



## **AMS Program Director Mandy Guilfoyle interviews music educator and Music Explorations Summer Camp lead teacher Kylie Irvin**

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**MG: Tell us about yourself! Where are you from? Where did you study music?**

KI: I'm from upstate New York and studied music at the Greatbatch School of Music in Western New York.

**What is your favorite genre of music to play, and how did you get into it?**

I think it would be impossible for me to decide my favorite music! Every new genre has something different to offer.

**When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? Is it different than what you're doing now?**

I've always wanted to be a musician. For a while I wanted to be a performer of musical theatre, but I didn't want the instability that that life sometimes has. I'm so glad I decided to be a music teacher. It's the best job ever!

**Who was the most influential person in your life and why?**

I've had so many it's hard to decide! I had a very supportive english teacher in middle school. She encouraged me to write poetry, and I started writing songs in 8th grade. I was in marching band in high school. Those instructors were so great. They taught with such intensity! My trombone teacher in college was also an incredible musician. Seeing someone that is incredibly proficient at their instrument is so inspiring and humbling.

**What advice would you give to a young musician hoping to be in a band when they grow up?**

Learn the delicate balance of humility and assertion.

**What is a piece of advice that someone gave you that stuck with you the most?**

When in doubt, zoom out.

**What kind of instruments do you play?**

I started performing as a singer when I was 7 years old. I started playing flute when I was 9, guitar when I was 12, trombone when I was 14, and piano when I was 26!

**What do you like to do when you're not rocking out?**

I love video games!

**If you're not from Asheville, what brought you here?**

My best friend moved here and said I should move too so I said, "okay!".

**Lastly, what is your favorite thing about being a musician?**

I get to play with other people. Everyone has something to offer, everyone has something to learn.