

**Leah Martha Hokanson**  
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**Pianist: Solo/Chamber/Orchestral – Classical/Jazz/Popular; Accompanist; Instructor; Arts Administrator; Choral Conductor; Vocalist: Jazz /Popular**

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**2005-pres. Lulu Performing Arts Society, Gabriola Island, BC ([www.luluperformingarts.ca](http://www.luluperformingarts.ca))**

Founder and Artistic Director. Mission to present world class classical, contemporary and interdisciplinary performing artists to the Gabriola community through concerts and educational outreach. Responsibilities include programming, hands-on production and promotion related tasks, background administration and statistical computer work. Present 6-7 events per season. Festival Director, The Elements: A Festival of Nature in Performance, Aug. 20th-23rd, 2008; a 'terrestrial symposium' featuring installations, performances, workshops, soundwalks and panel discussions for all ages at various venues and outdoor locations around Gabriola.

**2006-pres. Crash Course Academy, Gabriola Island, BC ([www.crashcourseacademy.com](http://www.crashcourseacademy.com))**

Founder and Director. Mission to offer introductory level courses in a variety of subject areas with instructors from the Gabriola community. Organize and facilitate courses, background administration, statistical computer work, hands on logistical and promotional tasks. Developed short courses for adults in sight-singing and music fundamentals.

**2009-pres. Gabriola Chamber Ensemble, Gabriola Island, BC**

Director of 14 voice choir and 11 instrument chamber orchestra. Weekly rehearsals and 4 performances per season.

**2009-pres. First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo, Nanaimo, BC**

Choir Director and pianist. Founded a 14 voice choir. Bi-weekly rehearsals and monthly service presentations.

**2004-2006 Malaspina Choir, Nanaimo, BC**

Accompanist for 80 voice auditioned choir. Weekly rehearsals and 5 to 6 performances per season. Occasionally warm-up choir.

**1998-2002 All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Kansas City, MO**

Director of Music. Conducted a 20 voice adult choir. Organized and implemented musical programming for a 400 member congregation. Worked closely with the music committee, minister, worship committee, and other committees as need arose.

**1996-2002 Kansas City Symphony, Kansas City, MO**

Pianist and keyboardist for regular concert season and special events. Performances included World Premieres and Stravinsky's 'Petrouchka'.

**1992-2000 New Music Institute of Kansas City, Kansas City, MO**

Founding member of The New Ear Contemporary Chamber Music Ensemble.  
Pianist and member of the Board of Directors.

## **RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- June/July, 2007, conceived of, wrote grant proposal, and secured major funding from Arts Partners in Creative Development for The Elements: A Festival of Nature in Performance.
- August 20th-23rd, 2008, administered The Elements: A Festival of Nature in Performance. Organized four days of programming including installations, performances, workshops, and panel discussions; organized festival publicity and promotion; wrote all newspaper publicity articles. Pre-festival educational outreach including workshops and presentations at Gabriola Elementary School, with community choirs, and with community youth.
- Recent performances include May, 2008, Classic Jazz Ensemble, Dancing Man Festival, Gabriola Island; January, 2007, concert of interdisciplinary improvisations entitled 'Life is but a dream ...', based on folk stories, tunes, and dances, Phoenix Auditorium, Gabriola Island; March, 2006, performance with saxophonist/pianist Phil Dwyer, and trombonist, John Capon, Phoenix Auditorium, Gabriola; November, 2005, solo piano recital to a capacity (150) audience. World premiere of 'The Gabriola Shuffle', a suite featuring five area composers, Phoenix Auditorium, Gabriola.
- March, 2002, recorded C.D. of solo piano music featuring four mid-west U.S. composers: James Funkhouser, John Hilliard, James Mobberley, and Ingrid Stolz.

## **BACKGROUND**

- Over 20 years experience as an administrative support, freelance performer, choral conductor, accompanist, piano instructor, and vocalist.
- Extensive experience teaching children and youth privately and through UMKC Conservatory, Kansas City, MO; Trenton Conservatory, Trenton, NJ; administering programs for children and youth through Elements festival and Crash Course Academy; 'Onomatopoeia' workshops for children.
- Assisted at numerous auditions as an accompanist. Have auditioned for choirs.
- Performed solo and chamber voice and with numerous choirs including the Whitworth College Concert Choir, Malaspina Choir, and numerous church choirs.
- Experience with Microsoft Word and Excel programs.
- Specialist in Contemporary Classical music, working closely with many composers and performing numerous World Premieres as a Soloist, Chamber Musician, and Orchestral Pianist. Extensive experience with extended piano techniques.

## **EDUCATION**

1989-92 University of Missouri Kansas City, Kansas City, MO

Doctor of Musical Arts Degree Candidate in Piano Performance. Piano study with Richard Cass. Residency the Moscow Conservatory of Music. Advanced Choral Conducting.

1987-89 Washington State University, Pullman, WA

Master of Arts Degree in Music, Piano Performance emphasis. Piano study with Kenneth Marchant. Assistantships in accompanying and applied piano.

1986-87 University of Victoria, Victoria, BC

One year graduate piano study with Robin Wood. Teaching assistantship in applied piano.

1979-83 Whitworth College, Spokane, WA

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music, Piano Performance emphasis. Piano study with Margaret Saunders Ott. Vocal study. Beginning Choral Conducting.