

## Stephen Holley

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steveholleymusic.com

### EDUCATION

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#### Arizona State University

Ph.D. student in Music Education, *expected graduation 2022*

Tempe, AZ

#### The University of Memphis

M.M., Jazz/Classical Bass Performance  
Secondary Concentration in Musicology

Memphis, TN  
December, 1998

#### The University of Memphis

B.M., Jazz/Classical Bass Performance  
Minor in Music Business

Memphis, TN  
August, 1995

### RESEARCH/TEACHING INTERESTS

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Blending formal, non-formal, and informal approaches in the rehearsal to nurture a differentiated, democratic, learner-centered environment

Implementing facets of popular music education to cultivate a more inclusive, transformative music education experience for our students

Desire to foster the next generation of music educators in an effort to establish a more diverse, relevant, and well-rounded music education

Identifying and troubling the implicit and explicit rationales as to why a historically large percentage of high school students do not participate in their school-based music program

Comparative analysis of best pedagogical practices in popular music education both domestically and internationally

Trajectory of popular music education and the historical/pedagogical arguments in relation to jazz/traditional music education

### BOOKS

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Holley, S. (2019, May). *Coaching a popular music ensemble: Blending formal, non-formal, and informal approaches in the rehearsal*. Denver, CO: McLemore Ave Music.

Holley, S., Reinhert, K., and Moir, Z. (2020) *Action-based pedagogies for popular music education—A practical guide*. Denver, CO: McLemore Ave Music.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

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Holley, S. (In progress). Blended approaches in the rehearsal. In G.D. Smith & B. Powell (Eds.) *The places and purposes of popular music education*. Bristol, UK: Intellect Books

Holley, S. (In progress). Realizing hip-hop in the secondary ensemble. In P. Cooper & J. Sheel (Eds.) *Rhythm, rhyme, and reason: A real hip-hop music education*. TBD.

## INVITED ARTICLES

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Holley, S. (in press) Eight-part series based on *Coaching a Popular Music Ensemble*. *InTune Monthly*.

Holley, S. (in press). Review of the book *Rock Coach*, by S. Giddings. *Journal of Popular Music Education*. Bristol, UK: Intellect.

Holley, S. (2020). Blending formal, non-formal, and informal approaches in the rehearsal. *Media Journal in Music Education*, Volume 2. [www.mjme.net](http://www.mjme.net)

Holley, S. (2019, August). Blending formal, non-formal, and informal approaches in the rehearsal. *Teaching Music*, 37-41.

Holley, S. (2019, August). Choosing a popular music performance program that's right for you. *MajoringInMusic.com*.

Holley, S. (2019, August). Creating and nurturing a student-centered learning environment. *Flat-books.com*

Holley, S. (2018, November). Towards a more inclusive music education. *Music in a Minuet*, NAFME.org.

Holley, S. (2018, April). Lessons in our shared history through music. *Music in a Minuet*, NAFME.org.

Holley, S. (2017, November). The popular/commercial music ensemble cheat sheet. *Music in a Minuet*, NAFME.org.

Holley, S. (2017, October). How to teach commercial and popular music in schools. *Music in a Minuet*, NAFME.org.

Holley, S. (2017, September). A life changing trip to Cuba. *Music in a Minuet*, NAFME.org.

Holley, S. (2017, August). Blending traditional and contemporary teaching methods. *Music in a Minuet*, NAFME.org.

-- invited reprint in *Bluegrass Music News* (2018 Summer). Kentucky Music Educators Association, 10-11.

-- invited reprint in *UMEA Journal* (2018 Spring). Utah Music Educators Association, 12-13.

Holley, S. (2017, June). Going commercial. *InTune Monthly*, 14-18.

Holley, S. (2014, February). How to establish a jazz program and ideas to jumpstart your existing program! *Jazz Education Network newsletter*, JazzEdNet.org.

