

**Alyssa Brandt** is a freelance writer and contributing editor at Cincinnati Magazine. Originally from Washington DC, Alyssa came to Cincinnati by way of New York City and Santa Fe, New Mexico. While she studied piano in elementary and middle school, if she'd had the kind of fun, youthful and energetic instruction like the kind offered by Baldwin Music she might still be playing! Alyssa's 7 year-old daughter is currently a student with Rachel Kramer. Alyssa loves all kinds of music, from Morrissey and Mudhoney to Bruno Mars and Mozart.

**Kevin Cranley** is president of The Willis Music Company, a 114-year old retailer and publisher based in Florence, Kentucky. After graduating with a Marketing degree from Xavier University, Cranley joined the company and later became President in 1990. Kevin later returned to Xavier to earn his MBA.

Willis is known globally for their catalog of educational piano publications and regionally for their six full line music stores. Willis publications feature such names as John Thompson, Edna Mae Burnam, William Gillock and locally, Carolyn Miller and Eric Baumgartner. In 2012, Willis Music became the exclusive representative of Steinway and Sons for Cincinnati, Dayton and Northern Kentucky. Willis and Steinway and Sons provide the world of music every price range from the unmatched Steinway and Sons Pianos, to the Boston piano and the remarkable line of Essex Pianos, both exclusively designed by Steinway and Sons.

Kevin was selected to serve the international music products industry on its executive committee and recently completed his two year term as Chairman. In his role Kevin regularly ventured to Washington DC to represent the rights of all children to a life that includes music education. Kevin also served as a Trustee of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame in Cincinnati and as a member of the Northern Kentucky University College of Business Advisory Council. Kevin and his wife Debbi have 3 grown children and make their home in Walton Kentucky.

**Anne Cushing-Reid** became the CSO's Senior Director of Community Engagement and Learning in 2009. In this capacity, she leads the Orchestra's community, educational and regionalization initiatives. Among these are Young People's Concerts, Lollipops Family Concerts, CSO Musicians in Schools, CSO/Pops Community Concerts, CSO Backstage, CSO Open Rehearsals, CSO Classical Conversations, CSO Project ROAM (Reaching Out to Amateur Musicians), Classical Roots, and Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestras. Under her leadership the CSO formed its Advisory Committee for Education, a volunteer group of area teachers who participate in the planning of Sound Discoveries: Workshops for Educators and production of preparation materials for Young People's Concerts. Ms. Cushing-Reid was a key participant in the development of the CSO's broad-based education and community involvement initiative, Sound Discoveries: Music for Life, Music for the Community, Music for a Career.

Ms. Cushing-Reid is a member of the League of American Orchestras, the National Association for Music Education and the Ohio Music Education Association. She is also a member of Cincinnati's STRIVE Arts Education Collaborative and is a board member of the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education. She was the recipient of the 2006 Kentucky Music Educators' Association District 6 "Friend of Music" award. Ms. Cushing-Reid is a founding member of the Greater Cincinnati Alliance for Arts Education (GCAAE), is a member of the Rothenberg Preparatory Academy Local School Decision Making Council (LSDMC), serves

on the Family and Civic Engagement Team (FACET) at Cincinnati Public Schools, and is a member/volunteer of the ArtsCAT at Price Hill Will. She is a member of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's WE Lead Class 7.

A clarinetist, Ms. Cushing-Reid played in and served on the board of the Seven Hills Sinfonietta, a community chamber orchestra in Cincinnati. An ardent supporter of music and education, she has served on the board of the Schoolhouse Symphony and is a current board member of The Apple Tree, a non-profit child care provider.

Ms. Cushing-Reid is a graduate of the College of Mount St. Joseph, holding a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Business Administration and a Master of Arts in Education.

**Brenda Dillon**, RMM Teacher Trainer, has presented group piano and RMM sessions throughout the U.S. and served as a clinician at the International Society of Music Education conference in Bologna, Italy. She has written extensively throughout her career on both group piano and RMM teaching. A longtime Project Director for the National Piano Foundation, she serves on the advisory board to the Frances Clark Center. She was a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2011 meeting of the National Conference Keyboard Pedagogy. Her publications include Piano Fun for Adult Beginners, Pop Hits, and Christmas Hits published by Hal Leonard and is co-author with Brian Chung of RMM: A Handbook for Piano Teachers published by Alfred.

**Sharon Frankart** earned her master's degree in Management and Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University. She has an undergraduate degree in Economics, Political Science, and History from Ashland University. Sharon worked in the corporate world for over fifteen years with AT&T and P&G progressing through assignments with increasing responsibility in operations, marketing, corporate education, project management, organizational design, and information technology. While raising her two sons, Sharon had the opportunity to provide administrative support for Baldwin Music Education. Sharon's family moved to Lima, Ohio for several years and Sharon worked for a high school creating an Honors Career Mentoring Program and serving the athletic office. Upon her return to Cincinnati last year, Sharon volunteered for the 5th Section (production support) for MUSE Cincinnati Women's Choir and worked at Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy and Messiah Lutheran Church. Being a parent, going through the college prep and application process, serving as PTO president, initiating an Academic Booster Club, working in a school setting for five years, and tutoring students for over fourteen years all blend to form a solid foundation for her current role.

