



Amy Rucker, MM
National Teacher Trainer, Musikgarten
ECMMA Teacher Certification, Level II

Amy Rucker, founder of *Aspire Studios: Piano & Musikgarten*, earned degrees in Piano Performance, Music Education, and Piano Pedagogy from The Ohio State University and Southern Methodist University (SMU). Having taught early childhood music since 1990, Ms. Rucker founded the Early Childhood Music program at the Arts Academy at Park Cities Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. Creating and building a program that served families with children through age nine, her department grew to include 4 certified Musikgarten teaching staff.

Ms. Rucker was appointed Adjunct Faculty at SMU in Dallas in 1990, where she taught all levels of piano, freshman and sophomore class piano, and became a supervisor to graduate pedagogy students. During this time she had articles published in *Keyboard Companion* and *Musikgarten Messenger*.

Early in her career at SMU, Ms. Rucker discovered the joys of teaching early childhood music and movement. Seeing first-hand the benefits of early music study, she determined to include this level of instruction in her own teaching and to share her experiences with teachers and musicians of all ages. Because of this passion, Ms. Rucker excels in teaching workshops and giving presentations.

Ms. Rucker has presented for TMTA (Texas Music Teachers Association) as well as for local MTA organizations, OMEA (Ohio Music Educators Association), universities, Musikgarten Festivals, Chorister's Guild, and the Presbyterian Church in America Music in Worship Conference. She has taught Musikgarten Training Workshops throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Ms. Rucker has enjoyed over 20 years of private teaching in voice, French Horn, and piano, and has been teaching K-8 music and choir in schools since 2003.

Amy and her husband, Rob, live in Columbus, Ohio, with their two Musikgarten-graduate children, Elise and Benjamin.