- Holley, S. (2012, November). Meaningful student travel, parts 1 and 2. *Music in a Minuet*, NAFME.org.
- Holley, S. (2012, September). Jazz education as it relates to life skills. *Music in a Minuet*, NAFME.org.
- Holley, S. (2012, August). Five must-dos for the first week of class. *Music in a Minuet*, NAFME.org.
- Holley, S. (2011, August). Recruiting for a jazz band. *Music Educators National Conference*, MENC.org.
- Holley S. (2011, August). Paying attention to the musical conversation. *Music Educators National Conference*, MENC.org.
- Holley, S. (2010, August). Five must-dos for the first week of class. *Music Educators National Conference*, MENC.org.
- Holley, S. (2010, August). Get your students a gig! Parts 1 and 2. *Music Educators National Conference*, MENC.org.

## **MUSIC JOURNALISM ARTICLES**

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- Holley, S. (2019, May). The write stuff – How to write a metal song. *InTune Monthly*.
- Holley, S. (2019, April). Players – Jake Leschinsky. *InTune Monthly*.
- Holley, S. (2019, April). The write stuff – How to write an R&B song. *InTune Monthly*.
- Holley, S. (2019, April). Players – Nick Smith. *InTune Monthly*.
- Holley, S. (2019, April). Alternatives for classroom management. *Teaching Music*, 55.
- Holley, S. (2019, April). The habits of a successful high school string ensemble. *Teaching Music*, 53.
- Holley, S. (2018, October). Loss and redemption at Stoneman Douglas High School. *Teaching Music*, 44-47.
- Holley, S. (2018, October). Teaching string students how to arrange from scratch. *Teaching Music*, 50.
- Holley, S. (2018, October). Video games and creation in the ensemble classroom. *Teaching Music*, 52.
- Holley, S. (2018, August). Building better human beings through music. *Teaching Music*, 55.
- Holley, S. (2018, August). Using nonstandard guitars in student ensembles. *Teaching Music*, 52-53.
- Holley, S. (2018, August). Rocking out with the Lakewood Project. *Teaching Music*, 40-44.
- Holley, S. (2018, April). Finding a way at Franklin High. *Teaching Music*, 32-35.
- Holley, S. (2018, April). Teaching the Harlem Renaissance through technology. *Teaching Music*, 46.
- Holley, S. (2018, January). Hip-hop in music education. *Teaching Music*, 52.

- Holley, S. (2018, January). Paving the path to success. *Teaching Music*, 42-46.
- Holley, S. (2017, December). Education Through Music. *InTune Monthly*, 42-46.
- Holley, S. (2017, October). Rallying and honoring through music. *Teaching Music*, 42-46.
- Holley, S. (2017, September). Keith Hancock, Grammy Music Educator Profile. *Teaching Music*, 9-10.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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- "Action-Based Pedagogies for Popular Music Education: A panel discussion." Association for Popular Music Education conference, Edinburgh, UK. July, 2020
- "Bridging the Pond in Popular Music Education: a dialogical comparison of HPME programs in the US and UK." Association for Popular Music Education conference, Edinburgh, UK. July, 2020
- "Crafting a Learner-centered PM Rehearsal: Altering your role through blended approaches." Association for Popular Music Education conference, Edinburgh, UK. July, 2020
- "Experiences in Music Education; an auto-ethnographic mixtape." Association for Popular Music Education conference, Detroit, MI. July, 2020
- "Action-Based Pedagogies for Popular Music Education: a panel discussion." Association for Popular Music Education conference, Detroit, MI. July, 2020
- "Coaching Diverse Learners in the Popular Music Ensemble." Association for Popular Music Education conference, Detroit, MI. July, 2020
- "Crafting a Learner-centered Rehearsal; Altering your role through blended approaches." International Music Education Summit, online, June, 2020.
- "Beyond Three Chords and the Truth: Adding elements of popular music education to your program." California Music Educators Conference, Fresno, CA, February, 2020.
- "A Paradigm Shift - Where does music education go from here?" California Music Educators Conference, Fresno, CA, February, 2020.
- "Blending Formal, Non-formal, and Informal Approaches in the Ensemble Rehearsal." Colorado Music Educators Association Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, January 2020.
- "Crowdsourcing a Secondary Popular Music Curriculum – panel discussion with Shane Colquhoun, Judy Lewis, and David A. Williams." Association for Popular Music Education Conference, New York City, NY, June 2019.
- "What'd I Say? How to protect your most important instrument." Association for Popular Music Education Conference, New York City, NY, June 2019.
- "Discussing Diversity in Musical Literacy – panel discussion with Danielle Collins, Paul Fleet, Corbin Jones, and Jarritt Sheel." Association for Popular Music Education Conference, New York City, NY, June 2019.

