

Curriculum Vitae
DONNA ROBERTS AXTON
March 2014

Home Address: 3135 Cedarwood Drive, Box# 1001, Tahoe City, CA 96145
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Educational background

Masters of Music in Piano Performance, Pi Kappa Phi

December 2001, UNR, Reno, Nevada

Orchestral Conducting Seminar

June – August 1996, Aspen Music School, Aspen, Colorado

Certificate: Film Scoring, Composing and Conducting

September 1993 – July 1995, UCLA Ext., Los Angeles, California

Masters of Arts in Counseling, with specialization in Depth Psychology

September 1992 – July 1994, Pacifica Graduate Institute, Carpinteria, CA

Education courses

June 1972 – June 1973, Cleveland State

NSF grant for studies in math education

June – August 1971, Case Western Reserve

Bachelor of Science in Music and Mathematics, Cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

September 1966 – June 1970, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA

Awards and Honors

2007 **Sierra Nevada College Outstanding Teaching Award**

2004 **Sierra Nevada College Outstanding Achievement Award**

for co-composing Paradise Lost and premiering it with SNC Concert Choir

2001 **Pi Kappa Phi**

1992 **Woman of Distinction**

North Lake Tahoe chapter

Professional Organizations

AFTRA (*American Federation of Television and Radio Artists*)

AF of M (*American Federation of Musicians*)

SAG (*Screen Actors' Guild*)

SCL (*Society of Composers and Lyricists*)

CAMFT (*California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists*)

ACA (*American Counseling Association*)

Professional Experience

Academic

- 2008 – *present* **Associate Professor of Music and Humanities**
Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village NV
- 2003 – *present* **Concert Choir Director / Conductor**
Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village NV
- 1996 – *present* **Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Music Studies**
Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village NV
- 1993 – 1995 **Music Instructor**
Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village NV
- 1985 – 2003 **Accompanist, Sierra Nevada College Concert Choir**
Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village, NV
- 1970 – 1972 **Instructor in Mathematics**
Patrick Henry Junior High, Cleveland, OH

Psychology

- 2001 – *present* **Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist**
- 1999 – *present* **Instructor in Counseling Psychology**
Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village, NV
- 1994 – 2001 **Marriage and Family Therapist Intern**
Truckee Group, Individual and Family Counseling Center, Truckee, CA
- 1996 – 1998 **Marriage and Family Therapy Intern**
Glenshire Elementary School, Truckee, CA
- 1994 – 1995 **Marriage and Family Therapy Intern**
St. Nicholas Counseling Center, Tahoe City, CA
- 1994 – 1998 **Marriage and Family Therapy Intern**
Tahoe Women's Services, King's Beach, CA

Music Performance

2008 – present Nevada Opera – performer and accompanist

2010 Producer, Pianist, & Singer for CD titled “Matthew Axton”

2009 Producer, Pianist, & Singer for CD titled “Out of the Blue”

2008 – present Accompanist to Elizabeth Pitcairn

Accompanist to Elizabeth Pitcairn, owner of Mendelssohn Red Violin and pianist for rehearsals with TOCCATA conductor and James Rawie. Accompany all Fund Raising performances.

2008 – present Pianist & Singer in “Axton and Company”

2008 – present Choir Director & Organist, St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, Incline Village, NV

2007 – present Member NorthStar Chamber Ensemble (Wind Quintet & Piano)

2005 – present Performer in TOCCATA - Tahoe Symphony Orchestra

2003 – present Director of Sierra Nevada College Concert Choir

2002 – present Pianist & Singer in trio "Out of the Blue"

2000 – 2003 Assistant Pianist - Reno Philharmonic

1998 – 2009 Choir Director - North Tahoe Church of Religious Science

1996 – 1999 Member Nevada Opera Chorus, Assistant Chorus Master, Rehearsal Pianist for the Nevada Opera.

1994 – present Director, North Tahoe Chamber Singers

1994 – 2009 Choir Director & Organist, St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, Tahoe City, CA

1989 – 1994 Music Director, Performing Artists of Tahoe

1985 – 2003, and presently Accompanist, Sierra Nevada College Concert Choir

1985 – 1990 Accompanist, Sierra Nevada Chorale

1976 – 1990 Pianist, singer in Hoyt Axton band.

