

JASON WERKEMA, PhD

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HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR

EXECUTIVE TEAM LEADER | BUSINESS OWNER | CREATIVE PROFESSIONAL

Collaborative and energetic higher education professional with 20+ years of leading staff and empowering students. Ability to cultivate relationships with diverse partners resulting in organizational improvement with measurable outcomes. Expertise in program and personnel management, creative problem solving, interpersonal communication, data analysis, educational technology, and conflict resolution.

CURRICULUM VITAE

2023

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Higher Education Leadership, 2009 (4.0 GPA)
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

Master of Music, Music Performance, 1998 (3.88 GPA)
Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH

Bachelor of Music, Music Performance, 1994 (3.72 GPA)
Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI

Associate of Arts coursework, Music Performance, 1991-1994 (3.96 GPA)
Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, MI

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Dean of Education, 2022-2023

Compass College of Film and Media, Grand Rapids, MI

Accomplishments:

- Served as the chief academic officer for the institution overseeing faculty, library staff, student affairs, student support, compliance, accreditation, assessment, and curriculum
- Researched and laid the groundwork for online courses focused on XR technology, venture capital, marketing and AI, VR training in the metaverse, and business as mission
- Developed and authored a compelling vision to engage high profile donors to support the college
- Oversaw the design and creation of all courses on Populi, our institutional learning management system
- Managed a platform shift from Microsoft SharePoint to Google Drive for access, collaboration, and storage of institutional documents
- Collaborated with faculty in reviewing of our Bachelor of Fine Arts and Associate of Arts curricula
- Initiated revisions of several campus-wide policies including the development of a new syllabus template in collaboration with faculty
- Participated in the planning and execution of college-wide events including new student orientations, commencement, prospective student tours, open houses, film festivals, movie nights, etc.
- Interviewed, hired, and oriented new faculty members to ensure support of campus culture, goals, and learning outcomes
- Facilitated professional development opportunities for all staff and faculty
- Developed program and course schedules in coordination with full-time faculty and the registrar
- Coached faculty in developing effective syllabi, lesson plans, courses, and teaching methods
- Provided leadership for education department meetings and monthly all-staff meetings
- Actively contributed as a member of the Executive Team to provide institutional leadership

- Effectively managed the education department's budget with direct accountability to the president
- Developed informal friendships with nearly every student on campus after memorizing the student directory
- Initiated monthly "Dinners at Doc's" to build community and invest in students outside of the classroom
- Coached faculty in the development of annual SMART goals with a weekly cadence of accountability
- Provided live music as a professional jazz guitarist for student events on campus

Dean / School of Music, Worship and Technology, 2018-2022

Grace Christian University, Grand Rapids, MI

Professor, 2009-2022

Associate Professor, 2005-2008

Assistant Professor, 1999-2004

Accomplishments:

