

JESSICA R. ROEMISCHER
Award-winning Pianist, Composer, Writer, Teacher
Originator of The Duet Paradigm®

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Mission and Vision

In a complex and information-laden world, human beings still long to feel respected, loved, and whole. We want to abide in harmony with our Creator, and in alignment with our deepest values. To this end, can you imagine a world in which our unique capacities are awakened, unfettered by any notion of difference or limitation? Where the boundaries between individuals dissolve in a creative unfolding that's more than any single person could manifest alone? Where art, music, spirituality, and inspired learning become synonymous, activating far-reaching human attributes?

Through a potent combination of artistic, literary, pedagogical and communication skills, I'm endeavoring to heal separation—from self and other. My vision: a community of participants that becomes one in a rare and blessed experience of the Divine.

Summary of Qualifications

- **Consummate pianist, composer and performance artist** who creates transcendent experiences for the audience, both online and in-person.
- **Visionary**—sees far-reaching potential and possibilities. *My life is dedicated to an enlivening of the human spirit.*
- **Devoted teacher** with a thirty-five year record of dedicated service to groups and individuals of all ages and backgrounds.
- **Award-winning, internationally published writer**, who makes diverse subjects accessible to a broad audience. *I write from the heart to the heart.*
- **Highly innovative**, has developed proven and effective transformational methodologies.
- **Excellent communicator** in a wide variety of mediums—in-person, in writing, via media interviews, in public performance/presentation contexts.
- **Unusual ability to reach people of widely diverse ages**, cultures and backgrounds, including those with disabilities.
- **Intuitive and incisive** - responds to each situation to generate a dynamic learning and aesthetic experience.
- **Highly skilled** at building trust, collaboration, and partnership.

Summary of Qualifications (continued)

- **Exudes an abiding faith** in our innate human capacities and in the Transcendent. *Brings out the best in others, in alignment with a higher truth.*
- **Powerfully articulate and compelling public speaker/presenter**, with an ability to express myself extemporaneously and respond spontaneously to the audience.
- **Experienced in a high-demand, high-output environments.**
- **Steadfast regard for excellence**, with the dedication to deliver it.

Professional Experience

These diverse experiences, each taken to a high level of achievement and recognition, comprise the unique skill set I offer.

Award-winning Pianist, Composer, Performer

1976-present

Accomplished performer and composer, who melds Western pianistic traditions with contemporary idioms to create unique interpretations of sacred and secular music. As a performer, I've become known for dynamic, interactive, multi-dimensional performances that combine music, readings of my writings, dialogue and improvised duets with audience volunteers. The traditional piano concert is transformed into an experience of discovery, spontaneity and love.

- Awards: Westchester (NY) Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, Westchester Conservatory Concerto Competition, 1st Place, Hudson Valley Music Teachers' Award & others
- Notable review: "Jessica Roemischer's piano music is a tapestry of sound textures, a meditation that evokes peace because it comes from love."
Greg Thomas, writer, *New York Daily News*

Notable experiences and achievements:

Under the guidance of pianist and teacher Miriam Roemischer (mother), pedagogical lineage links directly to Frederic Chopin and Ludwig van Beethoven. This tutelage instilled in me the finest musical aesthetic—one that I impart to all whom I encounter through my performing and teaching.

Piano studies with Marilyn Sophos (1967-77) and subsequent entrance into advanced competitions in the New York Metropolitan area, allowed me to develop confidence and strength under pressure. Ultimately, the goal was to create, in a vulnerable and authentic way, music of great beauty.

Award-winning Pianist, Composer, Performer (continued)

- Performances throughout the USA and Australia, in a variety of settings and theaters, including Middlebury College, the historic Mahaiwe Theater (Great Barrington, MA), The Colonial Theater (Pittsfield, MA), The Byron Theatre, Byron Bay, Australia, The Manning Clark Centre, Canberra, performances for Governor Deval Patrick (State of MA), and many others.
- Notable performances: Divine Mercy Weekend (2013, 2104) at the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Stockbridge, MA, attended by 24,000 and televised to 140 countries on EWTN cable channel.
- Notable review: "Oh, my breath is taken away witnessing the beauty of your work!" Claire Zammit, PhD, Founder, Feminine Power Global Community and Women on the Edge of Evolution Teleseries

Thirty-five years of performing on four continents—in sacred and secular settings--has allowed me to witness the power of music. What I observe in people's responses—no matter their culture, age, or background--has given me an unshakable conviction that music is essential to human life. When it is performed sublimely, it generates a transcendental experience that liberates the human spirit and brings us closer to the Divine.

