

WILLIAM (BILLY) KIRCHEN

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Objective

To gain admission to a challenging master's degree program in the fine arts that will allow me to expand my knowledge of the art and craft of musical theater, to enhance my musical and theatrical skills and abilities, to work collaboratively with others to create new artistic work and to become a positive asset to the musical and entertainment industry, being an advocate for my own work and supporting the work of others.

Current Profile

Composer, Musician, Singer, Director and Entrepreneur

Areas of Expertise

- Business Development and Operation
- Strategic Partnerships and Alliances; Teamwork
- Project Management and Evaluation
- Customer and Media Relations
- Direct marketing and Merchandising
- Public Speaking, Writing and Composing
- Event Planning and Coordination
- Fluency in English, French and Spanish
- Fund and Friend Development

Education and Training

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1996

- Bachelor of Arts in French Literature

Studios of Seth Riggs - Los Angeles, California, 1988-1989

- Vocal Training

Harvard University - Cambridge, Massachusetts, Summer 1990

- Coursework in Philosophy and English Literature

International Fine Arts College - Miami, Florida, 1987

- Associates in Arts in Marketing and Fashion Merchandising

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music - Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1982

- Certificate in Piano Performance

Studios of Adele Borouchoff - Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1980-1984

- Vocal Training

Alverno College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1979- 1981

Classic Piano and Music Theory Coursework

Studios of Florence Wronikowski - Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1971-1991

- Private Piano Lessons: Performance, Theory and Technique

Professional Experience

St. Vincent Pallotti Catholic Church, Milwaukee, WI, 2008-Present

Musical Director

Responsibilities and accomplishments include:

- Recruit, develop and direct three choirs: the Children's Choir (30 children), the Adult Choir (25 adults) and the Hand Bell Choir (10 ringers) on two different campuses for three church services per week and all other special events and holidays
- Plan and execute the musical liturgical program, working in collaboration with the Pastor, the Liturgy Planning Committee and the Parish Council
- Plan all musical presentations and play the organ and piano at all weekly masses, high holiday masses and special masses
- Organize and work with the cantors for the liturgies and with other musicians that play for special occasions and high holidays
- Plan music with couples getting married and with the families for funerals of deceased loved ones

WGK Productions LLC, Milwaukee, 2007 - present

Managing Partner

- Founded production company to seek investors for "Mirrors of Desire"
- Brought together musicians, singers and other talent for the musical production in order to collaborate on the production
- Under its auspices, continually refining the artistic work of "Mirrors of Desire"

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church & School, Milwaukee, 1999-2007

Assistant to Principal, Musical Director, Cantor and Artist-in-Residence

Responsibilities and accomplishments included:

- Ran day to day operations of this K-8 school
- Designed, implemented and forged promotional opportunities, collaborations and partnerships with media, other non-profit organizations and local area businesses
- Coordinated and ran Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program and PAVE Programs; process over 200 applications per year enabling children from low-income and diverse families to attend a private school
- Did budget planning for the school and managed over one million dollars in school tuition
- Developed an educational arts and theatre program in collaboration with the faculty, parents and other artists, involving the school's students as well as over 2,500 other students in the city

- Created teaching and learning aids for students and their teachers, including a short history of the plays and musicals, the name and information about the authors, a synopsis and list of characters, questions for the students to consider while watching the productions and possible topics of discussion related to the plays to be used before and after the productions
- Co-adapted and co-directed two Shakespearean plays, “Merchant of Venice” and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream; ” co-adapted and directed Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” for children, ages 7-13
- Wrote and presented in cooperation with other artists an original work called, “Noah,” a musical version of the story of Noah’s Ark
- Directed, produced, marketed and presented a total of ten (10) theatrical pieces during the eight years
- Organized and ran numerous fundraising efforts for the school and organized three (3) middle school trips to Washington, DC, working with the entire faculty, staff and parents

Multi-Cultural Education through the Arts, Milwaukee, WI, 2001-Present
Executive Director

Responsibilities and accomplishments included:

- Commissioned by the City of Milwaukee to write the theme song for Milwaukee’s Anti-Graffiti Campaign in 2005, involving children throughout the city to record and perform the song
- Created, produced and successfully marketed the “Prayer for a Nation” Project, in the aftermath of September 11, involving over 50 children and 75 adults from the City of Milwaukee from 2001-2003
- Organized all fundraising, tours, performances, media interviews and special events for performances throughout Wisconsin, at the City Centre in New York City along with Natalie Cole and in Minneapolis, MN, with Dolly Parton

