

Jennie Dorris

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*An award-winning interdisciplinary artist in music and writing, Jennie Dorris is the founder of the public radio show *Telling Stories*, a university instructor in music and media, and an innovator in developing interdisciplinary programs and coursework.*

EDUCATION

Master of Music

2005, *University of Colorado-Boulder*. GPA of 3.916.

Named a Teaching Assistant in 2005; instructed the Percussion Methods course, Percussion Ensemble, and private lessons. Received a performance fellowship in 2004. Studied under Dr. Douglas Walter, as well as Alan Abel, Robert Van Sice, Jean Geoffrey, and Greg Giannascoli. Studies focused on the commission of and performance of marimba chamber music, exploring interdisciplinary performances with dancers and visual artists, and researching contemporary settings of words and music.

Bachelor of Arts: Music and Bachelor of Arts: Journalism

2002, *Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa*. *Magna Cum Laude*.

Won state and regional Music Teachers National Association competitions and placed fourth nationally in 2001. Won Drake University concerto competition in 2001. Founded *Knot Magazine* in 1999, with the mission of creating a smart, general-interest college magazine for students, by students. *Knot Magazine* won first place in the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's Online Magazine Competition in 2002, and second place for the Society of Professional Journalists' Best Online Student Magazine competition in 2002. Received Pappajohn Seed Grant for \$10,000 and was named Pappajohn Business Plan Competition finalist for \$5,000 to fund *Knot Magazine's* operation. Was named an ASME intern in 2001 for *Field and Stream Magazine*.

INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPERIENCE

Telling Stories: Founder, Director (2006-present)

Founded a monthly concert series that featured classical chamber music and essays, all around a given theme. Performed in nontraditional spaces like coffeeshops, cafes, breweries, and art galleries, attracting a younger audience new to classical music.

Transitioned live show into a radio show for Colorado Public Radio, creating hour-long programs that were played in a lineup with "*A Prairie Home Companion*" and "*This American Life*."

Raised money using Kickstarter.com; reached funding goals through "micro-patronage" (donations largely lower than \$25) and financed two seasons.

Named 2010 Mastermind of the Arts by Denver's *Westword* newspaper. Featured as one of the ensembles "saving classical music" in three-part series in the *Denver Post*. Named "Best

High Culture for the Cool Crowd” in the *Best of Westword*. Featured in articles in *Symphony Magazine*, *5280 Magazine*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *Daily Camera*, *Boulder Weekly*, *Colorado View*, *The Coloradoan*, and *Colorado Daily*.

Denver School of the Arts: Guest Artist (2007-present)

Created a Telling Stories program for Denver's only arts magnet school. Initiated curriculum that mixes students in the creative writing, music, and visual arts programs into small, interdisciplinary groups. Facilitated communication between students to create all-original compositions that feature each of the arts.

Harmony Project: Guest Artist (2008-2011)

Worked with classroom teachers to incorporate music and writing into curriculum like geography, fractions, geometry, and narrative writing. Team teach with teachers to help drive home objectives through art by building xylophones to explore the ratios in geometry, singing songs about different states in geography, and learning about rhythms for fractions.

Rockstar Readings: Founder and Performer (2005-2006)

Founded a weekly one-woman show that featured solo marimba music and quirky essays under even quirker themes like “Open Confessions,” “Tales of Freebies,” “Tables of Content,” and “Letters of Ignorance.”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

New England Conservatory: Entrepreneurial Advisor (2011-present)

Work with NEC students who have successfully applied for project grants; currently advising a Master's saxophone student who is working on promoting minimalist music concerts, one of which will be set to an art film.

Creative Arts: Percussion Instructor and Creative Writing Instructor (2011-present)

Work with students of all ages teaching private percussion lessons and self-designed courses in making music with found percussion and a survey of fiction-writing.

