

# Amy L. Sierzega | Curriculum Vitae

she/her/hers | sierzega@umd.edu

## EDUCATION

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**University of Maryland**, College Park, MD | *PhD Student in Music Education*  
August 2022 - present

**Michigan State University**, East Lansing, MI | *Master of Music in Music Education*  
June 2017 - August 2019

**Michigan State University**, East Lansing, MI | *Bachelor of Music Education*  
August 2008 - May 2014  
Applied Studio Professor: Joseph Lulloff, saxophone

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Hatchling Community Music Program**, College Park, MD | *Early Childhood Music Teacher*  
January 2023 - present

**University of Maryland**, College Park, MD | *Graduate Teaching Assistant*  
August 2022 - present

**Washtenaw Community Concert Band**, Whitmore Lake, MI | *Interim Conductor & Director*  
August 2021 - July 2022

**Washtenaw Community Concert Band**, Whitmore Lake, MI | *Assistant Conductor*  
August 2018 - August 2021

**Ann Arbor Public Schools**, Ann Arbor, MI | *pK-5 General Music & Beginning Band Teacher*  
August 2014 - June 2022

- Teach pK-5 general music and fifth grade band students at Lakewood Elementary
- Collaborate with district colleagues to (re)align curriculum and assessments with state/national standards and teaching practices grounded in responsiveness & research.
- Encourage and prioritize space for diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and access conversations in committees at the building and district levels.
- Mentor student teachers from Michigan State University (Fall 2018, 2019, 2021) and Eastern Michigan University (Spring 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022).
- Host pre-service music educators from the University of Michigan for instrumental music fieldwork placements (Spring 2020, 2021).

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI | *Early Childhood Music Teacher*

September 2014 - February 2020

- Teach early childhood music classes for children ages birth-5 and their caregiver(s).
- Support the growth and development of the EMU Community Music Academy.
- Coordinate with the program director to support students and families.

## SCHOLARLY WORK

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### Works in Progress

Sierzega, A. (Analysis in Progress). *Play in Elementary General Music: Teacher Perceptions and Practices*.

Salvador, K., & Sierzega, A. (Follow-up Study in Progress). *Formative Experiences of DEI Leaders in Music Education Organizations*.

Shouldice, H., & Sierzega, A. (Manuscript in Progress). *The Effect of Tonal Context on Children's Singing Accuracy*.

### Peer Reviewed Publications

#### Chapter Contribution

Sierzega, A. (2021). How Can I Adapt Instruction for English Language Learners in an MLT-based Classroom? In J. Reese, J. M. Bailey, H. N. Shouldice (Ed.), *Q & A for MLT: General Music Perspectives on Music Learning Theory* (pp. 142-146). Chicago, IL: GIA Publications.

#### Journal Articles

Salvador, K., & Sierzega, A. (2022). Characteristics and Formative Experiences of DEI Leaders in Music Education Professional Associations. *Journal of Research in Music Education*, [doi.org/10.1177/00224294221123076](https://doi.org/10.1177/00224294221123076).

Salvador, K., Svec, C., Glaser, J., Sierzega, A., & Broadway, A. (2021). At the Intersection of Belief and Practice: A Mixed-Methods Study of Elementary General Music Educator Praxis. *Psychology of Music*, [doi.org/10.1177/03057356211050670](https://doi.org/10.1177/03057356211050670).

Sierzega, A. (2015). Teaching a Deaf Student in a Mainstream Classroom: One Elementary Music Teacher's Reflection. *Michigan Music Educator* 53(1), 28-30.

### Peer Reviewed Presentations

#### International & National

Sierzega, A. (February 23-25, 2023). *Play in Elementary General Music: Teacher Perceptions and Practices*. New Directions in Music Education Conference. East Lansing, MI

Salvador, K., & Sierzega, A. (September 24, 2021). *Formative Experiences of DEI Leaders in Music Education Organizations*. Symposium on Music Teacher Education. Via Zoom.

Sierzega, A. (July 28, 2021). *The Zoom Where it Happens: Centering Student Voices in Virtual (and In-Person!) Spaces*. Gordon Institute for Music Learning 2021 International Conference. Oak Park, IL.

Sierzega, A. (June 28, 2021). *Guiding the "Grown-ups": Cultivating Community and Honoring*

- Identity in Early Childhood Music Classes*. Early Childhood Music and Movement Association Biennial International Convention. Via Zoom.
- Shouldice, H., & **Sierzega, A.** (Scheduled for November 2020, Canceled due to COVID-19). *The Effect of Tonal Context on Children's Singing Accuracy*. Amplify 2020: Bringing the Future into Focus/NAfME Biennial Music Research and Teacher Education Conference. Orlando, FL.
- Catherman, R., Pike, K., & **Sierzega, A.** (February 29, 2020). *Music Teachers on Policy, Agency, and Activism*. New Directions in Music Education Conference. East Lansing, MI
- Sierzega, A. (February 28, 2020). *Musically (Dis)affirming Lenses: Intersections of Belief, Identity, and Practice*. New Directions in Music Education Conference. East Lansing, MI
- Salvador, K., Broadway, A., Glaser, J., & **Sierzega, A.** (July 30, 2019). *At the Intersection of Belief and Practice: A Mixed-Methods Study*. Gordon Institute for Music Learning International Conference. Oak Park, IL.

