

Meyer Stays in Tune

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Recommended Citation

Steiger, Kaysha (2021) "Meyer Stays in Tune," *The Voice*: Vol. 66: Iss. 3, Article 12.
Available at: <https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/voice/vol66/iss3/12>

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JAMIN VER VELDE (99)

Emma Meyer is spending the summer working as a community living lead at Hope Haven in Sioux Center. This fall, she plans to teach piano lessons in Sioux Center full time.

MEYER STAYS IN TUNE

When Emma Meyer teaches piano lessons, some of her students get very excited. One first grader slid right off the bench. Thankfully, no one was hurt, and Meyer and her student laughed off the fall and continued the lesson.

Meyer, a senior at Dordt, has played piano for many years. "I started taking piano lessons in second grade and continued through the 10th grade," she says.

Meyer didn't really intend to teach piano while at Dordt. She began working as an accompanist to other musicians for the music department to make extra money. But another student, Hannah Klos ('18), who was graduating, wanted to find someone to teach her local students. The job and the students fell into Meyer's lap, and her piano teaching career took off. She's had between four and 16 students during each of her four years at Dordt.

Meyer is thankful to be able to apply what she's learned in the classroom to teaching piano. An elementary education major, she has found that teaching techniques and practices she has learned in her education classes applied to her piano teaching. And Meyer loves walking from the classroom where she is learning to the classroom where she is teaching, all on the same campus.

Meyer is also grateful that Dordt allowed

her to use their facilities to teach lessons. "Without such a helpful jump start, I would have a harder time considering teaching lessons in the future," she says.

This year, because of Covid-19, Meyer had to get creative about where to give lessons. She chose to travel to her students' homes rather than have them come to campus. Her students also proved flexible, and those who lived in the country would go to a friend's house in town to help limit the travel that she would have to do. It seems to have worked well for everyone.

Meyer has also had to be creative about balancing her schoolwork and her piano teaching responsibilities. She spends about two hours of preparation for each lesson, and she intentionally blocks out time in her day for homework.

"It's mostly about staying ahead and organized with my time," she says.

Even though much of her time at the piano is as a teacher, Meyer keeps up with piano herself by playing at church and simply playing for fun.

"It's been a blessing to be a part of the great Sioux Center community as a piano teacher," she says. She even is thinking of one day being able to have a small piano studio and continuing to teach new pianists.

KAYSHA STEIGER ('21)

FACULTY NOTES

Instructor of Journalism and Communication **Lee Pitts** gave a presentation titled "Why your Worldview is Necessary in Good Journalism" at a virtual event hosted by the Alliance Defending Freedom in February. He also spoke at Jubilee Professional's virtual conference, where professionals shared practical stories and explored how to apply faith in everyday work and life.

Professor of English **Dr. Joshua Matthews** was invited by the University of Notre Dame to give a



lecture on Dante Alighieri and the American Civil War. This was part of a lecture series acknowledging the 800th anniversary of Dante's death.

Professor of English **Dr. Robert De Smith** hosted the 28th Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature at Dordt in April. The conference was held both in person and virtually, with 18 of the 24 presenters offering their papers on Zoom. The in-person presenters included three Dordt faculty: Professor of English **Dr. Shaun Stiemsma**, Professor of History **Dr. Walker Cosgrove**, and Professor of History **Dr. Scott Culpepper**.

Professor of Music **Dr. Onsbey Rose**'s work for solo trumpet and wind band, "Lamentations," was performed as a featured work at the International Trumpet Guild Conference in Anaheim, California, in June.

Professor of Mathematics **Dr. Tom Clark** recently had a paper published in *Mathematics Magazine*. The paper is titled "Flappy Bird in Space: An Impulse Minimization Problem."

Professor of Psychology **Dr. Luralyn Helming** and Professor of Chemistry and Planetary Sciences **Dr. Channon Visscher** have been selected to be part of the Lilly Faculty Fellows Program. The program is for mid-career faculty leaders across a variety of disciplines to engage the intersections of Christian thought and practice with the academic vocation.