- "Hip-Hop Culture and the School: Beyond products and process, towards values and ethics – panel discussion with Queen D Scott, Chris Manik, Eric Dalio, and Steve Holley; moderated by Jarritt Sheel." Association for Popular Music Education Conference, New York City, NY, June 2019.
- "Adding arrows to your quiver: Blended rehearsal strategies to improve your ensemble coaching." Association for Popular Music Education Conference, New York City, NY, June 2019.
- "Differentiated Instruction in the Ensemble Rehearsal." International Music Education Summit, online, June 2019.
- "How to Add Elements of Popular Music Education to Your Program." International Music Education Summit, online, June 2019.
- "Where do we go from here? What is the future of music education?" Colorado Music Educators Association Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, January 2019.
- "Where do we go from here? Thoughts on Inclusion and Popular Music Education." (poster) National Association for Music Education Conference, Dallas, TX, November 2018.
- "From Monticello to Montreux - the story of the most acclaimed PME ensemble in the country." Modern Band Colloquium, Ft Collins, CO, July 2018.
- "Advocacy in Commercial Music Education." Association for Popular Music Education Conference, Nashville, TN, June 2018.
- "Developing Alternative Pedagogies - panel discussion with Richard Frank, Jarritt Sheel, and Judy Lewis," Association for Popular Music Education Conference, Nashville, TN, June 2018.
- "Home of the Blues: Using Memphis Music in Commercial Music Education," Association for Popular Music Education Conference, Nashville, TN, June 2018.
- "Developing a Strong Foundation in Your Band - Start with the Bass Player," Association for Popular Music Education Conference, Nashville, TN, June 2018.
- "Including elements of commercial music in your program," Colorado Music Educators Association Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, January 2018.
- "Music Education in Cuba - Exploring Similarities and Differences," Colorado Music Educators Association Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, January 2018.
- "Where do we go from here? Infusing commercial music education into your program," Jazz Education Network Conference, Dallas, TX, January 2018.
- "Rhythm Section Woes: How to Develop the Pocket in Your Band," Association for Popular Music Education Conference, Denver, CO, June 2017.
- "Creating and Developing a Commercial Music Program," Association for Popular Music Education Conference, Denver, CO, June 2017.

"Flipping the Classroom with PlayingtheGroove.com," Association for Popular Music Education Conference, Denver, CO, June 2017.

"Get Your Students a Gig!" Association for Popular Music Education Conference, Denver, CO, June 2017.

"Conversations on the state of Latin music education," Jazz Education Network Conference, Louisville, KY, January 2015.

"Starting a JEN Network Chapter," Jazz Education Network Conference, San Diego, CA, January 2015.

"Developing a Jazz Program and Ideas to Jumpstart Your Existing Program," Arkansas Music Educators Conference, Hot Springs, AR, November 2014.

