musical

journey.

She teaches guitar and ukulele at Trinity North School of Music and has studied guitar

for nearly ten years. Elyse has extensive experience working with children of all ages. Not only

is she the oldest of five kids, she has worked in daycare centers and nannied for several families

in the area. Elyse has also volunteered at Teens Encountering Christ of West Michigan. In her

spare time, she enjoys volunteering on her church's audio/visual team, baking, listening to movie

commentaries, and camping with her family.

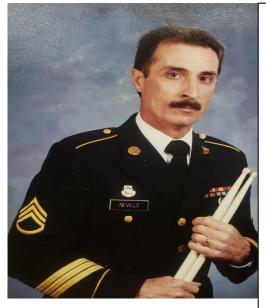
"The personal relationship with my students is my favorite thing about teaching.



Robin Haaksma

Haaksma teaches voice, piano, and beginning guitar. She is a graduate of Western Michigan University and has taught elementary music and middle school choir as well as private lessons. She recorded an album of original songs in the late 1990's and performed her music in loca churches. She has been on the worship team at her church, singing and playing keys and guitar. Currently she is a home school mom and teaches with a home school group.

"I am thankful to be able to share the gift of music with students! I love helping them gain musical skills so that they can in turn share their gift with others and enjoy making music!



Gordon Neville

Gordon is a music teacher/band director with nearly 40 years of teaching and performing e xperience in both public and private schools in Florida and Michigan. Mr. Neville was a participant with his students in M.S.B.O.A. in both states. He received his B. F. A. degree fr om Florida Atlantic University December 1977 with graduate studies from North Florida Un iversity and Central Michigan University. Mr. Neville retired from Grand Rapids Public Scho ols in 2013, but before retiring, with help from a band parent (Jodie Alexiev), formed a com munity band focusing on swing, blues, and jazz. We named it "Grand Little Big Band." This band is a mutigenerational group made up of young student

musicians as young as 12 and include family members, teachers, and experienced musician s up to 80 years old.

Gordon directs rehearsals on Monday nights and features performances at retirement centers, The Home for Veterans, and The Hastings Jazz Festival . Mr. Neville was also the band director for Algoma Christian School for 6 years.

Gordon is a veteran of the U.S. Army serving in active duty in Germany, as a musician the 1 3th Army Band in Florida and the 126

Army Band in Michigan. He retired from the military in 2012 with over 20 years of service. Gordon now teaches several instruments including piano, guitar, drums, wind and brass. "I am feeling blessed and happy to be a

part of beginning and continuing the musical development of young and old alike and to be a part of the wonderful teaching

staff at Trinity North School of Music."