

John J. LeTellier, Jr.'s interest in the arts began at an early age. He started studying the piano at age 4 and was accompanying the local school chorus by the age of 6. His love of music continued through high school and at 16 years of age he began formal classical studies with well-known preparatory teacher, Stella Pola. He received his piano degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) under Dr. Michael Caldwell, winner of the 1976 Dealey Competition and former U.S. Artistic Ambassador to Jordan, Nepal and Saudi Arabia. After his undergraduate studies, Mr. LeTellier was awarded a scholarship to study at the prestigious Juilliard School, where he continued his music studies with renowned collaborative pianists Jonathan Feldman and Rohan Desilva. After teaching for 6 years, he received the Byanskas Scholarship, the highest award offered for piano accompanying at The University of Miami, where he received a Master's Degree in Chamber and Accompanying Music under Dr. Paul Posnak.

As a classical accompanist, Mr. LeTellier has performed in many concert venues from New York to Miami; collaborating with such artists as opera singer John Matz, Kathleen Powell, the former assistant concertmaster of the Memphis symphony Orchestra and trumpeter Bobby Thorpe from the famed Synergy brass quintet. He has also performed in master classes for distinguished artists such as Andre Watts and Margo Garrett.

Before coming to Valley State City University (VCSU) as Assistant Professor of Music Education, Mr. LeTellier spent 3 ½ years as *Arts Education Specialist* for the Florida Department of Education, where he served as the state arts liaison, overseeing K-12 arts standards implementation for all of Florida's 67 counties. Mr. LeTellier has been an active educator for over twenty years, having instructed at all levels from elementary through college. Currently, at VCSU he teaches music education and music technology courses as well as being an active collaborative pianist.

Mr. LeTellier's students have participated in numerous festivals and concerts throughout the years including at President Trump's Mar-a-Lago, The Kravis Center and Peabody Auditorium. Among his other accomplishments are being named the 2010 Marion County teacher of the year, being a Leadership Ocala Marion graduate, serving on the Public Education Foundation Board in Marion County and being selected to work on the state Student-Growth Implementation Committee in 2011 - where he helped to design a brand new value-added model for evaluating Florida's 190,000 teachers. As an avid supporter of Arts Education, Mr. LeTellier's opinions have often been sought, which has also led to several educational television interviews and magazine articles.