

# **Brian Streckfus**

## **Guitarist ~ Teacher ~ Audio Engineer**

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## **Education**

### **Towson University (2017-2020)**

**Masters Degree in Classical Guitar Performance, 2017-2020 (3.87 GPA)**

- o Personally instructed by Troy King for two (2) years.....2018-2020
- o Completed two years (2) of guitar repertoire classes.....2018-2020
- o Completed a half year (1/2) of modern music theory.....2017
- o Completed a half year (1/2) of jazz arranging.....2019
- o Completed one year (1) of music business.....2019-2020
- o Completed a half year (0.5) of academic research and writing.....2019
- o Completed one and a half (1.5) years of guitar ensemble.....2019-2020
- o Completed a half year (0.5) of modern music history.....2019

### **The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University (2010-2015)**

**Bachelors Degree in Classical Guitar Performance, 2010-2015 (3.32 GPA)**

- o Personally instructed by Raymond Chester for five (5) years, chairman of the Peabody Conservatory guitar department, former student of Aaron Shearer and one of the world's leading guitar pedagogues.....2010-2015
- o Completed two (2) years of guitar pedagogy (the science of teaching children guitar) instructed by Ray Chester.....2011-2013
- o Completed two (2) years of a guitar course instructed by Ray Chester that tests one's fluency in scales, harmonies, rhythm, sight-reading, interpretation and accompaniment on the guitar.....2011-2013
- o Completed 4 and half (4.5) years of guitar/chamber ensemble instructed by Serap Bestape-Gray, M.D .....2010-2015
- o Completed four (4) years of rhythm training instructed by professors Clinton Adams and Ray Chester.....2010-2014

- o Completed two (2) years of ear-training classes instructed by professor Clinton Adams.....2010-2012
  - o Completed four (4) years of music theory including a graduate level course (2010-2015). Instructed by:
    - Paul Mathews, D.M.A and associate dean of academic affairs
    - Mark Janello, Ph. D
    - Kip Wile, Ph. D
    - Vern Falby, Ph. D
  - o Completed four (4) years of music history (2010-2014)
    - Susan Weiss, Ph. D
    - Zoe Saunders, Ph. D
    - Elam Spenkle, Ph. D
    - Joshua Walden, Ph. D
  - o Completed two (2) years of choir instructed by professor, conductor, and former student of Leon Fleisher, Edward Pollock.....2011-2013
  - o Completed one (1) year of guitar history instructed by Julian Gray.....2013-2014
  - o Completed four years of weekly (curricular and extra-curricular) masterclasses, including world-renown guitarists Manuel Barreco, Julian Gray and Ray Chester, world-renown pianist and conductor Leon Fleisher. Attending at least fifty (50 concerts) was a part of the curriculum.....2010-2015

### **Harford Community College (2007 – 2010)**

**Associate of Arts Music Degree, 2010 (3.47 GPA)**

- Personally instructed in classical guitar by a Peabody Conservatory Alumni, James Hontz, Ph. D.....2007-2010
- Completed two (2) years of music theory, ear-training and music history instructed by Keith Kramer, Ph D.....2007-2009
- Jazz big band taught by Benjamin Russell.....2007-2010
- Jazz guitar instructed by Brian Kooken.....2007-2010
- Completed one year of voice lessons with Madeline Gray.....2009-2010
- Completed a half year (.5) of music production (Finale, DAW, Video editor).....2010

### **C. Milton Wright High School (2002 – 2007)**

**High School Diploma, 2007**

- Completed two (2) years of classical guitar study.....2005-2007
- Private guitar lessons with Vincent Corson.....2005-2007

- Completed one (1) year of music theory/ear-training.....2007
- Participated in extra-curricular jazz band.....2007

