



Meredith Burke

student tenure: November 2005 – January 2012

Meredith began her percussion studies at the middle school level and made consistent progress throughout her 6+ years in the studio. She started lessons as a young percussionist possessing virtually no snare drum skills, but worked diligently and made snare line as a sophomore in the competitive Lawrence High School drumline. She also made great strides as a drum set player, winning auditions for drum set parts in her middle school band, and eventually landed the drum set chair in the top LHS Jazz Band her senior year. Her accomplishments include:

- KSHSAA State First Division (I) ratings for percussion solos (2009, 2010)
- KSHSAA Regional First Division (I) ratings for percussion solos (2009, 2010)
- KSHSAA State First Division (I) ratings for percussion ensemble (2009, 2010, 2011)
- KSHSAA Regional First Division (I) ratings for percussion ensemble (2009, 2010, 2011)
- Lawrence High School Jazz I (2011) – drum set
- Lawrence High School Marching Band (2009–2011) - snare
- Lawrence High School Wind Ensemble (2009–2011)

Following her days in the percussion studio, Meredith attended university. Currently, she works west of Lawrence as a technical consultant for a software company, assisting hospitals with implementing medical imaging solutions. Her work gives her the opportunity to travel all over the country, which she loves. These days, Meredith's house is still full of musical instruments: an upright piano, a drum kit, several guitars, etc. ...and she still plays music every day.

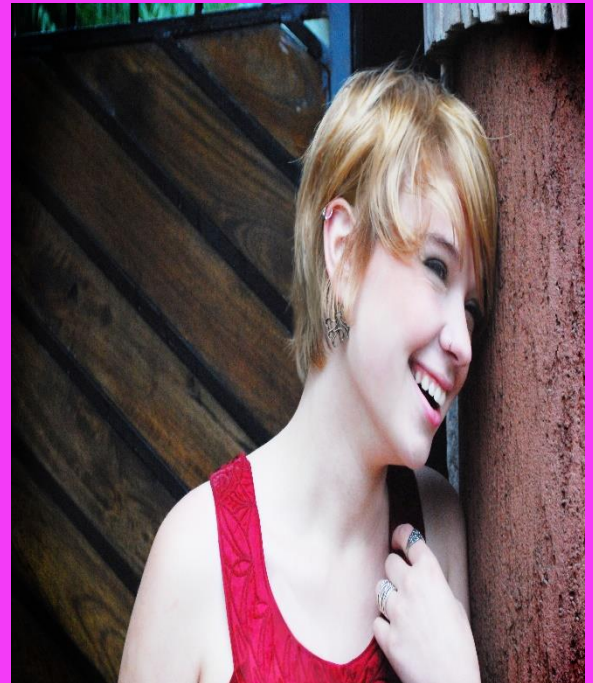
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Some reflections about Meredith from Steve Riley...

Meredith was one of those students who I really enjoyed because – as she readily admits- she was not always the easiest student to deal with from week to week! When I contacted her about being part of the "Special Alumni", she alluded to those times when she was her "grumpy teenage self"! ☺ One of my greatest memories of Meredith was one particular night when she was a freshman. She came to her weekly lesson as usual, but hadn't been practicing for weeks. Yet in that lesson, she proceeded to tell me grand designs of all the goals she expected to achieve in high school. I remember that night "laying it on the line", (as it were) – and she was not pleased with me, to say the least! She stormed out of that lesson and I was pretty sure that was going to be the last I'd see of her, but lo and behold she came back the next week ready to work- and her playing really started to take off after that. Within less than a year she had made snare line in her high school drum line as a sophomore, and Meredith eventually became an important percussion leader at LHS for the next 3 years.



A picture of Meredith in her younger years!



A senior year picture of Meredith



Meredith jamming on some snare along side her friend and fellow snare line member, Addison Frei. Addison is now a very successful jazz pianist/recording artist based in New York City.