

Ms Amanda (Roseville location)
YMES Group Classes, Private Piano Lessons, Private Strings Lessons

Ms Amanda has been a private and group lesson teacher at Children's Yamaha Music School in Roseville since 2009. As a pianist and violist, she has been involved in pit orchestras, string festivals, summer camps, and youth orchestras. During her time at Augsburg College, Amanda had worked with renowned musicians and professors. She has received numerous performance scholarships for her collaborative and individual work as a college student.

After graduating in 2009, Amanda received a position as the Orchestra Director for the West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan school district as a conductor for fourth through twelfth grade string orchestras. She is involved in the Minnesota Educator's National Conference (MENC) and Minnesota Music Teacher's Association (MMTA). Amanda is also the co-founder of The Four Strings Quartet in Minneapolis, Minnesota and enjoys composing and performing for weddings and special events in her spare time.

Mr Ansel (Edina location)
YMES Group Classes, Private Piano Lessons

Mr Ansel studied at the Lawrence University Conservatory, the Guildhall School of Music in London, and the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is a recipient of numerous prestigious grants and fellowships, and has lived and studied across Europe, India, Taiwan, and China.

When not teaching or performing in Minneapolis, Mr. Ansel keeps busy as an amateur boxer and filmmaker. His most recent works have received critical attention from local and national media outlets, including MTV and UCLA's Department of Film, Television and Digital Media. Ansel has been teaching at CYMS since 2006.

Ms Briana (Edina location)
YMES Group Classes, Private Piano Lessons, Private Voice Lessons

Miss Briana began studying voice at the age of four and piano at the age of nine. She was heavily involved in musical theatre and choir throughout grade school & high school. She has competed and been awarded in many voice competitions including NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) as well as many piano competitions with MMTA (Minnesota Music Teachers Association). She graduated from North Central University in December 2008 with a music degree in voice and minor in piano. During her academic studies she had the privilege of singing and touring with Chorale, a

nationally known choir. She has accompanied choirs, soloists, and participated and led music in church services around the Twin Cities.

Briana has expanded her vocal ability in other languages and genres including classical, musical theatre, jazz, contemporary, and gospel, which has allowed her to become a more versatile performer. She is a member of MMTA and has been a certified teacher at Children's Yamaha Music School since 2009. She also enjoys writing and performing music.

Ms Elizabeth (Edina location)
YMES Group Lessons, Private Piano Lessons

Elizabeth was born and raised in Sturgis, South Dakota where she began piano lessons at the age of 5. She played flute in her high school symphonic band, piano in the jazz band, sang in the concert choir and was given the distinction of best instrumentalist and vocalist of her graduating class. She was a participant in All State Choir, Young Artists Vocal Competition, SD Honors Choir, and was principal chair at Chadron Honors Band. She graduated from North Central University in Minneapolis with a degree in piano performance. She and her husband Tom have two young children and they enjoy snowboarding, camping and spending time outside together. Ms Elizabeth has been a certified Yamaha teacher at CYMS since 2001.

Ms Ella (Edina & Roseville locations)
YMES Group Classes, Private Piano Lessons, Private Voice Lessons

Miss Ella began her formal piano lessons at the age of 9. A native of Russia, she had attended a 7-year music school for children specializing in piano. She had entered a 4-year music college at the age of 16 where she had majored in music theory and history. After graduating, she had attended Astrakhan State Conservatory until she had moved to United States. She had graduated from University of Minnesota, Twin Cities in 1993 with the degree in Music Education. She had received her music teaching certification in classroom and vocal music in 1994. She became a certified Yamaha Music School teacher in 2011.

Miss Ella had had experiences teaching both public school and private students. She had taught general and vocal music for Minneapolis Public Schools for 14 years. While teaching for Minneapolis, she had especially enjoyed working with students on the annual musicals and participating in "Creating Original Opera" program sponsored by the Metropolitan Opera. She has been the faculty member of "Music for Everyone" program since 1992. She enjoys preparing her piano students for the recitals and participation in the Upper Midwest Music Festival. She resides in Plymouth with her husband, son, and a cat.

