

CURRICULUM VITAE

PETER T. FORD

November 2025

Home Address

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Personal Information

Birthdate: 12-06-1964

Education

B.A., Music Merchandising, December 1988,
Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN. Major Instrument: Bass.
GPA = 3.04/4.00
Related Courses:
25 Hours of upper-level Music Theory, Music History, and
Music Literature. Active participation in student jazz groups.
M.A., Music Theory, August 1994, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN.
GPA = 3.87/4.0
Ongoing private music study, emphasizing jazz piano.

Employment (Chronological)

Piano, Guitar, and Bass Instructor Conservatory of Music (Music Store) Terre Haute, IN	May 1984-July 1987
Teaching Assistant in Music Theory Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN	Aug. 1987-Dec. 1987 Aug. 1989-May 1991
Combo Department Salesman Paige's Music Store, Terre Haute, IN	Aug. 1987-May 1988
Disc Jockey (Classical Music) WISU FM Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN	Sept. 1987-Dec.1987
Production Coordinator Bennett Music Company, Indianapolis, IN (Worked all aspects of music studio production, including jingle/industrial music soundtrack	May 1988-Aug.1989

composition [i.e. musical scores for professional sales videos and training films], music arranging, MIDI and tape performance, engineering, and audio mixing.

I had a creative hand in projects for companies including Pizza Hut, Allied Van Lines, Airstream Trailers, and numerous regional businesses and advertising agencies. Examples of my work from that time can be heard at the bottom of the "Jingles" page of my website petefordtheory.com)

Piano Teacher 1991-2005
Craig's Keyboards, Toledo, OH

Piano Teacher 1999-2002
Toledo Symphony Lessons Program

Piano Teacher 2005-present
Home Studio

Freelance Professional Musician 1983-present
(This category is multifaceted and complex; suffice it to say I am respected in this area). For example: February 2019 created special musical arrangements, played piano with, and conducted members of the Toledo Jazz Orchestra for vocalist Maureen McGovern at the Valentine Theatre in Toledo, OH. Most often, however, I play solo and small group jazz piano gigs around the Midwest, but also perform at points from Minnesota to Maryland as a backup keyboardist for other artists. I have recorded in Nashville, Memphis, Indianapolis, Toledo, and London, England.

Musical Arranger 1991-present.
Sax 4th Avenue (saxophone quartet)

Adjunct Instructor 1997-circa 2015
Mercy College of Northwest Ohio (as needed, some summers)
Courses taught:
Introduction to Music Appreciation
Jazz History
History of Rock and Roll

Adjunct Instructor Fall 2000-Summer 2006
Terra Community College (Fremont, OH)
Courses Taught:
Music Appreciation
Class Piano
Applied Piano (Beginner to Intermediate),
Music Theory (all levels).

Active in faculty jazz concerts, events, and outreach.

Lecturer
University of Toledo
Teaching:
History of Jazz
Form and Analysis (undergraduate and graduate)
Music Theory IV
Music Composition (undergraduate and graduate)
Active in faculty jazz outreach programs (occasionally as needed)

Fall 2001-Spring 2004
(on an as-needed basis)

Adjunct Instructor
Adrian College
Applied Guitar (2003-4 academic year),
Beginning Fall 2004 Harmony I, II, III, IV,
Applied Jazz Piano and Applied Improvisation
Spring 2006 add Music Business (as needed).

Fall 2003-Spring 2006

Half-Time Instructor (promotion)
Adrian College
Harmony I, II, III, IV
Applied Jazz Piano
Applied Piano
Applied Improvisation
2007-2008 add Ear Training I, II, III, IV

Fall 2006-December 2008

Assistant Professor (promotion to full-time)
Adrian College
Music Fundamentals, Harmony I, II, III, IV
Applied Piano
Aural Skills III, IV
Committee work includes Gender Issues Committee and Curriculum Committee.

