

Jan Corrothers, Staff Accompanist, Department of Music

Nominee for 2024 Faculty Senate Staff Service Award, Austin Peay State University

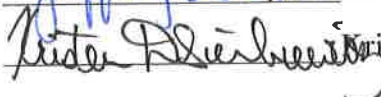
Mrs. Jan Corrothers has served an indispensable role as Staff Accompanist in the Department of Music since her arrival at Austin Peay State University in 2016. The variety and amount of work routinely required of Jan is daunting, changing from week to week and day to day, if not from hour to hour. Most musical works for solo singers, solo instrumentalists, and choirs call for the accompaniment of a pianist, and in the hands of Jan Corrothers, these accompaniments are consistently excellent, rising to the level of a complete musical partnership.

Jan typically has dozens of works of music and performances in preparation simultaneously, accompanying everything from auditions performed by prospective students to graduate recitals, faculty recitals, and guest recitals by tubists, singers, flautists and the like. In fact, this list is far from complete, as Mrs. Corrothers has played for APSU Opera Theatre rehearsals and performances and graduate conducting lessons, as well as accompanying the University choirs and performing in masterclasses with a long list of guest musicians and composers. Off-campus, Jan has accompanied faculty performances on recruitment visits to local high schools and traveled to National Association of Teachers of Singing student competitions to assist our young singers. Although one never knows what might happen when accompanying a student, whether in public or in rehearsal, in Jan's capable hands, one never need worry about the accompaniment. Performance anxiety (stage fright) is simply not part of her vocabulary, and her rock-solid skills and calm demeanor are invaluable supports that sustain and encourage our student musicians. In recent years, Jan has also become the foundation on which concerts showcasing faculty members have been built. In 2023, this work involved performing unusual, seldom-heard trios for voice, violin, and piano; voice, horn, and piano; and horn, tuba, and piano, in addition to accompanying a twentieth-century work for saxophone and piano.

Mrs. Corrothers' extraordinary ability to read music for keyboard at sight, including orchestral music adapted for the piano, and her appetite for her enormous, varied workload seem to have no limits. Managing Jan's schedule and workload is a strenuous exercise in time management and organization in itself, as the scope and complexity of the tasks before her is ever-changing. Her complete versatility and utter command of the piano is truly admirable and deeply appreciated by all who work with Jan and hear her perform. Unfailingly cheerful, courteous, and highly professional in all her interactions, Mrs. Corrothers loves her work, thriving on the changing challenges her work presents. A lesser person or a lesser collaborative pianist would undoubtedly be crushed by the pressure. Jan Corrothers has won the enthusiastic admiration of the entire Department of Music (faculty, students, and staff) in addition to being praised by the numerous guest artists she has accompanied over the years. We are united in most strongly recommending her for the 2024 Faculty Senate Staff Service Award.

 Ann L. Silverberg, Professor

 Jeffrey J. Williams, Associate Professor and Director of Vocal Studies

 Kristen D. Sienkiewicz, Professor and Chair, Department of Music