

Matthew Dievendorf, D.M.A.

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Summary

Matthew Dievendorf is a dynamic guitarist and composer with a wide range of teaching, performing, and management expertise. He served in the United States Marine Corps as a guitarist and has forged an accomplished academic career. Matthew was the Outstanding Doctoral Graduate of the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California (USC). His academic focus is creativity in music teaching and learning.

Matthew specializes in innovative curriculum development for a variety of community and university music teaching and learning experiences. At USC, Matthew was an adjunct lecturer teaching sound engineering at the Iovine and Young Academy, a multidisciplinary design school. He currently is an assistant professor and administrator at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, teaching music to students from diverse backgrounds.

As a guitarist and composer, Matthew cultivates a thriving recording and performance career. He performs internationally, most recently in Korea.

Matthew is an arts leader in entrepreneurship and gender equity. He is Co-Owner of Strange Woman Records, and Assistant Director of Washington Women in Jazz.

Education

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA (2013-2018)

- Doctor of Musical Arts - studio/jazz guitar performance (2018)
- Master of Music - studio/jazz guitar performance (2015)
- Fields of study: guitar pedagogy, theory and improvisation, performing arts technology, creativity in music teaching and learning, fusing informal and formal teaching methods, popular music pedagogy, arts leadership, and musicology

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2001-2005)

- Bachelor of Fine Arts - jazz studies/guitar, with highest distinction
- Awarded the William J. Branstrom Freshman Prize, James B. Angell Scholar, seven-time University of Michigan Honors recipient
- United States Marine Corps College Fund recipient

Armed Forces School of Music, Virginia Beach, VA (1998)

- Assigned the Military Occupational Speciality: Musician-Guitarist

Music Teaching

George Mason University (GMU) - Assistant Professor & Assistant Director of the Green Machine Ensembles (2018-Present)

- Teach MUSI 259: Music in Computer Technology
- Teach INTS 375/MUSI 492: integrative studies/musicology course in Protest Music 1945-Present
- Co-Instructor - MUSI 280: Athletic and Ceremonial Ensembles
- Teach private guitar, electric bass, improvisation, and audio engineering lessons to music majors and non-majors
- Teach non-music majors and music technology majors traditional and non-traditional approaches to music composition in practical settings
- Prepare rhythm section players to read notation, use theory concepts, and improvise while participating in popular music ensembles
- Manage and advise graduate fellows for the Green Machine pep band
- Authored and currently managing an Anti-Racist Inclusive Excellence Seed Funding grant which was awarded \$50,000
- Authored and managed a curriculum impact grant, *The Activist-Artist: Art as an Engine of Social Justice*, which was awarded \$42,000
- Mason Core Curriculum Committee member (GMU Faculty Senate)
- Work with faculty colleagues in the College of Visual and Performing Arts to revise and create audio and popular music curricula
- Manage audio production for the Green Machine Ensembles
- Track, mix, and master audio projects for Green Machine Media
- Purchase, maintain, and secure audio equipment and instruments for the athletic bands and pop music ensembles
- Train staff and students to use audio equipment
- Develop new administrative systems, policies, and procedures using Microsoft Office and Teams for the Green Machine Ensembles
- Research social justice and popular music programs

USC Iovine and Young Academy - Adjunct Lecturer (2017-2018)

- Designed and taught ACAD 180 and 352: project-based interdisciplinary courses in sound engineering and composition using Logic Pro X

USC Thornton School of Music - Teaching Assistant (2014-2018)

- Taught MPGU 300x: Non-Major Individual Instruction in Guitar; created individualized lesson plans; prepared students for juries

- Taught MPGU 120a: Beginning Pop/Rock Guitar classes
- Co-Taught MUSC 422: The Beatles; lectured to a class of 120 students
- Teaching Assistant - MTEC 446/444: music technology courses in Pro Tools and Ableton Live
- Teaching Assistant - MUSC 470: Contemporary Popular Music: A Global Perspective - a summer course in Great Britain (2016)
- Served as a mentor for incoming students of the Studio Guitar program and assisted them with navigating program policies
- Edited the Studio Guitar program handbook and revised the doctoral degree requirements to reflect current operating procedures

Levine Music - Associate Faculty (2006-12, 2018-2022)

Levine Music is a National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) accredited community music school.

