

Brenton Merrill Kossak - Musician

910 Morse Street, Oceanside, CA 92054 - (805) 807-2285

Brenton.Kossak@gmail.com

Teaching and Compositional Experience

Dusty's Guitar Kingdom:

2018 - present

Lead Instructor on Guitar, Strings, Piano, Theory, and Composition

- Taught students of all ages and skills instrumental practices and techniques at my home studio(s)
- Responsible for scheduling, rescheduling, financial record keeping, and keeping up with students' progress
- Guitar and Ukulele playing is the main focus at this establishment, but all stringed instruments are welcome

Private Music Instructor & Tutor: Strings, Piano, Theory, and Composition

2003 - present

- Taught students of all ages and skill instrumental practices and techniques at my home studio(s)
- Responsible for scheduling, rescheduling, financial record keeping, and keeping up with students' progress
- Tutored in Musical Theory, Ear Training, and Composition to college level students of music

Allegro School of Music: Strings & Piano teacher

2018

- Formulated lesson plans for students of various age and skill in one-on-one and classroom settings
- Aided students in achievement of goals on string instruments and pianos
- Substitute teaching for other instructors regularly

Canyon Del Oro High School: Guest Bass Coach

2017 - 2018

- Coached younger bassists on technique and performance practice in an orchestral setting

Westside Neighborhood School: Director/Teacher Strings Program

2015 - 2016

- Methodically devised after-school, classroom lesson plans for violin and cello students from 1st through 8th grade
- Created class structure based on age and skill level
- Composed, arranged, and performed popular and original works for all ensembles

Conejo Valley Youth Orchestra: Guest Bass Coach, Performer

2004 - 2016

- Coached younger bassists on technique and performance practice
- Performed major orchestral works in a medium-sized bass section

Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra: Substitute Bass Coach 2015 - 2016

- Robust musical training for young musicians for over 40 years
- Coached younger bassists on technique and performance practice

Dogsbody: Composer 2016

- Short Comedy Film released in 2016
- Traditional jazz compositions

Santa Monica Youth Orchestra: Coach, Arranger, Assistant Conductor 2013 - 2015

- Non-profit organization striving to promote socioeconomic and cultural diversity through music
- Coaching and filling in on various instruments
- Composed, arranged, and substitute conducted music for ensemble

Toddle Tunes: Teacher, Musical Performer 2010 - 2014

- Childhood Development program utilizing live music and performance
- Six or more performances a day with regularly rotating styles and instruments

Story Pirates: Arranger, Upright Bassist 2013

- An arts education and media company dedicated to performing works written by children
- Live performance with professional improvisers and musicians

Dinner with Holly: Composer 2013

- Short Comedy Film released 2013
- Traditional jazz compositions

Skullgirls: Composer 2012

- Popular Video Game released in 2012 on a multitude of platforms
- Notable for featuring an all female cast, iconic jazz music, and development by an independent studio

Los Angeles Youth Orchestra: Substitute Coach, Bassist 2011 - 2012

- Coached younger bassists on technique and performance practice
- Performed major orchestral works in a small bass section

Northridge Youth Orchestra: Substitute Coach, Bassist 2006 - 2007

- Coached younger bassists on technique and performance practice
- Performed major orchestral works in a small bass section

Education & Awards

California State University Northridge, Northridge, CA Graduated 2007

Bachelor of Arts in Music, Magna Cum Laude

Chuck Anderson Memorial Scholarship

Awarded 2006

Moorpark College

Transferred 2005

Abulafia Family Scholarship, awarded to exceptional students of art

Awarded 2005

Music Student of the Year, awarded by the faculty to the highest achieving student

