

# Eric Whitmer

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## Education

### VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Percussion Performance Major, Business Minor, Concentration in Musicology. 3.978 GPA  
Dean's Honor Scholar, Honors in Musicology, Littlejohn Research Fellow

Nashville, TN  
May 2023

### FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL

4.0 Unweighted GPA, College Connections Program, Leonard Bernstein Award for Leadership

Palo Cedro, CA  
May 2019

## Research

### HONORS THESIS

#### Rethinking the Political Orchestra: An Examination of Organizational Structure's Effect on Western Art Music

Vanderbilt University  
Summer 2020-Present

Recognized with a 2021 Littlejohn Research Fellowship. This research has been an undertaking of two and a half years of research and coursework, including over 100 interviews with arts administrators and orchestral personnel across the country. Interviews will be preserved in an open-access digital collection of the Anne Potter Wilson Music Library. This work was featured by Vanderbilt University: <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/immersion/student-stories-eric-whitmer/>. This work is still in progress and the most recent draft can be found at [www.ericdwhitmer.com/thesis.pdf](http://www.ericdwhitmer.com/thesis.pdf).

### "OH FRIENDS, NOT THESE TONES":

#### BEETHOVEN'S NINTH SYMPHONY AS INSPIRATION PORN

Vanderbilt University  
January 2022-November 2022

An examination of the conception of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* and Beethoven through disability theory, specifically inspiration porn. I argue that the conception of Beethoven's deafness from both societal and Beethoven's perspectives point to ways in which Deafness is treated as a disability worthy of pity. Additionally, the strong linkages between conceptions of the ninth symphony as a unifying symbol is an example of musical inspiration porn.

### CURATOR AND MODERATOR, ARTISTIC MEMORIALS

#### Performance of John Corigliano's *Symphony No. 1*

Vanderbilt University  
September 2022

Created and led a festival surrounding HIV/AIDS awareness in Nashville and middle Tennessee. Created and moderated a panel discussion including the co-investigator of the Vanderbilt HIV Vaccine program, the Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Nursing, the Public Relations director of Music City PrEP, and Professors from Jewish Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Musicology. Created a PrEP drive which was the most successful in Music City PrEP's history.

## Teaching and Work Experience

### VANDERBILT ORCHESTRA

#### Manager

Vanderbilt University  
January 2020-Present

Managed logistics and operations of the Blair School of Music's premier orchestra. Managed attendance records, setup and organization of the ensemble, and attendance records. Implemented new learning software and managed COVID-19 protocols throughout the pandemic.

### DR. REBECCA EPSTEIN-LEVI

#### Research Assistant

Vanderbilt University  
October 2022-Present

Supervised and managed collection of primary sources and documentation. Worked with the Vanderbilt Library to facilitate a collection of materials gathered, and created metadata to organize records.

### VANDERBILT MUSICOLOGY DEPARTMENT

#### Teaching Assistant, MUSL-2100 Music as Global Culture

Vanderbilt University  
August 2022-Present

Hosted office hours and review sessions for major exams. Guest lectured on my own research and led class discussion on relevant course topics.

### ENGINE FOR ART DEMOCRACY AND JUSTICE

#### Research Fellow

Vanderbilt University  
August 2022-Present

Hosted guest artists, led discussions, moderated webinars, and researched webinar topics for the organization. Helped in long term vision planning for the organization and worked to communicate the vision of the organization to our trans-institutional partners.

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MARIMBA

#### Associate Director

Irvine, California  
August 2022-Present

Worked with the organization to grow and cultivate sustainable operations while realizing their mission of making marimba education and performance accessible to all. Created and directed the 2022 International Artist Competition

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allowing 36 competitors from around the world compete and perform in masterclasses. Supervised the creation and implementation of the BIPOC Marimba Database.

## **NORTH STATE SYMPHONY**

Redding and Chico, California

### **Section Percussionist & Guest Lecturer**

August 2019-Present

Paid section percussionist for regular and POPS seasons. Substitute principal on numerous subscription concerts. Youngest professional musician in the history of the organization. Helped design and present pre-concert lectures.

