

Amanda M. Ford

Amanda Ford is a multiple, award-winning composer, singer/songwriter, and pianist. She is an Assistant Professor of Eurhythmics and the Director of Music Career Services at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA where she also served as Assistant Dean of the School.

She earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Composition at Carnegie Mellon University where she also studied Dalcroze Eurhythmics, Conducting, and Music Education. Her compositions range from commercial jingles to works for modern dance including commissions from the Pittsburgh Choreographer's Continuum and the Pittsburgh City Dance Council with performances at the Benedum Center, Chatham College, The City Theater, and Princeton University. Amanda has also composed music for films including the scores for the Emmy award-winning PBS documentary, *Stephanie*; the Golden Quill award-winning documentary, *Map of Memories* produced by WQED TV and on permanent display at the Heinz History Center, and the independent film feature, *Sacred Hearts*. She is also credited for writing the theme music for *Musical Kids* (WQED-FM) and *Virtual Pompeii* for the Studio of Creative Inquiry at Carnegie Mellon University. Amanda's award-winning orchestral work, *Innovation*, was conducted by Marvin Hamlisch in Madison Square Garden and commissioned by New York Met Life. Amanda's works have also been performed during several events at Duquesne University, such as her wind symphony, *Jubilans* which was composed for the inauguration of President Charles Dougherty. In 2006, her national debut solo album, *On Fire*, was released to great critical review.

In 2007 Amanda was nominated and selected as Teacher of the Year at Duquesne University. The Teacher of the Year award was established at Duquesne in 1992 by the University's chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society, to give students the opportunity to recognize faculty members who best exemplify leadership and excellence in the classroom. She is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who of American Women*, *Who's Who in American Education*, and *Who's Who of Emerging Leaders*. Amanda is also a frequent interviewer with both the regional and national press.

Currently, Amanda is nearing the completion of her doctoral degree in the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program for Educational Leaders (IDPEL) at Duquesne University. She was awarded the 2009 Henderson Prize for Educational Leaders by her colleagues for demonstration of essential attributes of educational leadership, including qualities of collaboration and commitment to principles of community, service, and scholarship. Her research interests are in the following areas: 1. social and medical biases and assumptions regarding people with chronic illness and pain, and 2. visionary and servant leadership in the performing arts and education. In May, Amanda was invited to present her research at the *Sixth International Congress of Qualitative Research* at the University of Illinois at Champaign and at the Duquesne University Educational Leadership Symposium.

Amanda gratefully credits her former teachers from Freedom Area School District: Elizabeth Beyer, "who is my role model for academic achievement and leadership in the classroom"; Dale Kline, "for his unending encouragement and for taking the time to help an elementary student write her first song"; Michael Maricone, "who helped foster my love for music"; Beth Maricone, "who relentlessly encouraged me to follow the dream"; Sally Schweinsberg, "who fostered my love for study and writing"; and Eugene Spagnoli, "who introduced me to my first blue note—jazz." Amanda has three loves in her life: her faith, family, and her music students. She states that her success has been due to the loving support of her wonderful parents, family, and her daughter. Amanda resides in McCandless, Pennsylvania with her daughter, Jasmine Rue.