

A YEAR IN RETROSPECT 2021-2022



INTRODUCING NEW INSTRUCTOR LAURA KLEIN-FERRY

Laura Klein-Ferry is a certified instrumental and vocal music teacher for grades K-12. Laura taught general music at Butler Elementary School and has assisted with the Fort Dodge Senior High School Marching Band. She is currently the color guard and winter guard advisor at Fort Dodge Senior High.

Laura completed her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. While at Buena Vista she was a private vocal student of Dr. Merin Guice Gill. She studied trumpet under Dr. Randy Grabowski at the University of Northern Iowa. During her youth, Laura was a vocal student of MaryAnn McSweeney-Buhr at McSweeney's School of the Performing Arts and she studied piano locally with Jan Altemeier.

Laura will accept beginning vocal students, beginning to intermediate piano students, and beginning instrumental students; brass, woodwinds, ukulele. She is very excited to return to McSweeney's School of the Performing Arts as a teacher.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING (NATS) 3RD PLACE FINALIST

Special congratulations to Katy Bird on being selected a 3rd Place Finalist in the 2022 Iowa National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Student Auditions on April 2 in the Adult Classical Singing Category. Katy sang "Ridente la calma" by Mozart, "La pastorella" by Franz Schubert and "Music, When Soft Voices Die" by Roger Quilter. She was accompanied by area pianist, Michelle Havlik-Jergens. Katy is a voice student of MaryAnn McSweeney-Buhr.

"Katy was a voice student during her junior high and high school years so working with her as a young adult is extra special. It has been such a joy watching her work so hard in developing her beautiful voice. I love supporting Katy and her love of singing and am thankful our Iowa NATS Chapter supports and encourages lifelong singing and education through our student auditions."



IOWA ROCK'N ROLL MUSIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME... Congratulations to Jeremy Ober on being selected to be inducted into the IOWA ROCK'N ROLL MUSIC ASSOCIATION 2022 HALL OF FAME!

THE MESSENGER'S 2021 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS - McSweeney's School of the Performing Arts has been voted Best Music School in The Messenger's 2021 Readers' Choice Awards. "A special thank you to our instructors for everything they do every day, sharing their love of music and thank you to our families for their loyal support of the performing arts and making music a priority in their family and children's lives," McSweeney-Buhr said.



STORY THEATER COMPANY "YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN"
 Story Theater Company presented the musical "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown". Alyssa Speck performed the role of Lucy on November 12-21. Alyssa is the daughter of Pam Speck and a junior at Southeast Valley High School. Congratulations Alyssa!

SOUTHEAST VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PRESENTS THE MUSICAL "MAMA MIA"

Southeast Valley Community Schools presented the musical "Mama Mia" on November 1 & 2, 2021 in the high school auditorium. Alyssa Speck performed the lead role of Sophia. She is a junior at Southeast Valley High School and the daughter of Pam Speck, Dayton. Congratulations Alyssa!

It was a fun and delightful summer of 2021 working with many wonderful young singers during summer voice lessons. My main emphasis in the summer is to have fun, work on stage presence and have opportunities to put into practice what we have learned during voice lessons throughout the year. This is encouraged through participation in Bill Riley Talent Search Shows at both the local and state level. Singers were able to perform in four area Bill Riley Talent Search Shows including Odebolt Creek Days, Blackhawk Lake Summer Water Carnival in Lakeview, the Hamilton County Fair in Webster City, and the Humboldt County Fair. "I am thankful for all the life lessons singers learn through participation in area Bill Riley Talent Search Shows at both the local and state level. Singers learn to persevere and never give up, are provided with many opportunities to develop their stage presence, self-confidence, work ethic and ultimately the push to excel. They also learn how to conduct themselves in public with manners and respect being an integral part of the journey. The Bill Riley Talent Search is truly a wonderful program to nurture young singers."

A special shout out to area pianist, Michelle Havlik-Jergens and traveling companions, Michaleah Buhr and Michael Buhr for all of their support during the summer!

BILL RILEY STATE FAIR TALENT SEARCH SHOW – IOWA STATE FAIR – AUGUST 16

Congratulations to Brylee, Alyssa and Daniel on qualifying to sing at the State Fair in the Bill Riley State Fair Talent Search. They performed on Monday, August 16 on the Anne & Bill Riley Stage. Brylee sang "Tomorrow" from the musical "Annie". She is ten years old and the daughter of Cody & Samantha McClintock, Fort Dodge. Alyssa is sixteen years old and the daughter of Pam Speck, Dayton. She sang "Live Out Loud" from "A Little Princess" in the Senior Division. Daniel sang "Santa Fe" from the musical "Newsies" in the Senior Division. Daniel is twenty years old and the son of Anne Blankenship, Webster City. A special thank you to area pianist, Michelle Havlik-Jergens for all her musical support! All singers are voice students of MaryAnn McSweeney-Buhr.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY & HAMILTON COUNTY FAIRS - BILL RILEY TALENT SEARCH SHOWS – JULY 24-25

Participating in the Humboldt County Fair and Hamilton County Fair Bill Riley Talent Search Shows on July 24-25 were Daniel Blankenship, Alyssa Speck and Brylee McClintock. Brylee, daughter of Cody & Samantha McClintock, Fort Dodge sang "Tomorrow" from the musical "Annie" in the Sprout Division and was selected 2nd Place at the Hamilton County Fair Bill Riley Talent Search and 3rd Place at the Humboldt County Fair Bill Riley Talent Search. She is ten years old. Brylee has qualified to perform at the Iowa State Fair in August. Alyssa, sang "Live Out Loud" from "A Little Princess" in the Senior Division and also quali-

fied to advance to sing at the Iowa State Fair in August. Alyssa is sixteen years old and the daughter of Pam Speck, Dayton. Daniel, son of Anne Blankenship, Webster City sang “Santa Fe” from the musical “Newsies” in the Senior Division. Daniel is twenty years old. A special thank you to area pianist, Michelle Havlik-Jergens. All singers are voice students of MaryAnn McSweeny-Buhr.

BLACKHAWK LAKE SUMMER WATER CARNIVAL - BILL RILEY TALENT SEARCH SHOW – JULY 18

Participating in the Blackhawk Lake Summer Water Carnival Bill Riley Talent Search on July 18 were Brylee McClintock and Daniel Blankenship. Brylee sang “Tomorrow” from the musical, “Annie” in the Sprout Division. She is the daughter of Cody and Samantha McClintock, Fort Dodge. Participating in the senior division was Daniel. He sang, “Santa Fe” from the musical “Newsies” and was selected to advance to the Iowa State Fair in August. Daniel is the son of Anne Blankenship, Webster City. Daniel and Brylee are both voice students of MaryAnn McSweeny-Buhr.

ODEBOLDT CREEK DAYS - BILL RILEY TALENT SEARCH SHOW – JUNE 12

Suliana Tukuafu participated in her first Bill Riley Talent Search Show during Odebolt Creek Days on June 12. She sang, “Animal Crackers in My Soup.” Suliana is seven years old and the daughter of Haloti Tukuafu and Alexis Henzel. “Suliana loves to sing, is fearless and a joy teach! She had a great first experience performing.” Sulianna is a voice student of MaryAnn McSweeny-Buhr.

