

William Pemberton

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PROFILE

Dynamic and effective leader combining innovation and creativity with a practical and determined approach to projects and problem solving.

EXPERIENCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RIVER RAISIN RAGTIME REVUE (R4) 2002 – PRESENT

Founded nonprofit (501c3) professional ragtime orchestra, one of only three such professional ensembles in the United States. Successfully solicited grants and funding from local, regional and national agencies on an annual basis. Contracted hundreds of artists, including Grammy Award winners, a Pulitzer Prize winner, a Metropolitan Opera soloist, and a MacArthur Fellow, from across the country and abroad. Organized and implemented concert series, thematic programming, veterans tributes, tours and educational workshops. Collaborated with and developed programming for major venues and cultural organizations including Greenfield Village/The Henry Ford Museum, Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Public Library, Michigan Theater (Ann Arbor, MI), The Ark (Ann Arbor), and theaters throughout the Midwest. Oversaw recording projects and masterclasses with the University of Michigan School of Music, Central Michigan University, and Eastern Michigan University. Produced eight critically acclaimed reference recordings, including a project with the Historic New Orleans Collection resulting in the only complete recording of the rare *Red Back Book* collection of classic ragtime orchestrations published by Stark Music in St. Louis (c. 1912). Researched and wrote liner notes for each of these recordings. Developed programming and prepared music for an annual *Ragtime Street Fair* at Greenfield Village; the *Titanic Artifact 100th Anniversary Exhibition* at The Henry Ford Museum; and the *Annie Leibovitz: American Music* exhibition at the Detroit Institute of Art. Created an annual *Ragtime Extravaganza* featuring national and international recording artists, dancers, comedians and actors appearing with the R4 orchestra. Acquired the Dr. Karl Koenig Collection, an archive of historic orchestrations, biographies and histories documenting the early bands and development of jazz in New Orleans. Collaborated with the University of Michigan School of Information and college and high school interns to organize and preserve this collection. Produced virtual performances and live stream concerts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Chaired regular Board of Directors meetings and appointed action committees. Served as Music Director from 2008 to 2020.

BUSINESS MANAGER, MAST SHOES, INC., ANN ARBOR, MI 1986 – PRESENT

Responsible for all aspects of daily operations of one of Michigan's most successful independently-owned shoe retailers with multi-million dollar revenue. Created and implemented customer service policies and trained all staff members. Featured in 2018 *Inc.* magazine as one of four small business in America providing outstanding customer service. Led company to consistent annual sales growth over long periods. Hired, trained and reviewed all employees. Created marketing strategies and advertising campaigns using variety of media including newspapers, magazines, radio, social

media, billboards, film, and direct mailings. Conducted press interviews representing business. Responsible for daily banking transactions and preparing sales figures for payroll. Maintained inventory and attended markets for purchasing new merchandise. Established and grew long-term relationships with over 400 area healthcare providers, making office visits to explain products and services. Organized and led in-store and off-site seminars for health care providers and patients. Created sales incentive programs for staff. Worked with public health experts during COVID-19 pandemic to modify physical space to provide safe working environment for staff and customers. Created and implemented new COVID-19 safety protocols for staff and customers.

PRESIDENT, TECUMSEH AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (VOLUNTEER POSITION)
1999 – 2002

Oversaw organization's growth in membership, endowment, and community arts and humanities programming. Chaired board meetings. Developed numerous exhibitions and outreach programs that greatly enhanced TAHS's visibility and reputation among the local community. Instituted annual antiques and appraisal fair, annual Veterans Day concert, and monthly guest lecture series. Assisted in the publication of a monthly newsletter. Generated grant and foundation revenue at the local, state and national levels. Authored grant proposal and served as Project Director for the traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibition, Yesterday's Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future. Awarded an Institutional Achievement Award from the Michigan Museums Association. Assisted in the publication of a monthly newsletter.

EDUCATION

INTERLOCHEN ARTS ACADEMY YOUNG ARTIST AWARD, GRADUATED 1984
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR FULL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP 1984 – 1987
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY GENERAL STUDIES 1989 – 1990

REFERENCES

Available upon request