

Brian Streckfus

Guitarist | Teacher | Audio Engineer

Education

Towson University (2017-2020)

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

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

- 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)
- Completed two (2) years of guitar pedagogy (the science of teaching children guitar) instructed by Ray Chester (2011-2013)
- 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)
- Completed 4 and half (4.5) years of guitar/chamber ensemble instructed by Serap Bestape-Gray, M.D (2010-2015)
- Completed four (4) years of rhythm training instructed by professors Clinton Adams and Ray Chester (2010-2014)
- Completed two (2) years of ear-training classes instructed by professor Clinton Adams (2010-2012)

- Completed four (4) years of music theory including a graduate level course (2010-2015). Instructed by, Paul Mathews, D.M.A (Associate dean of Academic Affairs), Dr. Kip Wile, Dr. Vern Falby,
- Completed four (4) years of music history (2010-2014). Instructed by: Dr. Susan Weiss, Dr. Zoe Saunders, Dr. Elam Spenkle, Dr. Joshua Walden
- Completed two (2) years of choir instructed by professor, conductor, and former student of Leon Fleisher, Edward Pollock. (2011-2013)
- Completed one (1) year of guitar history instructed by Julian Gray (2013-2014)
- 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)

- Instructed in guitar by Peabody Conservatory Alumni, James Hontz, D.M.A. (2007-2010)
- Completed two (2) years of music theory, ear-training and music history instructed by Dr. Keith Kramer, (2007-2009)
- Completed (3) years of jazz big band taught by Benjamin Russel (2007-2010)
- Completed (3) years of jazz guitar instructed by Brian Kooken (2007-2010)
- Completed one year of voice by Madeline Gray (2009-2010)
- Completed half year (0.5) 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 music 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)

Applicable Employment History

ParaEducator

Fallston Middle School | Fallston, MD | 2022-2025

- Teaching assistant in all classes, with especially relevant classes being guitar lab, piano lab, music appreciation, chorus and drama.
- Completed extensive professional development covering a broad spectrum of instructional strategies, technologies, and student engagement techniques. These include: pedagogy, crisis management, behavior management, educational law, and strategies to mitigate learning disabilities.
- Delivered instruction in a fully digital learning environment using Canvas LMS, with 100% of curriculum materials and assignments accessible online to support continuity during absences and enhance student autonomy.
- Annotated and graded student-created documents and presentations (e.g., *Microsoft Word, PowerPoint*) directly from my personal device in real-time as students type. This streamlines feedback, workflow and grading.
- Delivered instruction via large touchscreen-enabled smart displays that support presentation software such as powerpoint, Canvas LMS, websites, annotations, multimedia content, and annotations.
- Collaborated on long-term instructional planning to ensure cohesive and well-prepared lesson delivery

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Towson University | Towson, MD | 2018-2020

- This position entailed teaching undergrad students classes such as music history, music appreciation and music theory.
- Acted as a standby faculty member for the music department, filling in for absent or overextended professors as needed.
- Responsibilities included: substitute lecturer, grading, test creation, proctoring exams, powerpoint creation, utilizing library and inter-library materials, attending meetings and events.
- Tasks given were contractually obligated to be academic in nature.
- Both in-person and online teaching skillsets were required.
- Enrollment in courses at TU is required to qualify for this position.

Music Instructor

Bel Air Music Studios | Bel Air, MD | 2016-Present

- Instructs students of a diverse set of ages, abilities and styles as an independent contractor both in-person and online.
- Topics taught include guitar performance, music theory, composition, music history, improvisation, rhythm and audio engineering.
- Applies entrepreneurial and marketing strategies to student retention, resulting in consistent new clients, referrals and long-term client relationships.
- Tracks business expenses, invoices, and attendance efficiently with *Quickbooks* and *Microsoft Excel*.
- Supports the coordination of biannual student recitals, including performance preparation of students and live audio engineering responsibilities.
- Creates public domain or original arrangements, studies (études), lesson plans and method books tailored to student needs — supporting both learning outcomes and strong student retention. This is where my editing skills are used in the real world. These editing skills include sheet music notation software, MIDI, photo editing software, *Microsoft Word* and *Zoom*. This work contributes to a diverse income stream that includes student instruction, sheet music royalties, live performance, and audio distribution — with built-in opportunities for audience engagement and organic marketing.
- Incorporates state-of-the-art technology to enhance instruction via mobile devices and *Zoom*, including interactive ear training tools, editable MIDI backing tracks and editable drum loops.
- Leverages mobile digital audio workstations (DAWs) featuring emulations of vintage and high-end studio equipment, allowing for high production value in an accessible, low-cost lesson environment.
- Provides customer service support through phone and email communication with existing and prospective clients.

Sales Representative

Music & Arts | Bel Air, MD | 2006-2007, 2014

- Provided customer service support through phone and email communication with existing and prospective clients.
- Assisted customers in the selection of instruments, music accessories, instructors, and other miscellaneous items.
- Charisma and a diverse knowledge of music are essential skills in this position — it requires assisting a diverse set of customers.

- Supported key operational tasks including customer service, inventory management, lesson attendance, and store open/close procedures.

Music Instructor

Music & Arts | Middletown, DE | 2016-2022

- Provided individualized instruction to a diverse student population, accommodating differences in age, proficiency, and musical genre.
- Topics taught include guitar performance, music theory, music history, improvisation, rhythm and audio engineering.
- Assisted customers in the selection of instruments, music accessories sheet music and other miscellaneous items.