- Maintained a studio of up to thirty private lesson students per semester, ages six to eighty years old; created individualized lesson plans and materials for each student; adjudicated on jury panels each semester
- Designed and taught the Staff/Faculty Rock Band: a course that explores informal learning experiences as a faculty development opportunity, culminating in a performance at the Kennedy Center
- Taught group improvisation in a variety of styles including jazz
- Taught creative listening and improvisation classes at the Siena School, a school for students with language-based learning differences
- Redesigned the Zanar Guitar classes, scholarship classes for guitar students in Washington, DC
- Founded the Levine Rock program; created the Rock Band Workshop

Other Professional Instruction

- Guitar, bass, and ukulele instruction at Green Brooms Music Academy in Santa Monica, CA (2013-2015)
- Developed and produced the 'Rock and Roll Summer Camp' at the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop in Washington, DC (2007-2010)
- Created and taught general music classes with the Higher Achievement Program for students in Washington, DC public schools (2006-2008)

Professional Associations

- Member - Association for Popular Music Education
- Member - Jazz Education Network

Musical Performances

Featured Recordings

- Featured guitarist, 'Nurse's Song,' on the 2005 Grammy-winning Best Classical Album *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, other acoustic and electric guitar performances throughout the recording
- [*Threads*](#) (2019) - Matthew's debut modern jazz LP: compositions, arrangements, and guitar performances; production, mixing, and artwork credits; released by Strange Woman Records
- *AmyAna* (2019) - LP by Amy K Bormet and Ana Barreiro: production, mixing, and artwork credits; released by Strange Woman Records
- *Open Secrets* (2019) - LP by The Harold Trio: production, mixing, mastering, and artwork credits; released by Strange Woman Records
- *Days Run Away* (2012) - self-titled LP: guitar arrangements, guitar performances, and artwork credits

Prominent Performances

- Produced [*Beyond the Horizon*](#) (2017): a 50-minute multimedia concert that imagines traveling with the NASA New Horizons spacecraft to Pluto; edited and directed the film; composed the score for jazz quartet; devised a system for syncing film with a live performance of score; collaborated with live improvised dance; premiered at Art Share L.A.
- Tour of Brazil (2019): JazzB and Souza Lima Conservatory in São Paulo; various locations in Minas Gerais; Jazz Na Avenida, Museu de Arte da Bahia, and Porto da Barra in Salvador, Bahia
- Tour of South Korea with the Green Machine pop/rock ensemble (2024): Songdo, Seoul, Peace Nuri Park at the DMZ, and Nami Island
- Performances at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall; the Kennedy Center; Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, MI; Strathmore Hall in Bethesda, MD; Intersections Art Festival in Washington, DC; An Die Musik in Baltimore, MD; the Ottobar in Baltimore, MD
- Master classes with Julian Lage, Lee Ritenour, and John Pisano
- Formed Aqui Oh, a Brazilian jazz band
- The University of Michigan Jazz Ensemble (2001-2005): concerts with Hank Jones, Maria Schneider, the Count Basie Orchestra, Donald Walden, and Chris Potter; presentations at the 2002 San Jose Jazz Festival and the 2003 IAJE conference in Toronto, Canada
- The United States Marine Corps Band, Parris Island, SC (1998-2001)
 - Over 500 ceremonial, parade, concert, and society performances, and two show band tours as guitarist, banjoist, and percussionist
 - Selected to be in the Commanding General's House Jazz Trio

Management Experience

Strange Woman Records - Co-Owner (2019-Present)

- Plan recording sessions; supervise tracking; choose takes
- Mix and master recordings with Pro Tools and Logic Pro X
- Manage physical production orders and digital distribution
- Create artwork for digital/print products; lay out graphic designs; create and manage artist websites; maintain distribution accounts

Washington Women in Jazz - Assistant Director (2012-Present)

- Chief Technology Officer: build and maintain company website; coordinate audio recordings of performances; create digital and print media for distribution; organize digital media files
- Artist Relations: transport, feed, and otherwise assist artists who participate in the Washington Women in Jazz Festival
- Logistics: engineer live sound, procure equipment and supplies, liaise with venue staff, support the director in various ad-hoc capacities

Mus•ecology, Washington, DC - Founder (2008-Present)

- Manage an independent studio of music students
- Coach ensembles in rehearsal, performance, technique, theory, group dynamics, marketing, business, and producing recordings
- Mus•ecology Band Camp: students presented a show at a public venue; students were taught how to charge cover and manage the proceeds; students documented the performance with video

Levine - Assistant to the Chair of the Guitar Department (2008-2011)

- Provided customer service for over 300 guitar students
- Facilitated communication between faculty, students, and staff
- Arranged logistics for Guitarfest, juries, and blues guitar jams

United States Marine Corps Band, Parris Is., SC (1998-2001)

- Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO): directly responsible for the conduct, training, and supervision of a squad of Marines
- Public Relations: promoted hundreds of events by producing press packages, flyers, radio spots, and newspaper advertisements
- Marksmanship Instructor: trained hundreds of recruits in the proper handling of firearms as they fired live rounds on the rifle range; managed squads of recruits as they transported loaded weapons