

University of Wisconsin-Madison Community Music Lessons Instructor Biographies

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Strings

Violin



Biffa Kwok is a first-year Doctoral of Musical Arts student at the School of Music in the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the tutelage of David Perry, the leader of the Pro Arte Quartet. Kwok is a recipient of the prestigious Paul Collins fellowship. A native of Hong Kong, Kwok received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. Kwok also holds a Master Degree in Violin Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music, under the tutelage of Mikhail Kopelman, former leader of the Borodin and Tokyo String Quartets. Over the years, Kwok has received various scholarships and assistantships. A strong advocate of chamber music, Kwok actively participated in many chamber and orchestra performances including

masterclasses with the Chilingirian; the Ying, and the Dover string quartet; and collaborations with many artists including Trevor Pinnock, Uroš Lajovic, Kokman Liu, Neil Varon, John Demain, Izhak Perlman, Nobuko Imai and Peter Serkin.



Keisuke Yamamoto is working on a Bachelor of Science in Music Performance in the studio of David Perry. He has performed in master classes for James Ehnes and Marilyn McDonald and was recently a concerto winner in the UW-Madison Concerto competition. Alongside his musical studies, Mr. Yamamoto is also

pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and hopes to integrate both fields in his future.



Isidora Miranda earned her undergraduate degree in Violin Performance at the University of the Philippines College of Music where she graduated cum laude in 2006. Isi was a member of the Manila Symphony Orchestra from 2001 to 2009. She participated in various youth orchestras in Asia, namely, the Southeast Asian Youth Orchestra held in Thailand in 2003 and 2005, and in the Asian Youth Orchestra in 2006. Besides orchestral work, Isi is also an avid chamber musician, performing in the past for the Clarion Chamber Ensemble and a number of string quartets active in Manila. In 2008, Isi had the opportunity to work with the members of the

Tokyo String Quartet at the Port Townsend Chamber Music Festival in Washington and the New York University's String Quartet Summer Program. Isi continued her studies and received her Master's degree in Violin Performance and Musicology at Western Illinois University in 2011. At WIU she performed with the Julstrom String Quartet, the strings faculty ensemble in residence. Currently, Isi is working on her doctorate studies in Musicology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and just recently started a violin and accordion group, the Gasn Duo.



Maya Webne-Behrman began her violin studies at the age of five and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from UW-Madison. She began studying with Dr. Raquel Paraíso, Violinist and Ethnomusicologist, and is currently studying with the ever-inspiring Professor Eugene Purdue. Maya is a very

active chamber musician, performing regularly in piano trios and string quartets. She has also worked with the Knox-Galesburg Symphony, the Hubbard Avenue Quartet, and various ensembles throughout the Madison area.

While violin is Maya's major instrument, she also studies voice with Professor Paul Rowe and began her vocal studies at age 14 in the studio of Cheryl Bensmen-Rowe. As a vocalist, Maya has performed with the Madison Opera, UW-Madison Choirs, the Madison Savoyards, and the Madison Early Music Festival. She is the founder and current member of an early music vocal quintet at UW-Madison. In addition to violin and vocal performance, Maya has a strong background in education and while she teaches private lessons, she also serves as an instructor and counselor at UW-Madison Summer Music Clinic. She is a former student and instructor at La Escuela de Música Sirinx in Soncillo, Spain and has also taught individual and group lessons with Music Makers.

Viola



Blakeley Menghini received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Viola Performance from Greenville College in 2011, where she studied with Victoria Voumard. She then studied with Tony Devroye (of the Avalon Quartet) as she earned her Master of Music degree and Performance Certificate in Viola from Northern Illinois University in 2014. Taking a break from school, Blakeley spent a year teaching private lessons in public schools, private schools, and her home in southern Illinois. She also taught at Greenville College, where she directed the GC Chamber Orchestra and served as adjunct professor of Violin and Viola. In addition, she created and taught a Music History and

Appreciation course at the Lahr-Well Academy in Edwardsville, IL. Blakeley is now a DMA candidate at UW-Madison, where she studies viola with Sally Chisholm. As the violist of UW-Madison's Hunt Quartet, she is able to share her love of music with elementary students across the Madison region. She has a passion for teaching and the character building that goes hand-in-hand with learning an instrument. Blakeley has earned Suzuki Method certification in violin (books 1-6) and viola (books 1-3), and Musikgarten certification for the Cycle of Seasons curriculum. She has experience with students of all ages, from 5 to 75, and believes that there is no person lacking potential for musical ability.