Red Rocks Community College: Percussion Instructor and Lecturer (2009-present)

Taught Music Appreciation, Jazz History, World Music, and History of Rock and Pop classes, as well as private lessons in percussion. Currently developing a hybrid online course for Music Appreciation.

CU-Boulder: Percussion Instructor, Sabbatical Replacement (2011)

Filled in for Dr. Douglas Walter teaching percussion lessons and masterclasses with the percussion sections in orchestra and wind ensemble.

Community College of Denver: Lecturer of Mass Media (2011)

Augmented traditional survey of media class by having students create blogs to both critique contemporary media and create clips of newspaper and magazine articles.

Rocky Mountain School of the Deaf: Percussion Instructor (2010)

Taught one of the nation's only deaf percussion ensembles.

Lighthouse Writers Workshop: Youth Program Director (2007-2009)

Ran the Young Writers Program, developing curriculum and teaching weekend workshops for 5th graders through high school seniors. Hired youth writing instructors, and organized week-long youth writing summer camp. Developed writing outreach programs for Denver public schools.

Pomona High School: Percussion Instructor (2006-2007)

Conducted percussion ensemble, initiated change from a spring indoor drumline to a concert percussion ensemble. Lead concert in Boettcher auditorium, featuring percussion ensemble arrangements of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony and Bach's Double Concerto in D Minor.

Luzerne Music Center: Percussion Faculty (2006)

Performed in weekly chamber music series, taught private lessons, and arranged masterclasses with Philadelphia Orchestra.

Wheatridge High School: Percussion Instructor (2004-2006)

Conducted percussion ensemble and marching pit ensemble.

MUSIC EXPERIENCE

Performed with Colorado Ballet, Colorado Music Festival, Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra, Greeley Philharmonic, Fort Collins Symphony, Boulder Philharmonic, Telling Stories, Mountain Chamber Music Society, Suonare Chamber Series, Boulder Brass, Colorado Chamber Orchestra, Denver Opera Company, Opera Theatre of the Rockies, Mercury Ensemble, and Denver Municipal Band.

WRITING EXPERIENCE

Published articles in *Real Simple*, *Entrepreneur*, *5280 Magazine*, *Mountain Sports +Living*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *Field & Stream Magazine*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Colorado Biz Magazine*, *Women's Magazine*, *Natural Solutions Magazine*, *Delicious Living*, *Daily Camera*, *dirt*, and *Boulder County Business Report*.

Online: Created and wrote *Cheap Thrills*, a daily blog about living an affordable, sustainable life, for *5280 Magazine*. Produced online content for the *Daily Camera*, and blogged about Boulder events and nightlife. Produced content packages and helped redesign *Better Homes and Gardens'* website.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

“Incorporating online resources and social media into lecture courses.” Presented to Red Rocks Community College music faculty, program chair, and dean, Summer 2011.

“Using entrepreneurship to foster an interdisciplinary career.” Presented to undergraduate and graduate music students at CU-Boulder, Spring 2011.

“A realistic look at the life of a freelance journalist.” Presented to media students at the Community College of Denver, Spring 2011.

“How to make your musical ideas happen.” Presented to graduate music students at CU-Boulder, Fall 2010.

“Branding, finding your niche, and cultivating an audience.” Presented to graduate music students at CU-Boulder, Fall 2009.

“Navigating performance anxiety.” Presented to undergraduate music students at CU-Boulder, Fall 2007.

MEMBERSHIPS

Denver Musicians Union, College Music Society, Society of Professional Journalists, Percussive Arts Society, Chamber Music Society.

LIFE

Ran Boulder Backroads Marathon, training for New York City Marathon 2012. Boxer, bike rider, beer brewer, bread baker. Collector of used vinyl; reluctant collector of new, expensive vinyl. Food server in Yellowstone National Park in 1999, subsequent hitchhiker when car broke down in West Yellowstone, and, finally, fly-fisherwoman when an RV offered both a ride and fly-fishing lessons.

REFERENCES

Dr. Douglas Walter
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