Awarded 2005

Most Recent Orchestral & Ensemble Experience

Classic Rock Band : Musical Director and Lead Guitarist	2023 - present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prepared & arranged famous rock band music of the 20th & 21st centuries- Performed virtually all guitar parts, solos, & background vocal parts- Configured electronic and magnetic signals in complex environments for performance	
Kent & Brent : Soloist and Lead Guitarist	2021 - present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Regularly invited to perform American pop music of the 20th & 21st centuries- Performed as accompanist and soloist- Performed Transcribed & Improvised Musical Solos & Backgrounds	
Junko Nakajima-Mitchell presents: The Artist's Recital : Soloist and Upright Bassist	2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Invited to perform music as a special guest at the summer piano recital- Performed as accompanist and soloist- Solo performed: Sergei Rachmaninoff's <i>Vocalise</i>	
Music Theater West presents Elf the Musical : Upright and Electric Bassist	2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Music written by Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin in 2010 (2003)- Jazz and popular styles; American musical theater tradition- Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized pit orchestra	
3D Theatricals presents 42nd Street : Upright Bassist	2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Music written by Harry Warren in 1980 (1933)- Jazz and popular styles; American musical theater tradition- Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized pit orchestra	

Orchestral & Ensemble Performance Experience

Tucson Symphony Orchestra : Substitute Section Bassist	2017 - 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tucson's Oldest Symphony Orchestra (founded in 1929)- Performed major orchestral works in a large bass section	
Winding Road Theatre Company presents The Fantasticks : Upright Bassist	2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Written by Harvey Schmidt & Tom Jones in 1960- Musical accompaniment for a small and flexible cast- Responsible for the bass part in a small, intimate quartet	
Pete Swan Trio : Substitute Jazz Bassist, arranger	2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Performed popular music from the Great American Songbook- Responsible for all bass parts, Rhythm Section accompaniment, and Solo Performance	
Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra : Substitute Section Bassist	2017 - 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mission to bring live music to Sierra Vista and surrounding communities- Performed major orchestral works in a medium bass section	
Desert Melodies : Upright & Electric Bassist & Arranger	2017 - 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Performing popular music from the Great American Songbook- Responsible for the musical arrangements to be read by the band- Responsible for the Rhythm Section accompaniment and often leading the band	

Big D & the Love Muscles: Upright Bassist & Arranger	2017 - 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Backing Cabaret & Burlesque performance with popular music from the Great American Songbook - Responsible for creating musical arrangements to be read by the band - Responsible for the Rhythm Section accompaniment and often leading the band 	
Hollywood Concert Orchestra Tour: Upright/Electric Bass	2016 - 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Film Music performed throughout eastern China - Responsible for all bass parts and Rhythm Section accompaniment 	
Lost Moon Radio: Upright/Electric Bass, arranger, composer	2009 - 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unique, Comedy Musicals performing Live & Recorded Skits & Music - Responsible for creating musical arrangements to be read by the band - Responsibilities rotated often from performance, accompaniment, and leading a band of four to eight performers 	
Moon Units: Upright/Electric Bass, arranger, composer	2009 - 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Live karaoke band performed at corporate events, weddings, and parties - Part-time librarian for hundreds of charts for multiple ensemble members - Responsible for transcribing, arranging, and performing 	
Cupcake Theater presents Hairspray: Electric Bassist	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Music written by Marc Shaiman in 2002 - Motown , soul, and rock styles - Responsible for all bass parts in a small, intimate pit quartet 	
Cupcake Theater presents Little Shop of Horrors: Electric Bassist	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Music written by Alan Menken in 1986 - Heavy & experimental rock styles - Responsible for all bass parts in a small, intimate pit quartet 	
Cupcake Theater presents Avenue Q: Electric Bassist	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx in 2003 - Jazz and popular styles; a modern take on the American musical theater tradition - Responsible for all bass parts in a small, intimate pit quartet 	
3D Theatricals presents The Full Monty: Electric Bassist	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Music written by David Yazbek in 2000 - Heavy & experimental rock styles - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized pit orchestra 	
3D Theatricals presents Beauty and the Beast: Upright Bassist	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Music written by Alan Menken in 1993 - Styles range from the American musical theater tradition to the modern Disney sound - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized pit orchestra 	