Cello



Cellist **Andrew Briggs** enjoys a career in music performance and education. Maintaining a private studio in Colorado, New York, and Wisconsin, he teaches cellists of all levels and backgrounds. Andrew's interest in education has led to multiple teaching fellowships. This includes school outreach concerts as part of the Hunt String Quartet at UW-Madison, teaching private lessons at Harlem School of the Arts as part of Juilliard's Arts Enrichment Program, and classroom aural skills training as a Teaching Fellow for Juilliard's prestigious Ear Training program. Andrew's teaching includes an emphasis on body awareness and technical ease to achieve comfort and natural musical expression. For

more information, please visit: andrewbriggscello.com.



Cellist Ji Eun Kim is a Doctoral candidate in cello performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with Professor Uri Vardi. She completed her Master of Music in Cello Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music, studying with Professor Alan Harris. She graduated summa cum laude from the School of Music at Sangmyung University with a Bachelor of Music degree, and received the Dean's Award from the School of Music as well as numerous scholarships. Ji Eun participated in National Summer Cello Institute in 2015 and Aspen Music Festival in 2012 as a scholarship holder. With the nomination of Alan Harris, she performed in The String Showcase,

which is given only to several talented and potential musicians and she won The

Spotlight Recital through a competitive audition. As a recipient of a scholarship for both years, she participated in Great Mountains Music Festival in Pyongchang, South Korea in 2009 and 2010, studying with Aldo Parisot and Ole Akahoshi. Also, Ji Eun had the opportunity of participating in masterclasses with Aldo Parisot, Alisa Weilerstein, and Paul Katz. She studied chamber music with Enrico Elisi and Lynn Blakeslee at Eastman and with Parry Karp at UW.

Stephanie Knapper (not pictured) is currently working towards her Master's Degree in Cello Performance under Professor Parry Karp.

Natalie Melk (not pictured) is currently working towards her Bachelor's Degree and studies cello under Professor Uri Vardi

Guitar



Erik Gibelyou is currently a graduate student at UW-Madison finishing his Master of Arts in music theory. In 2015 he finished his Master of Music in guitar performance at UW-Madison. He has many years of experience teaching private lessons and welcomes students of all ages and skill level. As a patient and supportive instructor, he finds teaching to be very rewarding and

loves to see his students make progress as musicians. Erik actively performs at UW-Madison and seeks out opportunities to perform elsewhere in the area.

Woodwind

Flute



Lauren Koehler is a third year music education major studying flute under Stephanie Jutt. Her teaching philosophy is centered on creating a well-rounded musician. In addition to teaching flute during lessons, she accompanies her young students on piano, and teaches basic concepts of music theory. In addition to teaching through CML, she teaches sectionals in the area high and middle schools.

I love to teach and am interested in meeting a student wherever they are at with their skill-set. If you have specific goals, we can structure lessons in a way to help in achieving them.



Serbian flutist **Ivana Ugrcic** is one of the most exciting and adventurous young flutists in the international pantheon. She completed her bachelor in Belgrade-Serbia and master's degree in Paris-France where she was working with legendary Pierre-Yves Artaud and George Alirol. In 2014 she was awarded the prestigious Collins Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music, where she is currently a candidate for a Doctorate of Musical Arts, studying with Stephanie Jutt. She has been performing as a solo artist, chamber musician, and orchestra player around Europe and the United States. In February of 2015, Ms. Ugrcic was a soloist with the UW-Madison Symphony Orchestra as a winner of the 2014-15 UW-Madison Concerto

Competition, and in July 2015 soloist with the Miami Festival Symphony orchestra as a winner of the 2015 Miami Summer Music Festival Concerto Competition. Ivana Ugrcic's recent solo album, "The Four Seasons" by Antonio Vivaldi was released in September, 2014.