## **Notable Performances**

- ◆ Classical Guitar Trio, PRISM: A Musical Collage, Harold J Kaplan Hall, Towson, MD
  - Zambra by Joaquín Turina (2020)
- ◆ Solo Guitar, Harford Community College Faculty and Board of Trustee Welcome Back Meet & Greet, Joppa Hall, Bel Air, MD
  - Works by Villa-Lobos, Satie, Turina, Giuliani, Sor, Carcassi, Chopin, Tárrega, Paganini, Milán, J. S. Bach, Streckfus, and jazz standards (2019)
- ◆ Solo Guitar, Cohen-Davidson Theatre at the Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD
  - Solo Works by Milán, J. S. Bach, Tárrega, Ponce (2014)
  - Solo Works by Milán, Narváez, J. S. Bach, Tárrega, Ponce, Villa-Lobos (2015)
- ◆ Chorus, Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall at Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD
  - Messa Da Requiem by Giuseppe Verdi (2013)
- ◆ Chorus, The Patricia and Arthur Model Performing Arts Center at the Lyric (A. K. A. The Lyric Opera House), Baltimore, MD
  - “Carmina Burana” by Carl Orff (2012)
- ◆ Classical Guitar Trio, Fret Fest at the Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD
  - Fugue by J. F. Handel arr. by Jacques Chandonnet (2012)
- ◆ Solo Guitar, Fallston Hall at Harford Community College, Bel Air, MD
  - Solo Works by J. S. Bach (2009)
- ◆ Classical Guitar Duo with Dr. James Hontz, Andie Musik, Baltimore, MD
  - Works by W. A. Mozart (2008)
- ◆ Guitarist, Harford Community College Jazz Big Band, Fallston Hall, Bel Air, MD
  - Jazz standards such as: Autumn Leaves, Anthropology, Maiden Voyage, Lush Life, Little Drummer Boy (2007-2009)
- ◆ Guitarist, Intuitive Minds United Band, Recher Theatre, Towson, MD
  - Rock and Ragga music composed by the band members (2007)

## **Guitar Masterclass Performances**

- ◆ Meng Su, Towson University, Towson, MD
  - J. S. Bach Cello Suite 2 (2019)
- ◆ Irina Kulikova, Towson University, Towson, MD
  - Heitor Villa-Lobos, Prelude 3 (2020)

# **Applicable Employment History**

## **Music & Arts– Bel Air, MD**

2006-2007, 2014

- Sales Representative - Assisted customers in the selection of instruments, music accessories, resources and instructors.

## **Music & Arts – Middletown, DE**

2016-Present

- Private music instructor (All Ages and Styles)

## **Bel Air Music Studios– Bel Air, MD**

2016-Present

- Private music instructor (All Ages and Styles)

## **Towson University – Towson, MD**

2018-Present

- Graduate teaching assistant - Responsibilities included grading, substitute teaching, test creation, proctoring exams (often including playing musical examples), power-point creation, utilizing library and inter-library materials, attending meetings and attending music events. Tasks given were contractually obligated to be academic in nature.

## **Perry Point VA Medical Center – Perry Point, MD**

2022

- Group guitar instructor. Therapeutic in nature to help alleviate veterans of PTSD.

## **Self-employed – Bel Air, MD**

- Music Performer ~ Recording Artist ~ Composer ~ Teacher ~ Audio Engineering

## **List of Skills (In order of expertise)**

1. <b>Instrument pedagogy</b> (guitar, bass, ukulele, percussion)	5. <b>Audio engineering</b>	9. <b>Video editing</b>
2. <b>Music history</b>	6. <b>Music equipment</b>	10. <b>Photo editing</b>
3. <b>Guitar performer and recording artist</b>	7. <b>Composing/arranging/notation software</b>	11. <b>Tech savviness</b>
4. <b>Music theory</b>	8. <b>Ear-training</b>	

