



Summary of Experience and Qualifications

Christian Nielsen MT-BC

*Music Therapist, Musician, Music Leader, Creator, Independent Recording Artist,
Speaker, Arts Based Worship Leader, Audio & Video Producer,
Nature Lover, Seeker*

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 (Certification #: 06043)

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 2027)

Proficiencies

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| > Guitar, Ukuleles, Banjo & other fretted instruments | > Content Creation |
| > Voice (stronger in folk, gospel, contemporary styles & group song leading) | > Social Media (Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, Vimeo) |
| > Native American & World Flutes | > Public Speaking & Lay Preaching |
| > World Percussion: frame drums, hand drums & various | > Writing |
| > Pitched Percussion | > Experience leading creative teams in healthcare, performing arts, and liturgy |
| > Conducting | > Training in Theology and the Arts |
| > Drum Circle & Group Music Making Facilitation | > Photography & Videography |
| > Functional Keyboard & Synthesizer skills | > Audio & Video Production |
| > Therapeutic Skills, particularly around grief, end of life, dementia & mental health | > Music Composition & Arrangement |
| > Working with those experiencing anxiety and/or agitation | > Live Sound |

Music Therapy Vocational History

Owner & Operator Christian Nielsen Music & Arts

Mission Statement: Through Musical Performance, Interactive Music Experiences, Recorded Music, Content Creation, and 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. The organizations I have contracted with are too numerous to list entirely. Below are a few highlights.

Ridgeview Medical Center: Hospice (2000 – present)- *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
- ♪ Starting in 2026, I'm serving Ridgeview Hospice through Healing Rhythms Music Therapy (sold contract to them, but still enjoy working with Ridgeview on a now part-time basis)

Lifespark Hospice (2026 – present)

Part-Time Hospice Music Therapist covering the Southwest Metro area

- ♪ Providing hospice assessment and treatment services to people near end of life, with a focus on living their best life in the time they have left.
- ♪ Using Music to comfort, aide in symptom and pain management, offer emotional and spiritual support to people and their families, supporting those who grieve.
- ♪ I find working with those who are having higher or more urgent needs the most rewarding part of hospice work. Walking with people and families through this sacred time in their life is the greatest honor.

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.

English Rose Suites (2000- 2003, 2022-Present)- *Edina, MN*

- ♪ Providing Music Therapy services in 5 small homes for those with dementia, physical disabilities, medical needs, and those who are nearing end of life.
- ♪ English Rose provides highly specialized and client-centered living and care in their beautiful homes and it's an honor to work with them, serving those with diverse needs.

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

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

Other Music Therapy Related Professional Activities

Consulting speaking, in-service, facilitation, music performance, music production, composition, and services to multiple hospice agencies, grief camps, grief coalitions, bereavement organizations, professional associations, and advocacy groups.

Spiritual Vocational History

Independent Creator

Creating gentle, calming, and inclusive audiovisual experiences that combine music, nature, spoken reflection, poetry, spirituality, therapeutic principles, social justice and mindfulness. I create both long and short form content for YouTube, TikTok, Instagram and Facebook. I create a weekly series (10-25 minutes) called "The Path of Beauty", which focuses on the ways the divine appears in beauty, including the beauty in all people. My YouTube Channel has more than 600,000 views (as of May, 2026).

Content Creation Services

Since the start of the pandemic in March of 2020, I've been providing content creation services to churches and healthcare organizations. I offer music creation, on-site music recording (audio & visual), online worship production, videography, audio/video editing, creation of visual meditations segments, writing, speaking/speaking, visuals for in-person worship screens, and more.

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

- Delano United Methodist Church, Delano, MN (2000 – 2010)
- Lyndale Lutheran Church, Maple Plain, MN (2011 – present)

Other Spiritual Work:

- Church Guest Music & Worship Leading (in diverse sacred communities- list available on request)
- Church Guest Speaking / Lay Preaching
- Creating Specialized Programming for healthcare and faith-based organizations
- Leading Worship 1x/mo. at two Auburn Home sites monthly
- Funeral Musician

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. Unfortunately, my position was eliminated as part of a church merger.

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 at Lutheran Social Services, Catholic Charities, REM Inc. and Opportunity Partners.

Recording Musician, Composer, Creator: Music & music videos for relaxation and meditation

Conference Presentations: I've presented at 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.

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