



## School of the Arts (SOTA) FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES



**Sarah Allen** (Piano) holds a BM in composition from Samford University where she studied composition with Dr. Mark Lackey and piano with Dr. Kathryn Fouse. Sarah was also a member of the Samford University A Cappella Choir. She was fortunate to be able to tour with the choir and participate in Lithuania's Siauliai Cantat, where the choir won first prize. Sarah also competed in the Morris Piano Competition in her junior year at Samford. Having studied piano for most of her life, Sarah has a passion for education. Music has been life changing for Sarah, and she strives to share her passion for music with the next generation.



**Amye Derix Carrington** (piano/voice) is originally from Irving, Texas, and holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Theory and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Baylor University. After college, she relocated to Houston where she sang with the Houston Grand Opera Chorus, Houston Bach Society, served as staff soloist/section leader in two area churches, and taught general music and voice lessons in the public school system. She moved to North Carolina and served as Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Marion for four years, and was an adjunct music teacher at McDowell Technical Community College. Upon her return to Texas in 2008, she became the Director of Music for Covenant Presbyterian Church in Sherman, where she continues to serve, and she teaches adjunct music classes and voice lessons at Collin College. Amye's vocal, keyboard, and conducting skills allow her to work with a variety of students of differing skill levels, from beginning piano and voice students to members of an adult choir. She wants each person that she works with to be the best musician that he or she can be, and she strives for excellence in providing the foundations of musical training needed for future development of these skills.

**Steve Dowdy** (guitar/piano/beginning drums) is a multi-faceted musician and an accomplished guitarist and pianist with experience ranging from playing in Rock, Country and Jazz bands to being featured on multiple recording albums. He is a graduate of TCU where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and he serves on the Praise Team at Center Point Church where he plays Keyboards, Bass, Electric and Acoustic Guitar. He has over 10 years of teaching experience.



**Silke Holdys** (Violin, Viola) was born in Bonn, Germany and holds a B.A. and Master of Music degree from Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany and a Master of Music Education and String Pedagogy from the University of Music and Performing Arts in Mannheim, Germany. As a child, she spent 9 years in Washington, D.C. She began playing the violin at the age of 6, studying with Luis Haza who is now the Director of the American Youth Philharmonic. After returning to Germany and completing her education, she began her teaching career. She served as the Director of Strings for 11 years in Leimen, Germany. Mrs. Holdys has performed as a violinist in every capacity—as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestra, and recording artist throughout Europe with world-renowned musicians. At the end of 2010, she moved to the DFW area. She is now serving as the String Teacher for CCA.



**Dr. Iris Messinger** (Violin, Viola) is currently an active musician in the DFW Metroplex performing with numerous chamber ensembles and orchestras including Dallas Opera, Fort Worth Symphony and the Texas Chamber Orchestra. She has toured in Europe, North America and the former Soviet Union. Dr. Messinger is a native of Estonia and in 1991, performances with the Estonian String Quartet brought her to the United States, where she earned both an Artist Certificate and a Master of Music degree from SMU. In 1995, she continued her studies at the prestigious Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester as a candidate for the degree Doctor of Musical Arts in Viola Performance and Literature. Dr. Messinger has 20 years of teaching experience, teaching young children through adult students.



**Lisa Schreiber** (Piano) is returning to SOTA this Fall to teach private piano instruction for beginning students. She grew up studying the piano and completed her Elementary Education/Music Education degree at Hardin-Simmons University. Before becoming a kindergarten teacher at CCA, Lisa taught for several years from her own home piano studio. Lisa is grateful for the opportunity once again to share her love of the piano with young children.



**Barbara Woodring** (Piano/Viola/Violon/Cello) was raised in the suburbs of Boston, Massachusetts and studied piano at Nyack College in New York, Boston University School for the Arts and the University of Arkansas Graduate School where she holds a Master of Music in Piano Performance under the instruction of Alan Chow. She also has a Master of Education from Lesley Graduate School in Cambridge Massachusetts. Ms. Woodring has performed on violin locally with the Sherman Symphony, the New Philharmonic Orchestra of Irving and the New Life Symphony. She was also formerly a member of the Longview, Marshall and North Arkansas Symphonies. She has served as a church pianist for many years in Longview and Denton and enjoys accompanying soloists and choirs in both church and school settings. She recently retired from 18 years in public education as an orchestra director in June of this year. Mrs. Woodring is a member of the trio "88 plus eight" (piano, violin and cello) and enjoys performing regularly at Open Classical in Dallas. Ms. Woodring has judged piano for the National Guild of Piano Teachers for six years in TX, OK, AR, LA, CO, ND and IN often returning at three year intervals to judge at the chairman's request.