



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 – January 2023 (planning to return part-time in 2026)

Proficiencies

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| ➤ Photography & Videography | ➤ Conducting |
| ➤ Video & Film Editing | ➤ Drum Circle & Group Music Making Facilitation |
| ➤ Music & Sound Recording & Mastering | ➤ Functional Keyboard & Synthesizer skills for composition, music production & therapeutic applications |
| ➤ Music Composition & Arrangement | ➤ Therapeutic Skills, particularly around grief, end of life, dementia & mental health |
| ➤ Live Sound | ➤ Social Media (Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo) |
| ➤ Guitar, Ukuleles, Banjo & other fretted instruments | ➤ Public Speaking & Lay Preaching |
| ➤ Voice (stronger in folk, gospel, contemporary styles & group song leading) | ➤ Writing |
| ➤ Native American & World Flutes | ➤ Experience leading creative teams in healthcare, performing arts, and liturgy |
| ➤ World Percussion: frame drums, hand drums & various | ➤ Ongoing training in Theology and the Arts |
| ➤ Pitched Percussion | |

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. I still provide music programming for several senior facilities.

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. Prior to the Pandemic, my practice employed two other music therapists. The organizations I have contracted with are too numerous to list entirely. Below are a few highlights.

Ridgeview Medical Center: Hospice (2000 – 2022)- *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- when unit closed)- *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.

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

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

Other Music Therapy Related Professional Activities

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

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

Church Vocational History

As the son of a United Methodist Minister, I've been playing music in church settings since I was quite young. Music Therapy has been one major calling, but church music and ministry have been another important calling for me.

Online Video work during the Covid-19 Pandemic

When the pandemic struck and my music therapy practice came to a sudden halt, I found myself in sudden need of work, while feeling deeply called to help churches struggling to navigate the online world. This was an opportunity for me to integrate my skills in music, sound, videography, photography, writing, speaking and editing. I've found that my many years of creating sacred space through music therapy were helpful in creating a sacred space through the various senses in video worship services. During the pandemic I provided virtual guest music, preaching and meditation segments, as well as consulting with several other churches seeking to enter the online space. Good Samaritan UMC of Edina and Lyndale Lutheran Church were the primary churches I served.

Good Samaritan United Methodist Church (March 2020 – September 2025), Edina, MN

Coordinator of Worship Arts & Online Engagement

I produced intentionally created weekly online worship experience, providing photography, videography, sound recording, editing, musical coordination, music composition & performance, and liturgical design. Recording ensembles including the Chancel Chimes (handbells), Chancel Choir, soloists, Homeward Bound (house band), organ and piano pieces, and leading a musical ensemble dedicated to creating music for online worship. I coordinated designed artful worship visuals and coordinated in-house AV for in-person services. I also create video segments such as prayers, centering time, Visio Divina, and Call to Worship videos. This started as a contract position, which led to being an employee.

Lyndale Lutheran Church (ELCA) (March 2010 – current), Maple Plain, MN

Throughout the pandemic, I produced weekly online worship, providing similar service to those listed above. Directed and coordinated all music. I provided most of the music for these services with occasional assistance from other musicians and the group Singleton Street. I provided technical consulting and assistance for drive-in worship services. I also lead worship and preach at times.

Church Guest Performances

Performed in dozens of diverse church and spiritual settings throughout Minnesota (list available on request)
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.

Church Musician / Worship Leading (part-time extended postings)

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

Musician (guitar, ukuleles, percussion, Native American flute) & Worship Leader. In 2010, I worked in collaboration with Pastor Matt Sipe to create a new worship service, where I led music and served as worship/song leader. During my time there, I led the effort to design a new audiovisual system and acoustic enhancements to the sanctuary.

Lyndale Lutheran Church, Maple Plain, MN (2011 – present)

I lead a monthly sung liturgy, as well as all hymns and special music with voice, fretted instruments, Native American flutes, and percussion. I preach a few times a year and lead special services throughout the year.

Speaking / Lay Preaching: I'm a frequent guest speaker in places of worship as well.

Funeral Musician: I've played for hundreds of funerals/memorials in a wide variety of faith traditions and settings, as well as remembrance events for non-theistic people, and interfaith hospice / hospital memorial events.

Other

Past Work Experience: Prior to my work as a music therapist, I had 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.

Recording Musician and Composer: I've recorded many albums for relaxation and meditation, single pieces, music videos, and environmental recordings.

YouTube Channel: The Christian Nielsen Music Channel has over 1000 subscribers and over 500,000 views. My content creation consists of photography, music, meditation, and spiritual reflections.

Conference Presentations: I've presented for statewide, national and regional conferences of the AMTA, Great Lakes Regional Music Therapy Association, Minnesota Music Therapy Association, Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care, and Alzheimer's Association.

Hobbies & Special Interests: hiking, canoeing, camping & just being in nature, cooking, meditation, exploring diverse spiritualities, science fiction literature & film, cooking, time with family and friends.

Links

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