Recorded 22 albums, appeared on television and toured US and Europe extensively.

1972 – present Private piano instructor. Professional accompanist and coach

1968 – present Music Director - Director for theatrical performances at professional level, community theater, and college and high school level.

Related skills - Music

2003 – present Director of Sierra Nevada College Concert Choir

Creative director: decide program for all concerts

Musical director:

- Lead and accompany rehearsals
- Produce concerts
- Prepare orchestral music and rehearse instrumentalists
- Conduct concerts

Director of Music Studies - Sierra Nevada College

Teach classes in Piano, Voice, Music History, Music Theory, Music Appreciation, Music and Art Therapy, World Music, Music and Mythology, History of Rock and Roll

- Coach and accompany all vocal/piano recitals
- Coach and accompany all junior and senior individual vocal recitals
- Perform and accompany singers at SNC Graduation ceremony (and any others)
- Co-lead travel classes to New York City with SNC art professor (2007, 2009)
- Co-wrote SNC Alma Mater with June Saraceno (May 2007)
- Coach and accompany concerts with professionals:
 - Elizabeth Pitcairn (Red violinist) (2008 at SNC, 2008 – present with TOCCATA)
 - Joy Strotz and Stephen Stephanitis (vocal duet) (February 2000)
 - Fredrika von Stade - SNC graduation (May 1999)
 - Joy Strotz and Kevin Beiswenger (vocal duet) (February 1999)
 - Liz Glattly and Donna Axton (violin/piano) (October 1998)
 - Hila Plittman (February 1998)
- Produced, directed, rehearsed, conducted Dido and Aeneas (1997)
- Conduct Sierra Nevada Symphonic Band (1998 – 2003)

Accompanist

SNC Concert Choir (1984 – present), Sierra Nevada Chorale, Nev. Opera

- Make rehearsal tapes for whole chorus - for works such as Brahms Requiem, Mozart's Requiem, Vivaldi's Gloria, Rutter's Gloria, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Orff's Carmina Burana, etc.
- Prepare orchestra, write instrumental arrangements
- Sometimes play piano for concerts

Professional Arranger

- I have arranged music for SNC Concert choir and church choirs.

Stars in your Eyes

October 1999 Vocal and piano arrangements. Chip Meyrelles, composer. This play opened in The Cherry Lane Theater, New York, N.Y. (*off-Broadway*)

May 1997 Wrote choral version of the songs of the play and premiered them at Sierra Nevada College Concert Choir performance.

Professional composer

May 2007 SNC Alma Mater

co-written with June Saraceno

2004 Paradise Lost

Co-writer (with Chip Meyrelles), vocal and piano arrangements. This cantata (based on Milton's Paradise Lost) was premiered at Sierra Nevada College for the SNC Concert Choir's Spring concert, 2004.

- *Fall 2004* Paradise Lost was recorded in New York City. I rehearsed the singers, played piano for and co-produced the sessions. The singers were member of the Ebony Ecumenical Choir from Riverside Church, New York City.
- *Spring 2005* Paradise Lost was performed in Carson City, Nevada under the auspices of Carson City Civic Light Opera with a 30 piece professional choir
- *Spring 2011* Paradise Lost was performed again by SNC Concert Choir – Marty Gollery as the Devil was a scene stealer.

Recent Performances

SNC Concert Choir Director

March 2014 SNC Concert Choir Franz Schubert Mass in G – in rehearsal

December 2013 Poulenc's Gloria, and Conrad Susa's Carols and Lullabies from the Southwest

May 2013 SNC Broadway Concert: Mary Poppins, Tangled, Showboat

April 2013 Beethoven's Missa Solemnis (SNC Concert Choir)

December 2012 Vivaldi's Gloria and Ariel Ramirez' Missa Criola (SNC Concert Choir)

May 2012 Broadway Concert: Hair, Wizard of Oz

April 2012 Paradise Lost (Axton/Meyrelles) and Frostiana by Thompson (SNC Choir)

