

Dr. Melissa Sky-Eagle, DMA

In the fall of 1997, Melissa Sky-Eagle entered the Bachelor of Music (piano performance) program at Texas Christian University as a Dean's Distinguished Scholar and the recipient of the Nordan Fine Arts Award. At TCU, she was a piano student of Beethoven specialist Professor John Owings. She maintained a 4.0 grade point average, and graduated first in her class in 2001.

Melissa went on to pursue graduate study at the Peabody Conservatory of Music of The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, where she studied with Seth Knopp (pianist for the Peabody Trio). She was the recipient of the Michael R. Bloomberg Scholarship and a graduate teaching assistantship, earning a Master of Music degree in piano performance in 2003.

Melissa's Doctor of Musical Arts was completed at the Flora L. Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California. She studied piano with noted keyboard musicologist Dr. Stewart Gordon, as well as keyboard collaborative arts with Dr. Alan Smith. At graduation, she was recognized by the music faculty and Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society as the top doctoral graduate of 2006.

Dr. Sky-Eagle has concertized as a chamber musician, duo pianist, and orchestral soloist. Her orchestral appearances include the 2010 premiere of *Concerto for Piano and Wind Instruments* by contemporary composer Robert Gross, in collaboration with the University of Georgia Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. John P. Lynch.

Since 2003, Melissa has served as adjunct professor of piano at California Baptist University, where she teaches piano majors, piano proficiency students, and keyboard literature.

From 2006-2012, she was the musical director at Class Act Musical Theatre in Woodland Hills; she currently provides musical direction for shows at Los Angeles Valley College and Flash Theatre Productions. A church musician with 25 years of experience, she has traveled to churches on six continents. In her spare time, she enjoys studying the banjo with bluegrass instrument expert Randy Torno.