Ms Inese (Roseville location)

YMES Group Classes, Private Piano Lessons

Ms Inese has taught music and piano for 31 years as a public school teacher, school choir conductor and piano instructor. Inese began teaching at Children's Yamaha Music School in 1997. Many of her students have won MMTA contests and have become professional musicians.

Inese enjoys playing with chamber music groups around the Twin Cities and accompanying school and church choirs. As an active member of the Minnesota Music Teacher's Association and Minneapolis Music Teacher's Forum, Inese is involved with organizing recitals and scheduling judges.

Inese studied at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Piano Performance and studied Music Pedagogy at Jazepa Vitola Music Conservatory in Riga, Latvia.

Ms Krista (Edina & Roseville locations)

Private Piano Lessons, Private Percussion lessons

Krista started piano lessons when she was about 5 years old. She took lessons on and off through her junior year in high school. Her instrument of passion is percussion, which she began in 5th grade. She was in band, orchestra, jazz band, marching and pep band, and a few different honor bands all the way through high school. Krista attended Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, and graduated in May of 1994 with a B.M.E., instrumental emphasis, and a B.M. in percussion performance. She was named outstanding senior in the Bachelor of Music Degree program.

Krista taught grades 5-12 band for two years, along with private piano lessons, before joining Children's Yamaha Music School in 1997. She continued to teach grades 5-8 band for two more years while teaching private piano, percussion, and a few other band instruments. Since then she only teaches private percussion and piano.

A former member of the rock band 44, Krista plays drum set regularly at her church, and often light percussion and backing vocals at coffee shops with band mate Dan Hylton. She is a member of the Percussive Arts Society. She also judges for the Upper Midwest Music Festival every April.

Ms Kristal (Edina & Roseville locations)

YMES Education Specialist, YMES Group teacher, Private Piano Lessons

Kristal grew up in rural Minnesota. During her high school years she sang in choir, played flute and baritone horn in band, participated in several drama productions, and played piano for her church. Kristal graduated from Northwestern College in Roseville with a degree in Music Education, emphasis on voice and piano. While in college she sang in and accompanied the College Choir, was student director of the Male Chorus, and acted in several drama productions. She was a touring member of the Rhapsody in Praise singers through KTIS.

Kristal started teaching with Children's Yamaha Music School in 1989. She is now an Education Specialist with YMES. She helps to train new Yamaha teachers, evaluate current teachers, and pilot new curriculum. Kristal is a member of MMTA and has had several students play in the Honors Concert, and several attain high scores in the piano and theory exams. Her students also participate in the Upper Midwest Music Festival.

Ms Lana (Edina location)

YMES Group Lessons, Private Piano Lessons

Lana graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara, with a bachelor's degree in voice and theory-history. During her college years, she traveled with choirs to Europe and to Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Japan. The first trip to Europe included performing in Westminster Abby, many cathedrals throughout Europe, and singing for the Pope in Rome. She has performed in many musicals throughout the years and sings as a substitute soloist in churches throughout the Twin Cities.

Lana and her husband, Jerry (who plays drums), donate time playing for charities, nursing homes, and fundraisers throughout the Twin Cities. They also love to travel all over the world. (Some of their travels have included seeing most of the baseball stadiums in the US and Canada) And, yes, they are big Minnesota Twins fans. Lana loves her students and their parents. They are like an extended family to her. Jerry and Lana have two new Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Cinnamon and Pepper. One family of her students actually named her little pets. She has been teaching at Children's Yamaha Music School since 1976. She is also active with MMTA & Upper Midwest Music Festival.