## **INVITED LECTURES AND CLINICS**

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Guest Lecturer – University of Hawai'i–Mānoa, Honolulu, HI, December 2020

Guest Lecturer – Berklee College of Music, Boston, Massachusetts, April 2019

Adjudicator and Clinician - Mid-South Popular Music Festival, Memphis, Tennessee, November 2018

Guest Lecturer - University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee, November 2018

Guest Presenter - University of Colorado-Boulder, October 2018

Guest Lecturer - Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, UK, October 2018

Guest Lecturer - University of Colorado-Boulder, March 2018

Guest Clinician - Stax Music Academy, Memphis, Tennessee, 2015, 2010, 2006, 2005, 2004

Adjudicator and Clinician - Peaks Jazz Festival, American Fork, Utah, February 2016

## **AWARDS**

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Teaching Assistantship, Project Coordinator–J Dilla Music Tech Grant. Arizona State University, 2019-present

Kent Denver School named a Best Community for Music Education in 2018 by the NAMM Foundation

Quarterfinalist - Grammy Music Educator of the Year, 2018, 2017

D'Addario Teaching Artist - 2017-current

Subject of Featured Article - Hitting the Right Notes. *The University of Memphis Magazine*, Spring 2015

Nominated - John la Porta Jazz Educator of the Year, 2015

Invited to travel to Cuba with National Association for Music Association delegation to research the Cuban education system, 2011

## **STUDENT AWARDS & PERFORMANCES**

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Featured Performer - Quincy Ave Rhythm Band, Five Points Jazz Festival, Denver, CO, May 2018

Featured Performer - Soul'd Out, Capitol Hill People's Fair, Denver, CO, June 2018

Featured Performer - Quincy Ave Rhythm Band, Capitol Hill People's Fair, Denver, CO, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008

Featured Performer - the Azucartones, Capitol Hill People's Fair, Denver, CO, 2018, 2017, 2016

Featured Performer - KUVO High School/Collegiate Series, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 2013, 2012, 2011

DownBeat Student Music Awards - Best High School Pop/Rock/Blues Band, Quincy Ave Rhythm Band, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2012, 2010, 2009, 2006

Featured Performer - the Azucartones, Association for Popular Music Education, Denver, CO, June 2017

Featured Performer - Quincy Ave Rhythm Band, Association for Popular Music Education, Denver, CO, June 2017

Featured Performer - Soul Confluence, Association for Popular Music Education, Denver, CO, June 2017

Featured Performer - Soul Confluence, Capitol Hill People's Fair, Denver, CO, June 2017

Featured Performer - Groove Trader, Capitol Hill People's Fair, Denver, CO, June 2017

Featured Performer - Soul Confluence, Five Points Jazz Festival, Denver, CO, May 2017

Featured Performer - the Azucartones, Festival del Tambor, Denver, CO, 2017, 2016 2015

DownBeat Student Music Awards - Best High School Pop/Rock/Blues Band, Soul Confluence, 2016

DownBeat Student Music Awards - Best High School Pop/Rock/Blues Band, Groove Trader, 2016

Featured Performer - Soul Confluence & Groove Trader, Telluride Jazz Festival, Telluride, CO, August 2016

Featured Performer - Soul Confluence & Groove Trader, Porretta Soul Festival, Porretta, IT, July 2016

DownBeat Student Music Awards - Best High School Latin Band, the Azucartones, 2015

Featured Performer - the Azucartones, Colorado Music Educators Association, Colorado Springs, CO, January 2015

Performer - Quincy Ave Rhythm Band, JENerations Jazz Festival, Jazz Education Network Conference, San Diego, CA, January 2015

Performer - the Azucartones, JENerations Jazz Festival, Jazz Education Network Conference, San Diego, CA, January 2015

Performer - Blackmer Big Band, JENerations Jazz Festival, Jazz Education Network Conference, San Diego, CA, January 2015

Clinician/Performer - Quincy Ave Rhythm Band, Vail Soul Festival, Vail, CO, 2014, 2012, 2011

Featured Performer - Quincy Ave Rhythm Band, Montreux Jazz Festival, Montreux, CH, July 2014

Featured Performer - Quincy Ave Rhythm Band, Porretta Soul Festival, Porretta, IT, July 2014

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Producer - Commercial Music Program** 1999-2018  
Kent Denver School, Englewood, CO

