

“ Member Profile “

This weeks feature : Ian Faleer and Anakarine Solorzano



Ian was born in Alma, Michigan and grew up with a younger sister, Leah. The family moved to Mt. Pleasant, Michigan when he was 6 months old. He lived there until his move to Ohio to attend college at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, graduating with a Bachelor of Music in 2003. Initially he had majored in voice performance, but changed to Music Education after developing a strong interest in teaching in his first year. Returning to Michigan, he earned a Master of Music from Central Michigan University in 2004. Anakarine was born in Caracas, Venezuela and grew up with two younger sisters, Andreina and Andrea. She earned a Bachelor of Music from the Instituto Universitario de Estudios Musicales in 2001 and Earned a Master of Music from Central Michigan University in 2003. She had moved to the United States to attend graduate school in Michigan at

age 29. In 2020, Anakarine completed a second Masters degree in information science from Kent State University.

After graduating from Oberlin, Ian returned to Michigan with a plan to live at home for the summer while looking for long-term teaching jobs. He had not landed a teaching position by the end of summer, so he decided to stay in Mt. Pleasant and take some grad school music classes at Central Michigan University. He met Anakarine on the first day of class (also his birthday) when they had both enrolled in a conducting class together. The grad level class only had four students, and many conducting practice activities required a partner, so Ian and Anakarine started working together. Practicing conducting activities quickly turned into chatting over coffee, and 20 years later, they're still going strong!

Anakarine worked at the Detroit Waldorf School teaching elementary and middle school Spanish classes. After moving to Oberlin with Ian, she worked at the Oberlin Early Childhood Center overseeing a program called KidSmart on the Road providing art instruction in day-care programs throughout Lorain county. She works in the Lorain Schools as a substitute teacher and briefly as the POP office manager. Anakarine is seeking a position now in Library Science.

Ian began working in Lorain City Schools in 2004 as an elementary school general music teacher, and still holds a position there as the High School choir director. He was hired as the choir director at POP in 2012, taking over from Fran Wilhelm. He has worked at the MAD Factory, a non-profit theater based in Oberlin, performs in musicals, serves as a summer theater camp counselor, and works as a vocal coach for performers of all ages. Anakarine serves on the board of MAD Factory.

They have raised a family with three children - Daniel (30), Eva (14), and Matias (11). Ian and Anakarine feel blessed to be part of this welcoming community as they have offered their talents in many ways. Ian is the 11:00 cantor leading hymns and special music. He works with the hymn committee and puts together slides for the service. Beginning in July, he will

serve as vocal coordinator for Crossfire, working with Chip to lead the band.

In their free time, they enjoy time with the family , TV/movies, and singing. Anakarine also relaxes while reading, drawing and painting. Ian has an interest in writing music and playing video games. He has worked as a music composer for video games and YouTube content creators for the last decade. Both have experienced many life enriching relationships. I know they will continue to give significant energy in their service here at POP. God has blessed them and you'll know that when you meet .

By : Tom Robinholt / Profile Reporter