## **Programs Frequently Used (in order of expertise)**

1. <b>Music notation</b> (Sibelius/Finale/ Musescore)	5. <b>Photo editing</b> ( <i>GIMP/Affinity/Adobe</i> )	9. <b>Ear training</b> ( <i>Theta Music Trainer, EarMaster Pro 6</i> )
2. <b>DAWS</b> ( <i>Logic Pro X, Garage Band, Reaper</i> )	6. <b>Video editing</b> ( <i>Final Cut Pro X</i> )	10. <b>File conversion</b> ( <i>iSkysoft iMedia Converter</i> )
3. <b>MIDI</b> ( <i>Bome MIDI Translator, Aria, Tripleplay</i> )	7. <b>Presentations</b> ( <i>Powerpoint, Keynote</i> )	11. Many other programs and 3rd party plugins
4. <b>Live stream teaching/performing</b> ( <i>Zoom/OBS</i> )	8. <b>Accounting</b> ( <i>Excel</i> )	

## **Secondary Instruments (in order of expertise)**

1. <b>Ukulele</b>	3. <b>Percussion</b>	5. <b>Voice</b>
2. <b>Electric bass guitar</b>	4. <b>Keyboards</b>	

## **Technology Improving Music Teaching**

- Using realistic drum loops at any BPM.
- MIDI displaying what note, chords or frets the teacher or the student are playing. Easier to see than a performer's fingers on video. This information is displayed in traditional sheet music notation, pop chord symbols, and a visual representation of a guitar neck or keyboard.
- Utilizing MIDI data to quickly make sheet music tailored to each student.
- Randomized ear training exercises.
- Looping the student's audio to aid in improvisation and self-criticism.
- Digital jazz real book that can transpose to any key and tempo and provide a backing track.
- Recording studio equipment simulations and a myriad of audio effects.
- Much of this technology can be accomplished on mobile devices such as a cellphone or tablet, making it logically feasible and affordable, even for music hobbyists.

## **Audio & Video Publications**

- Produced and published over 90 music-related YouTube videos. This will prove my genre and teaching diversity. An example video of an online collegiate presentation can be provided upon request. YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WoodenBoxEngineer>

- o Music lessons with diverse agendas
- o Music recordings with vast genre diversity: rock, jazz, folk, blues, world, and the various sub-genres of classical music.
- o Backing tracks aimed to teach guitarists (but really any musician) scales, chords, chord progressions, and improvisation while still having fun.
- o ASMR, music therapy, soothing music

## **Sheet Music Publications**

- I have made over a hundred arrangements or pieces in notation software. Some of my sheet music and recordings are published on <https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/publishers/brian-streckfus-sheet-music/3027331> or can be provided upon request. Most of these are arrangements of public domain works, and are notated to appeal to children or beginners. I pride myself on the ability to not only be a sheet music copyist, but a sheet music *engraver*, someone who knows how to make sheet music easier to sightread and play musically:
  - Bigger and more appealing fonts
  - Smaller, new, or more playable chords
  - Adding chord charts, chord pop symbols, and composer indications
  - Creating not just musical compositions but exercises and music theory worksheets.
  - Musical phrases being the same as one staff line, visually making the musical phrases obvious to see.
  - I have two years of official training in notating music as seen by my completion of jazz arranging, music production, and music business courses.
  - I frequently use guitar MIDI pickups, keyboard MIDI, or public domain MIDI files to complete these arrangements quickly.
  - I believe this is an important factor in keeping and retaining excited students and audiences, especially because the sheet music can quickly be edited to change difficulty or level of detail.

## **Awards**

- I was awarded three music scholarships at Towson University. One scholarship was an assistantship, which allowed me to better understand teaching at a collegiate level. The other two scholarships were awarded strictly because of my virtuosic guitar playing.

