

# Dr. Sarah S. Elias

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## EDUCATION

**The University of Southern Mississippi** (August 2012-May 2020)  
Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance and Pedagogy  
Hattiesburg, MS  
Studied with Dr. Elizabeth Moak, MMTA Teacher of the Year in 2020

**The University of Southern Mississippi** (2010-2011)  
Masters of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy  
Hattiesburg, MS  
Studied with Dr. Elizabeth Moak & Ms. Petronel Malan

**Belhaven University** (2004-2008)  
Bachelor of Arts in Music, emphasis in Piano Performance  
Jackson, MS  
Studied with Dr. Stephen W. Sachs

## PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

- University professor with 13 years experience
- Private piano teacher with 22 years experience, instructing beginning through advanced students
- Experienced accompanist with 24 years experience in churches, universities, and other professional settings
- Experience teaching keyboard literature, sacred music literature, worship keyboard skills, music theory and music theory aural skills in the undergraduate classroom, as well as private students in applied keyboard courses
- Experienced singer with 4 years private study, most recent teacher: Gena Everitt
- 22 years experience in directing choirs and small instrumental ensembles
- Experienced percussionist with solo and ensemble skill
- Worship leader with over 18 years experience

## EXPERIENCE

University of West Georgia (January 2023-present)  
**Full-Time Assistant Professor of Music (Piano)**  
Carrollton, GA

- Teach applied piano students
- Teach keyboard courses, such as keyboard skills, pedagogy, keyboard literature, collaborative piano
- Perform and recruit for the music department

Accompany University of West Georgia (January 2020-present)  
**Staff Accompanist**  
Carrollton, GA

- Accompany voice student lessons, recitals and juries

- Accompany Opera
- Accompany instrumental student recitals and juries

**Professional Piano Tuner** (January 2016-March 2019)  
Greater Jackson Area, MS, and Carrollton, GA

- Basic piano tuning and repair

GMTA Competitions (Spring 2021 and 2022)

**Adjudicator**  
Carrollton, GA

- Judge local and regional piano competition

University of West Georgia (August 2020-May 2021)

**Temporary Music Faculty**

- Teach freshmen piano majors

Tyus Baptist Church (June 2019-present)

**Director of Music Ministries**  
Carrollton, GA

- Direct choir, praise band, and student praise band
- Lead worship, singing and playing piano
- Plan music for worship services and special events
- Prepare slides for service

Belhaven University (August 2011-May 2019)

**Adjunct Professor of Music**  
Jackson, MS

- Teach classroom courses in music theory, aural skills, sacred music literature, keyboard literature, and keyboard skills

Covenant Presbyterian Church (June 2018-March 2019)

**Contemporary Worship Coordinator and Leader, Pianist**  
Jackson, MS

- Plan music for contemporary worship services and special events
- Worship leader, main vocalist and keyboardist
- Direct band
- Prepare PowerPoint slides for service
- Arrange and write music for band
- Substitute pianist for traditional worship
- Regular accompanist for traditional adult choir

**Freelance Professional Accompanying** (January 2005-March 2019)  
Greater Jackson Area, MS and Hattiesburg, MS

- Accompany vocalists, choirs, instrumentalists, ensembles
- Accompany/background music for special events such as:
  - Weddings, funerals, parties, receptions, concerts, competitions

**Private Piano Instructor** (February 2001-February 2019)  
Harrisonburg, VA and Greater Jackson Area, MS

- Teaches all ages and levels
- Specializes in different teaching methods unique to student ability

Reigning Grace Church (January 2016-March 2017)  
**Part-Time Director of Music and Worship Ministries**  
Madison, MS

- Plan music for worship services and special events
- Worship leader, main vocalist, keyboardist
- Direct band
- Prepare PowerPoint slides for service
- Arrange and write music for band

Lakeside Presbyterian Church (January 2008-October 2015)  
**Full-Time Director of Music and Worship Ministries**  
Brandon, MS

- Plan music for worship services and special events
- Worship leader and main vocalist
- Direct all choirs and bands
- Prepare PowerPoint slides for service
- Arrange and write music for band and choirs

The University of Southern Mississippi (August 2012-August 2013)  
**Graduate Accompanying Assistantship**  
Hattiesburg, MS

- Accompany rehearsals and recitals for undergraduate and masters level vocalists and instrumentalists
- Team-teach undergraduate keyboard literature

Belhaven University (August 2008-May 2009)  
**Staff Pianist**  
Jackson, MS

- Accompany choirs, soloists, small groups, instrumentalists

Lakeshore Congregational Methodist Church (September 2004-October 2007)  
**Staff Pianist**  
Byram, MS

- Play all worship services and special events
- Accompany choirs and band
- Lead worship and/or direct choir when asked