December 2011 Magnificat by John Rutter; Shout for Joy by Robert de Cormier

May 2011 Broadway Concert: Jekyll & Hyde, Brigadoon, Man of La Mancha

April 2011 Carmina Burana by Carl Orff

December 2010 Puccini's Messa di Gloria

May 2010 Broadway concert: Wicked, South Pacific, Paint Your Wagon
April 2010 Dido and Aeneas by Henry Purcell, Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber
December 2009 Ceremony of Carols by Britten. Cantique de Jean Racine by Faure
May 2009 Broadway Concert: Guys and Dolls, Oliver, The Fantastiks, Annie get your Gun
April 2009 Elijah by Mendelssohn
December 2008 Regina Coeli by Mozart, Misa Criolla by Ramirez
May 2008 Broadway Concert: Lion King, The King and I, Fiddler on the Roof
April 2008 "How lovely is Thy Dwelling Place", a concert of our favorites
December 2007 Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors, and Susa's Carols and Lullabies-
May 2007 Broadway Concert: Beauty and the Beast, West Side Story, Sound of Music
April 2007 Verdi's Requiem
May 2006 Broadway Concert: Wizard of Oz, O Brother Where art Thou
April 2006 Mozart's Requiem
December 2005 Rutter's Gloria
May 2005 Vivaldi's Gloria, Berger's Song of Seasons
December 2004 Handel's Messiah
May 2004 Paradise Lost by Axton/Meyrelles, Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes,
December 2003 St. Saens' Christmas Oratorio and Carols and Lullabies from the Southwest

Community

I have played in two 4-concert series' per year since September, 2009

June 2014 Music director "Man of La Mancha" – in pre-production

February 2014 Accompanied Elizabeth Pitcairn (and her Mendelssohn Red Violin) in performances of encores at TOCCATA Concerts – Sept. and Feb since 2008

Played orchestral score at rehearsals with conductor and Elizabeth.

Accompanied Liz as she lectures and plays for young musicians at Incline Elementary School, Tahoe Lake School, South Shore Middle school

December 2013 Small choral group performance for AAUS (Alumnae Association of University Women)

October 2013 Solo piano concert – Squaw Valley Chapel

September 2013 Solo piano performance for Tahoe City Rotary Club

June – October 2013 Nevada Opera fund raisers – accompanist – "It's Not Just Opera" (youth choir)

June 2013 Axton and Company performance at Arlo Guthrie's "Guthrie Center" in Great Barrington, Mass.

October 2012 Les Miz Saigon – accompanied music from Les Mis and Miz Saigon – LTCC fundraiser

July 2012 Piano performance – "Fireworks Concert" I was one of 4 pianists to perform at a fundraiser for the Nevada Opera. The other 3 were New York City musicians – I was told that I blew them away.

April 2012 NorthStar Chamber Players – Patterson Hall – Poulenc Sextet

January 2012 Mark Twain Cultural Center – Out of the Blue

August 2011 Two Evenings of Spanish Music – Anna Helwing, Bartlomiej Helwing, Donna Axton at Valhalla Boathouse Theater

July 2011 The Music of the Night – music from Jekyll and Hyde and Phantom of the Opera accompanist

August 2010 "In No Particular Order: A Musical Revue, pianist and musical director

June 2010 "Joy to the World" concert – El Portal Theater, North Hollywood, California. A reunion of Hoyt Axton's band in honor of the 40th anniversary of his song "Joy to the World" and his many other hits and gems. I produced the concert in Los Angeles and my son, Matthew stepped into his father's shoes and fronted the band and sang Hoyt's songs. I played piano of course and sang back-up

December 2009 Marina Roznitovsky – harp recital

September 2009 Featured piano soloist: Beethoven's Opus 80 – Choral Fantasy Tahoe Symphony Orchestra

August 2009 Tribute to the Musical Legacy of Dan Fogelberg - pianist

August 2008 "The Fantastiks" - music directed and accompanied play - Sawtooth Ridge

August 2007 Anna Helwing voice recital, Valhalla

July 2007 Duet piano recital with Eunice Marion – Rhapsody in Blue, pieces by Brahms, Faure, Dvorak, Debussy, Mozart. Incline Chamber Music Association,

July 2006 Piano recital – "My favorite musical moments" – St. Patrick's Church

July 2005 Piano/flute/clarinet recital – Debussy, Poulenc, Ravel – St. Patrick's Church

October 2003 Passion by Stephen Sondheim, Music director, pianist, conductor – Piper Opera House, Virginia City, Nevada

