

Katya Ermolaeva

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Introduction

Dedicated and experienced music educator with a Ph.D. and over 15 years of teaching experience, seeking an upper school position in a mission-driven independent school. Experienced in working with students across diverse ability levels and learning styles, with particular strength in culturally responsive curriculum design and concert programming. Committed to whole-child education through inclusive, interdisciplinary, and globally informed teaching.

Education

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| Ph.D. in Music
University of St. Andrews / Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (Glasgow, UK) | June 2018 |
| Doctoral Studies in Musicology (Coursework and Comprehensive Exams Completed)
Princeton University | 2004 – 2012 |
| B.A. in Music and English, Minor in Russian
Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ) | June 2004 |

Relevant Experience

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| Director of Music
Mother of God Orthodox Church (Princeton, NJ)
Lead and manage a large intergenerational choir and small children's choir for weekly worship services. Plan and deliver age-appropriate instruction to both children and adults, adapting teaching strategies to diverse learning styles and skill levels. Teach foundational musical skills, including solfege, ear-training, musical form through structured lessons and guided practice. Maintain student engagement, focus and cooperation in group settings with varying ages and abilities. | March 2022 – present |
| Musicology Consultant
Music Together Worldwide (Hopewell, NJ)
Conduct historical and cultural research on songs featured in the Music Together curriculum, evaluating their origins, context, and relevance for early childhood music education. Develop comprehensive reports on the background of traditional children's songs and provided expert recommendations on their cultural sensitivity and appropriateness for classroom use. Advise the organization on best practices for inclusive and respectful musical content selection. | 2018 – present |
| Music Together Teacher
Music Together Princeton Lab School (Princeton, NJ)
Taught structured group classes for children ages 0–5, supporting early childhood development in a classroom alongside caregivers. Established predictable routines and transitions to support classroom management and student engagement. Fostered an inclusive, supportive classroom environment that encouraged participation, cooperation and exploration. Adapted lessons in real time to meet the needs of individual students and group dynamics. | September 2017 – December 2025 |

Music History Instructor **2018 - 2019**
Princeton Adult School (Princeton, NJ)
Developed and taught music history survey courses for adult learners, covering a broad range of topics including Western music history and the history of opera. Delivered engaging weekly lectures supported by PowerPoint presentations and facilitated in-depth class discussions to promote critical thinking and appreciation of musical traditions.

Adjunct Instructor in Musicology **Fall 2011**
The College of New Jersey (Ewing, NJ)
Instructed an undergraduate survey course in non-Western music history, delivering weekly lectures and facilitating class discussions to promote cross-cultural understanding and critical engagement. Assessed student performance through the evaluation of weekly assignments, presentations, and examinations.

Related Experience

Director of Music, St. Kentigern Russian Orthodox Church (Glasgow, UK)	2013 – 2016
Director of Music, St. Mary Magdalen Orthodox Church (New York, NY)	2011 – 2012
Substitute Director of Music, Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral (East Meadow, NY)	2012
Substitute Director of Music, St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church (East Meadow, NY)	2007 – 2008
Director of Music, Assumption of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church (Trenton, NJ)	1997 – 2007

Publications

“The Ivan Trichord: Medieval Musical Images in Prokofiev and Eisenstein’s *Ivan the Terrible*” in **2020**
Orthodoxy, Music, Politics and Art in Russia and Eastern Europe. Edited by Ivan Moody and Ivana Medic. London: Goldsmiths & Belgrade, Serbia: Institute of Musicology. 2020.

“Audiovisual Montage in *Ivan the Terrible*: Understanding Prokofiev’s Film Score Through Eisensteinian Sound-Image Theory” in **2020**
Rethinking Prokofiev. Edited by Rita McAllister and Christina Guillaumier. New York: Oxford University Press. (Peer-reviewed)

“Dinah, Put Down Your Horn: Blackface Minstrel Songs Don’t Belong in Music Class.” **2019**
Medium.com. Views since publication: 260K. DOI: <https://bit.ly/38J3dvZ>

Musical & Technical Skills

Instruments: Flute (10 years), Piano (3 years); Guitar (self-taught); Voice (self-taught)
Languages: English (native); Russian (near-native); French (advanced); Spanish (beginner)
Technology: Sibelius, Garageband, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Pages, Adobe Acrobat, Canva

References

Fr. Peter Baktis, Rector, Mother of God Orthodox Church
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Tom Tallitsch, Music Teacher (Pre-K - 6th Grade), Princeton Junior School
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