- Fundraised hundreds of thousands of dollars toward educational resources
- Completed several campus renovations and reduced costs by thousands of dollars as the project manager
- Updated technology in classrooms and added a premier audio recording studio and video production spaces
- Designed and installed a 20-station iMac computer lab with Microsoft and Apple Pro apps (lab refreshed 5x)
- Provided critical leadership resulting 10-year accreditation reapprovals with the Higher Learning Commission
- Served as the point person for transitioning our school's courses from in-person to online during COVID-19
- Authored new a technology-focused curriculum involving music, audio, and video production skills
- Initiated international teaching opportunities in Tanzania, East Africa for faculty and students
- Organized and directed community music concerts and fundraisers to advance the university
- Established dozens of business partnerships for supplies, services, and equipment both locally and online
- Updated C.F. Baker Chapel's audio/visual/lighting equipment through fundraising and grant-writing
- Participated on a presidential task force to advise the board of trustees on maximizing campus revenue
- Created promotional videos to advertise the university on its website and social media platforms
- Facilitated student internships with local, national, and international organizations
- Oversaw the acquisition of five concert grand pianos for the School of Music, Worship, and Technology
- Initiated "Dinners at Doc's" to build community and invest in students outside of the classroom
- Actively contributed as a member of the Educational Policies committee to create institution-wide policies
- Successfully recruited, developed, and evaluated a team of diverse faculty and staff
- Recruited new students and provided personalized campus visits
- Contributed to the development of our adult and online education programs
- Directed the university's music lesson program in collaboration with faculty, staff, and students
- Created a safe space for students by installing a card-access system for the iMac lab and recording studio
- Managed the student scholarship program and dissemination of awards
- Actively contributed as a member of the Arts and Sciences committee to improve A&S programs
- Coordinated music student auditions and ensemble placement each year
- Directed music teams to represent the university throughout the U.S. and abroad
- Actively contributed as a member of the Full Faculty committee in designing effective learning opportunities
- Invested in students through career coaching and academic advising
- Oversaw faculty teaching loads and classroom/office assignments
- Actively contributed as a member of the Chapel committee to provide spiritual direction for the campus
- Organized annual school-wide cookouts for students, faculty, and staff
- Developed and taught 12-15 credit hours each semester as a professor and provided music lessons

Courses taught:

MWT 112 Foundations of Music

MU 121t Music Theory I

MU 122t Music Theory II

MU 220 Music Theory III

MU 223 Jazz Music Theory

MU 211t 20th Century Music Theory

MU 313 Arranging/Orchestration

MWT 114 Musicianship I

WA 216 Musicianship II

WA 218 Musicianship III

MU 121a Aural Perception I

MU 122a Aural Perception II

MU 211a Aural Perception III

MU 212a Aural Perception IV

WA 323 Music Technology
 MU 345 Music Technology II
 WA 324 Audio Production
 MWT 328 Video Production
 MWT 116 Intro to Music, Worship and Technology
 MU 355 Songwriting
 MU 110-210 Applied Classical Guitar Lessons
 MU 115-215 Applied Bass Guitar Lessons
 WA 162 Intermediate Group Guitar
 MU 171 Instrumental Ensemble
 MU 180 Vocal Ensemble
 WA 439 Worship Arts Independent Study
 MU 468 Worship Media Practicum

MU 300 Conducting/Rehearsal Techniques
 WA 321 Leading Worship
 MU 342 Worship Planning and Resources
 WA 350 Junior Worship Program
 WA 450 Senior Worship Program
 WA 435 Tanzania Music and Worship Seminar
 MU 110-210 Applied Jazz Guitar Lessons
 WA 161 Beginning Group Guitar
 WA 181 Guitar Ensemble
 MU 172 Chapel Worship Ensemble
 WA 183 Jazz Ensemble
 WA 459 Worship Arts Internship
 WA 469 Worship Arts Practicum

ADJUNCT AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor, Music Department, 2007-2012, 2017-present

Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI

- Provided individual music lessons
- Performed faculty music recitals

Courses taught:

MUS 190-191 Jazz Guitar Lessons

MUSC 066, 166, 266, 366 Guitar Lessons

Adjunct Professor, Department of Performing Arts, 2002-2009

Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, MI

- Developed a jazz guitar curriculum
- Authored a technique book for jazz guitarists
- Provided individual music lessons
- Performed with the GRCC Faculty Jazz Quartet for community events
- Founded the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet and performed dozens of concerts throughout Michigan
- Co-directed the GRCC Guitar Ensemble at Mid-American Classical Guitar Ensemble Festivals
- Performed regularly at "The International Guitar Concert Series" hosted by GRCC

Courses taught:

MU 111-161 Applied Classical Guitar Lessons

MU 111-152 Applied Jazz Guitar Lessons

MU 105 Guitar Interpretation

MU 175 Beginning Classical Guitar Class

MU 177 Jazz Guitar Seminar

Adjunct Professor, Department of Fine Arts, 1998-2003

Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI

- Developed a 4-semester ear training competency curriculum later purchased by Cornerstone University
- Performed a solo guitar recital for high school summer music program
- Provided individual music lessons
- Arranged music for student recitals
- Designed a guitar pedagogy course for guitar majors