Group Guitar Instructor

Perry Point VA Medical Center - Perry Point, MD | 2022

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

Self-employed Musician

Bel Air, MD

- **Roles:** Performer | Arranger | Content Creator | Audio Engineer
- **Skills:** Videography | Photo/Video Editing | SEO optimization | Digital Branding

Independent Financial Analyst

Bel Air, MD - 2020-Present

- Manages personal investment portfolio across equities, commodities, and digital assets.
- Develops custom quantitative trading tools using Python and Pine Script, incorporating JSON-formatted data from financial APIs to automate and accelerate both fundamental and technical analysis. Enhanced research workflows to operate at significantly greater speed and depth.
- Performs data/statistical analysis.
- Conducts fundamental research to assess factors contributing to company success or underperformance, requiring strong business acumen.
- Maintains detailed transaction records, tax compliance, and password/data security protocols.

Software Proficiencies

Music notation (<i>Sibelius/Finale/Musescore</i>)	Photo editing (<i>GIMP/Affinity/Adobe</i>)	Ear training (<i>Theta Music Trainer, EarMaster</i>)
DAW (<i>Logic Pro X, Garage Band, Reaper</i>)	Video editing (<i>Final Cut Pro X</i>)	Programming (<i>VS Code, Python, JSON</i>)
MIDI (<i>Bome MIDI Translator, Aria, Tripleplay</i>)	Presentations (<i>Powerpoint, Canva</i>)	Learning Management System (<i>Canvas</i>)
Live stream teaching/performing (<i>Zoom/OBS</i>)	Accounting (<i>Excel, Quickbooks</i>)	

Secondary Instruments

Bass Guitar	Percussion	Voice
Ukulele	Keyboards	Banjo

Masterclass Featured Soloist

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

Notable Performances

- **Classical Guitar Trio**, *PRISM: A Musical Collage*, Harold J Kaplan Hall, Towson, MD
 - o *Zambra* by Joaquín Turina (2020)
- **Solo Guitar**, Harford Community College Faculty and Board of Trustees Welcome Back Meet & Greet, Joppa Hall, Bel Air, MD
 - o 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
 - o Solo Works by Milán, J. S. Bach, Tárrega, Ponce (2014)
 - o Solo Works by Milán, Narváez, J. S. Bach, Tárrega, Ponce, Villa-Lobos (2015)
- **Tenor Voice**, Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall at Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD
 - o *Messa Da Requiem* by Giuseppe Verdi (2013)
- **Tenor Voice**, The Patricia and Arthur Model Performing Arts Center at the Lyric (A. K. A. The Lyric Opera House), Baltimore, MD
 - o *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff (2012)
- **Classical Guitar Trio**, *Fret Fest* at the Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD
 - o *Fugue* by J. F. Handel arr. by Jacques Chandonnet (2012)

- **Solo Guitar**, Fallston Hall at Harford Community College, Bel Air, MD
 - o Solo Works by J. S. Bach (2009)
- **Classical Guitar Duo** with Dr. James Hontz, Andie Musik, Baltimore, MD
 - o Works by W. A. Mozart (2008)
- **Guitarist**, Harford Community College Jazz Big Band, Fallston Hall, Bel Air, MD
 - o 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
 - o Rock and pop music (2007)

Publications & Awards

- The best way to visually experience the content I create is by visiting brianstreckfus.com.
- Produced and published over 100 music-related Youtube videos that have acquired over 400,000 views. Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WoodenBoxEngineer>
 - o Music lessons covering diverse topics such as audio engineering and music notation tips and tricks.
 - o Music recordings with vast genre diversity: rock, jazz, folk, blues, world, and the various sub-genres of classical music. Also there is therapeutic soothing music.
 - o Custom backing tracks designed to teach scales, chords, progressions, and improvisation in a fun and accessible way.
 - o An example video of an online collegiate presentation can be provided upon request.
- 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>:
 - o Specializes in arranging public domain works tailored for young learners and beginners, with a focus on playability and musicality.
 - o Develops pedagogically sound sheet music resources in response to the scarcity of quality guitar notation. This addresses a known industry challenge with millions of potential customers, as the majority of guitarists worldwide are not fluent in standard notation.
 - o Skilled in notation engraving, emphasizing readability, educational value, and visual clarity (e.g., phrase alignment, large fonts, simplified and customized chords, chord diagrams, and expressive markings).
 - o Produce both compositions, arrangements and custom exercises/worksheets to reinforce learning.
 - o Leverage MIDI tools (even on guitar) to streamline the arrangement process.
 - o Background includes training in jazz arranging, music production, and music business.
- Assistantship awarded at Towson University (2018).
- Awarded Towson University merit awards to aid in college expenses. Received for outstanding musical ability as demonstrated through GPA and performance evaluations.

References

James Hontz, D.M.A.- (610-345-0961) - hontz@dickinson.edu

Christopher Dillon, D.M.A. - (410-803-5449) director@belairmusicstudios.com

Troy King - (410-382-6095) - tking@towson.edu

Kelsey Eisenhauer - (410-642-2411) Kelsey.Eisenhauer@va.gov

Asgerdur Sigurdardottir - (410-252-1776) president@BCGS.org

Official Website: www.brianstreckfus.com

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

Music Publications: <https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/publishers/brian-streckfus-sheet-music/3027331>