



**Christian Nielsen MT-BC**

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## Education & Training:

### **Lakewood and Normandale Community Colleges** (White Bear Lake & Bloomington, MN)

Areas of study included Music & Nursing.

### **Augsburg College**, Minneapolis, MN

Degree Earned: Bachelor of Science in Music Therapy in 1999

Also studied *Native American Spirituality & History*

### **Music Therapy Internship: HealthSystem Minnesota (Park Nicollet) / Methodist Hospital**

- ♪ 1040 hours of training in Hospice, Oncology, and at the Struther's Parkinson's Center
- ♪ Training included: clinical experience; assessment, goal & objective setting and documentation skills, participation as member of interdisciplinary team.

### **Completed Music Therapy Board Certification Requirements-** November of 2000

### **United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities**, Minneapolis, MN

Pursuing M.Div. in Theology and the Arts

*Recipient of the Dayton Leadership Scholarship*

September 2020 – present

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## Proficiencies

- > Photography & Videography
- > Video & Film Editing
- > Music & Sound Recording & Mastering
- > Music Composition & Arrangement
- > Live Sound
- > Guitar, Ukuleles, Banjo & other fretted instruments
- > Voice & Song Leading
- > Native American & World Flutes
- > World Percussion: frame drums, hand drums & various
- > Pitched Percussion
- > Conducting
- > Drum Circle & Group Music Making Facilitation
- > Functional Keyboard & Synthesizer skills for composition, music production & therapeutic applications
- > Therapeutic Skills, particularly around grief, end of life, dementia & mental health
- > Social Media (Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo)
- > Public Speaking & Preaching
- > Writing
- > Experience leading creative teams in healthcare, performing arts, and church settings
- > Creation of worship and musical experiences for a wide range of ages and abilities

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## Music Therapy Vocational History

### **Owner & Operator Christian Nielsen Music**

*Mission Statement: Through Musical Performance, Interactive Music Experiences, Recorded Music, and Hospice Music Therapy, Christian Nielsen and the musicians and music therapists who work with him are committed to use music as a source of healing, peace and joy for the communities they serve.*

### **Music Therapy Practice**

Since completing my music therapy degree and board-certification, I have provided services to individuals and organizations on a contractual basis. While my primary focus is end of life care, I've provided group music therapy services for several area care and senior facilities. Currently two music therapists work with my practice. The organizations I have contracted with are too numerous to list entirely. Below are a few highlights.

### **Ridgeview Medical Center: Hospice** (2000 – 2021)- *Waconia, MN*

- ♪ Developed and implemented a hospice music therapy program and contributed to several areas of agency development as a founding partner of the Ridgeview Hospice Team in 2000.
- ♪ Working as a member of the interdisciplinary team using music to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our hospice clients and their families
- ♪ Assisting in providing bereavement care and services to families

### **Ridgeview Medical Center: Geriatric Mental Health** (2013 – 2019)- *Waconia, MN*

- ♪ Developed and implemented an inpatient music therapy program for a clientele (age 50 and above) with a diverse range of mental health needs and conditions.
- ♪ Provided services through the unit's closure in 2019

## My practice has also provided music therapy and/or group interactive music services to:

- ♫ Alphabet Junction Childcare (Waconia/Chaska)
- ♫ Auburn Meadows, Waconia
- ♫ Auburn Courts, Chaska
- ♫ Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative
- ♫ Children of Tomorrow (Waconia)
- ♫ Delano Golden Living
- ♫ Emerald Crest, Victoria
- ♫ Emerald Crest Minnetonka
- ♫ English Rose Suites (Edina)
- ♫ The Garden House Memory Care, Winsted
- ♫ The Glenn at St. Therese, Minnetonka
- ♫ Good Samaritan Society, Waconia
- ♫ Kingsway Memory Care, Belle Plain
- ♫ Lutheran Home, Belle Plain
- ♫ The Moments Memory Care, Lakeville
- ♫ New Perspective Senior Living, Waconia
- ♫ Park Nicollet Center for Lifestyle Renewal
- ♫ Presbyterian Homes Minnetonka Shores
- ♫ Presbyterian Homes Summerwood Senior Living, Chanhasen
- ♫ Waconia Foster Care
- ♫ Oak Terrace, Gaylord

## Other Music Therapy Related Professional Activities

Consulting speaking, in-service, facilitation, music performance, grief counselling, music production, composition, and services to:

