

Ardith Collins

ardithcello@gmail.com

Professional Experience

Music Educator, *Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School*, New York, NY 2017 - Present
General music and Orchestra teacher. Approaches include Orff Schulwerk, Dalcroze, Kodály, and collaborative strategies through mallet percussion, singing, movement, drumming, dance, ukulele, guitar, art, literature, and STEAM integration. Doubled Orchestra enrollment; Middle School ensemble participation increased to 72% of 6th grade class. Created fiber arts elective, *A Frayed Knot*.

Grammar School Music Coordinator, *Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School*, New York, NY 2019 - Present
PreK-5 Grammar School Music Department while maintaining teaching schedule. Responsibilities include coordinating performances, meeting facilitation, curricula, assessments, schedules, newsletters, and mentorship. Collaborates with staff and administration to guide teaching and learning through curriculum sequencing, professional development, and STEAM integration.

Adjunct Professor, *Montclair State University, John J. Cali School of Music*, Montclair, NJ 2014 - Present
String Methods course teaches violin, viola, cello, bass to undergraduate and graduate students. Courses focus on hands-on learning, application of music theory, methods and repertoire; public and private teaching, state and national standards, best practices and technology via Canvas, Google, Virtual Choir and Zoom. Obtained instruments via Conn-Selmer school partnership program.

Adjunct Professor, *William Paterson Department of Music*, Wayne, NJ 2020 - Present
Facilitate Orff Schulwerk certification course in conjunction with the Northern New Jersey Orff Schulwerk Association.

District Articulator, *Rockaway Township Public Schools*, Rockaway, NJ 2010 - 2017
Responsible for Fine and Performing Arts grades PreK-8 in six schools while maintaining full teaching load. Facilitated meetings, budgets, materials, curricula, assessments, schedules, and department newsletter. Planned, created, and implemented Professional Development. Elementary school choral accompanist. Collaborated with colleagues, administration and sending districts on best practices, including Danielson Framework for Teaching and curriculum sequencing.

Music Educator, *Copeland Middle School*, Rockaway, NJ 2002 - 2017
District string specialist, general music, theatre, and Orff-inspired educator. String Ensemble enrollment increased from 18 to 110 students. Coordinated schedules and lessons utilizing Google and Genesis. Director of mallet percussion ensemble, for students of all learning needs. General music promoted joyful music making, creativity, composition, and performance through multiple modalities: Orff Schulwerk, Kodály, tubano drums, ukulele, folk dance, movement, kinesthetic and brain-based education. Producer and pit orchestra theatre director. Mentor for student teachers and staff. Co-creator and advisor of TV Production Club and Scrabble Club.

AOSA Orff Schulwerk Teacher Educator

Level I Courses: Villanova/University of the Arts, University of Nevada: Reno, West Chester University, NJPAC, Northern New Jersey
Level II Courses: Villanova/University of the Arts, William Paterson, Vandercook School of Music

Education & Accreditations

Doctor of Education Educational Leadership, Rowan University; *anticipated degree 2026*

Master of Education Leadership: Instruction, The College of New Jersey

Bachelor of Music: *piano, cello* The College of New Jersey

Orff Schulwerk Certification Villanova University/University of the Arts

Kodály Certification Westminster Choir College/Rider University

Dalcroze Eurhythmics Beginning Level, Anderson University

New Jersey Standard Certificate Teacher of Music

New Jersey Supervisor Certificate Kean University

Publications

Contributor: *Using Technology with Elementary Music Approaches* by Amy Burns

Orff Echo: "Orff Internacionale" *Join the Line and Embrace the Band*, co-authored with Madolyn Accola

AOSA Reverberations: Article editor and *Canon Corner* contributor

ACEMM Lesson Resource: *E. E. Cummings through the Lens of Elemental Music & Movement*

Related Experience & Awards

Conductor, *Idaho Music Educators Association Honors Orff Ensemble*, January 2023 & 2024

AOSA Teacher Education Instructor Apprenticeship, Basic Pedagogy: University of St. Thomas, Meg Tietz

Cellist, Montclair State Balkan Ensemble, led by Raif Hyseni & Merita Halili

Kala Waterman Ukulele Recipient

Teacher of the Year, Copeland Middle School

Beacon Scholar Recipient, *American Center for Music and Movement*

Attended JaSeSoi ry Orff World Village in Valkeala, Finland, uniting educators from diverse countries and cultures in music & spirit. Instructors included Rob Amchin (USA), Ari Glage (Germany), Ismaila Sané (Senegal) and Outi Sané (Finland).

Grant Recipient, *Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation*

Search for friendship and fellowship with German educators, discussing freedom and totalitarianism through the spectrum of the White Rose. Culminated in the novel *Journey to the White Rose in Germany* by Ruth Bernadette Melon.