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

- Doctoral Accompanying Assistantship, 2012-2013
- Invitation/participant in Midland/Odessa Piano Concerto Competition, 2009
- MMTA Junior/Senior Piano Competition Winner, 2008
- MTNA Piano Competition Alternate, 2008
- MMTA Collegiate Division Concerto Winner, 2007
- MMTA Young Artist Piano Competition Alternate, 2007
- SVYSO Concerto Competition Winner, 2004
- Master Class with Alon Goldstein, 2007
- Master Class with Melvin Chen, 2006
- Master Class with Anton Nel, 2005

## **MAJOR SOLO and COLLABORATIVE CONCERT APPEARANCES**

- Douglasville First United Methodist Church Friends of Music Concert Series, collaborative pianist, 2023
- University of West Georgia, Faculty Recital, appearance with Cale Self, 2023
- Douglasville First United Methodist Church Friends of Music Concert Series, soloist, 2023
- Kinnesaw University, appearance with Cale Self, 2022
- University of West Georgia, Faculty Recital, appearance with Cale Self, 2020
- University of Southern Mississippi, Graduate Recital, *USA premiere*, 2019
- New Music of Jackson Festival, 2019
- Belhaven University Faculty Concert, 2019
- Belhaven University Faculty Concert, 2017
- University of Southern Mississippi, Graduate Concerto Recital, 2016
- Mississippi Chorus Benefit Showcase, 2012
- University of Southern Mississippi, Graduate Solo Recital, 2011
- Belhaven University, Alumni Solo Recital, 2011
- Belhaven University, Concerto Appearance with Belhaven Symphony Orchestra, 2009

## **MAJOR SOLO REPERTOIRE PERFORMED**

- Bach - Toccata in G major, BWV 916
- Bach - English Suite No. 3 in G Minor, BWV 808
- Bach - French Suite No. 4 in E flat Major, BWV 815
- Bach - Prelude and Fugue in C Minor, Well-Tempered Clavier Book 1, BWV 847
- Beethoven - Sonata in F major, Op. 54
- Beethoven - Sonata in C sharp Minor, Op. 27 "Moonlight"
- Beethoven - Sonata in A flat Major, Op. 26
- Bernstein - Four Anniversaries
- Bernstein - Touches
- Bolling - Sonata for Two Pianists No. 2
- Boulanger, Nadia - Fantaisie variée pour piano et orchestre (*USA premiere*)
- Brahms - Two Rhapsodies, Op. 79
- Brahms - Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118 No. 2

- Chopin - Ballade No. 2 in F Major, Op. 38
- Chopin - Ballade No. 3 in A flat Major, Op. 47
- Debussy - Pour le piano
- Debussy - La cathédrale engloutie from Préludes, Book 1
- De Falla - Pièces Espagnoles
- Haydn - Fantasia in C Major Hob. XVII/4
- Khachaturian - Concerto in D flat Major
- Liszt - Ballade No. 1 in D flat Major, S170/R15, "Le chant du croise"
- Liszt - "Senta's Ballade" from Wagner's *The Flying Dutchmen*
- Liszt - Hungarian Rhapsody No. 13 in A Minor
- Messiaen - "Regard de l'Etoile"; "Regard de la Croix"; "Regard des Prophetes, des Bergers et des Mages"; "Le baiser de l'Enfant-Jésus"  
From *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus*
- Mompou - 13 Cancions i Danses: Nos. 3, 4, 5
- Mozart - Concerto No. 24 in C Minor, K. 491
- Mozart - Sonata No. 2 in F Major, K. 280
- Mozart - Sonata No. 19 in D Major, K. 576
- Mozart - Fantasy in C Minor, K. 475
- Sauerwein - Lullaby Song Set
- Schubert, Impromptu No. 3 in G-flat Major, Op. 90, D. 899
- Schumann, C. - "Ballade in d minor" from *Soirées Musicales*
- Schumann, R. - Sonata No.2 in G Minor, Op.22
- Shostakovich - Concerto No. 2 in F major, Op. 102

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

**Dr. Elizabeth Moak**, Associate Professor of Piano  
The University of Southern Mississippi  
118 College Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39406  
Tel: (601) 269-6949, Email: elizabeth.moak@usm.edu

**Dr. Stephen W. Sachs**, Former Music Department Chair and Professor of Piano  
Belhaven University  
1500 Peachtree Street, Jackson, MS 39202  
Tel: (601) 209-8903, Email: ssachs@belhaven.edu

**Dr. Andrew Mark Sauerwein**, Former Music Department Chair and Professor of  
Composition and Theory  
Belhaven University  
1500 Peachtree Street, Jackson, MS 39202  
Tel: (601) 974-6494, Email: asauerwein@belhaven.edu