
Peter R. Tarsio

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Pianist | Organist | Vocal Coach | Chamber Musician | Accompanist

EDUCATION / PIANO STUDIES:

MAT – Masters in Music Education

June 1985

Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY

- Graduated cum laude
- Teachers: Dr. Anthony Lamagra, Dr. Frank Sasloe, Eliot Magaziner
- Additional Private study with Robert Guralnik
- Frequently performed at the Mohonk Hotel New Paltz, NY
- Piano, Organ Voice with Victor Powell. Victor Powell studied with Margerite Long (piano) and Vierne in France (organ), the French School at the Schola Cantorum in Paris, France
- Studied with Helen Fisk Hollister, one of my first teachers. Helen was a pianist, organist and choir director in the 1950's and 60's

BPS – Bachelor of Professional Studies

June 1979

Suny Empire College, NY

- Liberal studies, composition, musicology, theory with Dr. Joshua Berrit

Veteran US Army

1969-1971

Vietnam, Southeast Asia

Communications and Tactical Operations

AAS – Associates of Arts and Sciences

June 1968

Rockland Community College, Suffern, NY

- History, English, Science, Philosophy, Music, Sociology, Psychology

Piano Studies

1972-1977

Manhattan School of Music, Manhattan, NY

- Piano with Robert Goldsand renowned concert pianist who was a student of Maurice Rosenthal
- Maurice Rosenthal was a student of Liszt
- Five year piano studies with Robert Goldsand

Vocal and Piano Studies

1966-1967

Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ

- Leon Dubois Piano and Voice with J. Simpson
- Sang with Westminster Choir (tenor)

Jazz Piano Theory

1971-1972

Private Studio, New City, NY

- Jazz improvisation, theory and harmony
- Composition with Mr. Vinson Hill who was a student of John Mehegan

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Private Home Studio

1971-Present

Tomkins Cove, NY

- Piano, organ and voice instruction

New York and New Jersey Metropolitan area Performances

Present

Donnell Library, New York City, Nyack Festival for the Arts

Northern Westchester Center for the Arts Howland Center in Beacon, NY

- Piano solo, accompanist and chamber music

Professional Recordings

Present

Dennis Dougherty Recording Studio, Nanuet, NY

- Dennis Dougherty recording engineer
- Recordings available upon request

- Soundview Prep School** **Present**
Yorktown, NY
- General Music Instructor and pianist and private instruction
- Dutchess County Community College Jurist** **1996-2003**
Poughkeepsie, NY
- Professor of piano
 - Accompanist for the chorus, private piano lessons
 - Accompanist for Mr. Kelly Conner and Dr. Laura Russell conductor of DCCC chorus for jury examinations
 - While at the Community College several of my students placed in some prestigious music colleges and conservatories such as Ithaca, Carnegie Mellon, New Paltz, Eastman School of Music in Rochester and Nyack College in Nyack, NY
- Northern Westchester Center for the Arts** **1995-2005**
Westchester, NY
- Head of piano department, soloist & accompanist
 - Assisted in the recital series both student and faculty with Jennifer Eyegees as music director
- Public School** **1986-1994**
Yonkers, NY, Florida, NY, and Thiells, NY
- All grades general music, band and chorus
 - Martin Luther King Elementary & Gorton High School
 - Student subbing in Rockland County school district
- Student Teaching** **1984-1985**
Fox Lane High School, Mt. Kisco, NY
Nanuet K-6 School, Nanuet, NY
- Student teaching with Bernard LA Due
 - General music and band under Robert Renino
- Rudolf Steiner Waldorf School and School of Eurhythmym** **1979-1981**
Chestnut Ridge, NY
- Accompanist for the Rudolf Steiner Foundation
- Vinson Hill Piano Studio** **1971-1972**
New City, NY
- Piano teacher
- Rockland Conservatory / Community Music School** **1965-1967**
Spring Valley, NY
- Piano teacher
 - Protégé of Robert Guralnik
 - Edward & Janet Simons directors

AFFILIATIONS:

- Member of New York State Music Teachers Association
- Founder & Director of the Northern Westchester Music Teachers Alliance. www.nwcmta.com
- Formerly the dean of organists, the American Guild of Organists Rockland County Chapter
- Member and past President of the Rockland County NY Music Teachers Guild
- Director/Pianist and founder of the Tappan Chamber Music Ensemble
- Organist & Choir master for numerous congregations in the New York & New Jersey area

PEDAGOGY AND TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:

My teaching approach includes the Pedagogy and music learning theories of Kodaly, Laban, Bartok, Suzuki and Edwin G. Gordon musical sequencing. My teaching approach is holistic and comprehensive includes ear training, improvisation, composition, movement, and conducting learning to play by ear. Solfege and vocal are included in lessons with emphasis on learning to hear and read music with the voice and also in conjunction with keyboard skills.

I include technique and repertoire with compositions of all styles, learning music away from the piano, memorization and interpretation of the musical score using an integral approach, which uses multifaceted musical skills and development of overall musicianship.

I emphasize creating music on the spot through improvisation using familiar and unfamiliar music. An example is Chopin Prelude # 4 in E minor which can serve as a matrix for a new original composition that can be improvised and then written into final form. The harmonic progressions can be utilized to form your own unique composition.

When teaching practicing techniques and approach to the keyboard it is classical, but adaptable to many other styles. The development of the ear is imperative and is given first priority in combination with basic theory, which is given at each lesson. Learning to sight-read is imperative for learning the piano repertoire and is developed along with skills in a logical sequence.

INTERESTS:

- Literature, philosophy, poetry, yoga and meditation, tai chi chuan, chi gong
- Eastern philosophy, aesthetics, languages, art, zen and taoism
- Inveterate and omnivorous reader and book collector
- Owner of two Steinways: Professional model upright and Steinway model S grand piano
- Practicing daily is the key to success in an endeavor and in music, this is the only way to progress and after all these years I am still at it
- Exposed to music in my immediate surroundings formative years age 0 to 11 and come from a musical family
- Improvised on the old upright as a toddler
- Father was a chemist and a pianist, played all kinds of musical styles particularly classical, big band, jazz and popular music
- My mother was classically trained and accomplished accordionist who also played the piano and the organ studying with Joseph Biviano in New York City in 1935
- Married: my son Darius who is a violinist and electrical engineer living in Dallas Texas
- My wife Josefina is a retired registered nurse and is a certified yoga instructor with private practice in Stony Point & Tomkins Cove, NY

-References Upon Request-