

The Institute of the Arts was established in 2010 to compliment the Dance Connection's rich history of dance instruction. Through music and the use of sign language, students are instructed in the various ways they can express themselves in unique and beautiful ways.

The instructors are people who feel passionately about their art form, and have not only studied, but experienced the beauty and impact that their art forms may have on the world and people around them.

The mission of The Institute of the Arts is "to communicate with the world around us through various venues, including the use of the voice, musicality, and movement, and convey the beauty and depth of feelings and thoughts through the senses."

We welcome you and your children to enjoy new ways of expressing themselves.

SIGN LANGUAGE LESSONS

Through group lessons and semi-private, or private lessons, students are instructed in the basics of sign language. The use of the facial expressions, body language, signs and fingerspelling are learned, as well as the basics of American Sign Language, or ASL.

LYRICAL SIGN LANGUAGE

Students utilize their previously learned knowledge of sign language and the use of the face and the body to communicate meaning along with their hands. Poetry, story telling, and songs are utilized to express the deeper meaning of what is read or heard. Students will perform in the annual recital in June of each year to a song.

VOICE LESSONS

The 1/2 hour lesson will most importantly focus on proper vocal technique and will build on an overall foundation consisting of the following:

Vocal warm-ups and how to warm up properly while eliminating stress or strain on the voice. Correct vocal placement and strengthening exercises to optimize control, quality, and vocal endurance. Breath support techniques and exercises to improve clarity, increase power, and produce longer phrasing. Proper diction, vowel tone, and consonant placement. Based on your individual goals other areas of focus could include performance tips, stage presence, audience connection, auditioning, lyrical interpretation and microphone technique.

PIANO LESSONS

We offer weekly private lessons to beginner, intermediate and advanced students of all ages. The lesson plans include a balance of theory, ear training, sight reading and repertoire appropriate to the student's level and musical ability.

Please contact our studio for class pricing.
Thank You.



The INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS AT The DANCE CONNECTION

(MCAD, Inc.)

295 Rt. 46 West
Rockaway NJ, 07866
973-625-2224
danceconn.com

KRISTINE M. SIMMONS
Sign Language Instructor

Kristine M. Simmons began signing at the age of 17, volunteering in classrooms of a school for the Deaf in northern New Jersey as a high school student. Since graduating from Ithaca College with her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Speech-Language Pathology in 1995 and 1996, she has worked with D/deaf and hard of hearing students for the past 14 years. She is currently the sole proprietor of Bridges Speech, Language and Communication Services, LLC, a private practice serving students and their families, as well as school districts, in providing the best possible education for students with hearing loss and any special needs relative to speech, language and literacy.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Private evaluations and assessments
Speech-Language Pathologist working with the D/deaf and hard of hearing,
New Jersey
Literacy Specialist, Sparta, NJ
Signing Ministry, Sparta and Rockaway, NJ
College Sign Language Instructor,
Newton, NJ

EDUCATION

Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY
Bachelor's of Science, Teacher of the Speech and Hearing Handicapped
Master's of Science, Speech-Language Pathologist

NATHAN K. SIMMONS
Vocal Instructor

Nathan K. Simmons began his singing career at 9 years of age as the youngest singer in a community chorus in central New York. He continued singing as a child and young adult, studying privately and participating in a variety of singing venues, including choruses, show choir, barber shop quartets, community chorus, solo work, and community as well as school musicals. He is currently a vocalist on a church Worship Team in Sparta, NJ, as well as in various special music events and musicals in northern New Jersey.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE


Project Manager, East Hanover, New Jersey
Worship Team Member, Sparta, NJ
Various theatre and musical performances in Northern NJ

EDUCATION

Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY
Bachelor's of Science, Computer Information Systems
Minor in Vocal Performance



JEFFREY A. PRESCOTT
Piano Instructor



Classically trained Pianist/Music Director with thirty years of training on piano, organ, and synthesizers. Accomplished teacher in all styles of music, including Classical, Jazz, Rock, and Contemporary. Teaching focuses on Proper Technique, Music Theory, Sight-Reading, and Performance skills. Instruction is based on student's age and ability. He is an accomplished Music Director with over 15 years extensive experience, accompanying and teaching choirs, vocalists, actors, and instrumentalists on musical, personal, and professional levels. Mr. Prescott has achieved a reputation for quality musical results while working with individual students, churches, theatre groups, college, primary and secondary schools, bands, dance companies, and youth groups.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Private individual instruction
Star Music, Morristown, NJ
Star Music, Waldwick, NJ
Evans Music, Succasunna, NJ

EDUCATION

William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ
Classical Performance/Accomplishment with Dr. Gary Kirkpatrick

County College of Morris, Randolph, NJ
Classical Performance/Accompaniment with Dr. John Gorman and Professor Ellen Traeger