

## TEACHING PHILOSOPHY OF

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# ETHAN CYPRESS

From an early age, my attraction to music has been rooted in the logic of voice leading. The study of voice leading is both a discovery of past traditions, and an exploration of individuality informed by the latter. From this juncture comes the three focal points of my educational philosophy:

- The establishment of strong voice leading fundamentals as defined by the baroque tradition.
- The integration of harmonic language developed in the romantic era and early 20th century.
- The application of these fundamentals as they relate to jazz and commercial music performed today.

I take immense pride in the pragmatism in which I approach music education. When I was a student, I was often frustrated by the lack of clarity in which skills and information were disseminated to me. That is why the skills I emphasize in my teachings are all rooted in two principles:

- Developing the craft of writing and performing music.
- Applying the craft of writing and performing to real world opportunities.

Great voice leading never goes out of style. A creative mind is best educated with a wide variety of diverse perspectives.