

# Melissa Merkel

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## PROFESSIONAL STATEMENT

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Instrumental woodwind educator with experience performing and teaching private lessons to K-12 students and adults of various musical abilities. Lessons are carefully crafted with the needs, individual interests, and learning styles of the students in mind while taking into account both student and parental goals for progress.

## EDUCATION

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**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** 2018 - 2020  
Master of Music in Flute Performance and Literature

**University of Colorado at Boulder** 2013 - 2017  
Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Private Flute Instructor** 2012-Present

- Plans and leads private flute lessons for K-12 students and adults. Collaborates closely with parents and students in order to design lessons meeting each student's individual interests, learning style, and needs.
  - Prepared past students for successful auditions and performances with the John Philip Sousa National Honors Band, the MMEA Eastern District Junior and Senior Festivals, and the Worcester Youth Symphony Orchestra

**Sylvan Tutor** 2022 - 2023

*Sylvan Learning*

- Led private, individualized tutoring sessions in reading, writing, and SAT preparation for students grades K-12.
- Co-taught online SAT preparation seminars for high school students.

**Communications Instructor and Teaching Assistant** Fall 2019-Spring 2020

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

- Taught two sections of *101 Public Speaking* for undergraduates, covering such topics as stage fright, breathing methods, and selection of speech topics.

**Marrowstone Music Festival Fellow** July 2019

*Marrowstone Music Festival*

- Mentored high school and college instrumentalists individually, in sectionals, and during large ensemble rehearsals.
- Coached and performed with a student wind quintet.

**School Aged Child Care Leader at Sandburg Elementary School** Summers 2015-18, Spring 2018

*Littleton Public Schools*

- Tutored students in grades K-5 in reading, writing, and math, and provided classroom assistance.
- Supervised and led activities for students including art projects, games, and outdoor activities.

**Camp Counselor** Summer 2015

*University of Colorado Boulder Summer Music Academy*

- Led sectionals, rehearsals, classes, and other music related activities for middle school instrumentalists.

## ORCHESTRA FESTIVALS/ MASTERCLASS PROGRAMS

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- Marrowstone Music Festival Fellowship Program 2019
- Pacific Northwest Flute and Piccolo Forum 2019
- ARIA International Summer Music Academy 2017
- Eastern Music Festival 2016
- The Consummate Flutist 2017, 2014

## ENSEMBLE EXPERIENCE

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- Symphony Orchestra**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2019-2020
- Wind Symphony**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2018-2019  
*Performed at the College Band Directors National Association 2019 Conference*
- Illinois Modern Ensemble**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2018, 2020
- Spengler Wind Quintet**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2019
- Baroque Artists of Champaign Urbana**, Urbana, Illinois 2018  
*Guest Flutist*
- Symphony Orchestra**, University of Colorado Boulder 2016-2017

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- Chicago Flute Club Piccolo Masterclass Competition Winner March 2020
- National Flute Convention Masterclass Winner August 2017  
*National Flute Association*
- Performer in Sir James Galway Masterclass March 2017  
*Once a Flutist Festival*

## ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology** August 2021- Present

*Curatorial Assistant*

- Trains researchers and employees to use photography equipment for imaging shells. Photographs specimens for researcher requests.
- Assists in mentoring and providing instruction for high school interns and college students working in the collection.
- Participates in museum outreach activities by leading presentations for yearly high school visits, Harvard class tours, and evening public museum events.
  - Attended the 2024 Digin Educator's Workshop, a program designed to foster collaboration between classroom educators and zoological collections staff.
- Catalogs historic specimens and new accessions in the museum database.