Ms Luana (Roseville location)
YMES Group Classes, Private Piano Lessons

Luana Blake Mitchell is a graduate of Milikin University, Decatur, Illinois and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Before moving to MN, she was a Yamaha Music School instructor in Illinois. She was applied Voice Instructor at North Hennepin Community College for 17 years and maintained a large private studio. Currently, she is Director of Music at Arlington Hills UMC in Maplewood, music teacher at Aurora Charter School in Minneapolis, in addition to her teaching at the Roseville CYMS since 1980. She is a Performing Artist member of Thursday Musical where she has served as VP of the Student Section, served on many Boards/committees for MMTA (Including a Piano Syllabus Judge up through Level 7), and was a former State President for NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing).

Ms Mary Ellen (Edina location)
YMES Group Classes, JAC Instructor, Private Piano Lessons

Mary Ellen began teaching at Children's Yamaha Music School in 1997 (and has participated in 4 YMES Summer Music Camps in Appleton). She began studying piano when she was 6 years old. She has studied voice, composition and recorder as well. She is a graduate of Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA with a Bachelor of Music degree in music education. She attended the Children's Theatre School in Minneapolis as a student and music intern and studied acting, dance, mime and improvisation. She's been in many choirs thru the years and loves choral singing! She performed as a mime named Zucchini for 5 years. She is involved as an accompanist, singer and music mentor at her church. She also loves writing songs and teaching composition. Children make her smile! She is married to Forrest and they have 3 daughters: Angela (husband: Jason), Julia and Christina and a grandson named Logan who is three.

Ms Melissa (Edina location)
YMES Education Specialist, YMES Group Teacher

Melissa grew up in North Central Iowa on a farm near Forest City, Iowa. Upon graduation from high school, she attended Bethel College (St. Paul, MN) for 2 years then to Wartburg College (Waverly, IA) where she graduated with a Bachelor's of Music Education, piano emphasis. Melissa began her piano study at the age of 6. During her pre-college and college years, she focused on piano through competitions, recitals, playing for special events, and much accompanying, including being a principle

accompanist in the Bethel and Wartburg choirs. After graduating from Wartburg in 1991, Melissa started teaching for Children's Yamaha Music School as both a private and group teacher. In 2005, she and her family moved to Worthington, MN because of her husband's job change. During that time, she ventured into a new role as the Director of Worship at her church. In 2010, Melissa moved again but this time near her and her husband's home territory. Now, they reside near Albert Lea, MN on an acreage right on the MN/IA border. Nonetheless, Melissa will be resuming class teaching in Edina. She has greatly missed teaching Yamaha and is excited to be in the classroom again!

Since 2000, Melissa has also enjoyed serving as a Yamaha Music Education Specialist. In that role, she has helped conduct and teach Yamaha seminars in California and locally as well as contribute articles for a couple of Yamaha publications. In addition, she has maintained her role by observing and evaluating videos of new Yamaha teachers as part of their certification process.

Melissa and her husband, Doug, have 4 children: 3 teenagers and one pre-teen! Tyler, Tori, Zachary, and Lydia. Oh, and 2 dogs: Buddy and Rocky. In addition to managing her busy household, Melissa also works as one of the staff accompanists at Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa.

Ms Olga (Edina location)
Private Piano Lessons

Olga Bobrovnyk received her degree of Bachelor of Music from Auckland University, New Zealand; as well as a Music Teacher Diploma With Honor, Lviv Music College, Ukraine. She is a member of Music Teachers National Association, Minnesota Music Teachers Association, and Minnesota River Valley Music Teachers Association.

As a former teacher of Yamaha group classes, Olga has a strong understanding of the Yamaha method. Emphasis in her lessons is placed on expressive solo/ensemble performance, sight playing, music theory, improvisation, and ear training. Students are exposed to diverse styles of music and encouraged to participate in piano recitals, festivals, contests, exams etc.

Olga has been teaching piano performance since 1991. She has experience teaching solfege and music history (Lviv, Ukraine), music for preschoolers (Ramalynn Montessori Academy, MN), Junior Music Course, Young Musicians Course, and Music for Kids (Children's Yamaha Music School, MN). Since August 2000, she has been teaching piano performance at Children's Yamaha Music School.