**Ron Hoffman** has spent a good deal of his life involved with music, as an amateur pianist, an ardent listener (especially classical music), and a choral singer (bass/baritone)

Growing up in Detroit, Ron had many opportunities to study and enjoy great music. He has many fond memories of attending Detroit Symphony concerts (when Paul Paray was music director), as well as hearing other great orchestras and artists (Szell with the Cleveland, Munch with the Boston, Rudolph Serkin, David Oistrakh to mention just a few).

Ron continued his interest in music when he attended the University of Michigan, studying piano and composition for a period of time. He continued this interest in later years, when he did graduate work at Indiana University in the areas of Comparative Literature and Instructional Media.

Most of Ron's working life has been in academia. He has taught English literature and humanities, film studies and media at Northern Michigan University, Union College in Kentucky, and Northern Kentucky University. He has also been director of media services at Kansas State University, Union College, and Northern Kentucky University.

Now retired, Ron continues to study piano, attend many concerts, sing in several choirs, and enjoy his three high quality stereo systems. His love of teaching and of music continues to be a dominant part of his life.

**Jim Huizenga** is a Senior Program Officer with The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, where he and his colleagues provide extensive grantmaking services to several independent private foundations as well as some large donor advised funds. Additionally, Jim is responsible for the Cultural Vibrancy sector of GCF's grantmaking.

Prior to joining The Greater Cincinnati Foundation in 2004, Jim spent 25 years in the trust business, most recently having served with PNC Bank, N.A., in Cincinnati as Vice President and Manager, Charitable & Endowment Services Group from 1991-2003.

Jim earned a bachelor's degree in business and economics from Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Once upon a time, **Geri Kolesar** taught environmental education in Maine, worked for a U.S. Senator on Capitol Hill, and practiced law in Manhattan. Then, after having three children in two years (yes, there are twins), she stopped writing briefs and started washing them, instead. She now lives in Cincinnati, frighteningly far from the ocean, where she is following her dream of being a "real" writer. Her days are filled with family, community service, and writing for children.

Raised in Indianapolis, **Marie Krulewitch-Browne** moved to Cincinnati after graduating from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2011. Marie has been singing, dancing and strutting around stage for as long as she can remember, participating in community and high school theatre from ten years old onwards, and continuing her passion in college on stage in Opera Theatre, one act shows, Choral Arts Ensemble, and Pitch Black – Ohio Wesleyan's premier women's a cappella group, which she directed for two years. Shortly after moving to Cincinnati Marie discovered MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir, and has enjoyed singing with the group since.

**KellyAnn Nelson** has had the privilege of reaching motivated choral musicians as an artistic, educational & administrative leader throughout her career. She is a sought-after choral music educator and is the Managing Artistic Director of the Young Professionals' Choral Collective of Cincinnati (yp/CC), as well as the Director of Education & Outreach for the Cincinnati Boychoir and the Associate Musician for Children & Youth at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Cincinnati.

KellyAnn has served as guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator and presenter at various National, All-State and Regional honors choir events, conferences and choral/vocal jazz workshops in Michigan, West Virginia, Ohio, New Jersey, North Carolina, Connecticut, Minnesota, Kentucky and Indiana. She most recently presented in June 2012 at the national Chorus America conference in Minneapolis on the topic of incorporating music literacy activities into the choral rehearsal, as well as at the World Choir Games on "Young Professional Engagement in Choral Music". yp/CC (which took second place in their division at the aforementioned World Choir Games) was also the subject of a Chorus America feature article in May 2012 about innovation and engagement, as well as part of KellyAnn's TedxCincinnati talk on the topic of transforming communities through participation in music.

yp/CC allows KellyAnn the opportunity to work with over 280 motivated singers, aged 21-45, who work and live throughout the greater Cincinnati area. The choir (founded in November 2011) connects singers through choral music, and successfully engages with new audiences, partners with local businesses, presents quality performances in unique spaces, and celebrates the choral music history, growth, and energy of the city (Cincinnati) and neighborhood (Over-the-Rhine) in which she, her husband Christopher Eanes, and her daughter Zaiya Ann, live.

**Gillian Oakenfull** has been a proud member of MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir's magnificent Soprano II section since 2001. She has also served as a member of the MUSE Board of Directors for the past five years.

Gillian's music theory is limited to that learned from two years of piano when she was eight-years-old and years of osmosis from her more knowledgeable and talented choir sisters. Luckily, she's seems gifted with a good ear that also allowed her to blend her original Irish lilt with some clipped British and a Texas drawl before arriving in Cincinnati in 1998.

