CHERI SYKES, B.A., M.S.M.

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EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Arts, Music, *cum laude*, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, 1979. Classical piano concentration. Active in jazz program.

Master of Sacred Music, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, 1993. Organ concentration. Studies in music history and keyboard performance practice.

Continuing Education: Private studies in jazz piano with Laura Caviani, Minneapolis, MN; Sean Turner, McNally-Smith College, St. Paul. Jamey Aebersold Jazz Camp, Louisville, KY, summer 2007. Graduate studies in Elementary and Intermediate Piano Pedagogy, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, 2008.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Private Instructor, piano and guitar, for children and adults:

Sykes Piano Studio, Osseo, MN, 2008-present.
Schmitt Music, Minneapolis, MN, 2006-2010.
Decatur School of Music, Atlanta, GA, 1994-1997.
The Music Place, Atlanta, GA 1990-1991. Also group keyboard instructor.

Group instructor, folk and electric guitar, teens and adults, Schmitt Music, Minneapolis, MN 1984-1986.

Preschool group music instructor, KiddyKeys licensed, 2016-present.

Master Certified, Minnesota Music Teachers' Association (MMTA). MMTA Popular Styles Syllabus Committee, chair 2011-2013. Exam judge.

PERFORMING EXPERIENCE:

Wild Honey and the Locusts jazz/r&b band. Leader, arranger, and keyboards. Featured on KARE-11 television's "Minnesota Showcase" and KBEM Jazz 88's "Jazz and the Spirit" programs. 1998-present.

Historical Jazz Piano programs for seniors. Educational programs featuring solo performance of ragtime, stride, blues, and boogie-woogie. 2006-present.

Solo pianist, jazz/classical/pop styles, for special events, Minneapolis and Atlanta, GA. 1989-present.

Minnesota Bach Festival Grande Finale. Solo organ for audience of 1000, hosted by Michael Barone, November, 2000. Subsequently aired statewide on Minnesota Public Radio.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Church Director of Music:

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, East Bethel, MN, organist and leader of rock band, 2013-2015.
Richfield United Methodist Church, Minneapolis, MN, alternative worship band, 2006-2009.
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, New Brighton, MN, 1997-2005. Organist and director of contemporary combos for 10,000-member church. Major gospel concert featuring singer Gwen Matthews.
Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, contemporary worship leader, 2005-2009.

Music Director, Finian's Rainbow, Rosetown Playhouse, Roseville, MN, summer, 2006.