

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 from 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.

"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. Using foundational texts such as Simi Linton's *Claiming Disability*, Rosemarie Garland-Thompson's *Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Disability in American Culture and Literature*, and Sara Ahmed's *The Promise of Happiness*, 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

Vanderbilt University

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

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

Vanderbilt University

Manager

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.

VANDERBILT MUSICOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Vanderbilt University

Teaching Assistant, MUSL-2100 Music as Global Culture

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

Vanderbilt University

Research Fellow

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

Irvine, California

Associate Director

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

Eric Whitmer

NORTH STATE SYMPHONY

Section Percussionist & Guest Lecturer

Redding and Chico, California

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 application. Funds used to commission a work memorializing victims of conversion therapy, composer residence, and recording of the work.

Cortona Sessions for New Music,

Ensemble-in-Residence

June 2022

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

Littlejohn Research Fellowship

June 2021

Received a specialty Littlejohn Fellowship in recognition of an outstanding research proposal for Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program. 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.

Contemporary Music Ensemble, National Museum of African American Music, Inaugural Performance, 4/15/22.

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.

Miscellaneous Skills

Photographer/Videographer: Ictus Pictures, www.ictuspictures.com

Website Designer: www.ericdwhitmer.com, www.ictuspictures.com, www.madelinemerwin.com

Graphic Design: www.ericdwhitmer.com/gdportfolio.zip