- ♫ Allina Hospice
- ♫ Alzheimer's Association
- ♫ Camp Connect (bereavement camp for children)
- ♫ Camp Starlight (bereavement camp for children)
- ♫ Children's Hospitals & Clinics
- ♫ Duluth St. Mary's Hospice
- ♫ Fairview Hospice
- ♫ Fairview Ridges Hospital
- ♫ Fairview University
- ♫ Families Growing Through Grief Retreat
- ♫ Glencoe Regional Health Service
- ♫ Health Partners Hospice
- ♫ Methodist Hospital
- ♫ Minneapolis Council of Churches
- ♫ Minnesota Network of Hospice & Palliative Care
- ♫ MS Society
- ♫ Ridgeview Medical Center
- ♫ Park Nicollet Hospice
- ♫ South Metro Grief Coalition
- ♫ West Metro Grief Coalition

## Church Vocational History

*As the son, grandson, and stepson of UMC pastors, I've been involved in church worship, music, and technology since I was a few years old.*

### **Good Samaritan United Methodist Church (April 2020 – present), Edina, MN**

Coordinator of Worship Arts & Online Engagement. I started producing online worship as an independent contractor when I first started but am currently an employee. My responsibilities cover several areas.

- ♫ Production of weekly online worship service (photography, videography, sound recording, editing, musical coordination, music composition & performance, liturgical design, recording musical ensembles)
- ♫ Creation of special video segments (prayers, meditations, music, liturgical elements to be used in both online and in-person worship).
- ♫ Managing and expanding social media presence
- ♫ Designing visual elements for in-person worship
- ♫ Collaborating with staff and laity on all aspects of worship
- ♫ Creation of Volunteer Digital and AV Teams, participation in music leadership.
- ♫ Leadership for in-person worship services 2-3 Sundays per month, ranging from music to preaching, to leading prayers and meditations.
- ♫ Managing social media and digital campus initiatives at Good Samaritan

### **Lyndale Lutheran Church (2010 – present)**

- ♫ Lead a spirit-filled monthly sung liturgy, as well as all hymns and special music with voice, fretted instruments, Native American flutes, and percussion.
- ♫ Creating and leading several special services throughout the year, presenting the message as well as the music.
- ♫ Plan and lead our late Christmas Eve service every year.
- ♫ During most of the pandemic, from March 2020 through May of 2021, I produced Lyndale's weekly online worship I also planned, directed, and provided weekly worship music through that time.

### **Delano United Methodist Church, Delano, MN (2000 – 2010)**

- ♫ Musician (guitar, ukuleles, percussion, Native American flute) & Worship Leader
- ♫ Developed new worship experiences
- ♫ Led the effort to design a new audiovisual system and acoustic enhancements to the sanctuary.

## **Online Video work during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

During the pandemic, I provided many churches with video content, ranging from music to preaching (often both). I also consulted with several churches on ways to bring their worship services online.

One of the reasons I started seminary in Theology and the Arts was a calling to integrate my skills in music, therapy, sound, videography, photography, writing, preaching, and editing. The pandemic would call me to combine those skills sooner than I could have imagined. When the pandemic struck my music therapy practice and music work with seniors came to a near stop. I found myself in sudden need of work, while feeling deeply called to help churches struggling to navigate the online world. I was able to combine many of my abilities to help create sacred space and meaningful content in ways I never would have previously thought possible.

## Church Guest Performances/Speaking

Performed in diverse church settings throughout Minnesota (partial list below)

With congregations and sacred spaces, I strive to create spaces of peace, as well as different ways to encounter the divine, ranging from meditative transcendent experiences to communal, upbeat experiences. For the music therapist in me facilitating interaction, as well as engaging multiple senses, is an important part of my church work.

- Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis
- Bethel of Mound (UMC)
- Calvary Lutheran Church, Golden Valley
- Calvin Presbyterian Church, Maple Plain
- Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
- Centenary United Methodist Church, Mankato
- Excelsior United Methodist Church
- Faith Lutheran Church, Waconia
- Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, Edina
- Grace United Methodist Church, Maplewood
- Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Minneapolis
- Hokah United Methodist Church
- Minnesota Annual Conference
- Minnesota United Methodist Women's 2019 Conference
- Minnehaha United Methodist Church, Minneapolis
- Minnetonka United Methodist Church
- Preston & Lanesboro UMC's
- Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis
- Prospect Park United Methodist Church, St. Paul
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Waconia
- St. John's UCC of Bongards
- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis
- Waconia Moravian Church
- White Bear Lake United Methodist Church
- Unity Unitarian Church, St. Paul

**Speaking / Lay Preaching:** I'm a frequent guest speaker in places of worship as well. Subjects include end of life, grief, suffering, Native American spirituality, and about how music and musicians connect to our spiritual lives. I've also developed special worship services around the music of Johnny Cash and U2.