December 2002 SNC Winter Concert - accompanist, orchestral director, sectional director - Magnificat by Bach and by John Rutter

October 2002 Jekyll and Hyde - Carson City Nev. Musical director, pianist, conductor Carson City Civic Light Opera

May 2002 Carmina Burana – SNC spring concert- accompanist and orchestra director

December 2001 Poulenc Gloria - accompanist and sectional director

October 2001 Into the Woods – music director

June 2001 Nonsense – music director

April 2001 Solo Masters Piano Recital - Nightingale Hall, UNR

December 2000 Handel's Messiah - accompanist, arranger for SNC Concert Choir

October 2000 A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum – music director

May 2000 Man of La Mancha - music director

February 2000 SNC Second Sunday Series Concert with Joy Stortz and Steve Stephanitis

December 1999 Solo piano Masters Recital Nightingale Hall, Reno, Nevada

November 1999 Camelot - music director

May 1999 Accompanied Frederica van Stade at SNC Graduation Ceremony

May 1999 Accompanied SNC Concert Choir in performance of Mozart's Requiem.
Performed Liszt' "St. Francis of Paul Walking on the Waves" – solo piano

May 1999 Sang as member of Nevada Opera Chorus - Faust

May 1999 Mozart's Sonata for Two Pianos in D major with Ken Oskowski at Nightingale Hall - Noon recital series.

April 1999 Brahms Hungarian Dances for Piano Duet at Nightingale Hall - Noon Recital

March – May 1999 Rehearsal pianist for Nevada Opera Chorus - Faust

March 1999 Musical Director and Orchestra Director - West Side Story- NorthTahoe High

February 1999 Accompanied and coached vocal duet recital of Kevin Beiswenger and Joy Strotz.
- Second Sunday Series at Sierra Nevada College

January – February 1999 L'ltliana in Algiera - Rehearsal pianist for Nevada Opera Chorus and staging

December 1998 Orchestra director for Bach's Magnificat, SNC Concert Choir

December 1998 Duet recital - violin/piano with Elizabeth Hedges Glattly. SNC 2nd Sunday Series.

September 1998 Keyboard player in orchestra for Victor, Victoria with Toni Tennille, Pioneer Theater, Reno Nevada

February 1998 Hila Plittman vocal recital (Mrs. Eric Whitaker) – SNC 2nd Sunday Series

October 1997 Oliver – music director - Tahoe Biltmore

July 1997 Dido and Aeneas - Musical director, Producer, Director, Conductor. SNC

January 1996 Wizard of Oz- conductor - Pioneer Theater, Reno Nev.

My Previous Life

1976 – 1992 Toured the world playing music in Hoyt Axton's Country Western Boogie Woogie Gospel Rock and Roll band. Appeared on the Tonight Show about 20 times with my husband and other band members. Also performed on numerous other television shows. I played on 21 albums –co-produced two of them. Got acquainted with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Lindsey Wagner, Ringo Starr, Peter Fonda, and every country star imaginable. A wonderful ride.

1992 Co-produced "Spin of the Wheel" album for Hoyt Axton.

1988 Peter Fonda put together a concert in LA in support of the Vietnam veterans. We (Hoyt Axton's band) were invited to play along with Crosby Stills, Nash & Young, Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne, and others

1987 Ford Commercial with Hoyt and son Matthew

1985 – 1987 Mervyn Conn tours of European capitals with "Country" stars Johnny Cash, June Carter, Jerry Lee Lewis, Doc Watson, Tammy Wynette, George Jones, Roy Orbison, Merle Travis, Kitty Wells, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band etc.

1985 Farm-Aid – performed at first Farm-Aid benefit with Hoyt Axton. Stood between Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson as I held my young son in my arms and we all sang "I Want to Know What Love Is"

1982 Small acting part in film Endangered Species with Robert Urich, JoBeth Williams, Peter Coyote, Hoyt Axton

1980 Hoyt Axton Band did a sound track for Toby Halicki's second film (Gone in 60 Seconds was his first). I wrote the music for one of the scenes and performed on the rest of the sound track.

1980 Small acting part in Cloud Dancer – film with David Carradine, Jennifer O'Neill, Hoyt Axton