Clarinet

Kimberly Fullerton (not pictured) is currently working towards her Doctorate degree in Clarinet Performance at the UW-Madison School of Music.



Kai-Ju Ho is an active clarinetist in recital and solo appearances, orchestra playing and chamber music. She was the First-place winner of the Young Artist Competition sponsored by the International Clarinet Association (ICA) in 2012. Her playing has been described as “very musical, with smooth technique and clean playing” in THE CLARINET 2012 performance review. Kai-Ju was born in Taipei, Taiwan. She is currently pursuing a Doctoral of Musical Arts degree in clarinet performance at University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music with Professor Linda Bartley. She is also a distinguished recipient of Paul Collins graduate fellowship. Kai-Ju received her Master Degree

in clarinet performance from the University of Texas at Austin with Professor Nathan Williams and Bachelor Degree in clarinet performance from Taipei National University of Arts with Professor Wei-Leng Chen.

Bassoon



Juliana Mesa-Jaramillo is a Doctoral Candidate in Bassoon Performance at the University of Wisconsin -Madison, under the instruction of Professor Marc Vallon. She was Principal and Second bassoon of the EAFIT Symphony Orchestra for 5 years prior to going to Madison and the bassoon teacher of the Medellin Philharmonic Academy for 3 years. Ms. Mesa specializes

in making reeds as well as teaching the process and perfecting it.

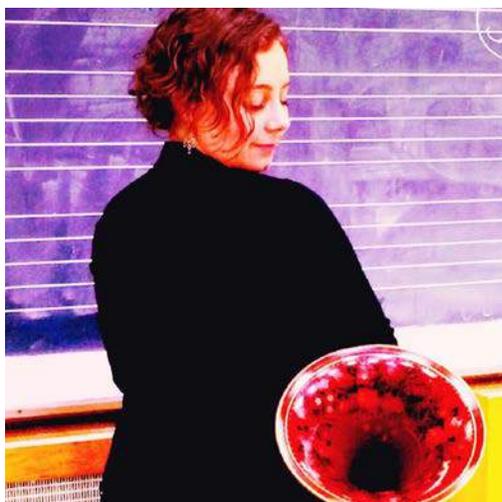
Saxophone



Chance Stine is currently a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying with Dr. Warnhoff. In addition to teaching through CML, he has taught around the Madison area for the past 3 years and is currently the saxophone instructor at Patrick Marsh Middle School in Sun Prairie. One of his greatest joys is teaching and witnessing the great growth, both musical and outside of music, a student can make through hard work!

Brass

French Horn



Horn player **Sarah Gillespie** is a native of Bossier City, LA and a candidate for the Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a minor in Vocal Performance. Sarah received her Master of Music from UW in 2009 and her Bachelor of Music Performance and Music Education from Louisiana State University. An advocate for music education, she currently hosts a private studio of 20 students and teaches master classes at Middleton High School. Her school aged students attain high scores at the WSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival and are members in prestigious, auditioned ensembles such as the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra and Winds of Wisconsin. Sarah often performs with the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra and the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra as well as other chamber and pit orchestras including her woodwind quintet, the Odyssey Winds. When not performing or teaching, Sarah might be found biking, cooking Creole and Cajun cuisine, or singing alto in church choir.



Ms. Joanna Schulz began her music studies on piano at the age of 5 and started the horn at 10. Horn became her primary instrument during the first few years of post-secondary school at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. In 2002 she completed her Master's Degree in horn performance and spent the next several years continuing to perform and study in Canada, Europe, New Zealand and the US. Ensembles include the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Montreal Chamber Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Foothills Brass Quintet and the Ad Mare Wind Quintet. She has performed

on stage with artists from Kanye West to Luciano Pavarotti, recorded for New Zealand pop star Bic Runga and contributed to various film soundtracks. In the fall of 2015 Ms. Schulz began her DMA at UW-Madison and joined university faculty ensemble, the Wingra Wind Quintet.