**Funeral Musician:** Pre-pandemic I supported approximately 50 funerals/memorials a year in a wide variety of faith traditions and settings, as well as interfaith hospice / hospital memorial events.

**Wellespring:** A collaboration between myself and Anna Lee Roberts MT-BC, music therapist, cellist, and singer. The mission of Wellespring was to bring the sacred healing space of their hospice music therapy work, and the valuable lessons learned through it, to our larger community. We performed for church services, memorial services, grief events, and worked to provide aesthetic experiences for seniors and those nearing end of life.

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## Other

**YouTube Channel:** The Christian Nielsen Music Channel has over 1000 subscribers and over 465,000 views. My videos combine my music, photography, spoken word, and videography.

**Past Work Experience:** Prior to work as a music therapist I have 9 years of experience in the health care and human services fields working as a recreation therapy assistant, group home counselor, home health aide, and TMA. Organizations included: Lutheran Social Services, Catholic Charities, REM Inc. and Opportunity Partners.

**Hobbies & Special Interests:** hiking, canoeing, camping & just being in nature, meditation, indigenous studies, science fiction literature & film, cooking, time with family & beloved dog Gracie.

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## Recordings

### *Full Length Albums*

**1998** Ancient Dreams

**1999** Ancient Heart

**1999** Healing Blue Sky: Music Assisted Relaxation

with Dawn Miller MME, MT-BC & Sandra Holten MT-BC

**2000** Tranquility: Music Assisted Relaxation

**2001** For Noah (still used in many Neo Natal Intensive Care Units)

**2002** Sacred Wind Calling

**2003** Meditations on Flow

**2007** Endless Ocean, Infinite Sun

**2008** Home

**2014** Flow 2

### *Streaming only EP's (YouTube and other services)*

**2012** Beautiful Dreamer- A Collection of Relaxing Ukulele Songs

**2013** Down In The Valley- A Collection of Relaxing Old Time Songs

**2013** Meditations on Peace

Recordings are available on CD & download at: [www.christiannielsenmusic.com](http://www.christiannielsenmusic.com)

Select recordings also available for download on iTunes, Amazon MP3, eMusic

All recordings and music videos available for free streaming on my website & YouTube

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## Conference Presentations

### **2000 It's Not Just A Singalong: Music Therapy and Memory Loss.**

Alzheimer's Association Great Lakes Conference, Superior, WI

### **2000 Rhythmic Entrainment Theory & Practice**

Minnesota Music Therapy Association State Conference focusing on treatment of Parkinson's Disease, Golden Valley, MN

### **2003 Heartsongs: The Healing Power of the Native American Flute**

American Music Therapy Association National Conference, Minneapolis, MN

### **2003 Families Growing Through Grief: The Integration of Music Therapy within a Family Bereavement Weekend Retreat Program**

In collaboration with Dawn Miller MME MT-BC. Great Lakes Regional Conference of the American Music Therapy Association

### **2012 Relax, Reflect, and Renew: An Experience of Care and Caring using Poetry, Music, Colleagues, and Imagery**

In collaboration with Ted Bowman and Dawn McDougal Miller. Minnesota Hospice & Palliative Care Conference

### **2015 Relax, Reflect, and Renew: An Experience of Care and Caring using Poetry, Music, Colleagues, and Imagery**

In collaboration with Ted Bowman and Dawn McDougal Miller. Great Lakes Regional Music Therapy Conference (expanded to 5-hour CMTE course)

### **2019 Integrating Self-Care Through Poetry, Music & Imagery Experiences**

In collaboration with Ted Bowman and Dawn McDougal Miller. American Music Therapy Association National Conference

### **2019 Honoring the Passage, Voices from Hospice Music Therapy and beyond**

In collaboration with several hospice music therapy colleagues, American Music Therapy Association National Conference

*Updated 6/1/23*