

SMF TEACHING ACADEMY

Testimonials from previous SMF Teaching Academy Fellows



“The most meaningful thing I took away from South Shore was that there is no ceiling on music education. What I mean by that is, seeing all the staff work showed me that educators can function at a level higher than I thought was realistic. Moreover I also saw that the students respond to this and can accomplish things I thought weren’t readily available to people their age. Before coming to South Shore I thought these things were left up to change, good days or bad days, but I have been pleasantly proven wrong. Thank you again for the inspiration and the opportunity to study with you.”

-Brandon Chan, 2018 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **UMASS Amherst**



“My experience at the SMF Teaching Academy reminded me of the power of music education and helped me to better understand how to teach music meaningfully. It was enlightening to work side-by-side with expert music teachers and to receive feedback from them regarding my own teaching.”

-Lannah Fitzgerald, 2018 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **Bridgewater State University**



“Thank you from the core of my soul for everything you’ve done for us fellows these past few weeks. It has been an honor and privilege to work with you and experience such inspiring teaching up close as a student. You’ve inspired me through your consistent dedication to excellence, your ability to see value in all of your students, and your humility in spite of all your achievements. You’ve shifted my perspective on teaching by being such a fantastic educator—that’s not something I’ll forget.”

-Janelle Johnson, 2018 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **The University of Utah**



“South Shore Conservatory has been an integral part of my life since I was 14 years old and 7 years later I can still say that this program continues to help shape me into the musician, educator and truthfully, the young man I am today. I feel incredibly fortunate to have worked with the staff, students and the other fellows during the 12 days of the music festival this year. I learned way more than I thought I would and had real life teaching experience that I consider to be one of a kind. So thanks SMF and my friends and colleagues, this was undoubtedly the best part of my summer.

-TJ Myers, 2018 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **UMASS Lowell**



“My experience at South Shore Conservatory has been life changing. I feel so blessed to have been able to come teach and learn in such a beautiful environment, with souls even more beautiful. I’m still blown away by the kindness, poise, and genuine talent of the kids here. . . I feel so privileged to have been able to work alongside the staff of incredible musicians here, whose infectious love for the students and their craft is mind blowing. And finally, I’ll be forever grateful to my incredible mentors, who have helped me grow more than I thought possible. They’ve given me more confidence in myself as a teacher, and as a person than I’ve ever had in my life.

-McKayla Wolf, 2018 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **The University of Utah**

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"I attended the SMF Teaching Academy to better prepare for my student teaching internship. At the Teaching Academy, I gained experience in rehearsing both large and small ensembles and worked closely with experienced music educators. The enthusiasm and dedication by both the students and faculty reminded me why I love music!"

-Livio Fasullo, 2019 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow, **The Eastman School of Music**



"This experience is something I'll never forget and something that I don't want to end. I'm leaving this program a changed and better person than I was when I came here. These students are some of the most hard working, compassionate, and beautiful human beings I have met. I will always have a special place in my heart for Summer Music Festival and the culture that is here. The masterful educators and wonderful students have made me grow so much in the short time I was here. I hope to come back to this gorgeous place that is unlike anywhere else in the world. They reminded me why I love music and why I want to share it with the world."

-Raymond Hernandez, 2018/2019 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow, **The University of Utah**



"The Summer Music Festival's Teaching Academy program helps to bridge the gap between what you learn in college and what you experience in the field. Being able to spend two weeks playing in the sandbox of music education allowed me an opportunity to develop my skills as a teacher by observing, implementing, and reflecting. The unique ability to develop relationships with the talented students, faculty, and other Teaching Academy fellows has given me experiences and perspectives I'm eager to share with my peers at school and my future students."

-Stephen Ryan, 2019 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow, **Ithaca College**



"I had an unforgettable experience being able to teach great students outside of my field experience! I made lasting bonds with other music educators and learned valuable skills and lessons through the Teaching Academy sessions. Because of the Teaching Academy, I truly feel ready to teach music in my own classroom. Thank you for this opportunity."

-Emily Witmer, 2019 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow, **The University of Delaware**



"My time with the SMF Teaching Academy helped transform my growth and confidence as a future educator. As a recent college graduate who navigated student teaching in the virtual classroom, South Shore Conservatory allowed me to work on and refine skills that are more in-person orientated. My experiences with the faculty, students, and the other teaching fellows were all positive experiences that I truly am grateful for. The lessons I learned will be applied into my classroom for years to come. A special thank you to all involved in this fantastic program."