Originally from Taiwan, **Tsai-Ying Li** has been playing the horn since age fourteen. She received her Master's Degree in music performance in 2014 from Northern Illinois University, where she received a full scholarship. Currently a candidate for the Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she studies horn with Daniel Grabois and wind conducting with Scott Teeple. Tsai-Ying has performed in Taiwan and the

United States as a soloist and chamber musician. She has also played extensively with horn choirs, wind ensembles, and orchestras. She recently performed on the stage of New York's Carnegie Hall with the UW Wind Ensemble. In addition, Tsai-Ying performed and recorded in Madison with the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra in 2014. Upon completion of her degree, Tsai-Ying hopes to work as a performer and professor of horn either in the US or in her native country.



Robert Fant is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Wisconsin where he is a Chancellor’s Fellow and the horn studio Teaching Assistant. Before his move to Madison he held several orchestral positions and freelanced in the United States, South America, Asia, and Europe. He has maintained a regular schedule as a recitalist and chamber musician in addition to his orchestral duties. As a former finalist (and the only hornist ever) for the BBC Gold Medal Competition, Robert has been fortunate to perform as a soloist / recitalist in the USA, Europe, and Asia. Other competitions include finalist for WAMSO, Haverhill International Soloist Competition, and various summer festivals. His DMA project will be a CD project with his wife in a recording of new music for horn and soprano. Robert has held several teaching positions in his past including: Visiting International Scholar - Royal Northern College of Music, Horn Instructor - Trinity College – London, Horn and Chamber music Instructor - Auckland University, University of Michigan non-major teacher, College Conservatory of Music - Teaching Assistant. He has presented masterclasses around the world. Additionally, Robert has maintained a private studio in various countries. With students winning Professional auditions as well as undergraduate and graduate positions. He is eager to gain a professorship at a University where he can continue to pursue a career of solo, chamber, and orchestral work.

Trumpet

Robert Fant, pictured under “French Horn” also teaches Trumpet through CML.

Will Porter, pictured under “Trombone” also teaches Trumpet through CML.

Trombone



A native of England, **Will Porter** received his undergraduate degree from the University of Leeds, which included a year studying abroad in the United States, at the University of Illinois. Will holds a Master of Music degree from the Royal Academy of Music, where his principal teachers were Ian Bousfield, Dudley Bright, and Dennis Wick. Whilst studying in London, Will performed with orchestras such as the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester. From 2009-2014 Will held the position of co-principal trombone with the Orquesta

Filarmónica de Santiago, Chile, until deciding to move to the United States and pursue his DMA in trombone performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he currently studies with Mark Hetzler.

Thomas Macaluso (not pictured) is currently working towards his Doctorate Degree in Trombone Performance at UW-Madison.

Euphonium

Thomas Macaluso (not pictured) is currently working towards his Doctorate Degree in Trombone Performance at UW-Madison. He also teaches Euphonium through CML.

Will Porter, pictured under “Trombone” also teaches Euphonium through CML.

Tuba

Will Porter, pictured under “Trombone” also teaches Tuba through CML.

Percussion



Garrett Mendelow is an up and coming percussionist from the United States. Though his interest in percussion extends to many different facets of the art, he dedicates much time to contemporary percussion performance practices and new music in both solo and chamber settings. Garrett has appeared in national and international venues throughout the

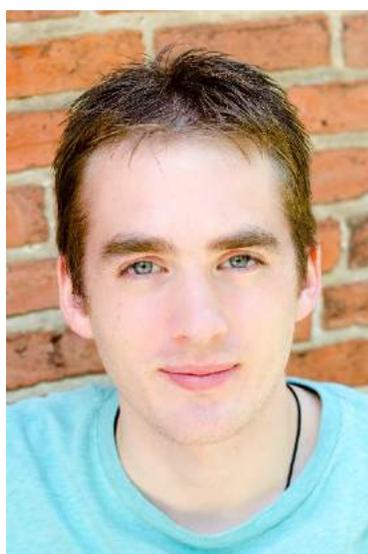
United States and Europe, and has also appeared in several music competitions. After receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Percussion Performance from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance where he studied with Michael Udow, Joseph Gramley, Ian Ding, Jonathan Ovalle, Brian Jones, and Cary Kocher, he received his Master's Degree at Stony Brook University in New York under the tutelage of Eduardo Leandro. Garrett is currently pursuing his DMA with Anthony Di Sanza under a Paul Collins Distinguished Fellowship.