Being a musician and composer of consummate skill has helped me develop a subtle means of communication with others. It has honed both my verbal and non-verbal expression.

Performances in concerto competitions, with singers, songwriters and other instrumentalists have given me the opportunity to collaborate musically. This has helped me develop the skills of dialogue, listening and interaction.

In inspired performances, I experience communion with the audience and the music. This has given me a first-hand sense of, and an abiding faith in the presence of something infinitely good, true and beautiful.

Three full-length piano CD's, available on iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, Rhapsody, CDBaby, and other retail and online outlets:

“Haven,” released July, 2011

“In Duet with God,” August, 2013

“Light Born of Light,” January, 2014 (the production of this album was funded by 65 donors)

Acclaimed Pedagogue, Teacher and Creative Coach

1982-present

Conducted individual and group music lessons on three continents. Developed an innovative approach to piano duet improvisation, The Duet Paradigm® that has emerged as a potent transformational and healing modality, yielding striking results with individuals of all ages, cultures and backgrounds, including those with profound disabilities.

- 2012 CNN Heroes Award nomination
- Notable review: "Jessica Roemischer makes so much possible, and it's clearly giving her so much in return." Governor Deval Patrick, State of Massachusetts USA

Notable experiences and achievements:

As Director of Music at Riverbrook Residence for Women, Stockbridge, MA (2007-2013), worked with Board of Directors, Executive Director and staff on innovative musical performances, gaining wide recognition for Riverbrook, New England's oldest residence for women with developmental disabilities. This experience enabled me to create ways for people to access their innate capacities, regardless of physical, psychological or cognitive limitations. *My work at Riverbrook has revolutionized my sense of what is possible for ANY and all individuals. I realize now that the ability to express beauty is inherent in us all and unfettered by any limitation.*

Multi-media performances allowed the Riverbrook women to share their music with a wide audience. Their piano duet improvisations with me literally redefine the commonly held notion of what it means to be "disabled."

Performances include:

- Performances for Governor Deval Patrick, State of MA/USA
- National Shrine of the Divine Mercy (broadcast globally on EWTN),
- "Flying Free: Music without Limits" - performance supported by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Caroline and James Taylor, and the Berkshire, MA community.
- Perkins School for the Blind

Featured articles, interviews, presentations on my work:

- Real to Reel (2014) - Cable program, Archdiocese of Springfield, MA
- Presentation of original paper, "The Duet Paradigm: The Quantum Result of Empowering Women with Disabilities," at the 2012 Oxford Round Table, Oxford University, England
- Featured by Global Dialogue Center's - "Differences in Duet" online presentation and Global Webinar, attendance from 35 countries
- *Exceptional Parent Magazine* - "The Transforming Power of the Piano Duet"
- WRPI radio and many other radio interviews

- *Integral Leadership Review* (online journal)
- CTSB-TV featured interview (cable and online)
- Awakened TV featured interview (online)
- *Canberra Times, Melbourne Age, Sydney Morning Herald, Byron Bay (NSW) newspapers*

Music Faculty, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont (1989-99), I worked with dozens of college students, developing my unique approach to piano duet improvisation, The Duet Paradigm®. Students often said that their piano sessions were their most meaningful college experiences.

Award-winning Author and Journalist

1982-present

Specializing in memoir and personal reflection, as well as astute commentary on issues as diverse as morality in a postmodern world, theories of cultural evolution, the future of the world's religious traditions, and women's issues. My memoir, articles, and interviews are distinctive for the way in which the personal voice illuminates insights of universal relevance.