Courses taught:

MUS 113 Aural Perception I

MUS 114 Aural Perception II

MUS 213 Aural Perception III

MUS 214 Aural Perception IV

MUS 191-468 Instrumental Applied Lessons

MUS 458 Guitar Pedagogy

Adjunct Professor, Music Division, 1998-1999

Grace Christian University, Grand Rapids, MI

- Directed vocal and instrumental musical ensembles and organized concerts
- Managed the MIDI computer lab
- Provided individual music lessons

Courses taught:

MU 110 and 210 Applied Classical Guitar Lessons

MU 115 and 215 Applied Bass Guitar Lessons

MU 121a Aural Perception I

MU 122a Aural Perception II

MU 110 and 210 Applied Jazz Guitar Lessons

MU 171 Instrumental Ensemble

MU 255 Electronic Music

MU 183 Jazz Ensemble

Graduate Teaching Assistant, 1996-1998

Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH

- Awarded a Graduate Teaching Assistantship by the College of Performing Arts
- Directed undergraduate classical guitar ensembles
- Provided individual and group music lessons
- Performed as Chair of the classical guitar ensemble
- Performed as Chair of the jazz guitar ensemble
- Managed the guitar music library

Courses taught:

MUS 190 Beginning Guitar Non-Majors

MUSP 260 Applied Jazz Guitar

MUSP 322E Classical Guitar Ensemble

MUS 191 Intermediate Guitar Non-Majors

MUSP 286 Applied Classical Guitar

MUSP 486 Applied Classical Guitar

Adjunct Professor, Music Division, 1994-1996

Grace Christian University, Grand Rapids, MI

- Directed vocal and instrumental music ensembles and organized concerts
- Directed chapel worship ensembles for weekly campus chapel services
- Managed the MIDI computer lab
- Provided individual music lessons

Courses taught:

MU 110 and 210 Applied Guitar Lessons

MU 171 Instrumental Ensemble

MU 180 Vocal Ensemble

MU 115 and 215 Applied Bass Guitar Lessons

MU 172 Chapel Worship Ensemble

Adjunct Professor, Department of Fine Arts, 1993-1996

Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI

- Directed the jazz ensemble for high school summer music programs
- Performed as a trombonist, guitarist, and electric bassist in campus musical productions
- Provided individual music lessons

Courses taught:

MUS 191-468 Instrumental Applied Lessons

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Conference Presentation: "A Classical and Jazz Guitarist's Approach to Worship Leading" at the Calvin University Worship Symposium, Grand Rapids, MI 2023
- Jazz duo performance at Haas Performing Arts Center, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI 2023

