

FACULTY INFORMATION

Melanie Crane has a long history in music and piano. Her love for the Lord and ministry makes her a great addition to our faculty of experienced instructors. She has used her experience to teach piano privately and at FBC Columbia, FBC Collierville, Calvary Baptist, and FBC of St. Petersburg, Florida. Melanie began piano at the young age of 5 and has studied at the Birmingham Southern Prep School of Music, Samford University Prep School of Music, and Samford University. Melanie is also the wife of Greg Crane, Worship Minister here at FBC. She joined the FBC School of Fine Arts faculty in 2014.

Jan Davenport has had a passion for piano and teaching students of all ages since she was 16 years old. Jan has a B.A. in Elementary Education and Music from Cedarville University and has taught at several Christian schools. She also has experience in music program direction, church pianist, organist and accompanist and has home schooled her children. Jan has taught with FBC School of Fine Arts for three years.

Christopher Forte has a background in music graduating from the Nashville School of the Arts and is formally trained in audio production. Chris now serves as the Media Production Minister at First Baptist Hendersonville. Passion for the Lord and creativity are gifts that Chris loves to share in his teaching and at work. He has been a part of the FBC School of Fine Arts Faculty since 2013.

David A. Hobbs has a passion and love of music and the arts that genuinely shows when he teaches and performs. He has been playing guitar since he began as a sixth grader. David enjoys learning and playing other instruments such as the violin, cello, keyboard and is always looking to add to his repertoire. David returned to the FBC School of Fine Arts faculty in 2016 after attending Middle Tennessee State University and earning his degree in Literary Studies.

Maria King graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor's degree in Music, principle in voice and a minor in Music Theory and Music History. She also graduated from North Harris College with an Associate of Arts degree, principle in Music. She was employed with Sherman Clay for 10 years and taught for Yamaha Music Education System. She taught in Houston with the largest Yamaha School in the country and co-managed another. She is a two-time recipient of the Sherman Clay Music Teacher of the Year award.

Maria began her love for music at the age of 7 when she started learning piano. She later began her vocal training at the age of 16. She currently serves in Children's Choir at First Baptist Church. Maria and her husband, Trent King, have two children. Maria has been teaching with FBC School of Fine Arts since 2009.

Katie Lawrence graduated from the Frederick M. Supper Honors Program at Palm Beach Atlantic University with a Bachelor's degree in Music, voice principle. She has a passion for vocal study in a variety of styles, ranging from classical to contemporary worship, pop, and jazz. With extensive formal training and course work in vocal pedagogy methods, Katie has a passion for developing the individual voice in a healthy manner with a strong technical foundation. She also enjoys helping students grow in their knowledge of theory and musicianship while instilling in them a love for the arts.

Katie has previously worked as a music teacher, choir director, and private voice and piano instructor at Winter Haven Christian School. She has previous experience leading worship across the country with Student Life Youth and Kids' camps, performing regularly at Walt Disney World, and singing at various conventions, chamber ensemble and concert venues throughout Florida. Currently, she is a soprano with the Nashville Symphony Chorus, NSC Chamber Chorus, and Charles Heimermann Chorale. She also is beginning the process of post-graduate work with Vanderbilt and Belmont University, specializing in vocal training, therapy, and rehabilitation. Katie joined the FBC School of Fine Arts faculty in 2015.

Becky Panknin has a B. S. in Music Education from the University of Illinois and has a long history of teaching private lessons in both piano and voice. Her positive attitude and high energy has helped her promote a love of the arts as a school music teacher and choral director. Becky also has experience as a professional actress and has performed at Chaffin's Barn and Mystery Comedy Dinner Theaters. Becky has been a part of the FBC School of Fine Arts faculty for two years.

Denise Patton is an Adjunct Professor at Belmont University teaching in the Commercial Music Department. She has performed in many stage shows at Opryland U.S.A, in Celebrity Cruise Line ship shows, and has performed and worked with Lee Greenwood, Jim Ed Brown, Little Jimmy Dickens, Pam Tillis, Jim Nabors, Jeannie Sealy, Celine Dion, Roy Acuff, and Porter Wagoner. Denise currently is lead vocalist with the Craig Duncan Orchestra and is a session singer.

Denise has worked on many projects for LifeWay and has served as a music curriculum writer, a music editor, children's musical choreographer, and songwriter. She currently serves as the choreographer of "Worship Kidstyle." Denise graduated Cum Laude from Middle Tennessee State with a Bachelor of Business Administration with a minor in Music. She holds a 1st Degree in Black Belt in Karate. Denise currently serves as the Director of Preschool & Children's Music Ministry at FBC. She enjoys life with her husband, David, and her two children, Dean and Nicole. She has been with FBC School of Fine Arts faculty since 2010.

Kimberly Perkins has a passion for the theatre and developing talent in voice, dance and theatre. She taught for 28 years in Alabama and Sumner County Tennessee public school systems. Kim also acted with the FBCH Dinner Theater and has directed her own Children's Theater located at FBC Goodlettsville. Her mission for our theatre classes is to use them as a tool to provide a safe, loving, Christ-centered environment for the students as they develop skills needed in the musical theatre art form. Kim began teaching with FBC School of Fine Arts in 2014.

Laura Logue Poteet, a professional violinist, studied at Tennessee Tech University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Music Therapy. She has studied violin with Gerald Greer of the Nashville Symphony and Elisabeth Small of Belmont University. As a board certified music therapist, she works primarily with children with autism, but has worked with children and adults with various disabilities throughout her career. Laura began teaching with FBC School of Fine Arts in 2010.

