

Christopher Hersch

Guitar and Banjo Performer/Educator

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Teaching Experience

Guitar Department Chair 2008-2012

Powers Music School Belmont MA

- Interviewed applicants for teaching positions; advised director on hiring
- Organized Department Recitals at the end of every semester
- Co-ordinated scheduling with 5 faculty members for studio space, recital times, and equipment needs
- Advised on all Guitar Department concerns for the needs of 50-80 students, parents, and faculty

Guitar Instructor 2004-present

Powers Music School Belmont MA

- Private Guitar lessons in fundamental technique, reading comprehension, theory, and improvisation
- Launched “guitar only” recitals at the end of every year, organized the program and scheduling with all guitar faculty and students
- Sold out studio with waiting list
- Individualized repertoire including Rock, Pop, Singer/Songwriters, and Jazz Improvisation
- Banjo lessons in technique, tablature, and repertoire
- Average age ranges from 6 to 18; adults from ages 20 to 60

Guitar and Banjo Instructor 2006-2010

Community Music Center of Boston Boston MA

- Private Lessons in Guitar and Banjo; focused on the fundamentals of technique, reading comprehension, and theory
- Yearly participation in “Perform-athon”, a fundraising recital crucial to the school’s financial needs
- Participated in end-of-the-year juries and student evaluations
- Individualized repertoire based on students’ interests

Classroom Teacher 2004-2010
 Outreach Program; Community Music Center of Boston Boston MA

- K-5 General Music classes in Boston Public Schools
- Developed and implemented curriculum in singing, song form, notation, and rhythm notation
- Designed and taught Recorder, Percussion, and Chorus ensembles
- Organized two performances a year featuring all classroom students and ensembles
- Co-ordinated performance space, times, and programs with teachers, administrators and parents

Guitar and Banjo Instructor 2004-2008
 Cape Cod Conservatory Falmouth/Barnstable MA

- Private Lessons in Guitar and Banjo centered on the fundamentals of technique, reading, theory, and repertoire
- Initiated and organized my own studio concert for students and parents

Guitar Instructor 2009-2010
 Boston College High School Boston MA

- Guitar lessons in contemporary music of students' choosing
- Responsible for organizing schedule

Music Instructor 2004-Present
 Private Studio Medford MA

- Private lessons in Guitar, Banjo, Ukulele, Theory, Ear Training, and Improvisation
- Maintained and grew a studio while balancing the demands of touring
- Hands-on scheduling, in constant communication with parents and adult students, ages 6-70
- Organized studio recitals at The Burren Backroom
- Total transition to online teaching platforms in 2020
- Sold out online studio with waiting list

Bands and Ensembles

Lead Guitar, Band Contributor 2010-2016
 Girls Guns and Glory Boston MA

- Primary soloist and improviser using the guitar techniques of Country, Rock, and Rockabilly
- Full time touring nationally and internationally, 200+ dates per year

- Harmony vocals; lead vocals
- Contributions to song writing, tour planning, finance, repertoire, and marketing/publicity
- Scheduling of meetings, rehearsals, and tour itinerary

Lead Banjo, Band Contributor 2007-2010
 Oneside Boston MA

- Primary soloist using bluegrass techniques over rock/pop chord progressions, improvising using the Melodic Style typically reserved for fiddle tunes
- National tour schedule of over 120 dates per year
- Electric banjo exploration, using specially-made technology and equipment
- Harmony vocals
- Contributions to songwriting, tour planning, repertoire and marketing

Lead Guitar 2004-2012
 Daniel Bennett Group Boston MA

- Composed music in shifting meter
- Fingerstyle guitar
- Modal improvisation

Lead Guitar 2014-Present
 Sarah Borges Band Boston, MA

- Rock/pop and rhythm & blues
- Harmony vocals; occasional lead vocal

Lead Guitar 2016 - Present
 Gracie Curran & The High Falutin' Band Boston, MA

- Blues and rhythm & blues
- National and regional tours

Lead Guitar 2016 - Present
 Monica Rizzio & The Roundup Boston, MA

- Country and pop country
- National and regional tours

Lead Guitar & Co-Founder 2016-Present
Say Darling Boston, MA

- Original music & co-writing credits
- Americana styles of blues, bluegrass, folk, country, rock n' roll, rhythm & blues
- Harmony vocals; lead vocals
- Band leader: Responsible for booking venues, finance, band scheduling, promotion

Lead Guitar & Founder 2014-Present
Chris Hersch and the MoonRaiders Boston, MA

- Original music with improvisations in western swing, rock n' roll, country, and jazz repertoire
- Composition credits
- Band leader: Responsible for bookings, finance, hiring of musicians, scheduling, and promotion

