

DON BRYN

COMPOSER • PIANIST • EDUCATOR • AUTHOR

Curriculum Vitae

Sarasota, Florida, USA • Heredia, Costa Rica

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

State College of Florida

2016-present

Music Program Manager; Director of Music Theory and Keyboard Studies

- Teach composition, music theory, ear training, class piano, applied piano, recital performance, and music appreciation.
- Provide program leadership in curriculum, recruitment, advising, scholarships, concert planning and promotion, and faculty support.
- Founder and organizer of PianoPalooza!, the college's annual piano festival, launched in 2022.
- Contribute approximately 150 hours of service per academic year in activities supporting students, the college, and the community.
- Outstanding Faculty of the Year (student-selected), 2020.

State College of Florida

2013-2016

Music Theory Adjunct; Staff Accompanist

- Taught Music Theory I, Ear Training I, Fundamentals of Music, and related courses; accompanied voice and instrumental recitals and juries.

Unitarian Universalists of Sarasota

2023-present

Music Director

- Plan, arrange, and direct music for a progressive worship program; direct choir and section leaders; hire guest musicians; accompany services and special events; oversee licensing and reporting.

Florida State University Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training

2011-present

Singing Coach; Accompanist

- Coach graduate acting students in vocal performance and musical interpretation; serve as accompanist and musical consultant, including the annual David Brunetti workshop.

Independent Composer, Pianist & Arranger

1994-present

Don Bryn

- Compose concert and media music, arrange and orchestrate for symphonic pops and other ensembles, and perform as a solo, chamber, collaborative, and jazz pianist.
- Selected clients and collaborators include Via Nova Chorale, Artist Series Concerts, the Hermitage Artist Retreat, Pittsburgh Symphony, Lenka Graf and the Czech National Orchestra, and A.J. Swearingen.

EDUCATION

European Academy of Fine Arts

2022

Graduate Diploma, Film and Game Scoring

Duquesne University

1992

Master of Music in Composition

- Graduate thesis: Symphonette for New Music Ensemble; assistantship in Music Technology.

Duquesne University

1990

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Piano Performance & Music Technology

- Magna Cum Laude; Pi Kappa Lambda.

SELECTED COMPOSITIONS, MEDIA SCORING & PUBLICATIONS

Two Childish Sea Songs, for choir and piano (2025) Commissioned by and premiered with Via Nova Chorale, First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota.

Piano Sextet in D (2025) Premiered with Via Nova Chorale at First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota.

Film-scoring portfolio (2022) Balkan Flight; Whiplash Breakup; Chimera; At Eternity's Gate; Interstellar - Arrival; Fireworks. Recorded in part by the European Recording Orchestra, Sofia, Bulgaria; selected work performed by SCF music faculty.

Now Hear This (2021) Online music appreciation textbook, Great River Learning.

Disminuido, for guitar ensemble (2020) Premiered by the SCF Guitar Ensemble.

Sonata for Guitar Ensemble (2017) Concert work for guitar ensemble.

Too Much of a Good Thing, Fantasy for Orchestra (1997) Recorded by Benny Hudson in Melbourne, Australia.

Psalm 42, for a cappella choir (1992) Recorded by the Duquesne University Chamber Choir.

Symphonette for Chamber Orchestra / New Music Ensemble (1992) Graduate thesis; recorded by the Duquesne University New Music Ensemble.

Sonata for Guitar (1991) Concert work for solo guitar.

Fantasy on a Theme by Sibelius, for orchestra (1990) Recorded by the Duquesne University Orchestra.

SELECTED ARRANGEMENTS & ORCHESTRATIONS

Iconic Songs of the 70s (2015) Approximately 80-minute symphonic pops production; premiered by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and subsequently performed by major orchestras throughout North America.

Lenka Graf / Czech National Orchestra (2016) Orchestrations including Adagio, You Raise Me Up, and To Believe; recorded by the Czech National Orchestra.

Pops orchestra arrangements (2015-2016) Selected titles include Dancing Queen, Uptown Funk, Old Man River, Someone to Watch Over Me, A Woman Is a Sometime Thing, and Bess, You Is My Woman Now.

Jazz and show-band arrangements (1990s-2000s) Extensive arranging and orchestration for production shows, cruise entertainment, jazz ensembles, and live performance.