## Regional

- Salvador, K., & **Sierzega, A.** (January 28, 2022). *Learning from those who Serve: Formative Experiences of DEI Leaders*. Michigan Music Conference. Grand Rapids, MI.
- Sierzega, A. (January 30, 2021). *Lessons From Behind the Screen: What I Learned from COVID-19*. Michigan Music Conference. Grand Rapids, MI. Via Zoom.
- Sierzega, A. (January 28, 2021). *Making Music, Making Meaning: Honoring Student Identities in the Elementary General Music Classroom*. Michigan Music Conference. Grand Rapids, MI. Via Zoom.
- Shouldice, H., & **Sierzega, A.** (January 17, 2020). *Sing and Strum: Building Harmonic Skill and Understanding Through Singing and Ukulele*. Michigan Music Conference. Grand Rapids, MI.
- Sierzega, A. (January 17, 2020). *The Power of Our Words: (Re)Defining Musicianship in the Elementary Music Classroom*. Michigan Music Conference. Grand Rapids, MI.
- Glaser, J., Kurilko, C., & **Sierzega, A.** (September 21, 2019). *The ABCs of MLT*. Michigan Chapter of the Gordon Institute for Music Learning. East Lansing, MI.
- Glaser, J., Rothfeld, Y., & **Sierzega, A.** (October 20, 2018). *The ABCs of MLT*. Michigan Chapter of the Gordon Institute for Music Learning. Ypsilanti, MI.
- Krohn, K., Rothfeld, Y., & **Sierzega, A.** (October 28, 2017). *The ABCs of MLT*. Michigan Chapter of the Gordon Institute for Music Learning. Ypsilanti, MI.
- Rothfeld, Y., & **Sierzega, A.** (January 20, 2017). *Cross Curricular Connections through Creativity and Composition*. Michigan Music Conference. Grand Rapids, MI.
- Krohn, K., Rothfeld, Y., & **Sierzega, A.** (October 23, 2016). *The ABCs of MLT*. Michigan Chapter of the Gordon Institute for Music Learning. East Lansing, MI.

## Invited Lectures and Workshops

### Professional Organizations

- Sierzega, A. (December 6, 2021). *The Power of Our Words: (Re)defining Musicianship & Management*. Michigan Music Education Association. Via Zoom.
- Greenfield, L., & **Sierzega, A.** (November 6, 2021). *Culturally Responsive Instruction with Music and Movement*. Alabama Education Association. Via Zoom.
- Greenfield, L., & **Sierzega, A.** (October 14, 2021). *Culturally Responsive Instruction with Music and Movement*. Washington Education Association. Via Zoom.

- Kipp Dohm, K., & **Sierzega, A.** (July 30, 2021). *Facilitating Student Collaboration and Connection in Virtual Spaces*. Alabama Education Association. Via Zoom.
- Greenfield, L., & **Sierzega, A.** (July 20, 2021). *Culturally Responsive Instruction with Music and Movement*. Alabama Education Association. Via Zoom.
- Sierzega, A. (April 10, 2021). *Culturally Responsive Teaching: Practical Considerations for Music Educators*. Ohio Chapter of the Gordon Institute for Music Learning. Via Zoom.
- Kipp Dohm, K., & **Sierzega, A.** (February 4, 2021). *Facilitating Student Collaboration and Connection in Virtual Spaces*. Oregon Education Association. Via Zoom.
- Kipp Dohm, K., & **Sierzega, A.** (January 27, 2021). *Facilitating Student Collaboration and Connection in Virtual Spaces*. Washington Education Association. Via Zoom.
- Kipp Dohm, K., & **Sierzega, A.** (December 9, 2020). *Facilitating Student Collaboration and Connection in Virtual Spaces*. Wisconsin State Education Council. Via Zoom.
- Kipp Dohm, K., & **Sierzega, A.** (November 19, 2020). *Facilitating Student Collaboration and Connection in Virtual Spaces*. Pennsylvania State Education Association. Via Zoom.
- Kipp Dohm, K., & **Sierzega, A.** (November 11, 2020). *Facilitating Student Collaboration and Connection in Virtual Spaces*. Michigan Education Association. Via Zoom.
- Bailey, J., Kane, K., & **Sierzega, A.** (October 18, 2020). *Multiple Modes of MLT: Navigating Music Learning Theory-based Instruction in light of COVID-19*. Gordon Institute for Music Learning. Via Zoom.
- Sierzega, A. (October 13, 2019). *The Power of Our Words: (Re)Defining Musicianship in the Elementary Music Classroom*. Michigan Chapter of the Gordon Institute for Music Learning. Ann Arbor, MI.

