

James H. Westerhouse

Instruction in: Piano; Conducting; Percussion; Strings; Brass

James H. Westerhouse has a unique and varied background in music performance and music education. He began piano studies at the age of five, and later learned to play the violin and drums. Throughout his school years he played a variety of instruments while maintaining his piano studies, and performed frequently as a solo pianist. In addition, he performed in numerous concert ensembles and dance bands. James continued his piano studies in high school with Mrs. Barbara Webster, and in college with Ms. Gladys Ives Brainard, [pupil of Josef and Rosina Lhevinne and Wanda Landowska] Professor Emeritus at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music, Appleton, WI. Continuing his musical studies at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, he played in the college band and orchestra, accompanied the college chorus, and played violin and trombone with the Oshkosh Civic Symphony.

Mr. Westerhouse enlisted in the Fifth US Army Band in Chicago as pianist and percussionist and later served in Heidelberg, Germany, with the US Army-Europe Hq. Band in the same capacity. While in Germany, he was also the accompanist for the Seventh Army Soldiers Chorus in concerts and recordings, and completed his military career in 1964 with the Historic Roadside Theater as Music Director and Conductor for the Continental European Premiere of Rodgers & Hammerstein's, *The King And I*, at the State Theater in Heidelberg.

Returning to New York, he was an assistant church organist and the assistant conductor of the Lincoln Square Theater Chorus. James studied Piano Tuning and Technology with Avner Carmi, Concert Tuner, discoverer and re-creator of the Siena Pianoforte. He became the Music Director for the International Dinner Theaters and performed throughout the southeastern U.S.

After settling in Richmond, VA, he was the Piano Service Manager for Jordan's Pianos and later was a tuner/technician for Doerflein's Pianos. He continued his music studies at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) where he studied piano with Carl Pfeiffer and Vera Lendvay, played in the college orchestra and band, and was a percussionist in the Richmond Symphony. He was also the music director for the VCU Drama Department musical productions and the Founder and Conductor of the VCU Theater Orchestra. In addition, he taught music privately, started band programs in area schools, and was the conductor of the Virginia Army National Guard Community Band in Richmond.

After graduating from VCU in 1971, he was a string orchestra teacher in Fairfax Co. (VA) Schools for eight years. While teaching in Fairfax Co., he also sang with the University Of Maryland Chorus for several years, and then became percussionist and music librarian with the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. He did graduate work at The University of Maryland in Music Education where he also studied conducting with William Hudson, conductor of the Fairfax Symphony. In addition he was the Organist/Choir Director at Trinity Episcopal Church in Manassas for nine years, and the conductor of the Manassas Choral Society in 1973-74.

He established Premier Music Center and Piano Service in 1981 and later was a string orchestra teacher in the Fauquier Co. Public Schools, where he was the Founder and Conductor of the Piedmont Community Orchestra in Warrenton, Va. He also served as Organist/Choir Director at St. James' Episcopal Church in Warrenton. He is the former principal percussionist with the "Blaskapelle Alte Kameraden Band" of Fairfax, VA. Mr. Westerhouse teaches Band at Wakefield School, The Plains, VA, and currently is the Principle Organist at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Gainesville, VA and also organist at Haymarket Baptist Church, Haymarket, VA. In addition, he is the owner of Premier Music Center and Piano Service, in Manassas, VA., and a free-lance conductor.