

Julie Dzikowski

Music Educator, Violinist

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Education

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Music Education
GPA: 3.98; *Magna cum laude*

University Park,
May 2026

Teaching Experience

STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Student Teacher

State College, PA
January 2026 - current

- Collaborated with a mentor teacher at State College Area High School and Park Forest Middle School to teach three orchestra classes, one high school guitar class, two seventh grade general music classes, and a chamber orchestra ensemble.
- Created detailed lesson plans for 45 to 90 minute classes that focused on student engagement, rehearsal techniques, and long term music-making skills while also adhering to national standards for music education.
- Established clear routines and expectations while differentiating instruction to support students with varied learning and behavioral needs.
- Recipient of the 2025-2026 PMEA-SMTE Award for Excellence in Student Teaching.

SCRANTON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Youth Orchestra Program Director & Assistant Music Director

Scranton, PA
May 2023 - current

- Founded a youth pit orchestra program, offering high school instrumentalists the opportunity to perform alongside professional musicians for live theatrical productions.
- Organized applications, auditions, and interviews for the program, while also communicating with students and parents to ensure a productive and professional experience.
- Assisted in leading youth theater vocal rehearsals with both middle and high school students, working with them both individually and as an ensemble to strengthen their vocal skills and guide them in making interpretive musical choices.

SELF-EMPLOYED

Private Violin Teacher

Clarks Summit & University Park, PA
May 2020 - current

- Instructed private violin lessons for up to five students per week, focusing on individual and orchestra repertoire during 30- to 60-minute sessions to enhance technical skills and musicality.
- Worked with students of varying ages and abilities, ranging from elementary to high school grade levels.
- Guided students in developing and progressing toward long-term goals in music theory knowledge, sight-reading ability, and practice habits.
- Communicated regularly with parents and guardians to provide progress updates and reinforce effective practice strategies at home.

Leadership Experience

ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE LIVING AND LEARNING COMMUNITY

Resident Assistant

University Park, PA
August 2024 - May 2025

- Mentored Arts and Architecture residents at the Pennsylvania State University through regular one-on-one meetings, offering guidance, resources, and conflict resolution to foster academic and personal growth.
- Planned and facilitated Arts and Architecture-themed community-building events to cultivate engagement and collaboration.
- Enforced community standards and safety protocols, handling disciplinary matters and managing high-pressure situations to ensure a secure and supportive living environment.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

President of The Pennsylvania State NAFMEC Chapter

University Park, PA
January 2024 - December 2024

- Worked with professional music educators in the area to host guest lectures on student-elected topics.
- Supported School of Music initiatives by organizing a merchandise fundraiser with alumni engagement, coordinating student conducting workshops, and assisting with audition day operations to improve the prospective student experience.

ESSENCE OF JOY CHOIR

Executive Board Member

University Park, PA
August 2022 - December 2025

- As President, acted as liaison between director Dr. Anthony Leach and the choir while also facilitating alumni connections, representing the choir during travel, and planning community outreach (2024-2025).
- As Secretary, managed attendance records, communicated Dr. Leach's updates to the choir through email list serves, and recorded the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings (2023-2024).

Performance Experience

- Violinist, vocalist, and percussionist in a Penn State Jazz Combo (2025)
- Substitute violinist in the Altoona Symphony Orchestra (2025)
- Percussionist in the Pride of the Lions Pep Band (2025)
- Substitute violinist in the Nittany Valley Symphony Orchestra (2024-2026)
- Substitute violinist in the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra (2024-2026)
- Violinist in a Penn State Advanced Chamber Ensemble, including piano trio and string quartet (2023-2025)
- Violinist in the Pennsylvania State University Philharmonic Orchestra (2022-2025)
- Alto in the Pennsylvania State University Essence of Joy choir (2022-2025)

Instrument Proficiencies

- Primary instrument: Violin
- Secondary instruments: Cello, double bass, drum set, snare drum, & piano
- Non-major ensemble performances on viola, clarinet, euphonium, trombone, & baritone saxophone

