

Soloists

Sheila Torrance, piano



Sheila Torrance graduated from Houston Baptist University with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and from University of Houston with a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy where she studied with Ruth Tomfohrde. She is an elementary music teacher who has recently retired after 28 years of teaching in CCISD (26 of those years at Brookwood Elementary). Sheila is the accompanist for the University Baptist Church Chamber Singers as well as the University Baptist Church Orchestra. She also sings in the Sanctuary Choir and plays handbells. She and her husband, Terry, are avid fans of University of Houston sports and attend as many games as possible! Go Googs!

Adam Blakey, saxophone



Adam Blakey is a performer and teacher in Greater Houston. Prior moving to Houston, Adam completed his Bachelor's Degree in Saxophone Performance at Millikin University, located in his hometown of Decatur, Illinois. Adam performed in Millikin's top classical and jazz ensembles and had numerous solo opportunities, including twice winning the School of Music's Concerto Competition, as well as winning the prestigious Hollis Prize. He was also in two Downbeat Jazz award-winning ensembles in his time there. After graduating, Adam went to the University of Northern Colorado to complete his Masters in Jazz Studies. In his time at UNC, he played with the internationally recognized Jazz Lab Band 1. The band won a Downbeat Jazz award, recorded a Grammy nominated album, and took a two week tour through China while Adam was a member of the band.

Adam is now a private woodwind instructor and masterclass clinician at a number of schools in the area, as well as a Vandoren Regional Artist for Greater Houston. His students have been successful at Region, Area, and All-State auditions. They have also gone on to successfully audition at a number of colleges throughout Texas and beyond, training to become performers and music educators. Adam lives with his wife, Jade, and their pets, Steve and Ruby, in Clear Lake. He is a member of the University Baptist Church Orchestra and a jazz-player-on-call with the Clear Lake Symphony.