- Jazz duo performance at *Grand Valley State University donor event*, East Grand Rapids, MI 2023
- Monthly jazz performances at *Sandy Point Beach House* with Michael Drost band, Grand Haven, MI 2023
- Monthly jazz performances at the *Amway Grand* with Jason Werkema Trio, Grand Rapids, MI 2023-present
- Weekly jazz performances at the *JW Marriott* with Jason Werkema Trio, Grand Rapids, MI 2022-present
- Multiple solo jazz performances at the *American House*, Wyoming, MI 2023
- Monthly jazz performances at the *Euro Bistro* with Ed Dublis Trio, Grand Rapids, MI 2022-2023
- Jazz performances for *Hillsdale College's Weekend Lecture Series* with Werkema/Drost Duo, Luther, MI 2023
- Jazz performance for *Meyer Music Director's Dinner* with Werkema/Drost Duo, Grand Rapids, MI 2023
- Jazz performance at *Calvin University Legacy* event with the Werkema/Drost Duo, Grand Rapids, MI 2022
- Jazz performance at *Grand Valley State University* event with the New Standard Trio, Allendale, MI 2022
- Jazz performance at the *Bridger Group Celebration* with the Werkema/Drost Duo, Grand Rapids, MI 2022
- Solo jazz performance at *Compass College of Film and Media*, Grand Rapids, MI 2022
- Jazz performance at the *American House* with the Werkema/Lutley Duo, Wyoming, MI 2022
- Jazz and classical performance at the *Morris Builders Customer Appreciation Dinner*, Grand Rapids, MI 2022
- Jazz performance at the *Boatwerks Waterfront Restaurant* with the New Standard Trio, Holland, MI 2022
- Jazz performance for *Hillsdale College's Weekend Lecture Series* with Werkema/Drost Duo, Luther, MI 2022
- Weekly jazz performances at *The Euro Bistro* with the Werkema/Drost Duo, Grand Rapids, MI 2022
- Jazz performances at *The Phoenix Theatre* with the Ed Dublis Quartet, Grand Rapids, MI 2022
- Classical performance for GRCC's International Guitar Series *Classical Guitarists of Michigan Concert*, 2021
- Jazz performance for *Meyer Music Director's Dinner* with Werkema/Finn Duo, Grand Rapids, MI 2020
- Classical guitar arrangement and recording (*What a Beautiful Name it is*) commissioned by Nashville EMI award-winning artist, Chris Tomlin and Capitol Publishing music producer, Tommee Profitt, 2019
- Classical performance for *Montcalm Community College's President's Celebration*, Greenville, MI 2019
- Jazz performance for *Grace Christian University's Gala featuring Phil Keaggy*, Grand Rapids, MI 2019
- Jazz performance for *Hillsdale College's Board Retreat* with Werkema/Finn Duo, Luther, MI 2019
- Classical performances for *Grace Christian University's Commencement*, Grand Rapids, MI 2000-2019
- Jazz performance at *The Old Goat* with Stephen Durst Trio, Grand Rapids, MI 2019
- Conference speaker: "*Leadership Strategies: How to be an Effective Guide*" at New Community Church, Grand Rapids, MI 2019
- Jazz performance for *Meyer Music Director's Dinner* with Werkema/Finn Duo, Grand Rapids, MI 2020
- Jazz performance for *Templeton Religion Trust Conference Dinner*, Grand Rapids, MI 2019
- Created www.JasonWerkema.com, a music learning website with 10,000+ visitors annually, 2012-present
- Created www.YouTube.com/user/JasonWerkema, a YouTube channel with over 75 instructional videos for musicians with 1,200,000+ views and 4700+ subscribers, 2012-present
- Classical performance for *Grace Christian University's \$100k Fundraiser*, Grand Rapids, MI 2018
- Jazz performance for *Calvin University's Music Department Faculty Recital Hour*, Grand Rapids, MI 2018
- Jazz performance for *Meyer Music Director's Dinner* with Werkema/Finn Duo, Grand Rapids, MI 2018
- Guest music conductor/educator for National Heritage Academies (Cross Creek Charter Academy), Caledonia, MI, 2011-2018
- Jazz performance for *Michigan College Presidents Christmas Gala*, Grace Christian University, Grand Rapids, MI 2018
- Jazz performance for *Grace Christian University's \$100k Fundraiser*, Pierson, MI 2017
- Jazz performance for *Music in Johnson Park*, Grand Rapids, MI 2017
- Classical performance at Grace Christian University, *National Day of Prayer*, Grand Rapids, MI 2017
- Organized and led a team of students and faculty to host a week-long *Music and Worship Seminar* in Tanzania, East Africa for 75 community leaders. My role involved all aspects of planning, fundraising, communication, travel arrangements, and leadership for this team, 2016
- Created and presented a building master plan as a consultant for Grace College, Winona Lake, IN, 2016
- Co-authored a grant for \$5k toward a new \$25k Kawai grand piano for Grace Christian University, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016
- Jazz and classical performance for *Sunset Retirement Communities Fundraiser*, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016