-Bryan Cook, 2021 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **The College of New Jersey**

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"In a span of just a few weeks, the SMF Teaching Academy allowed me to tremendously grow as an educator and musician. It was so rewarding to be able to implement what I have learned in school with incredibly hardworking and dedicated students. I was able to form meaningful relationships with the faculty, students, and the other Teaching Academy Fellows. Because of this, I was in an environment where I felt comfortable to take risks and could grow to my fullest potential. Working with and having discussions with other outstanding music educators has left me to continue to challenge myself to become the best teacher I can be, both for myself and for my future students."

-Emma Dwyer, 2021 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **Ithaca College**



"The Teaching Academy at South Shore Conservatory Summer Music Festival allowed me to grow as a music educator. It was nice to get individualized feedback from the staff, as well as my peers who are also new to teaching. I felt supported in this environment to try new things. The staff, students, and other teaching fellows made this summer an unforgettable experience!"

-Miranda Inglese, 2021 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **The College of New Jersey**



"Teaching at South Shore has been a goal I have been working towards ever since I stepped on the campus as a high school student. Being able to make music together in person and work with so many students after a year and a half being isolated was exactly the experience that I had been working for. I left this program with a renewed drive and passion for music and with newfound clarity on my musical philosophy. I will forever be thankful for all the amazing experiences, lifelong friends, and incredible mentors that this program provided."

-Colleen McAuliffe, 2021 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **UMASS Amherst**



"To have the chance to go back and learn from some of the greatest directors I've had the pleasure of playing under is an experience I'll never forget. SMF Teaching Academy gave me the experiences and motivation I so desperately wanted to push myself and become the best teacher I wanted to be. Plus, I was able to create a vast network of fellow teachers, both with the staff and my fellow Teach Academy fellows; relationships I'll be grateful to have in the near future. I cannot recommend this program enough - it is a fantastic hands-on teaching experience while being coached by the best teachers this area has to offer."

-Jake Sledziewski, 2021 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **UMASS Amherst**



"I am beyond thankful to have been given the opportunity to be a Teaching Fellow at SMF. The SSC faculty and staff were extremely welcoming and supportive towards not only the students, but also towards helping me further my craft as a music educator. The amount of time that we were able to directly work with students and ensembles far exceeded my expectations. Being constantly involved in the rehearsals and performances of the Festival never leaves a dull moment for the two and a half weeks, and this program only furthered my passion for this career path."

-Maxx Wolski, 2021 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **Berklee College of Music**

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"My time at SSC's SMF Teaching Academy has been invaluable to my growth as a music educator. In just a couple of weeks, I was able to form deep connections with mentors, peers, and students. The faculty at SMF are easily some of the finest educators and artists I know, and it was truly remarkable to work with them and receive their feedback. I am leaving SMF as part of an excellent community and with a renewed sense of purpose and passion for the art of teaching music.

-Sydney Alfano, 2022 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **Ithaca College**



"Being able to participate in SSC's Teaching Academy was a true honor that truly helped me grow as a music educator. Studying Music Education during the pandemic, especially when all my opportunities to work directly with students was done virtually, was incredibly difficult to do, and took a serious toll on my desire to teach. Working with the staff and students at SMF rekindled my passion for music education, and gave me countless opportunities to expand my knowledge. They helped me really begin to understand the kind of teacher I wanted to become, and fostered an environment that encouraged experimentation and risk in my teaching. The staff were all a pleasure to work with, and I'm truly fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with them.

-Kathlen Chappie, 2022 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **Rhode Island College**



"The SMF Teaching Academy provided a wonderful opportunity for me and the other fellows to really grow as musicians and teachers in a supportive and high-quality environment. All the staff members that we had the pleasure of working with were encouraging, knowledgeable, and experienced musician-educators, and the students were welcoming and extremely talented. Over the course of three weeks, I learned a lot about my identity as a music educator through leading sectionals, working with chamber and large ensembles, and participating in discussions regarding pedagogy and philosophy. I would highly recommend the Teaching Academy to any aspiring music teacher looking to hone their craft!

-Kristian Labrie 2022 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **Ithaca College**



"The SMF Teaching Academy was truly an invaluable experience for me as a future music educator. Each day, I looked forward to being surrounded by so many talented, professional, and personable faculty, educators, and students. The opportunity to observe a diverse range of teaching methods and personalities inspired me to find my own teaching voice, while continuing to positively challenge my inner teaching philosophies. What resonated most with me was feeling a part of the SSC community and family. There is an inspiring atmosphere on campus each day, and it is evident in the compassion of the educators and the smiles of the students. It was an honor and a privilege to have experienced being a part of SMF and the Teaching Academy; it was certainly a transformative experience that I will never forget."