### **Colleges and Universities**

- Sierzega, A. (February 10, 2022). *The Power of Our Words: (Re)Defining Musicking & Management*. MUS 467: Elementary Music Methods. Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI.
- Sierzega, A. (January 26, 2022). *The Power of Our Words: (Re)Defining Musicking & Management*. MUS 467: Elementary Music Methods. Eastman School of Music. Rochester, NY.
- Sierzega, A. (November 11, 2021). *Musicking & Management in the Music Classroom*. cNAfME Chapter at Western Michigan University. Via Zoom.
- Sierzega, A. (October 17, 2021). *Music Learning Theory & Early Childhood Music Teaching*. Teaching Children Music Course, Gettysburg College. Gettysburg, PA. Via Zoom
- Sierzega, A. (October 12, 2021). *Elementary General Music Teaching*. University of Michigan Music Student Teacher Seminar. Ann Arbor, MI.
- Sierzega, A. (February 26, 2021). *Elementary General Music Teaching*. Saxophone Studio Class. University of Arkansas. Fayetteville, AR. Via Zoom.
- Sierzega, A. (October 24, 2020). *Classroom Management, Teacher Language, and Musical Engagement*. cNAfME Inclusive Classrooms Series, Eastern Michigan University. Ypsilanti, MI. Via Zoom.
- Sierzega, A. (October 14, 2020). *Navigating Distance Learning & MLT*. Music for the Elementary Teacher Course, University of Wisconsin Superior. Superior, WI. Via Zoom.
- Sierzega, A. (August 20, 2020). *Navigating Distance Learning & Connecting with Students Amidst COVID-19*. MUSC 4333, East Carolina University. Greenville, NC. Via Zoom.
- Sierzega, A. (April 1, 2020). *Culturally Sustaining Practices & Responsive Classroom*.

Elementary Music Methods, University of Houston. Houston, TX. Via Zoom.  
Sierzega, A. (January 30, 2020). *Classroom Management & Responsive Classroom*. MUS 467:  
Elementary Music Methods. Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI. Via Zoom.

### **School Districts**

Sierzega, A. (November 11, 2020). *BandLab in Elementary Music Instruction: Part 2*. Elementary Vocal Music Teacher Learning Network. Ann Arbor Public Schools. Ann Arbor, MI. Via Zoom.  
Sierzega, A. (November 4, 2020). *BandLab in Elementary Music Instruction: Part 1*. Elementary Vocal Music Teacher Learning Network. Ann Arbor Public Schools. Ann Arbor, MI. Via Zoom.  
Sierzega, A. (January 28, 2020). *The Power of Our Words: (Re)Defining Musicianship in the Elementary Music Classroom*. Music Department Professional Development, Ann Arbor Public Schools. Ann Arbor, MI.  
Sierzega, A. (November 5, 2019). *The Power of Our Words: (Re)Defining Musicianship through Language & Practices in the Elementary Music Classroom*. Livonia Public Schools. Livonia, MI.  
Sierzega, A. (January 9, 2019). *Teacher Language: Reminding, Reinforcing, Redirecting*. Music Department Professional Development, Ann Arbor Public Schools. Ann Arbor, MI.  
Sierzega, A. (December 5, 2018). *Responsive Classroom & Elementary Music*. Music Department Professional Development, Ann Arbor Public Schools. Ann Arbor, MI.  
Sierzega, A. (March 16, 2016). *Stormy Melodies: Connecting Music Composition, Technology, and ELA using GarageBand*. Ann Arbor Public Schools & University Musical Society. Ann Arbor, MI.

## **SERVICE**

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### **National**

Distance Learning Expert for the National Education Association (2020-present)  
Race & Social Justice Working Group Committee Member, Gordon Institute for Music Learning (2020-present)  
Membership Commission Chair, Gordon Institute for Music Learning (2018- present)  
Executive Board Member, Gordon Institute for Music Learning (2017-present)

### **State**

General Music Coordinator, Michigan Music Education Association (2021-2022)  
New Directions Committee Member, Michigan Music Education Association (2018-2021)  
General Music Committee Member, Michigan Music Education Association (2017-2022)  
Michigan Chapter President, Gordon Institute for Music Learning (2017-2019)  
Michigan Chapter Vice President, Gordon Institute for Music Learning (2016-2017)  
Michigan Chapter Secretary, Gordon Institute for Music Learning (2015-2016)  
Vice President, Michigan State University Collegiate Chapter, National Association for Music Education (2012)