- Keynote speaker for the *Association of Christian College Music Educators*, Great Lakes Christian College, “*Successful Strategies for Student Enrollment and Retention in Christian Colleges and Universities*,” Lansing, MI, 2014
- Organized and led a team of faculty to develop a week-long *Music and Worship Seminar* in Tanzania, East Africa. My role involved all aspects of planning, fundraising, communication, travel arrangements, and leadership for this team, 2014
- Completed over 20 technology-based courses as a member of www.linkedinlearning.com, 2010-present
- Recorded a professional CD with the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet. GRGQ performs Mozart, Ravel, Praetorius, and Roman. CD titled: *The Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet*, www.spotify.com, MI, 2009
- IUPUI Assessment Institute attendance: Assessment Institute hosted by Indiana University and Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN, 2009
- Classical performance: *International Guitar Concert Series* featuring the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet, Grand Rapids, MI, 2009
- Presented a faculty workshop: Association of Christian College Music Educators, Great Lakes Christian College, *Making Sense of Roles and Responsibilities: A Socialization Study of College and University Music Department Chairs*, Lansing, MI, 2008
- Chamber concert: *Chamber Music North Concert Series*, the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet, Glen Arbor, MI, 2008
- Classical performance: Hope College, Knickerbocker Theatre, *the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet*, Holland, MI, 2008
- Classical performance: The Grand Rapids Art Museum, *Sunday in the Gallery Series*, the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet, Grand Rapids, MI, 2008
- West Michigan Jazz Concert Series: guest soloist with the Tom Hagen Quartet (West Michigan Jazz Artist of the Year), *Jazz at the Zoo Concert Series*, Grand Rapids, MI, 2007
- Classical performance: *International Guitar Concert Series* featuring the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet, St. Cecilia’s Royce Auditorium, Grand Rapids, MI, 2007
- Televised music concert: *An Evening with the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet*, Grand Rapid Community College’s local cable network, 2007
- Classical performance: St. Cecilia Music Society, *Bach’s Lunch Concert Series*, the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet, Grand Rapids, MI, 2007
- Classical performance: Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet debut concert at the *International Guitar Concert Series* at Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, MI, 2006
- Music festival performance: *Mid-American Guitar Ensemble Festival*, Chicago, Illinois, 2004
- Classical performance: International Guitar Concert Series, performance of *Vivaldi’s Concerto in D Major* with Brian Morris, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, MI, 2003
- Jazz performance: Cornerstone University, *10th Anniversary of Adult Continuing Education Program*, Grand Rapids, MI, 2003
- Jazz performance: Cornerstone University, *Dedication/Grand Opening of the Bernice Hansen Athletic Center*, Grand Rapids, MI, 2003
- Professional CD recording: *The Best Gift*, Jason Werkema with Gwenneth Bean (Metropolitan Opera Contralto), Grand Rapids, MI, 1999
- Televised music performance: *Jason Werkema with Gwenneth Bean* (Metropolitan Opera Contralto), Shawnee Christian Reformed Church, East Grand Rapids, MI, 1999
- International music tour through eastern United States, Canada, Italy, Romania, and Spain including concerts at the World’s Fair in Sevilla, Spain, 1990-1994

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Room parent/K-5th grade classroom teacher at Ada Bible Church, Kentwood, MI, 2010-present
- Classical guitar video for Ada Bible Church multi-site presentation, Ada, MI, 2021
- Soloist at Rush Creek Bible Church for *Gloria Christmas Concert*, Byron Center, MI 2019
- Music performances at GR First Church, *Widows Appreciation Luncheon*, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016-2019
- Soloist at Rush Creek Bible Church for *Gloria Christmas Concert*, Byron Center, MI 2017