-Nicholas Napier, 2022 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **The College of New Jersey**



"My time at South Shore Conservatory has helped shape me into the music educator I am today. Not only was this experience enriching from a pedagogical standpoint, I was able to help facilitate and participate in high quality music making. This program has helped me dive deeper into my personal reflection as an educator, and has helped me continue to explore my identity as a leader, musician, and teacher. I am beyond grateful for my time at South Shore and the opportunity to make new connections with the amazing staff, talented students, and other teaching fellows.

-Annie Pascale, 2022 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **The College of New Jersey**

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"Attending the Teaching Academy at South Shore Conservatory was a transformative educational experience for me. All the educators who I observed and worked with were friendly, outgoing, immensely talented, and shared a passion for music education. They provided insightful feedback and encouraged me to grow, take risks, and try new things. I am very grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow in a new environment, and I benefited immensely from this wonderful program."

-Jack Goodenough, 2023 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **Ithaca College**



"My time at the South Shore Conservatory's SMF Teaching Academy was revolutionary to say the absolute least. It provided me insight not only into my own teaching but also into my tendencies as a musician, and the wonderfully supportive students and staff made me feel so welcomed during my stay at the conservatory. Over the course of my time there I felt and noticed immense growth and found myself having left a much stronger, confident, and self-assured teacher, leaving with a plethora of new tools added to my educators toolbelt that I have and will continue to use every day throughout my career in music education."

-Ian Kenneally, 2023 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **UMASS Amherst**



"The teaching academy at Summer Music Festival was an enriching life experience. Though my development as a music educator nothing has been more impactful than observing and being observed by some of the most experienced educators at South Shore Conservatory. I was overjoyed attending high quality rehearsals and sectionals every day and observing the different teaching styles of each of the teachers. Through constant exposure of high quality teaching, I feel much more confident as an educator and am excited to further pursue this career. I am eternally grateful to the mentors, invaluable teaching experiences, and friends that this program has provided me."

-Kyle Aubuchon, 2024 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **UMASS Amherst**



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-Bridget McSweeney, 2024 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **University of New Hampshire**



"The SMF Teaching Academy is truly an experience that I will never forget. Being surrounded by fantastic musicians each day was deeply inspiring and enriching. As first-year teacher, this program was exactly what needed through the opportunities to not only observe talented educators, but also through the hands-on teaching and playing experiences. I can truly say that I am more confident in my teaching skills and playing skills on instruments other than my primary. SMF has allowed me to think deeply, reflect, and find ways to improve myself in ways that will aid my future students. This program is absolutely incredible and I am extremely thankful to have spent my time in this way—SMF has helped me for the better and I am so grateful!"

-Hailey Riccardo, 2024 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **The College of New Jersey**

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"Before the Teaching Academy, I had been looking all over for some kind of summer teacher preparation program. There are hundreds of camp counselor jobs that give you time with students, but not much teaching; any teaching job expected me to be an established professional. Finally, I came across South Shore. For the first time, I was surrounded by other music educators as one of their own. The chance to teach and receive feedback was certainly beneficial, but it is nothing compared to the prospect of connecting, networking, and sharing ideas with veterans in your field. It is nothing compared to talking to and learning from the other fellows. It is nothing compared to the culture of reflective and responsive teaching that you experience from the inside out. My time at South Shore was not impactful because of the things I got to do, but because of the educators who offer the fellows all they have without a second thought."

-Joel Staub, 2024 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **Ithaca College**



"The SMF Teaching Academy has given me the opportunity to grow not only as an educator, but also as an individual. The hands on experiences working with the students was a time to engage myself in high quality music and in fun activities where the students were able to enjoy themselves in what they were producing. Being able to work alongside the amazing faculty of talented educators from across the country has given me the confidence to go into my own classroom and show my students that music is more than just the notes on the page. SSC has an atmosphere that is encouraging that makes the students want to continue going back to keep learning. I am grateful for my time at SSC Summer Music Festival and for all the connections I was able to make with the faculty, students, and teaching fellows."

-Josie VanPuttenVink, 2024 SMF Teaching Academy Fellow / **The College of New Jersey**