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**Subject:** Ten Questions for Faculty Series Grand Finale. Thank You to Our Readers and Participants!  
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## Ten Questions for Faculty Series

As we bring the semester to a close, the TLC would like to thank all of this year's *Ten Questions for Faculty* series participants as well as our weekly readers. We sincerely appreciate you sharing your stories with us and your efforts to help all faculty stay connected this year.

### Participants

Scott Ortolano	Kelly Roy	Anne Angstrom	Kim Hilton
Katie O'Connor	Monica Krupinski	Michael McGowan	Leslie Bartley
Alessandro Cesarano	Daniel Marulanda	Lenny Owens	Ellie Bunting
Cara Minardi-Power	Jane Charles	Douglas Magomo	Caroline Seefchak
Dani Peterson	Gerald Anzalone	Jordan Donini	Kerri Keough Lampos
Mark Massaro	Duval Zephirin	Brandi George	James Gresens
Camille Drake- Brassfield	Arenthia Herren	Ryan Wurst	Robert Cappetta
Brandon Jett	Sandra Seifert	Monique Harrington	Marcela Trevino
Terri Housley	Jason Calabrese	Heather Olson	Raymond Lenius
	Tina Churchill	Martin Tawil	Libby Schott
	Sonji Nicholas	Jamie Votraw	Ron Doiron
		Angus Cameron	

For our final interview of the year, the TLC is pleased to feature Ron Doiron, Professor of Music.



**Ron Doiron**  
**Professor, Music**

**Where are you from?**

My family heritage includes immigrants from Czech Republic, France, Switzerland and Wales; however, I'm a native Californian – born in San Diego. I grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, Cleveland, Ohio, and Anaheim, California.

**Which college or university did you attend?**

I graduated Magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Music degree from Chapman College (now Chapman University) in Orange, California. I also hold a Master of Music degree in Church Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting, Vocal Pedagogy and Music History with Departmental Honors from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

**When did you begin teaching at FSW?**

I began as an Adjunct Professor of Music in 2007. I became a Full-Time Professor of Music in 2013.

**What made you become interested in your academic discipline?**

My family has a history of musical talent; my mother was an opera singer, my grandparents played piano and violin, and my father, although he would not admit it, had a good singing voice as well. I began piano lessons when I was 4-years old and began pipe organ lessons when I was 12. I held my first church organist position at age 13 and accompanied singers and instrumentalists from the time I was about 12. Being a music major in college was, therefore, a natural progression. By the way, my brother plays a mean guitar and sings; he also has a degree in music education and has his own band.

**What jobs or positions have you held that were formative for you and from which you draw experience that shapes your approach to teaching?**

My approach to teaching has been shaped by both negative and positive experiences. One of my first jobs following graduation was as a Staff Accompanist and Adjunct Professor at a college in Orange County, California. While working with a choral director, I was repulsed by the way he demeaned the students using negative, verbal assaults during rehearsals. My reaction was to say to myself, "I will never talk that way to my students when I teach!" I had the complete opposite experience during my graduate education at USC. We were shown and had group discussions about how to use positive reinforcement within the context of group dynamics to motivate our students to WANT to do better. Needless to say, while the former was dower, it was, nonetheless, a catalyst for seeking a better way to accomplish

positive educational outcomes. The latter fulfilled my needs and I am continually grateful to my mentors for their wisdom, insight and practical application.



Watch Professor Doiron perform at the Baroque Magnificence Concert on April 25th in Naples, along with adjunct faculty professor Rachel Cox and FSW graduate Sam Eash. Click [here](#) or on the image above to listen! Thank you Professor Doiron for sharing this with us!

### **What is your favorite food and favorite local restaurant?**

This is a difficult question! I enjoy so many different kinds of food; one of my hobbies is gourmet cooking

and wine tasting. I have combined the two events many times to create a “Wine Tasting Gourmet Dinner” as a fund-raising event for non-profit organizations. When considering a restaurant, I look for something “authentic” that is definitely not a chain and is reasonably priced. In Naples, I enjoy going to Alberto’s on Fifth Ave – authentic northern Italian cuisine (I know the owner Alberto; his daughter is a voice student of mine). In Ft. Myers, I enjoy going to the Veranda, where they have Chateau Briand) and,

believe it or not, the University Grill, where they have the BEST escargot in the area!

### **If you could have dinner with any historical figure, who would it be and what would you ask them?**

I want to answer this question with a question: which time period?! There are so many historical figures

from so many different centuries and each one is significant, especially when I consider the History of Western Music. If I had to choose just one person, however, I suppose it would be someone who influenced the history and direction of Western thought and beliefs for the past two millennium - Jesus known as the Christ. I would like to ask him what he REALLY said, what he REALLY meant and what he REALLY did, as opposed to what we have been told he said, what he meant and what he did by religious leaders and institutions intent on manipulating or controlling people’s minds, beliefs and actions. Imagine that – pulling back the curtain to discover the truth about the wizard!

### **What new things have you learned or done as a result of COVID-19 & working remotely?**

First, I have discovered that there are always new things to learn – new technologies, new ways of accomplishing tasks, new ways of communicating information – and that when they apply themselves diligently, human beings are flexible and capable of changing when faced with new realities. Having to cancel our Spring 2020 performances after months of rehearsals was disheartening to many of our student and community singers and instrumentalists; however, we have continued on safely and adjusted to, when necessary, teaching music online and also safely (masked and distanced) in person. Many of our students have become more aware of the importance of human interaction (as opposed to Zoomeraction...) and are more grateful for something they perhaps took for granted – a live, interactive classroom.

**COVID-19 has increased online learning, and as a result, the need for promoting inclusivity in virtual learning environments. What ideas can you share with your colleagues about how to ensure inclusivity in the virtual classroom?**

I suggest that instructors don't hog the screen! Use breakout sessions and polls rigorously; allow ample time for interaction, feedback and students contributing to the learning process either as individuals or in groups; encourage them to feel some sense of ownership in the educational process. Try to make your "virtual" classroom as welcoming, personal and connective as a traditional classroom. I have discovered our students hunger for meaning in every moment of either virtual or traditional classroom experiences; whether spoken or not, they desire something positive to enlighten their day. We can provide those moments if we ask simple questions (e.g., how are you today? what's on your mind?). Even in my Class Piano and Choir courses, I spend time talking about PLS – Practical Life Skills: communication, budgeting and saving money, respect, self-esteem, time management and planning, setting goals, even the importance of personal hygiene. Then there's the "E" talk – Energy, Excellence, Enthusiasm, Effort, Ever Trying – and the list goes on. We can do this for them even in an online class and when we plant those seeds, we can walk away and let them grow!

**What advice do you have for your colleagues on how to navigate social isolation and changes from COVID-19?**

Be good to yourself and use your mind and intellectual/emotional intelligences in new ways; appreciate the time you have to spend with yourself and others with whom you are close. Try new things; try something creative (like creating a new recipe). The time that you used to spend going out you can now spend in and enjoy your living space; change things around or fix things up to create a new look. Discover something new about yourself – a new enjoyment, a new hobby or even a new interest - or even spend time gaining perspective by remembering past events by journaling your life. Feel good about yourself and be grateful for your life; think of new ways to help others including your students. Remember that we are resilient and we can change how we live and who we are if we are open to possibilities! On that note, thank you for this opportunity to do something different with my time by answering these questions! Onward we go!

If you would like to be featured in the *Ten Questions for Faculty* series, please contact Kelly Westfield, Coordinator of Marketing & Technology for the Teaching and Learning Center: [kwestfield@fsw.edu](mailto:kwestfield@fsw.edu)

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