Committees

School Publications and Environment Discovery Committee, Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School

Subcommittee of Assessment of Inclusivity and Multiculturalism (AIM) process; NAIS

School AI Committee, Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School

AOSA Curriculum Oversight and Review (CORS) Subcommittee

Past President, Northern New Jersey Orff Schulwerk Association

Past Member, AOSA Reverberations Board of Contributing Editors

AOSA Digital Mentor

Curriculum Committee, Rockaway Township Public Schools

Revised and implemented K-8 General, Choral, and Instrumental Music Curriculum based on State and National Standards

SciP Committee, Rockaway Township Public Schools: Reviewed, created, and implemented Professional Development

Professional Organizations & Activities

Past-President, Northern New Jersey Orff Schulwerk Association (NNJOSA)

American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA)

New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA)

Member, Alpha Epsilon Lambda

NYC Rounds Club | Morristown Folk Dancers

National Association for Music Education (NAfME)

New Jersey Music Education Association (NJMEA)

Hub Lakes Ping Pong League

Workshops Presented

Postcards of Summer: Dissertation Proposal

What Grade Level?

AI: Smart Sounds

Orff Process & Possibilities

Possibilities in Process & Play

Possibilities in Process & Play

Joyful Movement! Unleashing Creativity

Books + STEAM = Music!

STEAM, Teams & Simple Machines!

Songs & Games for any age!

Discovering Orff ~ with Judith Thompson-Barthwell

Boxes & Noises

Orff Process: Elemental Exploration

From A to C to Z: Adapt, Create, Zoom

Pi Day STEAM Integrated Arts co-presented with Jessica Merrick

What do you do with an Idea?

Creating, Connecting

Project Based Learning

You Are Enough

Music: What Counts? You!

Crank, Rattle & Roll!

Artful Literacy

C is for Create

I've Always Wanted to Play Violin!

C is for Create

C is for Create

Joy, Confidence & Creativity

Crank, Rattle & Roll!

Rounds to Sing, Rounds to Play

Ukulele Connections

Round & Round

Ukulele Connections

Orff Process: Elemental Exploration

Round & Round: More than just rowing your boat!

Uke Connections!

Joy, Confidence & Creativity in Beginning Strings

C is for Create

Ukulele for You & Me

NJMEA Poster Session

Northern NJ Orff co-presented w/ Casey Goryeb

Lenape Regional Consortium

Rutgers University, co-presented w/ Matthew Worden

Northern NJ Orff Schulwerk Association

James River Virginia Orff Chapter

NJSMA

NNJOSA Chapter Sharing

CGPS PD Day

Arts Teacher PD Retreat, William Paterson

AOSA National Conference

NNJOSA Conference Sharing

Rutgers University Elementary Methods

Rochester Area Orff Schulwerk

Forum/STEM ~ Carney, Sandoe & Associates

NJPAC RAMP Workshop

Philadelphia AOSA Chapter Workshop

CGPS, co-presented with Jon Oliveria

NNJOSA/PAOSA Virtual Sharing

CGPS ~ Teachers Teaching Teachers

NJMEA

CGPS ~ Teachers Teaching Teachers

New England AOSA Workshop

CGPS ~ Teachers Teaching Teachers

Long Island AOSA

Mid-Atlantic AOSA

Sierra Nevada AOSA

AOSA National Conference

NJMEA Summer Workshop

Montclair State University

NJMEA State Music Conference

NJSMA Music Education

Rutgers University Elementary Methods

NJMEA Summer Workshop

NJMEA Summer Workshop

Zeswitz Symposium

Peabody Conservatory Saturday Series

MSU Collegiate NAfME

February 2026

September 2025

February 2025

October 2024 & 2023

September 2024

September 2024

June 2023

January 2023

January 2023

March 2022

November 2022

November 2022

October 2022

November 2021

February 2021

January 2021

September 2020

September 2020

May 2020

March 2020

February 2020

January 2020

October 2019

September 2019

May 2019

March 2019

October 2018

November 2018

August 2018

March 2018

February 2018

February 2018

October 2017

August 2017

August 2017

June 2017

May 2017

May 2017

Upcoming Workshop:

Exploring Orff Schulwerk AOSA National Conference November 2026

Leadership

Chair, Evening Events: American Orff-Schulwerk National Conference, November 2016

Rockaway Township District Mini Conference: Planning & Schedule Committee: 2016 | 2017 - Rick Lavoie

Copeland Middle School 6th grade General Music student performance at 2016 NJSMA Workshop

NJSMA Planning Committee: 2015 John Feierabend, 2016 Denise Gagne, 2017 Barn Dance, 2018 Jill Trinka, 2019 David Frego