



Melanie S. Michalak
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Vitae

EDUCATION

Masters of Music DePaul University
Master of Choral Music Education
Master of Renaissance Choral Music

Diploma Jagiellonian University, Krakow Poland
Ethnomusicology

Bachelor of Music College Of Mount St. Joseph
Concentrations - Music Education,
Theory and Composition, Vocal Performance

Post Graduate Work *Music, Theatre*

PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN AND EDUCATOR

Evergreen Park Community HS, Evergreen Park, IL
Choral Director, Drama Director 30 years
1st place IHSA Large Organization contest - 30 successive years
Multiple 1st places - International, National, Regional competitions

DePaul University Lab School Programs, Master Teacher

Private Voice Coach, 35 years
Coached students to more than \$2 million in scholarships
More than 1,000 IHSA Solo & Ensemble 1st place "Superior" awards

Director, 46 theatrical productions (amateur and professional)

Conductor, almost 3,000 concerts (choral and symphony) -
continental U.S., Hawaii, Canada, Italy, Spain, The Vatican

Professional Composer and Arranger

HONORS AND AWARDS

**Women in North American Music: Role Models Of Creativity -
One of 10 Honorees University Of Wisconsin, Madison**
District 231 Educator of the Year
Outstanding Music Educator, Music Festivals International
Golden Apple Nominee
Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award 2017
Awarded by Marquis Who's Who Publication Board
Marquis Who's Who Among American Women
Who's Who In American Education
Who's Who In The World

DRESSAGE

USDF "L" Graduate
**Completed WDAA (Western Dressage Association of
America) Judges Training**
**Ridden and trained through Grand Prix; many USDF awards and HOY
placings in classical dressage and musical freestyle**
**Notable Mentors and Coaches: Lois Heyerdahl, Col. Donald Thackaray,
Col. Christian Carde, among others**

PUBLICATIONS

***More than 100 articles published on Musical Freestyle and the
interpretation of music in various publications, including Dressage and
CT magazine, The Chronicle Of The Horse, USDF Connection, Dressage
Today***

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra - 12 program guides, including 6 books
and 6 student guides to orchestral concerts**

Judge's guide to musical freestyle for the USDF "L" curriculum

MUSICAL FREESTYLE

Clinician and designer 1988-

**Clinics and judging - Alabama, Arizona, California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,
Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New
Hampshire, North Carolina, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma,
Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin**

2020 Illinois Horse Fair, headliner

**2019 Midwest Horse Fair - Organizer of 2019 main event
"Dressage Musical Freestyle Invitational Competition"**

2018 Midwest Horse Fair, featured presenter

2019 Freestyles -

USDF Finals - National Championship - I-1 Open

Reserve Championships - 1st AA, 3rd AA

Multiple placements

USDF Championships - 4 Regions, multiple championships and placements

Reserve Champion - California Dressage Champion, I-1

USDF - Multiple Year End Musical Freestyle and Musical Freestyle Challenge Awards

2018 Freestyles -

USDF Finals - 12 riders, multiple placements 1st - Grand Prix

USDF Regional Championships - 4 Regions

4 championships and reserve championships; 12 placements

1st - Grand Prix

WDAA World Championships - 1 rider, 8th place

USDF - 18 Year End Musical Freestyle and Musical Freestyle

Challenge Awards and Placements through Grand Prix

9 All-Breeds Awards Championships; 2 Reserve

Championships, 3 third place

2017 Illinois Horse Fair “Horses and Heroes”

Dressage Clinician and featured speaker -

Classical and Western Dressage Musical Freestyle

2017 Freestyles - Western Dressage World Championships *5 of the top 6 freestyles*

USDF Dressage Finals - 6 Competitors, 1st through Grand Prix - 5 placements, including Reserve Champion

USDF - 15 Year End Musical Freestyle and Musical Freestyle

Challenge Awards and Placements through Grand Prix

Multiple All-Breeds awards Championships

Multiple Competitors in several Regional Championships

2016 Freestyles - 27 Year End Musical Freestyle awards and placements, 1st through Grand Prix

5 Year End Musical Freestyle Challenge Awards,

1st, 2nd, & 3rd Levels; Grand Prix

Multiple All-Breeds Awards 2nd, 3rd, 4th, &

Grand Prix, including 5 1st Place

Multiple Competitors in 4 USDF Regional Championships:

9 placed & are eligible for National Finals

Western Dressage World Championships: Freestyle

Training through Level 3 - 7th Place

2015 Freestyles - 24 Year End Musical Freestyle Awards,

1st through Grand Prix

6 Year End Musical Freestyle Challenge Awards,

1st, 3rd, & 4th Levels; Grand Prix

FEI Junior Young Rider

**Multiple All-Breeds Awards 1st through 4th,
1st through 4th place
Numerous Regional Champions and Reserves,
1st through Grand Prix**

**2014 Freestyles - 30+ Year End Awards - HOY and All-Breeds
12 Regional Championships and Reserve Championship
USDF National Finals -
1st Level Open National Freestyle Champion
- 1st Level Open 7th Place**

Additional Notable Musical Freestyle Designs -

**US Olympic Trials
Pan Am Games (3 countries)
USDF HOY Freestyles 1st through Grand Prix
FEI AYR Gold and Silver Medal Kürs
Junior YR
World Icelandic Horse Freestyle Competition and Exhibition,
Helsinki
World Gaited Horse Show - Fox Trotter Exhibition
Peruvian Paso Fino Quadrilles
Tempel Lipizzans
Dressage Driving
Western Dressage
Pony Club - individual, Quadrille, and Drill Team
Pas De Deux - Classical Dressage and Western Dressage;
Gaited Horses
World Western Dressage Championships - 2016-2018
Basic Level, Level One, Level Two;
Exhibition Pas de Deux of Classical and Western Dressage
Work with teams and international riders from 6 nations
Extensive work with US para-equestrians at many levels
2017 Extreme Mustang Makeover Freestyle
2017 Retired Racehorse Project Freestyle
2018 Land Rover (Formerly Rolex) Friesian Breed Demo
2018 Veterans R & R Drill Team Presentation (20 horses and
riders)**