- Established the Commercial Music Program, 40+ performances per year, recognized 15 times by the DownBeat Student Music Awards
- Developed a forward-thinking curriculum that embraced music, entrepreneurship, production, and performance, utilizing music as a vehicle to impart life skills
- Twice served as Performing Arts department chair
- Received the Faculty Merit Award in 2002, 2006, 2009, and 2012
- Organized and led over thirty ensemble trips, both domestic and abroad
- Arranged over 750 tunes in a variety of commercial styles
- Secured sponsorships with major music instrument manufacturers, becoming the only high school in the country to partner with several leading music companies

**Caleb Chapman's Soundhouse, Denver, CO** 2015-2017  
Executive Producer

- Implemented the Soundhouse after-school music program in the Denver area
- Initiated marketing plan, recruited musicians, and coached rehearsals
- Recognized twice by the DownBeat Student Music Awards in our first year

**The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN** 1996-1999  
Adjunct Faculty

- Taught private bass lessons to non-majors in the jazz department
- Performed in multiple faculty and graduate ensembles

**Rhodes College, Memphis, TN** 1997-1999  
Adjunct Faculty

- Taught private bass lessons to majors and non-majors



## **PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

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Performed over 10,000 professional gigs since 1987 in a multitude of commercial, jazz, and classical styles

Hundreds of recording sessions in Denver, Memphis, Nashville, and Los Angeles, contributing to dozens of master releases, demos, and projects

Worked with a multitude of Grammy Award-winning recording artists, producers, and engineers

Performed and/or recorded with dozens of Grammy-caliber musicians from a wide variety of styles including James Williams, Bill Mobley, Sean Jones, Javon Jackson, Eugie Castrillo, Arturo Sandoval, Jeff Coffin, Charles Thomas, Helen de la Rosa, Boo Mitchell, Tom "Bones" Malone, Ruben Alvarez, Tia Fuller, and Tony Reedus, et al

Numerous television and radio appearances in the US and abroad

Professional touring musician for Benson Record Company, Nashville, Tennessee. Recorded and toured with Dove Award-winning band, performed approximately 200 dates throughout the United States, 1996-1998

## **ADDITIONAL TEACHING COMPETENCIES**

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Music Theory

Popular Music History

Jazz Theory

Aural Theory

Popular Music Theory

Memphis Music Seminar

Commercial Arranging

Intro to Music Industry

Rehearsal Techniques

Commercial/Jazz Ensembles

Entrepreneurship in Music

Electric Bass

Popular Music Pedagogy

Contemporary Teaching Methods

Double Bass

Intro to Music Education

Rhythm Section Lab

Intro to Music Ed Research

## **SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY & PROFESSION**

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Association for Popular Music Education, Board Member and Secretary, 2019-current

*Journal for Jazz Education in Research and Practice*, Editorial Review Board Member, 2018-current

Administrator, Popular and Commercial Music Educators Facebook group, 2017-current

Developed the Guest Artist Program at the Kent Denver School, giving thousands of Denver metro area music students the opportunity to attend free master classes and performances featuring Grammy-caliber musicians, 2004-2018

Established the Dazzle Commercial Music Series, providing high school commercial ensembles the opportunity to perform in an established jazz venue, 2016-2017

Coordinated and led a group of 25 Kent Denver students and faculty to Havana, Cuba, to work with their Cuban peers and donate musical instruments and supplies, March, 2014

Organized and led a group of 26 Kent Denver students and faculty to work with Habitat for Humanity in Chalmette, Louisiana, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, March 2006

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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National Association for Music Education

- Council for Jazz Education Southwest Representative, 2012-2014
- Jazz Mentor, September 2013, September 2012

Jazz Education Network

- Membership Committee Chair, 2014-2016
- JENerations Jazz Festival clinician, 2013-2018

Association for Popular Music Education

- Performance Coordinator, 2019

International Society for Music Education

Colorado Music Education Association

Colorado Bandmasters Association

## REFERENCES

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**Dr. Evan Tobias**

Associate Professor  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, AZ  
(480) 965-5069  
evan.tobias@asu.edu

**Dr. Rand Harrington**

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**Dr. Judy Lewis**

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