

# Ethan Kohring

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## PROFILE

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Dedicated and passionate music educator with 6+ years of experience teaching general and choral music from PreK through high school. Successfully expanded Wilmette District 39's 5th–8th grade choir program from 110 to 159 students and introduced a hip-hop production elective for 8th graders. Currently leading an innovative PreK–8 music program at Golf School District 67, integrating Kodály and Orff-based instruction with units in composition, piano, guitar, and digital audio. Committed to creating inclusive, student-centered learning environments that foster creativity, confidence, and lifelong musicianship. Seeking to bring innovation, creativity, and expertise to your classroom.

## KEY SKILLS

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- **Vocal modeling for all voice types**
- **Collaborative pianist**
- **Fretted instrument technician and musician (guitar, bass, ukulele, etc)**
- **Composer and arranger**
- **Hip-hop focused digital audio workstation instructor**
- **Educational equity advocate**
- **Culturally responsive classroom**
- **Music curriculum design**

## EDUCATION

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**Vandercook College of Music, Chicago, IL**

Anticipated Graduation: Summer 2027

### **Master of Music Education - Choral and General Music Emphasis**

- 16 credit hours currently complete featuring a wide variety of general music and choral based classes.
- Orff Schulwerk Level I certified

**Millikin University, Decatur, IL**

August 2016 - December 2018

### **Bachelor of Music in Music Education - Vocal Emphasis**

- Assistant Conductor for the Millikin Men ensemble and the Opera Workshop program.
- Recipient of the Dr. Maria Klott Memorial Award for advancement and achievement in both piano and voice
- Collaborative Pianist for the University Choir, the Millikin Men ensemble, vocal festivals, classes, auditions, rehearsals, musical theater productions, and various visiting ensembles
- Private Instructor for 11 piano and voice students in the Preparatory Department
- Member of the Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honors Society and the Pi Lambda Theta Education Honors Society
- Auditioned successfully into the University Choir, One Voice vocal jazz ensemble, and the Dissonance a capella group
- Held positions in the following student chapters: Secretary for the National Association for Music Education, Secretary for the Alliance for Active Music Making, and Treasurer for the Millikin Piano Club

**Harper Community College, Palatine, IL**

August 2014 - May 2016

### **Associate in Fine Arts - Music Emphasis**

- Recipient of the Harley Chapman Music Scholarship and the Excellence in the Discipline Award.
- Created and Directed Harper A Capella
- Auditioned successfully into the Spectre chamber ensemble
- Member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society and the Harper Honors Program.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Golf School District 67, Morton Grove, IL**

August 2023 - Present

### **PreK-8 General Music Teacher and Choir Director**

- Teach PreK–4 music at Hynes Elementary School with Kodály and Orff methodology
- Lead 5-8 music program at Golf Middle School in composition, production, piano, guitar, and hip-hop
- Direct choir program of 80+ students across grades 3–8
- Secured grant funding for classroom instruments (ukuleles, keyboards)

**Wilmette Public School District 39, Wilmette, IL**

August 2019 - June 2023

### **Choir Director and General Music Teacher**

- My responsibilities included teaching four choirs and general music classes at the 5th-8th grade level. I traveled between both Highcrest Middle School and Wilmette Junior High School.
- Adapted both choir and music classes to remote learning and hybrid learning environments
- Aligned curriculum vertically to create a cohesive 5th-12th grade choral experience for students. Worked collaboratively with administrators, the creative arts department, and teachers at New Trier High School.

**The Music Room, Palatine, IL**

July 2012 - June 2023

### **Private Voice, Piano, Guitar, and Ukulele Instructor**

- **2012–2014:** Worked on the sales floor and as a guitar technician
- **2014–2016:** Taught private lessons in voice, piano, guitar, and ukulele
- **2016–2018:** Returned intermittently as a substitute instructor and guitar technician while in school
- **2018–2019:** Promoted to Head Guitar Technician, overseeing instrument maintenance and repairs
- **2021–2023:** Rejoined as a private instructor, maintaining a studio of 20+ students

**Lisle Elementary School, Lisle, IL**

February 2019 - June 2019

### **Substitute Pre-K, 1st, and 2nd Grade General Music Teacher**

- Taught general music to Pre-K, 1st, and 2nd grade students using Kodály and Orff approaches
- Collaborated with district colleagues to support implementation of standards-based grading in music

**Oak Park and River Forest High School, Oak Park, IL**

January 2019 - February 2019

### **Substitute Band and Choir Director**

- Directed the non-auditioned baritone choir, freshman band, and non-auditioned concert band
- Led the school pep band for performances and events
- Maintained continuity in ensemble instruction and classroom management during staff transition

## REFERENCES

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### **Mrs. Karen Chvojka**

Former Principal at  
Golf Middle School  
(847) 644-3262  
kchvojka@fairview72.org

### **Mrs. Mollie Vanderlaan**

Music Director at  
Winnetka Children's Theater  
(847) 274-9525  
mvanderlaan@satorienergy.com

### **Mr. Steve Layne**

Tech Applications Teacher at  
Wilmette Junior High School  
(847) 372-7737  
laynes@wilmette39.org

### **Mrs. Holly Harper-Kelly**

Principal at Hynes  
Elementary School  
(847) 373-9559  
hharperkelly@golf67.net

### **Mrs. Amy Branahl**

Director of Choirs at  
New Trier High School  
(847) 445-6406  
amybranahl@gmail.com

### **Mr. Luke Chandler**

Manager at  
The Music Room  
(847) 934-5440  
luke@the-music-room.net