## **OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS**

Vanderbilt University

### **Summer Student Admissions Assistant**

Summer 2022

Led tours and admission question and answer sessions for over 4,000 prospective students and family members. Answered emails and communications and worked to represent Vanderbilt to the outside community.

## **Sō PERCUSSION**

New York City

### **Sō Percussion Summer Institute (SōSI) Intern**

June 2021

Facilitated two-week joint percussion and composition festival dedicated to collaboration and innovation in online chamber music performance. Led workshops on audio and video editing to the seventy students in the session.

## **NORTH STATE SYMPHONY**

Redding and Chico, California

### **Redding Engagement Coordinator**

August 2018-May 2019

Created and led educational engagement tours of musicians to local schools. Supervised and performed with ensembles demonstrating key musical concepts. Helped to plan marketing and strategic planning for the organization.

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

### **Curb Center Extended Creative Catalyst Grant**

November 2022

Received the largest award to date for an undergraduate recipient. Funds used to commission a work memorializing victims of conversion therapy, composer residence, and recording of the work.

### **Emerging Artist, Network for Diversity in Concert**

Percussion

August 2022

Recipient of an Emerging Artist fellowship from the NDCP. Received financial awards for expenses related to study and private clinics with percussionists at the top of the field.

### **Cortona Sessions for New Music, Ensemble-in-Residence**

July 2022

Awarded a residency with chamber group Sacrament. Performed spotlight concert and commissions for new music from composers.

### **Littlejohn Research Fellowship**

May 2021

Received a specialty Littlejohn Fellowship in recognition of outstanding research. Only undergraduate to receive funding for research where they were the principal investigator.

## **COMMISSIONS & KEY PERFORMANCES**

**San Francisco Girl's Chorus**, Davies Symphony Hall, Premiered Susie Ibarra's *Dreaming Horizons*, 12/12/22.

**Contemporary Music Ensemble**, Blair School of Music, Premiered Kristian de Leon's "We Breathe Together", 10/10/22.

**Living Sounds**, Blair School of Music, Premiered Stan Link's *Life Sentences*, 10/11/22.

**When We Gather**, National Gallery of Art, Drummer for Performance Art Installation, 4/30/22.

**Perspectives**, Redding Performing Arts Society, Curator and Performer, 1/14/22.

**SōSI at Princeton Library**, Premiered 32-44,000 Ft. by Kristian de Leon, 7/21-1/22.

**Contemporary Music Ensemble**, National Museum of African American Music, Inaugural Performance, 4/15/21.

**North State Symphony**, Redding and Chico, CA, Concerto Soloist Ney Rosauro's *Concerto No. 1 for Marimba and String Orchestra*.

**Strings and Percussion Things**, Redding and Yreka, CA, Co-Grant Writer and Performer. Premiered Dwayne Corbin's *Divertimento for Marimba and Violin*.

## **Volunteerism and Community Engagement**

**Nightingale in the Wings**, performed at retirement homes and long-term care facilities, 2020-Present.

**Blair School of Music SEGUE**, upperclassmen mentor to incoming first-year students, 2020-Present.

**Board Member, North State Symphony**, advisory board member, 2020-Present.

**Contact a Student, Blair School of Music**, communicated with and gave advice to prospective students, 2019-Present.

**Artistic Administration Advisor, Redding Performing Arts Society**, consulted on strategic planning, 2019-Present.

**Grant Writer, Strings and Percussion Things Educational Engagement Tour**, toured seven schools performing for over 3,000 students, youngest awardee of the Community Arts Fund of the Shasta Regional Community Foundation, 2017.

## **Miscellaneous Skills**

**Photographer/Videographer:** Ictus Pictures, [www.ictuspictures.com](http://www.ictuspictures.com)

**Website Designer:** [www.ericdwhitmer.com](http://www.ericdwhitmer.com), [www.ictuspictures.com](http://www.ictuspictures.com), [www.madelinemerwin.com](http://www.madelinemerwin.com)

**Graphic Design:** [www.ericdwhitmer.com/gdportfolio.zip](http://www.ericdwhitmer.com/gdportfolio.zip)