She is a Professor of Marketing at Miami University. She and her wife, Cindy, spend much of their spare time providing their three young sons with a love of Broadway Musicals and an impromptu singsong.

**Mari Opatz-Muni**, Mezzo-Soprano, is an Associate Professor of Music in Voice at Miami University and is the Chair of the Voice Area. During her operatic career, she performed worldwide and won numerous awards including an Emmy and a Grammy for her role of Nancy Tang in the original cast of the opera, Nixon in China. At Miami, she has a full studio of students and was the Director of the Opera Program for 14 years, during which time she produced 17 operas, 4 Grand Nights and won 2 National Opera Association Awards.

**Nick Payne** spent 40 years with P&G as a Research Fellow in R&D. He has broadly consulted for many areas within P&G from his position within Laundry Product Development. Nick developed creative and unique ways to gain insight from consumer research data that has led to new directions in product development and advertising. In his final year at P&G, he helped Baby Care reposition its development and marketing of Diapers and Wipes and received the President's Award for his work.

Nick has developed a unique technique, Consumer Insight Analysis (CIA). CIA uncovers relationships among consumer attitudes based on depth interviewing/market research and mathematical tools. The use of CIA helped achieve some significant business results.

**Debbie Piper** works for Cengage Learning as a member of the User Experience Design Team. She also is an adjunct Computer Science Teacher for a virtual high school. With over 29 years of teaching experience around the world, Debbie is dedicated to life-long learning and encouraging young women in particular to explore non-traditional roles in the workplace.

Musically, Debbie has sung her entire life, from church choirs to studying voice in college. She sang in different bands to help pay her way through college. Her most recent singing experiences has been 10 years with MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir under the direction of Catherine Roma, Knox Presbyterian Church Choir under the direction of Earl Rivers, and the Martin Luther King Coalition under the direction of Todd O'Neal and Catherine Roma. She also studied/played clarinet for a number of years in bands in high school and college. She served as Membership Chair, Section Leader and Board member/secretary for MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir while a member.

**Diana Porter** graduated from Manchester College after studying in Marburg, Germany in her junior year. She received her Master's Degree in German Literature from the University of Cincinnati. In her 35 years with the Cincinnati Public Schools, she taught German and was involved in creating successful small high schools such as the High School for Teaching and Technology at Hughes Center where she became the Program Facilitator. She was one of the first Lead Teachers in CPS and was honored as a national "Break the mold" school reformer in 1993.

She was also active in the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers and served on the executive board for over 33 years—as an officer, collective bargaining chairperson, Human rights chairperson and Educational Issues chairperson. She was trained by the Harvard Negotiations Project and negotiated the groundbreaking "win/win" 1988 Cincinnati Public Schools teacher contract.

Diana was a member of a political Rock and Roll Band "Band Together" with her husband Leonard Webb. They opened for Gil-Scott Herron and Holly Near and played at many anti-nuclear events. In 1983, Diana met Cathy Roma and became a founding member of MUSE: Cincinnati's Women's Choir. She still sings with MUSE and works on the Social Change committee.

Diana and Leonard Webb have two adult children. She enjoys gardening, working on a team to manage a farmer's market and working on sustainable solutions for community issues. She serves on the Boards of the College Hill Historical Society and the Live a Language Foundation.

**Brian Reynolds** currently serves as the volunteer database administrator for the Cincinnati Men's Chorus. He has previously served in various volunteer, development and leadership capacities, including six years as board president and more than a decade as a singing member. His professional background is in information technology, software development and data analysis.

**Kate Roberton** hails from Rockville, MD originally, where she grew up singing in her church choir, playing the flute in school band and participating in high school musical theatre. After high school, Kate attended Greensboro College in North Carolina where she earned her degree in English/Communication Studies & French. While in college, Kate sang in the Chamber Choir and played Women's Lacrosse. After graduating from undergrad, Kate returned to the Washington D.C. area and worked for GEICO for four years in traditional marketing and advertising roles. She left GEICO in 2009 to return to graduate at school at Penn State University where she earned her MBA in Marketing and Supply Chain. Kate moved to Cincinnati in May 2011, where she currently lives with her boyfriend, Justin, and dog, Gunnar, and is employed by dunnhumbyUSA. Kate has been a singing member of MUSE since August 2011.

**Marsie Rowan** expressed an interest in music at a young age, singing harmonies with family members at the age of 4. After 12 years of piano study, she entered the university as a voice major and was used often as an accompanist for other vocalists.

Marsie's professional career includes 30+ years as an advertising and marketing specialist with an emphasis on marketing communication. She was recruited by Baldwin Piano & Organ Company to lead their advertising department and spent 13 years with the company. During her last 3 years at Baldwin, Marsie was also director of Baldwin's Concert & Artist division, combining her ear for music with her knowledge of marketing communication and PR.

Marsie is looking forward to participating in the Cincinnati Center for Adult Music Study