Music Theater Guild LA presents a dramatic reading of The Pajama Game: Upright Bassist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An independently produced reading with musical performance - Music written by Richard Adler in 1954 - Jazz and popular styles; American musical theater tradition - Responsible for all bass parts in a small, intimate pit ensemble 	2016
Los Angeles Musicians Collective present a dramatic reading of Donnybrook: Upright Bassist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An independently produced reading with musical performance - Written by Johnny Burke in 1961 - Jazz and popular styles; American musical theater tradition - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized pit orchestra 	2016
Rancho Cucamonga Community & Arts Foundation presents Cats, the Musical: Electric Bassist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written by Andrew Lloyd Webber in 1981 - Styles range from Heavy & experimental rock to jazz and popular music - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized pit orchestra 	2016
Skip Spiro's Little Big Band: Substitute Upright/Electric Bassist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performed arrangements from the Great American Songbook in a 10-piece, big-band - Responsible for all bass parts and Rhythm section accompaniment 	2011 - 2016
Good People Theater presents Toxic Avenger: Electric Bassist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written by Joe DiPietro & David Bryan in 2008 - Performed at the Hollywood Fringe Festival - Heavy & experimental rock styles - Responsible for all bass parts in a rock, pit ensemble 	2016
Alien Vs Musical: Electric Bassist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written by Erik Przytulski in 2015 - Independent production performed at the Hollywood Fringe Festival - Styles range from rock to jazz and popular styles; subtle use of American musical theater tradition - Responsible for all bass parts in a small, intimate pit ensemble 	2016
Steve Johnson's Jazz Legacy: Upright Bassist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performed arrangements from the Great American Songbook in a 4 to 6-piece, band - Responsible for all bass parts, Rhythm section accompaniment, and Solo Performance 	2015 - 2016
Urban Renewal Project: Substitute Electric Bassist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17-piece Hip-hop orchestra/big band featuring vocals & rap - Responsible for all bass parts and Rhythm Section accompaniment 	2015 - 2016

Hollywood Fringe Festival: Upright/Electric Bassist & Band Leader	2010 - 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Independent theater and live performing arts festival - Performed in independent productions as well as at opening, closing, and special events 	
3D Theatricals presents Addams Family: Upright/Electric Bassist	2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written by Andrew Lippa in 2009 - Styles range from jazz, tango, classical, to the American musical theater tradition - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized pit orchestra 	
Music Theater West presents Singin' in the Rain: Upright Bassist	2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Music written by Nacio Herb Brown in 1952 (1983 Live Production) - Jazz and popular styles; American musical theater tradition - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized pit orchestra 	
Music Theater West presents South Pacific: Substitute Upright Bassist	2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written by Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II in 1949 - Jazz and popular styles; American musical theater tradition - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized pit orchestra (with no rehearsal) 	
Good People Theater presents Closer than Ever: Upright Bassist	2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written by David Shire & Richard Maltby, Jr. in 1989 - Jazz and popular styles; American musical theater tradition - Responsible for all bass parts in a show featuring piano & bass accompaniment of a quartet of singers 	
Angel City Big Band: Substitute Upright Bassist	2013 - 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performed arrangements from the Great American Songbook in a 17-piece, big-band - Responsible for all bass parts and Rhythm section accompaniment 	
Permeate: Electric Bassist	2013 - 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reggae music quartet performing the works of Bob Marley, Sublime, and others - Responsible for all bass parts and Rhythm Section accompaniment 	
Louisville High School presents Into the Woods: Upright Bassist	2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written by Stephen Sondheim & James Lapine in 1986 - Independent Production created for the benefit of young students - Jazz and popular styles, modern styles and orchestration; American musical theater tradition - Responsible for all bass parts in a small, intimate pit quartet 	
3D Theatricals presents Ragtime: Substitute Upright Bassist	2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Music written by Stephen Flaherty in 1996 - Jazz and popular styles; American musical theater tradition - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized pit orchestra (with no rehearsal) 	
San Marino Community Theater Company presents Guys and Dolls: Upright Bassist	2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Music written by Frank Loesser in 1950 - Produced for the benefit of young students - Jazz and popular styles; American musical theater tradition - Responsible for all bass parts in a small, intimate pit quartet 	

