

Allen Myers

For many of us music is an important part of our lives; for 1984 NHS graduate Dr. Allen Myers you might say it is his life. He was born in 1966 and since his early Northridge years has performed, composed, arranged, conducted and taught music. He is the leader of his own large jazz ensemble, the Allen Myers Jazz Orchestra and oversees Nouvelle Music Publishing which he established in 2004.

Allen attended Baldwin-Wallace College, Conservatory of Music. In 1988 he earned his Bachelor of Music in Berea, OH. In 1988 he earned his Bachelor of Music (Piano Performance) and in 1989 his Bachelor of Music Education (Instrumental Emphasis). He went on to get his Master's in Music Performance (Jazz Studies) at Indiana University (Bloomington) in 1991. It was during this time that he combined his love of jazz and big bands. In 2003 he received from the University of Missouri (Kansas City), Conservatory of Music, a Doctorate in Musical Arts (Music Composition).

After graduating with his Master's, Allen spent four years in Cleveland, OH, where he found himself subbing in the public schools teaching music at all grade levels (1991-92); becoming an Adjunct Faculty member at the Cuyahoga Community College metro campus (1992); and working as a Band Director for Musical Youth, Inc. teaching beginning and intermediate bands in five parochial schools (1993-94). The highlight of 1994-95 was as a pianist on stage for the musical "Forever Plaid" at the newly remodeled Allen Theater in the Playhouse. The six-week run of the show lasted seven months playing to sold-out crowds. He is an currently an Adjunct Faculty member at William Jewell College in Liberty Missouri teaching many aspects of jazz and music composition (1999 to present) and a performer of various jazz bands in Cleveland and Kansas City (1989-present). He is currently involved in his other projects.

Allen has received numerous honors:

- Honorable Mention in Jazz Composition, Cuyahoga Community College Jazz Festival (1985-89)
- Performance of original music compositions, Id (1991), Indiana State Music Conference and Society of Composers Inc., Region VI Conference, at the University of Arlington Texas (1998)
- Jazz Scholarship in Jazz Composition at the University of Missouri (Kansas City) (1996-98)
- Composer of the Year 2000-01 awarded by the Teachers National Assoc. for the State of Missouri
- Trio of Time for flute, cello, and piano, 1st place, Chamber Music Competition, U. of Missouri (Kansas City)
- Kaleidoscope Doctorial dissertation 1st place, 2003 Orchestral Music Composition, U. of Missouri (KC)
- Playful Moments for solo guitar, tenor sax and rhythm section selected for Composers Poster Showcase at the International Jazz Composers Symposium, at U. of Southern Florida (Tampa) in 2008

In addition to being a member of Kappa Delta Phi, Honorary Education Society, (1985) and the Ohio Music Educators Association (OMEA) (1980s), Allen is a writer/publisher member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) (2002-present). He is a contributor to an article written by Susan Myers, "Warning Proceed at Your Own Risk . . . , which focuses on an interdisciplinary study of his composition, Kaleidoscope.

Northridge in many ways represents a beginning to my musical journey. The incredibly talented and dedicated teachers that I had, such as Paul Jacobson and Jay Weiss, contributed to my love for music. I am thankful for God who is making all things possible and the support from Mom, Dad, Susan and my kids who have made it possible to pursue my musical career.

Allen and his wife Susan, who is a full professor at William Jewel College, live in Liberty, Missouri, near Kansas City, along with their daughters Caitlin (1997) and Sarah (1999).