

James R. Ankney (J.R.)

Mailing address: 136 Mikell Lane, Sewanee, TN 37375

Cell phone: 423-635-8960

Email: jrankney2@gmail.com

PROFILE:

As a highly experienced music teacher, and conductor with outstanding successes in the school classroom, theatre, and on the concert stage I have spent my life sharing my passion for musical excellence, and the beauty of the arts and their related forms.

I have taught middle and high school music in a variety of settings: Instrumental, Choral, and Music Theory up to the college level. I have also developed many interesting programs for students related to Music and Recording Technology. I have built recording studios, taught advanced placement music theory, and revived our school radio station-WMTN, *The Voice of the Mountain!*

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MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ Built highly successful music programs at several schools throughout my career.
- ◆ Taught beginning, intermediate, and advanced music theory up to the college level.
- ◆ State, regional, and national convention appearances with middle and high school groups.
- ◆ Created unique programs for students that engaged student interest through recording studios, radio station, and song writing initiatives.
- ◆ Organized and led major tours abroad with choirs to England, Scotland, Czech Republic, Germany, France, and Poland.
- ◆ Ensembles have performed at Carnegie Hall, Riverside Church NYC, Westminster Abbey, Ely Cathedral, and Durham Cathedral with middle school and high school ensembles.

EXPERIENCE:

2018 – present **St. Andrew's-Sewanee School, Sewanee, TN**

Music Teacher

- Taught middle school (6-8) general music and choir.
- Taught upper school mixed ensemble of singers and instrumentalists, creating original music and arrangements for a diverse group of students.
- Organist and instrumental director for chapel music program.
- Music director for winter musicals
- Taught classical guitar at the middle school.
- Taught elective classes in songwriting, recording studio technology, and radio broadcasting.

2012 – 2017 **Saint James Episcopal Church, Lancaster, PA**

Director of Music

- Director, conductor, pianist/organist, singer, arranger for music program at large, urban church (500-1000 weekly attendance across three services)
- Developed a unique “Saturday night” service with music drawn from popular sources (U2, Bob Dylan, Hank Williams, Indigo Girls, Disney Movies, Johnny Cash, John Coltrane *A Love Supreme*, Mumford and Sons, and more.
- Advanced and expanded creative liturgical offerings to include the services of Compline and Choral evensong, as well as unique “youth-led” masses with music from *Godspell*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and even *Disney* movies.
- Developed and led a large worship technology team including sound engineers, livestream video operators and editors that created compelling audio and video feeds for the congregation and prospective members.

2009 – 2012 **Lancaster Country Day School, Lancaster, PA**

Director of Choral Music

- Upper school Band director, composer and arranger
- Directed four choirs grades 5-12, expanded depth of program to include performance of major works with orchestra (*Requiem-Gabriel Faure*, *Chichester Psalms-Leonard Bernstein*, *Mass in G-Franz Schubert*)
- Taught music theory, AP music theory -w- all students receiving a grade of 4 or 5
- Music Director/Orchestra conductor for annual school musical

2001 – 2009 **St. Anne's-Belfield School, Charlottesville, VA**

Director of Choral Music

- Directed four choirs (grades 5-12)
- Created select a cappella vocal ensemble "Elements of Sound."
- Taught music theory, AP music theory -w- all students receiving a grade of 5!
- Music Director/Orchestra conductor for annual school musical
- Developed curriculum for and created a Digital Recording Studio

2000 – 2001 **Verde Valley School, Sedona, AZ**

Director Of Music and Theater

- Taught jazz band, music theory, drama, and recording technology (9-12)
- Assisted with outdoor program, leading camping trips to Grand Canyon
- Served as dorm parent and class advisor.
- Chapel music coordinator for music

1990 – 2000 **Shattuck-St. Mary's School, Faribault, MN**

Chair of Fine Arts and choral music

- Taught Advanced Placement Music Theory
- Led large, fine arts department, managed budgets, evaluated teachers, and developed innovative curriculum for a 6-12 music program
- Taught choir, jazz choir, music theory, jazz band, and music theater
- Chapel organist, and director of Chapel music

1986 – 1990 **St. Edward's School, Vero Beach, FL**

Chair of Fine Arts and choral music

- Directed the fine arts department, managed the budget and curriculum.
- Taught choir (6-12), Band, AP music theory, and music history
- Directed Chapel music program

1983-1986 **Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School, Waltham, MA**

Director of Music

- Directed select and advanced Upper School band and choir
- Created select a cappella vocal ensemble "Elements Of Sound"
- Taught music theory, AP music theory

- Music Director/Orchestra conductor for annual school musical
- Developed curriculum for and created a Digital Recording Studio

OTHER EXPERIENCE:

- Familiar with digital music technology and programs/apps: Livestream, Sibelius, Microsoft, Band-in-a-box, Garage Band, Audacity, and Pro Tools
- Baritone/Bass soloist at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Ivy, VA (2002-2009)
- Studio and live keyboardist for theatres, clubs, and recording artists
- Member of Zephyrus Medieval Quartet - recorded "critically acclaimed" Mass by Guillaume de Machaut (2006)
- AP Music Theory reader for Educational Testing Services (2002-2009)

QUALIFICATIONS / EDUCATION:

- Choral conducting studies with Dr. Lee Kjelson-University of Miami
- Vocal jazz workshops with Dr. Phil Mattson (1990-1998)
- Berklee College of Music - BMEd, 1982
- Additional studies in Music Theory, Conducting, and composition throughout my career.

PERFORMANCE LINKS:

- Listen to our student-led radio station [WMTN!](#)
- Listen to our award-winning radio drama produced in our recording studio "[Catch Me If You Can!](#)"
- Listen to [Jazz vocal ensemble](#) from their CD
- A virtual "[Covid](#)" [Christmas Concert](#)-recorded in our recording studio (watch the very end for the surprise guests)

REFERENCES:

1. Mr. Karl Sjolund, Head of School, St. Andrew's-Sewanee School
290 Quintard Road
Sewanee, TN 37375
E-mail: ksjolund@sasweb.org

2. Ms. Nicolette Norris, Executive administrator
119 North Duke Street, Lancaster, PA 17601
Tel: 717-397-4858 x.112
E-mail: nicolette@saintjameslanaster.org

3. Mr. Todd Trout, Assistant Head of School, Lancaster Country Day School
725 Hamilton Road, Lancaster, PA 17603
Tel: 717-392-2916
E-mail: ttrout@lanastercountryday.org