

Music Room

Lessons Retail Rentals Repairs

444 Borden Road
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716-668-5441

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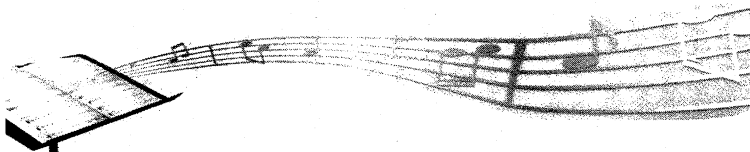
To Whom It May Concern,

I have been an instructor at Karen Janiszewski's studio, Music Room, for a little over five years. I was also a student of hers from 2009 to 2013 where I studied oboe. During that time, I have been able to see Karen not only further develop her skills as a music teacher and performer, but also as a business owner. It has been a pleasure to watch her transition from music instructor to the new owner of the studio, and constantly work hard to keep growing and expanding her business.

As her student, Karen helped me prepare for most of my musical endeavors, including learning new instruments and musical styles, preparing for state solo competitions, and eventually auditioning for college so I could pursue a career in music myself. Now that I am working under her, she has taught me how to instruct my own students and repair instruments that come into her store. Karen's ability to connect with students and their families to build trust as a mentor is something I strongly look up to and hope to achieve one day. I hope that in the future, she is able to take her business world wide by expanding to an online platform.

Karen's journey into online teaching began during the covid lockdown, when teaching lessons in person was not an option. Not only did Music Room switch our normal instrumental lessons to an online format, but we began offering a variety of music courses as well. Topics included not only things that students would be missing out on in school, but also subjects to help students get some extra knowledge and head starts for when they could return to the classroom or start attending college. Once we returned to the studio, Karen knew the online offerings didn't have to stop, and she began working on the development of Uplevel U: Music, which offers premade courses for students and teachers alike, along with Uplevel U: Health and Wellness for Teachers, which offers courses for teachers. The courses available are made for a huge audience, from casual students, to those wanting to take the next step and pursue a career in music, and even other teachers wishing to improve their skills or focus on their health.

Those interested can learn more about auditioning, song writing, arranging music, and music theory- all important skills that may be glanced over in schools or not offered at all. The health and wellness side offers meal guides, weight loss and healthy habit challenges, and even personal one on one coaching all for teachers. As a fellow teacher, Karen's choice to focus on our wellness is so important because it's not something many people think about. With teaching getting harder and harder, knowing we have resources to help us look after ourselves can potentially be life changing.



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Other activities that Karen has been involved in include teaching dance, participating in Civil War reenactments, and health coaching. Seeing her expand her teaching knowledge to a new medium shows her versatility and creativity, and her ability to dance and develop choreography highlights how well she understands music as a whole. Her role as a reenactor shows a multitude of skills and even allows her to blend all of her other interests together. Not only do we have to have a lot of historical knowledge and good acting skills, but we are also able to demonstrate our musical abilities by performing. Karen has even learned to play fiddle, bugle, and fife to stay true to the time period. She also brings cooking into the mix, performing demonstrations on how soldiers of the time would prepare meals with what they had on hand. Health coaching not only shows even more versatility as an educator, but also shows her dedication to one's wellness and making sure everyone strives to become the best version of themselves they can be.

Karen is a dedicated instructor and excellent role model for anyone interested in learning more about music. She is a great communicator, not only with younger students, but also to adult students, rental and repair clients, and other instructors. Her problem solving skills shine across all aspects of running a music store, and it is easy to come to her with any concerns we may have, knowing we will be able to work together to get them resolved. Working with Karen and seeing her success is extremely motivating as a fellow instructor and musician. It will be exciting to see Karen approach the opportunities that await her in the next chapter of her life, in expanding Music Room to an online format that can be accessed statewide. Any schools who work with her will be lucky to have her as a high achiever and dedicated teacher.

If you have any further questions about Karen, please don't hesitate to call me at 716-808-1760 or email me at DootInstructor@gmail.com. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,



Angela Cwiklinski

