

Performing Arts Program for Youth and Young Adults A 501 (C) (3) Organization

Our Mission: To ensure and enhance our rich cultural and musical legacy, Timeless Gifts provides instruction, exposure and professional performance opportunities for young aspiring artists, while promoting self-confidence, creativity, character, and professional etiquette in the presentation of their chosen crafts.

Timeless Gifts 2023 Fall/Winter Instructors

Joan Collaso

Voice Instructor

Bachelor of Science in Music, Chicago State University (Voice major) 2016 Studied Music and voice at Roosevelt University and Virginia Union University Timeless Gifts Founder, Executive / Artistic Director, and Voice Instructor since 2011

Award winning international vocalist, most notably Emmy Award winner, 1986

Lawrence Hanks

Piano Instructor

Bachelor and Masters Degree from University of Illinois at Chicago Timeless Gifts Co-Founder, Musical Director and Piano Instructor since 2011 Professor of Communications and Music Appreciation at Northeastern Illinois University

6 years as Conductor for Jerry Iceman Butler, and conductor of the legendary Curtis Mayfield, Jerry Butler

and the Impressions Reunion Tour

Has written several Billboard charted songs

Rayzine Collaso

Voice Instructor for Timeless Gifts since 2011

Executive Assistant and Assistant Director for Timeless Gifts
Bachelor of Arts in music from University of Illinois at Chicago
Performing Arts instructor for 17 years
Professional vocalist for 20 years
Creator, Instructor and director of Tiny Timeless Gifts (ages 3-7) since 2020

Bril Barrett

Tap Dance instructor for Timeless Gifts since 2012

A dedicated tap dancer who promotes tap as a percussive art form: Founder of M.A.D.D (Making A

Difference Dancing): Rhythms director of The Chicago Tap Summit.

Taught and performed internationally: Made many television appearances: Has had his very own Ted Talk

Tony Carpenter

Percussion Instructor with Timeless Gifts since 2014

A master of Brazilian, Caribbean and traditional rhythms of West African Instructor for Timeless Gifts since 2014

Performs with Julian Swain's Inner City Dancers and Najwa Dance Troupe Performance and Recording credits: The Emotions, Ramsey Lewis, Jerry Butler, The Soul Children of Chicago

Zaji Nixon

Workshop Instrictoe for Timeless Goifts since 2023

Studied at Colombia College and Harold Washington Community College (2020-22) Timeless Gifts Alumni (participant from 2011-2022) Timeless Gifts Student Instructor (2020-2023)

Janae King

Dance Instructor with Timeless Gifts since 2018

Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Vanderbilt University 2020 Studies and taught at Mayfair Fine Arts Academy 2002-2020 and The Movement MVMT Dance Company 2021-present

She is a dancer and choreographer with over 10 years of teaching experience Specializes in contemporary, jazz, and hip hop.

Felix Pollard

Drum instructor for Timeless Gifts since 2022

Internationally known Drummer

Studied at VanderCook College of Music, 1990, Mentored by Chicago drummers; Timothy Lee, Kevin

Brunson and Clyde Davis

Toured with American Idol's Clay Aiken, performed on the Tonight Show, the David Letterman and the

Oprah Winfrey Show, with Destiny's Child, Jessica Simpson, George Duke, Lionel Richie and American Idol's Taylor Hicks

Marlene Rosenberg

Bass guitar instructor for Timeless Gifts since 2018

Award winning International Jazz Bassist and Educator
Northwestern University, Master of Music in Jazz Pedagogy, 1999
Visiting artist and lecture for Chicago Jazz Institute
Faculty member of Northern Illinois University
Faculty member of Roosevelt University
Conducts clinics and performances for the International Society of Bassist, The
Thelonius Monk Instituteand Ravinia Mentors Program

Jessica Walton

Workshop Instrictoe for Timeless Goifts since 2023

Graduate of Hampton Uninversity
Perfomred with The Hampton Unbinversity
Choir all 4 years of attendance (solo soprano)
Timeless Gifts Alumni (participant from 2010-2022)
Timeless Gifts Student Instructor (2020-2023)

Nora Williams

Violin instructor for Timeless Gifts since 2014

Founder and violist with the contemporary string quartet, Red Riding Hood Holds a Bachelor's degree in music from Stanford University, with two years of graduate study at Indiana

University's Jacobs School of Music. Artistic Director at Ossia Musical Forum since 2005, and past principal

viola with the Highland Park Strings

Past principal viola and soloist with the Bach and Beyond Chamber Orchestra.

7 years, Dubuque Symphony Orchestra

Notable oerformances: Northwest Indiana Symphony, the New Philharmonic, Chicago Chamber Orchestra,

da Corneto Opera, L'Opera Piccola and Light Opera Works