## **Tech Savviness**

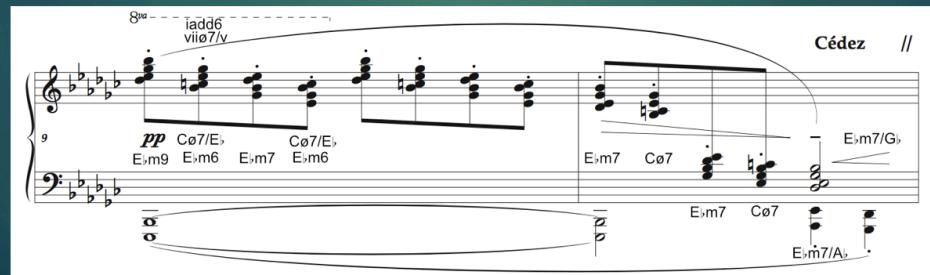
- There are a lot of ways technology skills improve my efficiency and my services. This is a list of just a few:
  - o Content creation with sophisticated programs, scheduling, email and mass communication, editing, online streaming, making audio sound better, accounting, etc...are all improved.
  - o

- o My equipment and skills have allowed me to be more independent in creating content; I do not need to outsource editors. I do photo, video, and audio editing.
- o Two future-proofed and heavily upgraded desktop computers, one for Windows, and one for Macintosh, are at the center of my career. They connect all of my music related equipment together to work simultaneously. This investment is worthwhile because of the usefulness and limitless nature of software. I take advantage of the fact that digital audio technology allows for nearly limitless audio manipulation.
- o The amount of music equipment I have invested in is too numerous to name. The audio and video editing or streaming industry is highly competitive, so I have put a tremendous amount of effort and finances towards sophisticated live streaming/editing/performing. Tech savviness makes me an excellent candidate for online music streaming.
- o My tech savviness skills allow me to be an excellent presenter because photos, sheet music, and audio can all be customized at a professional level to suit the needs of the situation. This excerpt of one of my *PowerPoint* presentations has edited sheet music and trimmed audio.