Shea Roland has been a professional singer/dancer for 34 years and loves to use her knowledge and experience to teach others in an uplifting environment. She graduated from Belmont University with a degree in Music Business and has worked as choreographer with Dollywood, Gary Musick Productions, Word Music, Praise Gathering, Integrity Music, Pam Andrews Music, and Lillenas Publishing. Shea has also been Show Choir Director for Davidson Academy. She joined the FBC School of Fine Arts faculty in 2015.

Christi Getzen Schroader is a Nashville based artist whose career as a teacher and creator spans more than fifteen years. After graduating with a BA in Art from Lipscomb University, Christi served as an intern in the youth ministry at First Baptist Hendersonville. Realizing in the process her love of students and of teaching, she accepted a position with the fine arts faculty at Portland High School and later, Station Camp High School. After enjoying 8 years and the company of over 1500 art students, Christi resigned her position to pursue art and writing full-time. She and her husband, Shayne, were recently honored to be featured in an episode of the mini-documentary series, *Nashville's Own* (<http://nashvillesown.com/the-art-of-gentler-clothing/> .) Christi's work can be viewed at www.lightbeneath.com . Christi has taught with FBC School of Fine Arts since 2015.

Neva Self had her first paying gig at the tender age of three! Accompanied by a family friend, Neva began her singing career in her native Birmingham, Alabama with a rousing rendition of "You Are My Sunshine" in the middle of the local mall as patrons tossed coins. At the age of thirteen, she was making regular appearances on the "Country Boy Eddie Show", the early morning television program from which Tammy Wynette launched her career. Neva was also a regular on "Dean and Company", a local cable access variety show.

It was during her first year in junior high that she met her greatest musical influence, her private music tutor, Gene Porter. At only age fifteen, Neva joined Porter and his band, playing in and around the Birmingham area. She proved the diversity of her playing and singing skills with all genres of music from Country to Broadway to Gospel. She made it up to Nashville in 1987 to be a contestant on The Nashville Network's "You Can Be a Star." She returned a few years later to make Nashville her home and studied voice with internationally renowned artist and vocal coach Kathy Chiavola.

Neva has an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration from Jefferson State Junior College in Birmingham. She also studied voice at Birmingham Southern. Neva has previously taught with Melody Music Studios in Franklin as well as her own MySelf Music. She has served in Children's Choir at First Baptist Church and currently sings in the adult choir. She has been with FBC School of Fine Arts for two years.

Andie Smith has had a long and varied career in music. She studied at Indiana University and received a Bachelor's degree in music education and music therapy with an emphasis on instrumental music and the cello from East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. While her children were young, she taught violin, viola, and cello lessons, primarily using the Suzuki Approach. Her family was led to resettle in the middle Tennessee area, and once her children were in high school, she returned to the classroom, and teaches orchestra and chorus at Ellis Middle School.

She studied vocal/general music as a post-graduate student at Belmont University. Andie is an active free-lance cellist in the greater Nashville area. She enjoys meeting the diverse needs of her students, and developing their talents, using a variety of approaches. When not teaching or performing, Andie enjoys spending time with her children and her grandchildren. Andie has been a part of the FBC School of Fine Arts faculty for five years.

Janet Sneed studied music at Concord University in Athens, West Virginia where she played trumpet four years in marching band and bass guitar in the school jazz band. A popular group locally, they also toured up and down the East coast. She taught piano and guitar while in college as well as being the pianist at her church. Janet began playing guitar at age 8, the piano at 12 and the bass guitar at 13. Though self-taught initially, she reads music and tablature and is well versed in music theory.

Upon moving to Nashville, Janet immersed herself in music, playing with many groups with varying musical styles. She has played for theatre with Steeple Players of Hendersonville and the Roxy Theatre in Clarksville. She played acoustic guitar in the FBC orchestra for many years and bass in the contemporary service. Currently she helps lead worship at Restoration Church in Nashville. She has played music for over 30 years from Big Band to Country to Pop. For the past 3 years she has played with a Blues/Jazz/R&B band in the Sumner county and Nashville area. Janet has been a part of the FBC School of Fine Arts faculty since 2010.

Tralena Walker is a native of Richmond Virginia, and studied classical voice and piano at Virginia Commonwealth University. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree, Concentration Voice, Minor piano. She began performing professionally at 16 years of age. She began performing on Television in 1986 on the Nashville Network's "You can be a star". She has performed the National Anthem for major NASCAR tracks.

She currently teaches voice and piano lessons at Davidson Academy in Nashville, is a publisher of Tralyrics music and "We Do Too" publishing companies continuously pitches songs and pursues her songwriting career. Tralena has certifications in Suzuki Piano books 1-3 and studied with the legendary Mary Craige Powell. She was a winner of several NATS, National Association Teachers of Singing, competitions while at VCU music. Ms. Tralena joins the FBC School of Fine Arts faculty this year.

Nikki Wilson has been immersed in her two favorite things for the past 15 years – performing and teaching the violin. She has taught private violin lessons, group strings lessons, and group theory lessons. Nikki has completed Every Child Can, the foundational class of the Suzuki Method, and combines the Suzuki Method with traditional teachings in her lessons. She has performed nationally at the Hot Springs Music Festival in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and abroad at the Bayerische Musikademie in Marktoberdorf, Germany.

Nikki received her Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music at The University of Memphis and her Master of Music in Violin Performance from the Georgia State School of Music in Atlanta, GA. She currently performs with the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, the Paducah Symphony Orchestra, and as a freelance musician. "Ms. Nikki," as she is affectionately known to her students, enjoys combining the precepts of music instruction with the precepts of the Bible and firmly believes that studying any musical instrument can help students grow into mature, Christ-like individuals. Nikki joins the FBC School of Fine Arts Faculty in 2016.