Calling All Dawns: Upright Bassist	2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Music of Christopher Tin - Performed with members of Los Angeles Musical community & Oak Park High School Orchestra 	
Milken Community School presents Spamalot: Substitute Upright and Electric Bassist	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written by Eric Idle & John Du Prez in 2004 - Styles range from rock, classical, to the American musical theater traditional - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized pit orchestra (with no rehearsal) 	
Crazy for You: Upright Bassist	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written by George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin, & Ken Ludwig in 1992 (1930s) - Jazz and popular musical styles; foundation of the American musical theater tradition - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized pit orchestra 	
Burn Brightly: Upright Bassist	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Independent, Short Film released in 2013, with music by Paul Fraser - Studio Recording Bassist in a small ensemble 	
Full Circle: Upright Bassist	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full-Length Motion Picture released in 2013, with music composed by Chris Hierro - Studio Recording Bassist in a Large Orchestra 	
Stay on the Line- A Rock Musical: Substitute Electric Bassist	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An independently produced musical started in 2011, with music by Rob Hartmann - Heavy & experimental rock styles - Responsible for all bass parts in a small, intimate pit quartet 	
Conejo Players Theatre presents The Scarlet Pimpernel: Electric Bassist	2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written by Frank Wildhorn in 1997 - Style ranges from modern to classical, but stepped in American musical theater tradition - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized pit orchestra 	
Montclair College Preparatory School presents Godspell: Electric Bassist	2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written by Stephen Schwartz in 1971 - Independent production created for the benefit of young students - Heavy & experimental rock styles - Responsible for all bass parts in a small, intimate pit quartet 	
Debut Orchestra: Substitute Section Bassist	2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performed major orchestral works in a large bass section 	
Kiss the Bride: Upright Bassist	2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full-Length Motion Picture released in 2007, with music composed by Ben Holbrook - Studio Recording Bassist in a Large Orchestra 	

Northridge University Orchestra: Principal/Section Bassist	2005 - 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As principal bassist: responsible for bass section sound, bowings, and overall performance - Performed major orchestral works in a large bass section 	
Idyllwild Summer Festival Orchestra: Section Bassist	2004 - 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performed major orchestral works in a large bass section - Accepted based on audition performance 	
Northridge University Studio Ensemble: Upright and Electric Bassist	2005 - 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performed and Rehearsed music from film, television, and composed by media composition students at the university - Responsible for sight-reading all Bass and Rhythm section parts 	
Northridge University Jazz Combos: Upright Bassist	2005 - 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rehearsed and Performed works by famous jazz stylists of the 20th century - Responsible for all Bass parts, Rhythm Section accompaniment, and Solo Performance 	
Los Angeles Valley College presents Urinetown: Upright Bassist	2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written by Mark Hollmann in 2001 - Responsible for all bass parts in a small, intimate pit quartet - Modern songs stepped in the American musical theater tradition 	
California State University Northridge presents Hansel & Gretel: Principal Bassist	2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An opera in 2 acts, written Engelbert Humperdinck from 1891 to 1892 - Based on the Grimm brothers' fairy tale - Romantic era musical styles with folk music-inspired themes - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized orchestra 	
California State University Northridge presents	
The Merry Wives of Windsor: Principal Bassist	2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An opera in three acts, written by Otto Nicolai from 1845 to 1949 - Based on the play by William Shakespeare - Romantic era musical styles - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized orchestra 	
Pepperdine University Orchestra: Substitute Section Bassist	2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performed major orchestral works in a medium-sized bass section 	
Moorpark Symphony Orchestra: Section Bassist	2002 - 2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performed major orchestral works in a medium-sized bass section 	
The Who's Tommy: Substitute Bassist	2004
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A rock musical written by Pete Townsend in 1969 - Heavy & experimental rock styles - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized orchestra (with no rehearsal) 	
Anything Goes: Electric Bassist	2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A traditional musical written by Cole Porter in 1934 - Jazz and pop styles - Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized orchestra 	

Jesus Christ: Superstar: Electric Bassist

2003

- A rock musical written by Andrew Lloyd Webber in 1970
- Dramatic & heavy rock music styles
- Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized orchestra

Gypsy: Electric Bassist

2002

- A musical written by Jule Styne & Stephen Sondheim in 1959
- Jazz and pop styles
- Responsible for all bass parts in a medium-sized orchestra