

# Robert T. Cruz

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## EDUCATION

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, MM in Organ and Sacred Music, Bloomington, Indiana  
(2012-2014)

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, MM in Collaborative Piano, Boston, Massachusetts  
(2009-2010), incomplete

WHEATON COLLEGE, BM in Organ Performance and Music History, Wheaton, Illinois  
(2004-2008)

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

June 2020: Jazz Piano Playing in Musical Theatre Course taught by James Sampliner (online)

January 2020: Music Direction Intensive, Goodspeed Musicals, East Haddam, CT.

November 2019: Pop Piano Playing Course taught by Brian Usifer (online)

June 2017: Church Music Association of America Summer Colloquium

June 2016: Church Music Association of America Summer Colloquium

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Summer 2024: MUSIC DIRECTOR, Stage Center, Shreveport, LA. Music direct production of *Jersey Boys*. Additional responsibilities include fundraising for the hiring of live musicians and rearranging orchestrations for forces available.

Spring 2024: CO-MUSIC DIRECTOR, Stage Center, Shreveport, LA. Co-music direct production of *The SpongeBob Musical*. Responsibilities included the bulk of teaching the music, working with all staging rehearsals, and coordinating with the other co-music director for music during the run of the show.

April 2024: REHEARSAL PIANIST, South Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, El Dorado, AR. Rehearsal pianist for production of *Hansel and Gretel*. Conducted by Kermit Poling.

March 2024: DIRECTOR, Emmett Hook Center, Shreveport, LA. Stage director for production of *Barefoot in the Park*.

October 2023 to May 2024: NON-CREDIT PRESENTER, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA. Teach private organ lessons for two undergraduate majors in preparation for their degree recitals.

October 2023: MUSIC DIRECTOR, Shreveport Little Theatre, Shreveport, LA. Prepared and performed music for production of *My Way*, a Frank Sinatra revue. Responsibilities included vocal arranging/rehearsing, contracting band, and playing performances.

September 2023: MUSIC DIRECTOR, Shreveport Little Theatre, Shreveport, LA. Supervised music for production of *Always...Patsy Cline*. Responsibilities included coaching accent/style for vocalist, contracting band, and preparing band with attention to historical detail. Directed by Robert Darrow.

September 2023-present: LIBRARIAN, Marshall Symphony Orchestra, Marshall, TX. Librarian duties include preparation of parts and overseeing rentals.

April 2023 to present: ORGANIST, Noel Memorial United Methodist Church, Shreveport, LA. Responsibilities include service playing and accompanying choir rehearsals. Assist Director of Traditional Worship with service planning and oversee/produce concert series (two to three concerts per year). Regular arranging and composing.

March 2023: DIRECTOR, Emmett Hook Center, Shreveport, LA. Stage director for production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Cast comprised of both community and collegiate performers. Additional duties included keyboard programming, orchestra contracting, and coordinating social media promotion.

March 2023-present: KEYBOARDS, Texarkana Symphony Orchestra, Texarkana, TX. Regularly contracted to play keyboard parts for orchestra concerts, including synth parts for *Jurassic Park* and *Home Alone*. Conducted by Philip Mann.

February 2023-March 2023: INTERIM ORGANIST, Noel Memorial United Methodist Church, Shreveport, LA. Responsibilities include service playing and accompanying choir rehearsals.

November 2022: MUSIC DIRECTOR, Emmett Hook Center, Shreveport, LA. Oversee music for production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Produce music arrangements used in show and prepare accompaniment tracks. Rehearse cast including youth performers. Directed by Joe Todaro.

October 2022: MUSIC DIRECTOR, Shreveport Little Theatre, Shreveport, LA. Oversee all musical aspects for *Seva May: On My Own*, new one-woman show highlighting local stage personality. Duties included arranging, orchestrating, preparation of parts, and performance. Directed by Erik Champney.

September 2022-present: KEYBOARDS, South Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, El Dorado, AR. Regularly contracted to perform as keyboardist in a variety of repertoire. Conducted by Kermit Poling.

September 2022-present: LIBRARIAN AND PERSONNEL MANAGER, South Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, El Dorado, AR. Librarian duties include preparation of parts and overseeing rentals. Personnel responsibilities include hiring musicians for five to six concerts per season, enforcing orchestra personnel policies (modeled on regional AFM policies), handling labor disagreements, and preparing payroll information for accountant.

July 2022: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, Emmett Hook Center, Shreveport, LA. Assistant to stage director and music director for production of *The Sound of Music*. Responsibilities included rehearsing music with children, staging larger chorus scenes, scene work and character development with actors, and coordinating the daily rehearsal schedule with members of the production team. Directed by Joe Todaro.

March 2022: KEYBOARDS, Shreveport Little Theatre, Shreveport, LA. Hired to program and

play Keys 2 part for *Marvelous Wonderettes: Dream On*.

October 2021-present: ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, Carrefour Collaborative Music Project, Shreveport, LA. Oversaw restructuring of organization as a registered non-profit. Concert planning, marketing, personnel management, fundraising and interfacing with board of directors.

