

## FINE ARTS ACADEMY INSTRUCTORS

### ART INSTRUCTORS

**Ginger Anderson** is an artist and is well known for her inspiring work with children at St. Paul's. She has been teaching art classes at St. Paul's for years, and also has many years of experience as a piano teacher (see piano instructor bio).

**Helen Spaw, MPS** has wide experience as a therapist, teacher, and group leader for all ages and abilities. She holds a master's in Art Therapy and Creativity Development from New York's Pratt Institute, and her bachelor's in Psychology with an Art minor and focus in Art Therapy from the College of Santa Fe. She is inspired by witnessing growth and creativity through the process of art making. Helen is also the Associate Director of Adult Faith Formation at St. Paul's, Director of the Fine Arts Academy, and facilitates art workshops, classes, and Healing Art Circles.

### DANCE INSTRUCTORS

**Avery Janenda** I am a sophomore at Rice studying Mechanical Engineering. I am also a member and Outreach Director for Rice Dance Theatre, a student-run dance company. I have been training in a wide variety of dance styles from the age of three, and I have been assisting and teaching classes from the age of 11. I love working with children, and I'm so excited to begin teaching with St. Paul's Fine Arts Academy!

**Julia Hanson** I am a junior at Rice studying Computer Science and Rice Dance Theatre's current co-president. I have trained primarily in classical ballet since I was four and have studied at various summer programs and conservatories since then. I look forward to starting classes at St. Paul's!

**Ava Thienel** is a student at Rice University studying Astrophysics. She was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee and enjoys ballet, poetry writing, piloting, and traveling. She has been dancing ballet for over 16 years, and is both a dancer and choreographer for the Rice Dance Theatre. She currently teaches a "Bullet Journaling and Modern Calligraphy" course at Rice, and is excited to continue sharing her skills in art, typography, and dance with students at St. Paul's.

### MUSIKGARTEN INSTRUCTOR

**Ellen Edwards** is a certified Musikgarten instructor and has led classes for infants through younger elementary at St. Paul's since 2007. Under her leadership, the Musikgarten program at St. Paul's consistently achieves the Exemplary rating. Ellen also has served as the director of children's ministry for St. Paul's Church for decades. Her lifelong enjoyment of music includes piano, flute and singing, and her whole family participates in a variety of musical endeavors. With a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, years of experience with children's development and spiritual growth, and a lifelong passion for music, Musikgarten combines her interests and experience in a rewarding vocation.

## PRIVATE INSTRUMENT LESSON INSTRUCTORS

**Ginger Anderson** has taught piano lessons for over 40 years to students ages 4 to 74 years old. She has been a church musician most of her adult life, playing service, special events music, accompanying choirs and soloists, directing children's choirs, and running summer arts programs. Ginger served as music volunteer coordinator for Klein ISD and accompanied choirs and soloists in concerts, contests, and TMEA conventions. She was pianist and/or music director for high school, community theater, and professional theater productions. Ginger has also has Musikgarten training, and assists with Musikgarten classes.

**Melissa Krueger** holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from The Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. She has a private music studio with many years of experience teaching voice, violin, and piano. This will be her second year on faculty at the St. Constantine School where she's enjoyed teaching Music History and Theory and the Upper School Strings Ensemble. While pursuing her education, Melissa's most notable roles included Lazuli in Chabrier's *L'étoile*, Unulfo in Handel's *Rodelinda*, Jo in Mark Adamo's *Little Women*, and Cherubino in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Melissa has sung professionally with Minnesota Opera and Austin Opera in productions such as Puccini's *Tosca* and *La Rondine*, Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*, *Il Cappello di Paglia di Firenze* by Nino Rota, and as Cortes in Austin Baroque Orchestra's production of *Montezuma*. In 2019, she performed in the premiere of *Strokes of Genius: The Grant Wood Operas* with Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre. In addition to her operatic achievements, she is a seasoned oratorio and choral soloist and has been a finalist in competitions such as Hal Leonard and The American Prize. Melissa is currently a Staff Singer at St. Paul's, performing regular services and concerts. In 2021, she joined the Houston Grand Opera as a Chorister and will be in their 2022-2023 productions of *The Wreckers* and *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

**James Masanotti** While his focus is on performing and composing/arranging music, James has received a great deal of training in music education throughout his career and education. During his undergraduate work at Furman University in Greenville, SC, James took classes in String Methods (a course designed to teach students how to guide a classroom of string students) and Violin Literature and Pedagogy. His first experience teaching in a classroom setting was as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Houston while earning his Master's degree in Violin Performance, guiding undergraduates through their required music theory courses. Additional Violin Literature and Pedagogy classes at the University of Houston were also critical in developing James' pedagogical knowledge and experience. James first started teaching private one-on-one music lessons in early 2016, taking a position teaching students after school at Riverwood Middle School in Kingwood, TX. Since then, James has taught over a hundreds of students of all grade levels in schools across the Greater Houston area. In addition to the public education system, he has also taught at several private music studios and academies, teaching students of all ages and experience levels in violin, viola, and piano lessons.