Beginning January 2009

Interim Chair, Music
Adrian College
(covering for a sabbatical)

Spring 2009

Full Professor (Promotion from Associate)
Adrian College
Additional Committee Work: Chair, College Environment, PRC

September 2022

***Fifteen Two-Part Inventions for Keyboard in the Style of J.S. Bach* 2022**

Published by Musical Resources (40 pp. of scores) by Pete Ford

(This collection has also been released on streaming platforms, as played on Moog synthesizer, 2025)

https://musical-resources.com/products/fifteen-two-part-inventions-for-keyboard-in-the-style-of-j-s-bach?_pos=1&_sid=36c753c61&_ss=r

Publications: Books

The Compositional Style of Keith Emerson in Tarkus (1971) for the Rock Music Trio Emerson, Lake and Palmer.

1995

Master's Thesis, Published by University Microfilms.

My thesis is listed in "Further Reading" in the Wikipedia entry on "Tarkus," and is the library of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

My master's thesis is also referred to very positively in at least one other doctoral dissertation (by Giuseppe Lupis) on the music of Keith Emerson. I am also a major subject of a doctoral paper by Woodrow Chenoweth regarding my musical arrangement of Keith Emerson's work "Tarkus." As a further result of my academic study of the music of Keith Emerson, in 2019 I was invited to participate (interviewed at length on camera in British Columbia) for a documentary regarding Emerson's musical legacy. As of December 2022 the documentary has not been released, but evidence of its existence appears here:

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1753777/fullcredits>

I am deeply honored to have been interviewed, as an authority, among many of the musical luminaries who have inspired me.

Textbooks I have authored:

Music Fundamentals

ISBN: 978-1-7332287-1-8 (Rev. 2024 edition)

<https://conway-publications.com/product/fundamentals/>

(This textbook is written for incoming freshman students who wish to pursue music)

Practical Music Theory Part 1

ISBN 978-1-955697-07-1

<https://conway-publications.com/product/practical-music-theory-part-1/>

(This is a revamped textbook that combines two previous texts of mine [Practical Music Theory, Books 1 and 2] into one larger text that covers two semesters of undergraduate Music Theory)

Practical Music Theory Part 2

ISBN: 978-1-955697-12-5

<https://conway-publications.com/product/practical-music-theory-part-2/>

(This is a revamped textbook that combines two previous texts of mine [Practical Music Theory, Books 3 and 4] into one larger text that covers two semesters of undergraduate Music Theory)

Unpublished compositions are many, but notably include: *Nahamasa* (A Choral Fanfare for Asa Mahan) for SATB chorus and piano with saxophone and clarinet obbligato. I am proud to have played piano for my piece at its world premiere, May 29, 2010 (a Saturday night) at Carnegie Hall, New York City.

A second unpublished composition is *Nova Scotia*, a piece I wrote for and about my late mother. Instrumentally, it is modeled after the Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby" and I composed, arranged, and recorded this piece in June 2024 at Abbey Road Studios in London England, conducting a British string quartet of top musicians. Although intended for family, as of 2025 this piece is available on streaming services.

Many of my additional compositions are available or can be heard on my website petefordtheory.com.

Professional Conference Presentation (January 2023):

Jazz Piano Concepts for Terrified Beginners: a Portal into Sounding Good Quickly—NO Music Reading Required!

January 21, 2023 at noon, Michigan Music Conference, Grand Rapids, MI

Web Presence

My personal website petefordtheory.com includes a wide variety of recordings from past and current projects and provides a window into my professional music gigs outside of my work as Full Professor of Music at Adrian College. Although jazz piano

and professional gigging is the focus of this website, other musical compositions and performances are represented abundantly. Included are works for string quartet, string quintet, flute/clarinet/piano trio, saxophone quartet, choral works, and there is even a page devoted to radio commercials I wrote (and co-wrote) and played on in Indianapolis in the late 1980's. The musical examples and recordings on my website are accompanied by commentaries, descriptions, and essays.

My YouTube channel [PeteFordTheory](#) includes a potpourri of material from my compositions, tributes, musical experiments, performances, lectures, jazz piano lessons, and jazz guitar lessons. As of November 2025, my music theory lecture on the proper construction of Italian, French and German Augmented 6th Chords has had well over 19,000 views. This video also encapsulates my gentle but informed classroom teaching style.

Peter T. Ford's Academic References (additional references available upon request)

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