Spring 2021-present: KEYBOARDS, Shreveport Symphony Orchestra, Shreveport, LA. Regularly contracted to perform as keyboardist in a variety of repertoire. Conducted by Michael Buttermann.

Fall 2020-Summer 2023: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE ORGANIST AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE, First United Methodist Church, Shreveport, LA. Regularly fill in on organ and piano for services as needed.

June 2020-October 2021: ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, Carrefour Chamber Music Project, Shreveport, LA. Co-founded and managed a chamber music series focused on creating community through collaborative music making. Plan season, interface with business manager and operations manager, oversee social media accounts, edit audio and video for online concerts. Regularly produce video program notes for series.

Summer 2020: MUSIC DIRECTOR/KEYBOARD, Post Playhouse, Crawford, NE. Music director for productions of *Catch Me If You Can* and *Church Basement Ladies*. Keyboards for *Annie* and *Cats*. COVID-19 CANCELLATION

2019-present: ACCOMPANIST, Prisma Vocal Ensemble, Shreveport, LA. Also serving as assistant conductor to cover rehearsals as needed. Conducted by Adam Philley.

2019-2023: STAFF SINGER, First United Methodist Church, Shreveport, LA. Conducted by David Hobson.

2019-2022: MUSIC DIRECTOR, Emmett Hook Center, Shreveport, LA. Contracted to music direct productions of *Nunsense* (March 2019), *Into the Woods* (October 2019), *Forever Plaid* (March 2021), *Elf the Musical* (November 2021), and *Godspell* (March 2022)

2019-2021: KEYBOARDS, Emmett Hook Center, Shreveport, LA Contracted to play keyboard parts for *Annie* (June 2019) and *The King and I* (July 2021).

2019-present: SUBSTITUTE ORGANIST, various local churches, Shreveport, LA. Congregations included St. George's Episcopal Church and the Church of the Holy Cross

2018-2021: SUBSTITUTE PIANIST, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Shreveport, LA. Play for the 4:00 pm Saturday Mass as needed.

2016-2017: MUSIC DIRECTOR, Loyola College Preparatory School, Shreveport, LA. Provided weekly musical coaching for the theatre department including full-length production of *Songs for a New World*.

2015-2017: DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC, Cathedral of St. John Berchmans, Shreveport, LA. Sole staff musician in 900+ family parish. Conduct Cathedral Choir, Men's Schola, Women's Schola, and Treble Choir (grades 3-8). Organist for all weekend Masses. Regular orchestral Masses and larger works. Oversee concert series (6-8 events per year). Work extensively with attached Grade School and High School. Regularly provide liturgical catechesis through articles and lectures. Maintain music library. Assist in production of worship aids and other printed materials.

2014-2015: MUSIC DIRECTOR AND ACCOMPANIST, Cardinal Stage Company, Bloomington, IN. Contracted to music direct productions of *1776*, *The Birthday Feast*, and *Shrek the Musical*. Also hired as rehearsal pianist/keyboard 1 for *Les Miserables* and rehearsal pianist for *Hairspray*.

2014-2015: ACCOMPANIST, Indiana University Department of Theatre and Dance, Bloomington, IN. Studio of Sue Swaney.

2013-2015: CO-DIRECTOR OF *LAETARE*, Bloomington, IN. Founder and co-director of a chamber choir specializing in sacred music with performances in a variety of traditions.

2010-2015: MUSIC DIRECTOR, Faith Lutheran Church, Bloomington, IN. Organ performance, directing adult and children's choir, directing children's handbell choir, working with volunteer instrumentalists, worship planning, preparation of worship aids, teaching adult, Junior High, and pre-Confirmation classes. Maintain music library.

2010-2015: ACCOMPANIST, Bloomington, IN. Accompany voice and instrumental students (Bachelor's through Doctoral level) on a contractual basis

2010: SUBSTITUTE ORGANIST, First Lutheran Church of Boston, Boston, MA. Organ performance, accompaniment, worship planning.

2009-2010: ACCOMPANIST, New England Classical Singers, Andover, MA. Conducted by David Hodgkins.

2008-2009: MUSIC DIRECTOR, Wheaton College Student Players, Wheaton, IL. Music director and rehearsal pianist for student-led productions of *The Boyfriend* and *It's a Grand Night for Singing*.

2008-2009: ACCOMPANIST/COACH, Opera Music Theater Program, Conservatory of Music at Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL. Accompany and coach rehearsals for Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience* and spring scenes program.

2008-2009: ORGANIST, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lisle, IL. Organ performance, accompaniment, worship planning, administration

## LANGUAGES

Elementary reading competency in German, Ancient Greek, Latin, and Biblical Hebrew  
Proficient in English, Italian, French, German, Latin, and Spanish diction  
Basic knowledge of pronunciation of Cyrillic script

## SKILLS

Finale Music Notation Software (advanced proficiency)  
Mainstage (advanced proficiency)  
Orchestration  
Vocal arranging  
Professional verbal and written communication skills  
Ability to inspire and unite a diverse group of people toward a united vision  
Creative problem solving and ability to handle multiple tasks  
Ability to quickly assimilate new information