## Chord Planing

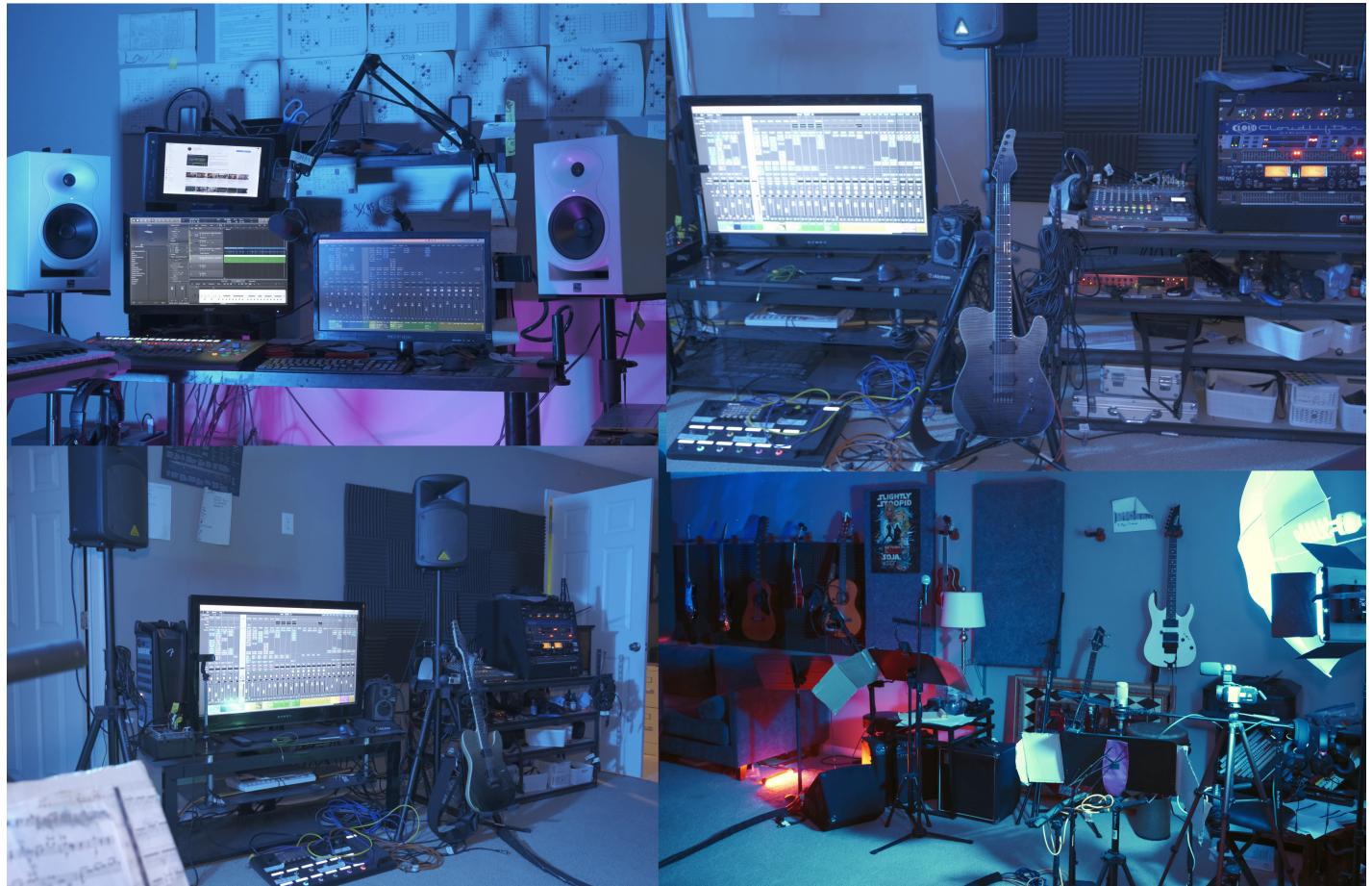


• Be Prepared for strange roman numerals  
 • There are hardly any suspensions or retardations, instead non-chord tones are chord tones!  
     • This is more like jazz than classical, where a 6 chord does not imply a sus6-5 but instead it is just added to the chord and not resolved.  
 • C naturals point toward B♭ minor or D♭ major  
     • Instead of modulating to either of these keys, it is instead complacent with the C naturals and the passage is heard as E♭ Dorian  
 • It is different than earlier eras because the parallel motion is extreme  
 • The key of 6 b's is enharmonic to 6 #'s. Does the equality of G♭ and F♯ major add ambiguity?



Cédez //

# Editing Equipment



## Sheet Music in Large Font

### AMAZING GRACE

**Bm7** Arr: Brian Streckfus

The sheet music consists of three staves of musical notation for guitar. Each staff begins with a chord box:

- Staff 1: G<sup>#</sup> (x o x x x), G (o o x x x), Bm7 (x o o x x)
- Staff 2: Am7 (x o o x x), G (o o x x x), G<sup>5/C</sup> (x o o x x)
- Staff 3: G (o o x x x), D<sup>5</sup> (x x o x x)

Below each staff is a tablature staff showing the strings (T, A, B) and fret positions (e.g., 0, 1, 2, 3). The lyrics are written below the notes:

Staff 1: A - maz - ing grace, how

Staff 2: sweet the sound, that saved a

Staff 3: wretch like me. I

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## **References**

James Hontz, Ph, D - (610-345-0961) - [hontz@dickinson.edu](mailto:hontz@dickinson.edu)

Christopher Dillon, Ph, D, - (410-803-5449) [director@belairmusicstudios.com](mailto:director@belairmusicstudios.com)

Troy King - (410-382-6095) - [tking@towson.edu](mailto:tking@towson.edu)

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Official Website: [www.brianstreckfus.com](http://www.brianstreckfus.com)

Videos and recordings: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WoodenBoxEngineer>

Pictures of my audio equipment: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/brian-streckfus-9b334a92/detail/recent-activity/>