

I was born and raised in Iowa and I'm very proud of that fact. My experiences in and around the rural environment have been important in shaping my work ethic as a teacher and a musician.

I discovered music on my own as it was never offered to me by my parents or through school. At the age of 14, I became interested in playing the bass guitar. My mother told me that if I wanted a bass guitar, that I needed to buy it myself because *"you'll play it for two weeks and then it will sit in the corner."* Mom has usually been right, other than that. Shortly thereafter, I switched to the guitar.

I am in my first year of teaching at CSCA, but my 15<sup>th</sup> year of teaching in public schools. I am a graduate of one of Iowa's oldest educational institutions, Wartburg College. There I graduated with a double major in music education and music therapy. My public school teaching experience has been spent exclusively in Colorado. In southern Colorado's San Luis Valley, I taught K-12 music for nearly a decade. More recently, I have spent the past 5 years teaching at K-8 charter schools in the Denver area.

I like finding fun ways to learn. I have a zany approach and I like to share laughter with my students. I also have a firm, demanding side that is still caring and compassionate.

The greatest honors I can mention are those of working with the great kids and the kind, competent staff of CSCA. Some other honors I have had along the way are: District Teacher of the Year 1999 (Moffat, Colorado), District Teacher of the Year 1998 (nominee), Bill Board Song Writing Contest 1994 (honorable mention-Moffat, Colorado).

Long before I obtained degrees in music I had been no stranger to the stage as a guitarist and bassist. I have performed solo, duo and in groups. I have played rock, blues, jazz, country, hard rock, classical, praise music, and I have been through many related fashions and hair-styles to match. (I have quite the collection of photos to archive my history/ and no you can't see them)

In addition to teaching, I enjoy golfing, fishing, fly tying, biking, running, playing guitar, writing music and caring for my skinny old cat "Stripes."