Notable experiences and achievements:

- Memoir, *In Duet with God: The Story of a Lifelong Friendship* (published 2015), honored with an Illumination Book Award.
- Articles translated into five languages, distributed throughout the world, including, "The Never-Ending Upward Quest," widely considered the finest introduction to the developmental theory of Spiral Dynamics—a theory that has been employed around the world, including in South Africa to catalyze the peaceful transition out of apartheid. *This article profoundly influenced my perspective on individual and socio-cultural development across history.*
- Notable review: "*In Duet with God* is a book you can never 'finish.' Jessica's wisdom, faith and love become part of your own life, and the door she opens for each reader is a gift you will cherish always." Frances Hesselbein, President and CEO, the Frances Hesselbein Leadership Institute, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom

Conducted exclusive interviews with foremost thinkers, visionaries, religious leaders, scholars and cultural icons, including:

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu
- Guitarist Carlos Santana
- Apollo astronaut Dr. Edgar Mitchell
- Utopian scholar, Fritzie P. Manuel
- Theologians Huston Smith (*Why Religion Matters*) and Karen Armstrong (*A History of God*), and many more.

Inspirational Presenter/Speaker, Advisor and Consultant

2002-present

Conducts dynamic, interactive lectures and workshops in a wide variety of settings throughout the United States and internationally--in educational and organizational environments, at cultural centers, and as part of conferences. Events combine solo piano/keyboard performance, improvised duets with the audience, meditation, dialogue, illustrative videos.

Notable experiences and achievements:

Interactive workshops and performances at:

Artists' Series, Trinity Episcopal Church, New Orleans, LA; Manning Clark House, Canberra, Australia; The Byron Theatre, Byron Bay; Network for Peace Through Dialogue, Marymount College, New York City; Berkshire Business and Professional Women, Lenox, MA; Integral Spiritual Experience Conference, Monterey, CA, Spiral Dynamics/National Values Center 10th Annual Conference, Dallas TX, and many more.

Uses music duet improvisation (The Duet Paradigm®) to generate a dynamic field of trust and exploration. *I recognize that when an individual enters a safe environment, he or she becomes freely expressive in new and creative ways, activating latent potentials.*

I tailor the program in response to the specific needs of the individuals and groups. Developed the ability to assess or “read” a situation and respond to the individuals present, realizing that EVERY situation is different and requires a uniquely appropriate response.

Notable review: "In a time span of less than two hours, Jessica Roemischer transformed what was otherwise a linear learning environment into a highly emotionally charged spiritual experience. Her deep mastery of how music moves the soul and elevates the human spirit is something to behold."
Said E. Dawlabani, President & CEO, EcoVest Advisors, LLC

Award-winning Architectural Historian and Arts Educator

1988-present

Notable experiences and achievements:

National Register nominations prepared for the Towns of Moriah, Essex, Westport, Warrensburg and Ausable, New York, and the United States Department of Defense at Plattsburgh, NY Air Force Base. These large-scale projects allowed me to develop significant writing, researching, organizational and interpersonal skills.

- New York State Historic Preservation Award, 1995

Award-winning Architectural Historian and Arts Educator (cont.)

Developed an innovative, multi-disciplinary arts and architecture-in-education enrichment program implemented throughout the Adirondack Region of New York State. Students gained a new appreciation for their history, their environment and their everyday lives. My interactive lessons with them helped me develop group teaching and communication skills to engage the students in creative, cross-disciplinary activities.

- Nomination, New York State Governor's Award for Arts Education, 1996

Award-winning Photographer, Teacher and Artist-in-Residence

1983-present

Artist-in-residence/lecturer at secondary and tertiary institutions throughout Melbourne, Australia. Supported by Victoria Council on the Arts to create a major photographic essay of community life in a diverse, inner city Melbourne neighborhood.

Notable experiences and achievements:

- First photographic artist to receive Victoria Council on the Arts Artist-in-Community Grant, 1983; Photography featured in major Australian newspapers - The Melbourne Age, The Sun (Sydney), and others
- Artist-in-Residence/lecturer in Australia at Presbyterian Ladies College; Photography Studies College, Rusden Institute, Phillips Institute of Technology, and others.

1982 - Assistant to Master Photographer, the late Frederick Sommer

Notable experiences and achievements:

Compiled and edited Sommer's writings, included in major retrospective by Center for Creative Photography, Tucson. Interpreted on piano Sommer's renowned "musical scores." My work with Frederick Sommer gave me insight into the unique life of a master artist—his work, his way of seeing. He helped me understand the importance of aesthetics—*of beauty*.

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Art History and Visual Arts

1982 - Princeton University, with High Honors

Concentration in photography, phenomenology and philosophy of science

- Francis LeMoyne Page Visual Arts Award

Graduate of Dobbs Ferry High School

1977 - Dobbs Ferry, NY, National Honor Society, B'nai B'rith Award

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