

# Damien Kelly, *Classical Guitarist*

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## Professional Profile

Experience includes private and group guitar lessons, chamber music coaching, and classroom teaching. Has taught ages 6 to 60, beginners to advanced, through community music schools, university programs, and private studio work. Lessons focus on musicianship, self-motivation and goal setting, critical listening skills, and incorporate repertoire ranging from the standard classical guitar repertoire to modern day rock/pop. Numerous students have won national competitions.

## Teaching Experience

New Song Studio, Guitar Teacher, Elmhurst, Queens, NYC, 2014-Present

- Teach classical and rock guitar to students aged 8-21
- Prepare students for Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examinations
- Engage younger students by including them in chamber music groups from early stages in their music education

Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School NYC, Guitar Teacher, 2014-Present

- Teach guitar basics to a group of high school students as part of the Manhattan School of Music Outreach Program and help facilitate their integration within the school band

National University of Ireland, Tutor, Maynooth, Ireland 2010-14

- Prepared all undergrad guitar majors for jury exams and recitals
- Helped students overcome performance anxiety with group performance classes and recording of recital rehearsals
- Successfully prepared 2 students to win first prizes in Ireland's national classical guitar competition at the Feis Ceoil

Royal Irish Academy of Music, Tutor, Dublin, Ireland 2013-14

- Taught group guitar classes as part of the post graduate Diploma in Community Music
- Facilitated students with the necessary pedagogy skills to teach in a multi-instrumental high school and outreach context using chords, songs and guitar music literacy

Dundalk Institute of Technology, Lecturer/Guitar Instructor, Louth, Ireland. 2009-14

- Prepared undergrad guitar majors for recitals, jury examinations and auditions
- Former students have been accepted into the master's program at the Royal Irish Academy of Music
- Lectured from 2010-2011 in guitar technique and popular music performance ensemble

Newpark Music Centre (affiliated with Berklee), Guitar Teacher, Blackrock, Dublin, Ireland 2009-14

- Successfully prepared classical guitar students for Trinity College London Exams
- Coordinated 2 charity recitals outside of the school to encourage ensemble playing and performance practice
- Taught electric guitar students using the 'Rockschool' syllabus giving them a structured approach to the genre

Kiltarnan School of Music, Dublin, Guitar Teacher, Dublin, Ireland 2009-14

- Taught rock and classical guitar
- Collaborated with other teachers to produce music videos for the school, a student CD in addition to studio concerts

## Selected Performance Experience

### *Solo Recitals*

Kaleidoscope Sessions, Odessa Club, Ireland

American Irish Historical Society, NYC

National Concert Hall, Dublin, Ireland

Irish Embassy, London, UK

Kings College, Cambridge, UK

### *Chamber Music Groups*

EU Embassy, Washington DC

Hilltown Music Festival, Meath, Ireland

National Concert Hall, Dublin, Ireland

Marble Collegiate Church, NYC

## Awards/Honors

Segovia/Augustine Award for Excellence in Guitar, (Manhattan School of Music), 2015

Scholarship, Manhattan School of Music, NYC, 2014

Number one, Irish iTunes classical chart, 'Jolt', 2011

First prize, Senior Classical Guitar Competition, Feis Ceoil (Ireland's national guitar competition), 2006

Scholarship, Royal Irish Academy of Music, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006

## Education

Manhattan School of Music, Postgraduate Professional Studies Diploma, Guitar Performance, 2015

Dublin Institute of Technology, Conservatory of Music and Drama, MMus, Guitar Performance, 2010

Dundalk Institute of Technology, BA Hons, Guitar Performance, 2009

**Principal Teachers/Coaches:** Mark Delpriora, David Leisner, Dr. John Feeley and Marion Hyland