Piano



Josh Agterberg has been teaching piano lessons since the end of high school. Although he specializes in Jazz piano, he played classically for many years, and can teach well in either genre. On campus, he has played with several jazz ensembles, including the UW Jazz Orchestra and UW Latin Ensemble. Additionally, he frequently plays original music and standards with small groups on and around campus.

The reason I teach piano is that I believe that music can be enjoyed more if you understand it. When I teach, I try my best to help students understand more about music so that they can enjoy both listening to it and playing it.



Cody Goetz is currently pursuing a BM in piano performance at the University of Wisconsin under Professor Jessica Johnson, with an additional major in Spanish. As an avid teacher, he has taught piano through CML for three years. As a “growing-in-experience” piano teacher, his goal is to provide his students with their own tools and strategies to be successful pianists. These include, but are not limited to, a musical vocabulary that helps them realize a musical performance, the physical awareness and embodiment of technique and gesture, and critical thinking skills when approaching a piece of music. His goal is that

students are educated in the essential concepts of music in order to create holistic and individualistic interpretations of whichever style of music that interests them.

Shun-Jung Hsu, also known as Daisy, (not pictured) is working towards her Doctorate Degree in Piano Performance. She received her Master's Degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and her Undergraduate Degree from Taipei Municipal University of Education. She has experience teaching piano through the University of Missouri, Taipei Municipal University and here at the UW-Madison School of Music.



Pianist and Collins Fellow **Kangwoo Jin**, a doctoral student of professors Christopher Taylor and Jessica Johnson, is a native of South Korea who has won numerous competitions, including the Korea-Herald Newspaper Competition, the Eumyoun piano competitions, plus the Beethoven Piano Competition at UW-Madison, sponsored by former Chancellor Irving Shain. He also performed a debut concert sponsored by the Chosun Daily Newspaper in Korea. Jin received an undergraduate degree from Hanyang University in South Korea and a master's degree from Indiana University, where he received the J.Battista Scholarship on Excellence and worked as an associate instructor. In Madison, Jin is an instructor in the School's "Piano Pioneers" and Community Music Lessons programs, and has worked at the Summer Music Clinic as a collaborative pianist.



Pianist **Haley O'Neil** is currently a senior finishing her Bachelor's of Music in Piano Performance under the direction of Professor Christopher Taylor. An instructor through the Community Music Lessons program since 2013, Haley has taught students of all ages and backgrounds, with an

emphasis in providing the tools and technique to play repertoire at any level. Also an avid performer, Haley has participated in the UW-Madison Concerto Competition, and received Honorable Mention in the 2014 UW-Madison Beethoven Piano Competition.



Colombian pianist **Alberto Peña** is currently a doctoral candidate at the UW-Madison School of Music, studying with Christopher Taylor. He has been heard in solo, chamber and concerto performances in Latin America, Europe, Canada and the USA and has been a prizewinner in numerous competitions. Besides commanding a wide and varied solo repertoire, he is a devoted and sought-after collaborator. Alberto has been awarded degrees and multiple honors by the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, Southern Methodist University and the Fundación Universitaria Juan N. Corpas (Bogota), where his main teachers were Boris Slutsky, Joaquín Achúcarro and Pilar Leyva. He has also been a scholarship student in many prestigious summer

programs, such as the Mozarteum Sommerakademie, the Accademia Musicale Chigiana, the Bowdoin Music Festival, and the Centre d'Arts Orford.