SELECTED PERFORMANCE & COLLABORATIVE WORK

Bryn's piano work spans chamber music, accompaniment, duo concerts, services, jazz and popular styles, and informal salon-style performances. He regularly collaborates with singers and instrumentalists throughout the Sarasota area, including colleagues known for their work with the Sarasota Orchestra.

Musica Viva Sarasota (2025) Shostakovich Piano Quintet in G minor, Op. 57; Ibert Deux Interludes.

Asolo Gala (2024) Performance featuring Mauricio Martinez.

Hear and Now Oil Baron's Ball (2023) Performance featuring Audrey Landers.

Hermitage Prize Dinner (2022) Performance featuring Gavin Creel.

Piano Grand, Artist Series Concerts (2016-2021) Five concerts featuring repertoire for five pianos.

Piano Dedication Concert, Roser Community Church (2017) Solo and collaborative performance.

V Foundation for Cancer Research Fundraiser (2016) Performance featuring Audrey Landers.

Beethoven Choral Fantasy (2009) Anna Maria Island Concert Choir and Orchestra.

Welcoming Ceremonies for Princess Margriet of the Netherlands (1997) MS Rotterdam VI.

Duo and chamber performances (2012-present) Ongoing collaborations with Sarasota-area musicians, including performers known for their work with the Sarasota Orchestra.

EARLIER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

For fourteen years Bryn worked internationally as a pianist, conductor, music director, and arranger in the cruise and entertainment industry, performing and conducting more than 300 shows per year and traveling to more than 130 countries and territories.

Norwegian Cruise Line America - <i>Band Master / Music Director</i>	2005-2008
Holland America Line - <i>Musical Director</i>	1996-2004
American Hawaii Cruises - <i>Musical Director</i>	2000-2001
Kennedy Entertainment - <i>Musical Director</i>	1997
Cunard Line - <i>Musical Director / Cocktail Pianist</i>	1997
Encore Attractions - <i>Musical Director, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers national tour</i>	1996
Crown / Commodore Cruise Lines - <i>Musical Director</i>	1994-1995
Gargaro Productions, Pittsburgh - <i>Musical Director; arranger; composer; orchestrator; keyboards</i>	1992-1994
The Pittsburgh Playhouse - <i>Conductor / Keyboards</i>	1992-1994
Providence Presbyterian Church - <i>Musical Director</i>	1993-1994
Pittsburgh Symphony - <i>Pianist / Actor, Mostly Mozart</i>	1991-1992
Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble - <i>Keyboards</i>	1991-1992
Cedar Point - <i>Band Leader / Keyboards</i>	1990-1992
Duquesne University Tamburitzans - <i>Singer / Dancer / Instrumentalist</i>	1988-1990

TEACHING & COACHING EXPERIENCE

Private Piano Studio - <i>Teacher, classical and jazz piano</i>	2008-present
Seton Center Suzuki School of Music - <i>Piano Instructor; Creative Ability Development</i>	1993-1994
The Playhouse Conservatory - <i>Accompanist / Coach, musical theatre and ensemble</i>	1990-1994
City Music Center at Duquesne University - <i>Instructor, MIDI and Music</i>	1992-1993

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Costa Rica Piano Festival (2025) Panelist.

Academic Impressions (2024) Online academic leadership workshops: Influencing Without Authority; Talent Management Through Delegation: A Discussion for Department Chairs.

Music Teachers National Association, Florida State Conference (2023) Participant.

Music Teachers National Association, Florida State Conference (2021) Participant, online conference.

Music Teachers National Association, Florida State Conference (2018) Presented on the use of the Standard Assessment of Sight Reading in Piano Marvel for college class-piano curriculum.

SELECTED SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

Service has been a substantial part of Bryn's academic and community work. At State College of Florida, he contributes approximately 150 hours per academic year to activities supporting students, the college, and the community.

- Music Club advisor, State College of Florida.
- Member, General Education Assessment Committee (GEAC), State College of Florida.
- Presidential Ensemble Coordinator, 2025-2026 academic year.
- College and community service includes student recruitment and advising initiatives, scholarship processes, concert and event coordination, marketing and audience development, and collaborative performance projects.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Languages

English and Spanish; study of Japanese and Russian.

Technical

Web-development experience including PHP, JavaScript, MySQL, jQuery, HTML, CSS, and WordPress; additional experience with Node.js, Sass, Git, and MariaDB; study of Java and Python.