

Lauren K. Kooistra
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Biography:

Dr. Lauren K. Kooistra is currently an Associate Research Professor of Humanities and the Associate Director of the Humanities Institute at the Pennsylvania State University in Pennsylvania, USA. She is interested in the ways that young children express and develop their musicianship within the contexts of their lived experience, and the associated implications for learning and teaching. Her research focuses on exploration and application of these aspects within piano lesson settings, and her scholarship has been internationally published and presented. She has presented her research at ISME and the Early Childhood Music Education Commission (ECME) in Beijing, China 2010; ECME in Brasilia, Brazil, 2014; and ECME in Shefa'Amr, Israel, 2018. She has served as a Commissioner with ECME from 2018 to the present, and as Co-Chair/Chair since 2020.

Personal Statement:

Dr. Lauren K. Kooistra holds a B.M. in Piano Performance from Gordon College, a M.M. in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College, and a Ph.D. in Music Education from the Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Kooistra's degrees have focused on the art of piano playing, pedagogical methods, theories of learning, child development, and early childhood musical development. Her research and teaching have explored the theory of "informal" music learning in educational settings, the processes of children's musical development and musical behaviors, and the ways that children govern their own learning. Her dissertation, *The experiences of two young children in informal piano settings: Expressions of meaning and value*, explored how two girls (aged 4-5) engaged in a "piano lesson" designed on principles of informal education.

The result of her study has been to radically transform how she approaches piano learning for all ages, in order to build strong musical foundations for life-long musical engagement. Passionate about developing the whole child with a holistic understanding of personal agency and musicianship as a lived experience, her research is based in her on-going work with young children in the piano studio and has been internationally published and presented. Her current book projects are entitled *What the Children Know: Lessons in Love and Learning* and *Joy Is No One's Fool: Our Piano Year*.

Lauren is currently an Associate Research Professor of Humanities and the Associate Director of the Humanities Institute at Penn State University. She has served on the board of the local Music Academy in State College, PA, is Chair of the International Society of Music Education's (ISME) Early Childhood Music Education Commission (ECME), maintains a piano studio of students ages 4 to adult, and frequently offers workshops, consultations, and other professional development opportunities to the piano teaching community (more information at www.laurenkooistra.com).

