# **JOSHUA STEPHEN SMITH**

# CONDUCTOR | PIANIST | MUSIC EDUCATOR | MUSIC DIRECTOR

## Personal Teaching Statement/Philosophy

In my teaching, I value creating experiences where every person encounters empowered growth by providing both challenges and support needed for the journey.

## **Creating Experiences**

All of us experience reality from perspectives that are unique to our personhood. This is a covenant epistemology: a knowledge that comes through the personal embodiment or indwelling of the knowing and the known. Through courses designed with richly-interactive content for multiple learning styles, dialogue that fosters empathy towards others, and real-world challenges, students are able to develop a wholistic understanding of skills and knowledge required to succeed and overcome failures.

#### **GROW** as a Philosophy

All learning is a touchpoint of boundless growing and it never stops. Therefore, growth is guided by teachers who recognize unique aptitude, skill, and talent possessed by students and provide opportunities within the curriculum and beyond that build foundations of preparation, participation, curiosity, organization, self-advocacy, and perseverance. No matter the discipline, these foundations empower students to grow beyond expected outcomes.

### **Journey Support**

I consider my role as a teacher to be the grownup that I needed when I was a young learner. Within this journey were the teacher-mentors; identifying my aptitude, they encouraged me to see beyond my current circumstances and develop skills for the next pathway. For both the student who is in the margins, possibly unaware of the possibilities, and the student who was afforded greater development, I commit to provide mentorship, academic facility, and inspirational experiences that will serve them in the coming responsibilities and challenges they face.