Yunkyung Hong was born in South Korea. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin where studied composition with Russell Pinkston, Yevgeniy Sharlat, and Donald Grantham. Also, she received her Master's degree from the University of Florida where studied composition with James Paul Sain and Paul Koonce. She is currently in her third year of the DMA program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying with Laura Schwendinger and Stephen Dembski. She has been teaching piano privately for ten years, and also has been working as a teaching assistant of the undergraduate music theory class for four years.

Christy Robinson (not pictured) is working towards her Master's Degree in Piano Performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Music Theory

Yunkyung Hong, pictured above, is also available to teach Music Theory and/or Composition lessons to students who are interested.

Voice



A native of Racine, Wisconsin, **Alaina Carlson** began her musical training at the piano, and gradually shifted her focus to singing as she became involved in choir and musicals. She completed her undergraduate studies at Lake Forest College, where she first started teaching piano at a local community center. She spent three years in Chicago, where in addition to performing, she taught through the Chicago branch of Piano Lessons In Your Home. She is now pursuing her Master of

Music in vocal performance at UW – Madison, where she has worked through the CML program for three semesters. Highlights in Alaina’s performance career include ‘Leading Player’ (*Pippin*), her work as a member of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, ‘Nancy’ (*Albert Herring*), and ‘Cherubino’ (*Le nozze di Figaro*).



Meghan Hilker is currently a 2nd year Master's student in voice performance at UW. She obtained her undergraduate degree from Penn State and studied at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. Meghan has been teaching voice and piano for the past five years and has knowledge of both classical and musical theater style singing. She has experience in vocal directing for Community Theater and has extensive experience in performance. Most recently she appeared as Marcellina in UW's production of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Meghan strives to work with her voice

students on building the core fundamentals of healthy vocal technique to become better singers as well as musicians.



Cayla Rosché is a graduate from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin with a Bachelor's degree in Voice Performance and Choral/General Music Education. Cayla is currently working on her Master's degree in Voice Performance. She has performed in many Operas including Britten's *Albert Herring*, Mozart's *Le Nozze Di Figaro*, Strauss' *Arabella* in addition to performing many recitals. Cayla enjoys a variety of styles of music and encourages students to become versatile musicians that can adapt to perform a variety of musical styles.



Antonio Souza is a countertenor from Fortaleza, Brazil, where he received his degree in Music Education from the Federal University of Ceará. He studied classical singing with Brazilian male soprano Hamilton Carvalho. Antonio is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Vocal Performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the guidance of Professor Mimmi Fulmer. He was a recipient of the Voice Excellence Wisconsin Distinguished Fellowship (2014-2015) and now is working as a Teaching Assistant of Voice (2015-2016).



Anna Polum holds degrees at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Music Education and Voice Performance, and is continuing her education at UW-Madison pursuing an M.M. in Voice Performance. She placed 1st in the collegiate division of NATS (AK Chapter) in the spring of 2014, as well as 1st in the

Anchorage Choral Competition in the spring of 2014, and has placed 1st in the Advanced Artist category of the NATS (AK Chapter) competition in 2015. In 2015 she also placed 1st at the NATS competition in Eau Claire, WI. She has sung with several choirs as a soloist as well as given her own solo recitals singing repertoire such as the Angel in Respighi's Laud to the Nativity. She was selected as the 2014/2015 Opera Fairbanks Young Artist Apprentice by the Metropolitan Opera's conductor Gregory Buchalter. Last season she sang the Dew Fairy in Hansel and Gretel with Opera Fairbanks, and The Countess in Le Nozze di Figaro with University of Opera at UW-Madison.

Coordinator



Samantha Sinai began her position as Coordinator of the Community Music Lessons Program in the fall of 2015. She is a candidate for a Master's Degree in Cello Performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and expects to graduate in May of 2017. An active private lesson teacher herself, she has a passion for music education. Along with teaching, Samantha is also a board-certified Music Therapist. She is available for any questions or concerns via e-mail at cml@music.wisc.edu. Her office phone number is (608) 262-9911.