- Music performance at Heritage United Methodist Church, Howard City, MI 2017
- Guest Artist at *National Heritage Academies' Concert* (Cross Creek Charter Academy), Caledonia, MI, 2017
- Videographer and audio engineer for Grand River Preparatory High School –*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Grand Rapids, MI, 2017
- Musician at *University of Michigan Health West Hospital* on Christmas Eve, Grand Rapids, MI 2016
- Music performance at the *Hampton Inn Investor's Celebration Dinner*, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016
- Musician for Christmas services for Ada Bible Church, Kentwood, MI, 2011
- Parent-Teacher Council volunteer for Glenwood Elementary School (Kentwood Public Schools), Kentwood, MI, 2005-2012
- Videographer for National Heritage Academies (Cross Creek Charter Academy), Chicago trip, 2011
- Multiple community performances for K-5th grade *Fall and Spring Music Programs*, Kentwood Public Schools, Kentwood, MI, 2008-2011
- Community music performance for Kentwood Public Schools, *Teacher Appreciation Day*, Kentwood, MI, 2009
- Community concert at Wealthy Street Theatre, *Embellish Handbells Ensemble and Friends*, the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet, Grand Rapids, MI, 2009
- Multiple community music performances at Kentwood Christian Church, Kentwood, MI, 2005-2009
- Community concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, *Feeding the Souls of the City Concert Series*, the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet, Muskegon, MI, 2009
- Community concert at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, *Music and Art for Justice in the Community Series*, the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet, Grand Rapids, MI, 2008
- Community fundraiser at Angel Tree/Prison Fellowship Benefit Concert, *Classics by Candlelight*, the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet, Cascade, MI, 2006
- Community concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, *Feeding the Souls of the City Concert Series*, the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet, Muskegon, MI, 2006
- Community college performance at *Grand Rapids Community College Presidential Honors Reception* for Dr. Juan Olivarez, GRCC Faculty Jazz Quartet, Grand Rapids, MI, 2003

PUBLICATIONS

Werkema, J. (2012-present). www.JasonWerkema.com. Website with over 100 music learning resources

Werkema, J. (2012-present). *YouTube channel with over 70 instructional music videos.* www.youtube.com/user/jasonwerkema

Werkema, J. (2006). *The Jazz Guitar Pedagogy Manual*. Grand Rapids, MI: Grand Rapids Community College

Augustyniak, L., Delabbio, D., & Werkema, J. (2005). Higher Education and Economic Development in Michigan. In A. Beach (ed.), *Implementing the Cherry Commission recommendations within Michigan's current fiscal climate*. Kalamazoo, MI: Western Michigan University

TECHNOLOGY PROFICIENCIES

Research/Productivity:	*Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint *Google Docs, Gmail, and most Google applications *Fluent in both Apple and PC platforms
Web-based Course Management:	*Blackboard *Populi
Graphic Design:	*Photoshop CS –Adobe
Video Production:	*Final Cut Pro X –Apple *Premiere Pro CS –Adobe

Audio/Music Production:	*Logic Pro X –Apple *Pro Tools –Avid *Reason –Propellerhead *Audacity
Music Notation/Musicianship:	*Finale –Make Music *MuseScore *Ear Master *Band in-a-Box –PG Music

HONORS

- Received first *Faculty Leadership Award* in the history of Grace Christian University, Grand Rapids, MI 2019
- Nomination for *Servant Leadership Award*, Grace Christian University, Grand Rapids, MI 2018
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society inductee, 2008
- Graduated Summa Cum Laude, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, 1998
- Moore Musical Arts Graduate Teaching Assistantship and Full Tuition Waiver, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, 1996-1998
- Graduated Magna Cum Laude, Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI, 1994

MEMBERSHIPS

- www.LinkedInLearning.com, 2011-present
- American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, 2000-2022
- Christian Copyright License, Inc., 2000-2022
- National Association of Schools of Music, 2000-2012
- College Music Society, 2000-2010
- Guitar Foundation of America, 2000-2010
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, 2008-2009
- Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet, 2006-2009