### **Community**

Education Advisory Committee Member, Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Ann Arbor, MI (2019-2022)

Board Member, Washtenaw Community Concert Band, Ypsilanti, MI (2019-2021)  
Assistant Conductor, Washtenaw Community Concert Band Ypsilanti, MI (2018-2021)  
Conductor, The Big Band Theory Jazz Ensemble, Milan, MI (2018)

### **Ann Arbor Public Schools**

Committee Member & Facilitator, Responsive Classroom Committee, Lakewood Elementary  
(2019-2022)

District Mentor, Mentor/Mentee Program (2018-2022)

Committee Member & Facilitator, Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Committee, Lakewood Elementary  
(2018-2021)

Arts Integration PLC Participant (2015-2017)

Committee Member, District Music Curriculum (Re)Design (2015)

Committee Member, District Music Assessments & Rubrics (2015)

### **Awards & Honors**

Accepted as a Faculty Intern for the Gordon Institute for Music Learning (2022)

Nominated to apply as a Faculty Intern for the Gordon Institute for Music Learning (2021)

Cynthia Crump Taggart Fellowship Award, Michigan State University College of Music (2020)

Edwin E. Gordon Research Fellowship Award (co-recipient with Heather Shouldice, 2019)

New Directions Fellowship, Michigan State University College of Music (2019)

Hilda Humphreys Service Award, Michigan Music Education Association (2019)

New Directions Fellowship, Michigan State University College of Music (2018)

New Directions Fellowship, Michigan State University College of Music (2017)

### **Certifications**

Michigan Professional Education Certificate (Expires June 2025) K-12 Music, JQ

Michigan Provisional Education Certificate (Expired June 2020) K-12 Music, JQ

Gordon Institute for Music Learning: Elementary Level II (2019)

Faculty: Heather Shouldice & Cynthia Taggart

Gordon Institute for Music Learning: Elementary Level I (2018)

Faculty: Heather Shouldice & Cynthia Taggart

Responsive Classroom Certification (2017)

Trainer: Gayle Robert

Gordon Institute for Music Learning: Elementary Level I (2014)

Faculty: Jennifer McDonel & Heather Shouldice

Gordon Institute for Music Learning: Early Childhood Level I (2014)

Faculty: Jennifer Bailey & Cynthia Taggart

### **Professional Affiliations**

Early Childhood Music & Movement Association (ECMMA)

Gordon Institute for Music Learning, Michigan Chapter (GIML)

Michigan Music Education Association (MMEA)

National Association for Music Education (NAfME)

Michigan Education Association (MEA)

National Education Association (NEA)

## **PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)**

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Big Band Theory Community Jazz Band, Alto Saxophone & Conductor (2017, 2018)

Washtenaw Community Concert Band, Assistant Conductor (2016-2022)

Washtenaw Community Concert Band, Alto Saxophone (2015-2022)

Michigan State University Concert Orchestra, Tenor Saxophone (2014)

Michigan State University College of Music, Solo Saxophone Recitals (2010, 2013)

Michigan State University Concert Band, Saxophones (2009-2013)

Michigan State University Spartan Marching Band, Tenor Saxophone (2008-2011)

Michigan State University Campus Band, Oboe (2008)

# REFERENCES

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Dr. Kenneth Elpus  
Associate Professor of Music Education  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD  
[elpus@umd.edu](mailto:elpus@umd.edu)

Dr. Heather Nelson Shouldice  
Associate Professor of Music Education  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, MI  
[hshouldi@emich.edu](mailto:hshouldi@emich.edu)

Dr. Stephanie Prichard  
Associate Professor of Music Education  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD  
[sfp@umd.edu](mailto:sfp@umd.edu)

Dr. Christopher Heidenreich  
Director of Bands, Associate Professor  
Louisiana Tech University  
Ruston, LA  
[cph@latech.edu](mailto:cph@latech.edu)

Dr. Robin Giebelhausen  
Assistant Professor of Music Education  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD  
[rgiebes@umd.edu](mailto:rgiebes@umd.edu)

Mrs. Airess Stewart  
Principal  
Lakewood Elementary School  
Ann Arbor, MI  
[stewart@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:stewart@aaps.k12.mi.us)

Dr. Cynthia Crump Taggart  
Professor Emeritus of Music Education  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI  
[taggartc@msu.edu](mailto:taggartc@msu.edu)

Ms. Yael Rothfeld  
pK-5 Music Teacher  
Thurston Elementary School  
Ann Arbor, MI  
[rothfeld@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:rothfeld@aaps.k12.mi.us)

Dr. Karen Salvador  
Assistant Professor of Music Education  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI  
[ksal@msu.edu](mailto:ksal@msu.edu)

Dr. Mitchell Robinson  
Associate Professor of Music Education  
College of Music, Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI  
[mrob@msu.edu](mailto:mrob@msu.edu)