A number of Olga's students were the winners of MMTA State Piano Contest and have been selected to participate in the Honor Concert at the University of Minnesota. Several of Olga's Yamaha graduates have passed grade 9-8 Yamaha piano exams. Her

students have shown high scores in piano and music theory exams through MMTA. A monetary award was given to one of her students as a result of an outstanding score on her Piano Exams, levels 7 and 8, as well as Theory Exams levels 2 and 3.

Ms Soojung (Edina location)
Private Piano Lessons

Ms Soojung was born in South Korea and graduated from the Deokwon art high school in Seoul. She earned her bachelor's degree in piano performance from Ewha Woman's University (South Korea) and received her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Minnesota where she studied with Alexander Braginsky on full scholarship.

Prior to moving to the United States, Ms Soojung won a number of Korean national music competitions including the Soowon Women's College competition and the Korean-American competition. She is a winner of the Thursday Musical competition and University of Minnesota concerto competition, which resulted in a performance with the University Symphony Orchestra. Her frequent performances in the Twin Cities area have included recitals at the Schubert Club's Courtroom Concert series and Thursday Musical Morning Artist series. She frequently participates in summer music festivals including the Beijing International Music Festival and Academy in China, and the International Keyboard Institute & Festival in New York.

Dr Hong is also very passionate about teaching. She has been teaching for over 10 years and is a member of the Music Teachers National Association and Minnesota Music Teachers Association. Ms Soojung began teaching at CYMS in 2011.

Ms Barb
Substitute YMES Group Teacher, Substitute Private Piano Lessons

Barb has a degree in vocal education K-12 from Gustavus Adolphus College. She taught at Children's Yamaha Music School for 18 years, and is now a frequent substitute teacher. (I think that was my last year of having my own classes.) She received a degree from Augsburg College in 1997 as a music therapist.

Teaching experiences include her time at Yamaha and her ongoing substituting for classes, as well as teaching music in the public and Catholic school systems. She has been a life long church musician, starting as an organist at age 16 and working as a children's choir director, preschool music teacher and director of many musical productions throughout the years. She is also a member of a hand bell choir. Her music therapy work has mostly involved hospice patients but she has also dealt with clients with dementia and autism and physical disabilities.

Ms Barb is in her sixth year as a member of the VocalEssence chorus directed by Philip Brunelle.

Ms Deanna
Director, Children's Yamaha Music School

Born in Red Oak, Iowa, Deanna started piano at age 5. It was during these young years, that her compassion for music began. She graduated from North Park University in Chicago, IL, with a degree in Music Education and minors in Art History, English and Piano Performance. After college, she taught 6th grade in Bloomington Public Schools for 4 years and then taught preschool in Golden Valley for 4 years. In 1974, she enrolled her daughter in the Yamaha Music School in Edina, which she had heard about from a friend. She was so impressed with the program, that she became a Yamaha teacher herself within a few months. After a year of teaching Yamaha, she became the Director of the school in 1975. She continued teaching for 15 years and then decided to focus solely on the management and expanding the school. She has been a guest speaker at the University of Minnesota, MMTA, MMTF & SPPTA. Under her direction, CYMS has won several awards from the Yamaha Music Education System. Deanna has also visited the YMES headquarters in Japan twice. She has now been the Director of CYMS for 37 years, and her love for music, children and the Yamaha method teaching of music, remains as strong as ever.

Ms Vanessa
General Manager, Children's Yamaha Music School

Vanessa grew up in Minneapolis, MN as a Children's Yamaha Music School student. A highlight as a CYMS student, was when she entered a composition in the MMTA competition (a trio for flute, clarinet & piano) & won 2nd place in the state contest, (she played the piano part, a CYMS teacher played the flute part, & her Minnehaha Academy band director played the clarinet.) During high school, she was active in band, choir, orchestra & jazz band. Vanessa graduated from North Park University in Chicago, IL with a Bachelor's degree in Business Communications with an emphasis in Business Administration, Marketing, and Swedish. She also sang & toured with in the NPU Concert Choir. She and her husband, Peter, have 3 children whom have all participated in the Yamaha Junior Music Course program.