Freelance 2004-Present

Nationally and Internationally

- Jazz Guitar - repertoire of Standards from 1920's-1960's
- Rock n Roll - repertoire and guitar styles of 1950's
- Country - Telecaster techniques and pedal steel mimicry
- Western Swing - unique language and repertoire combining country and jazz elements
- Bluegrass - banjo and guitar techniques with in-depth repertoire knowledge
- Old Time - claw-hammer style banjo with unique repertoire

Accolades and Awards

New England Music Award Nomination: "Best Roots Act of the Year" with Chris Hersch & The MoonRaiders 2019

Voted "Rock n' Rollers of the Year" with Say Darling in *Red Line Roots* 2017

Rolling Stone Magazine premieres Girls Guns & Glory's Hank Williams Tribute album 2015

Rolling Stone Magazine includes Girls Guns & Glory in ["10 New Artists You Need to Know"](#) 2014

Rolling Stone Magazine premieres Girls Guns & Glory's song "Holiday Heartache" 2014

Voted #19 "Best Roots Guitar Player Nationwide" in <i>The Alternate Root</i>	2013
Boston Music Award for "Best Americana Act of the Year" with Girls Guns & Glory	2013
Boston Music Award for "Best Americana Act of the Year" with Girls Guns & Glory	2011
French Country Music Award for "Independent Artist of the Year" with Girls Guns & Glory	2011
New England Conservatory - Dean's List	2004
New England Conservatory - Artist in Residency Participant	2002
New England Conservatory - Performance Scholarship	2000

Press

"Hersch is in the riff zone and never delivers one note for flash and circumstance" - The Alternate Root

"Hersch is the star of the show here... a nimble Chuck Berry style... An unexpected rampage down the fretboard steals the show... uncanny ability to impersonate a pedal steel" - New York Music Daily

"Between Woodsmith's smoky vocals, Hersch's guitar, the Hammond organ, and powerful bass and drum line, Say Daring tends toward a big, groovable, movable sound" – Boston Globe

"The MoonRaiders is an instrumental twang type project – an amalgamation of country, jazz, rock, and well, space. It's the soundtrack to exploring the galaxy as it exists in the confines of a Spaghetti Western – with a side of extra sauce. It's tasty. It's worthy of seconds, thirds, and even fourths. So extend the belt, make room, and get ready for a smattering of fun." – EDGE Magazine

Notable Venues and Performances

Opened for Notable Artists

Albert Lee, CT/MA

Los Lobos, NH/ME/NC/NYC/VA

Big Sandy and Fly Right Boys, PA/MA

J.D. McPherson, IL

Dale Watson, TX/TN

Bill Kirchen, MA

Notable Arena

National Anthem at Gillette Stadium

Patriots vs. Colts, Foxboro MA 2012

Notable Theatres

Hawaii Theatre Center, HI

Maui Arts & Cultural Center, HI

The Derailers, TX
Driving and Crying, FL
Blackberry Smoke, TN
Brooks & Dunn, MA

Notable Festivals

Equi Blues Festival, France
Bristol Rhythm & Roots Festival, TN
SXSW Festival, TX
High Sierra Music Festival, CA
Floyd Fest, VA
Albino Skunk Festival, SC
Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, NY

Notable Television and Radio

Music City Roots Live TV from The Factory, TN
NPR Wood Songs Radio, KY
Blue Plate Special, TN
Citizens Band Radio, PA
Channel 69 News, PA
Extended Play Sessions, MA

10 International Tours, 2010 - 2016

England, France, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Spain and Switzerland

Multiple National Tours, 2007 - present

Over 45 States in the U.S.A

Sellersville Theatre, PA
Flying Monkey Theatre, NH
The Narrows Center, MA
Paramount Theatre, TX
Sunrise Theatre, FL
Avalon Theatre, MD
Stone Mountain Arts Center, ME
The Southern, VA

Selected Venues/Clubs

City Winery, NYC
Paradiso, Netherlands
Patronaat, Netherlands
Cowboy Up, Belgium
Revolver, Norway
Boite Live, Spain
Little Nashville, Switzerland
The Maze, England
Café 9, CT
Iron Horse, MA
Hotel Utah, CA

Education

New England Conservatory of Music

2000-2004

- Bachelors of Music in Jazz Guitar Performance
- Music-in-Education (MIE) Concentration

Albums

Before & After – Say Darling, independent release 2021

Space Lasso – Chris Hersch & The MoonRaiders, independent release 2019

Say Darling – Say Darling, independent release 2017

Hank Williams Tribute - Girls Guns & Glory, Sony Red Records 2015

Good Luck - Girls Guns & Glory, Lonesome Day Records 2014 *Producer: Eric 'Roscoe' Ambel

Sweet Nothings - Girls Guns & Glory, Lonesome Day Records 2011 *Producer: Paul Kolderie

Miltown Sessions – Girls Guns & Glory, independent release 2012

Peace and Stability Among Bears – Daniel Bennett Group, independent release 2011

First, to Last - Oneseide, independent release 2008

A Nation of Bears – Daniel Bennett Group, independent release 2007