Barger’s Bakery and Cafés, Milwaukee, WI, 1991-1998
Owner and Operator

Responsibilities and accomplishments included:

- Operated five retail bakeries and cafes in the Greater Milwaukee area that generated over 1 million dollars per year in revenues
- Designed and set up bakeries
- Participated in the hiring and training of employees
- Supervised and managed over 40 employees
- Merchandised product line and marketing of stores
- Did event planning and catering for weddings, parties and specialty occasions for 10 –1000 people

Saks Fifth Avenue and Other Department Stores, Los Angeles, CA, 1988-1989

Window Designer and Display Artist

- Worked together with other staff to pick out clothing, dress mannequins and worked as a team to design and create window displays or floor displays

Saks Fifth Avenue, Dadeland Mall and Mayfair Mall, Metro Miami Area, 1985-1987

Intern and Artist-in-Residence

- Built sets, assisted with lighting and sound, dressed models, did some modeling in all fashion shows
- Worked with top-named designers such as Versace, Armani, Chanel, Dior, Lily Rubin, Kenneth Cole, Oscar De La Renta, Thierry Mugler, Donna Karan, Valentino and others

Musical and Theatrical Performances – A Sampling

The following is a sampling of musical and theatrical performances:

- Casting for, reading of and music for operetta/musical, “Mirrors of Desire” at the Richmond Shepard Theatre, New York City, written and composed by Billy Kirchen in concert with lyricist and other musicians, 2008
- Readings with music of “Mirrors of Desire” in several locations, including the Ritz Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, Milwaukee, 2007-present
- Billy in Performance at the Baby Grand, Milwaukee, 2007-present
- Creator, Organizer and Director of Children’s Choir for “Prayer for a Nation Children’s Choir,” 2001-2003, toured throughout Wisconsin, in New York City and in Minneapolis
- Musician, Sports Hall of Fame, Milwaukee, 2001-2005
- Entertainer, Robin Yount Golf Classic, Milwaukee, 1997
- Pianist, Sinai-Samaritan Medical Complex, Milwaukee, 1997
- Billy in Concert, Miller Brewing Company's Ride For the Arts, Milwaukee, 1997
- Debut of "The World's Our Playground." Asigkaga-Shi International Exchange Association of Chikyu Club, Tochigi-Ken, Japan, 1997
- Entertainer, "Best of Milwaukee" benefiting the United Cerebral Palsy Association, Milwaukee, 1997
- Billy in Concert, honoring Broadway investor, the late Ben Barkin, Milwaukee, 1996
- Debut of "The World's Our Playground," AIDS Walk Wisconsin, 1996
- Entertainer, “Faces of AIDS,” Milwaukee, 1996
- Billy in Concert at Circle Stage Theatre, Milwaukee, 1995
- Entertainer, MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas, 1995
- Role of Oscar in Opera, “Regina,” Marc Blitzstein's 20th Century American Opera, Great Lakes Opera Company, Marcus Performing Arts Center, Milwaukee, 1994

- Role of Prince in Opera Version of "The Little Mermaid," Great Lakes Opera Company, Marcus Performing Arts Center, Milwaukee, 1994
- Singer and Pianist, La Cage Aux Follies, Los Angeles, 1990
- Billy in Concert, The Rose Tattoo, West Hollywood, 1989
- Billy in Concert, Perrino's Restaurant, Los Angeles, 1989
- Pianist, El Lago Lounge, Beverly Hills Hotel, Beverly Hills, 1985
- Pianist, Miami Herald, Miami, 1985
- Featured Singer and Dancer, Kids from Wisconsin, 1984-1985

Other Accomplishments

Kerchoo Publishing LLC, Milwaukee, WI, 2009

- Founded this music publishing company, in cooperation with Jim Chudy, as a vehicle to publish our own music.

Consciousness Incorporated (CINC), Milwaukee, WI, 2002-2005

- Created and organized this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, in collaboration with educators and a volunteer board of directors, to promote and raise funds for the arts in education
- Developed the board of directors comprised of business owners, artists, and educators to be the nucleus of a network to grow the organization and achieve its goals
- Re-organized the non-profit into a foundation

Affiliations and Memberships

Kids From Wisconsin Alumni Group, Member

Milwaukee Art Museum, Member

Pabst Mansion, Docent

Ravinia (IL) Music Festival, Member

Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI), Member

Wisconsin Federation of Musicians