

# Jessica (Fogle) Wolfbird *a.k.a. Jessica in The Rainbow*

- *Singer-Songwriter-Pianist* - *Creative Professional* - *Music Educator* -

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## Experience Highlights

**Singer-Songwriter:** Released over 25 albums as a singer-songwriter, on Spotify, Apple Music, and Bandcamp.com (as “Jessica in The Rainbow” also with the band “cloudlight,” and previously as Jessica Fogle), including as a part of the 12 albums in 12 months challenge in 2018-19. Performed regularly in indie music venues in Chicago and West Michigan and the East Coast since 2005. Album “Catalysts” was nominated for “Best Album by a New Artist” and “Album of the Year” by the WYCE 88.1 Jammies awards in 2015, and was a finalist for “Best Jazz Album” (for its jazz-folk elements), plus nominations for “12 Albums in 12 Months” in 2018 & 2019. Album “Make-Believe a.k.a. 365 Days vol 4” (2017) was featured on the front page of Bandcamp.com (independent global music server) in the “New & Notable” section. “cloudlight” was also featured on the front page of Bandcamp.com, in addition to being reviewed favorably by GoldFlakePaint (2017), a top indie review site based in the U.K, and regarded at a top Band to Watch in Revue West Michigan (2018). Listed as one of the ‘Top 5 Acts to Catch at Lamp Light Music Festival’ in 2015. Awarded an Emerging Songwriter Grant & Artists’ Residency with Crosshatch Center for Art & Ecology Hill House in Northern Michigan. Multiple songs published in Paramanu Pentaquark and featured in articles by Local Spins, Revue West Michigan, and The Rapidian. Completed 365 Songs in 365 Days (on YouTube) in 2018, a personal challenge to share more music and process, and inspire anyone interested in increasing their creative flow. Continued writing songs on YouTube, as a creatively and personally transformative experience, which led to working on an unreleased book “Creativity as Therapy” - about how to use a creative process to heal and transform your life. New music to be released in 2023 and beyond as ‘Jessica Wolfbird.’

**Composer for Film:** Composed music for 10 original songs with Shakespeare lyrics for the feature movie-musical “Were the World Mine”, featuring Wendy Robie (Twin Peaks), Jill Larson (All My Children), Judy McLane (Mamma Mia, Broadway), Zelda Williams (daughter of Robin Williams) which swept the festival circuit in 2008 and won 15 awards, including “Best Music” at the Nashville Film Fest, and received positive national press. Was ranked in the Top 100 films on Netflix for two years, and continues to screen regularly on the LOGO network. Album released through PS Classics.

**Piano Teacher:** Current owner of ‘Creative Sky Music School,’ teaching 30 weekly piano / songwriting / ukulele students from all over the country, via video calls (FaceTime, Google Meet, etc). Well-reviewed private lessons since 2016. Previously taught a full roster of students through ‘Piano Lessons In Your Home’ in Chicago (2006-12), as a highly-referred teacher. Adaptable and creative, encouraging personalized approaches to method-based lessons, which includes classical, folk, music theory, technique, transcriptions (video game/anime underscoring), and pop/rock piano via lead sheets / chord theory. Former students have gone on to Interlochen High School and NYU for Music Business, in addition to composing and releasing albums. Hosts fun yearly video recitals on the Creative Sky YouTube channel.

**Accompanist & Musical Director:** Current founder of the Create-A-Mini-Musical-Play Program (aka C.A.M.M.P), during which kids ages 7-17 create their own characters, stories, dialogue, movements, song lyrics, melodies, and perform in an original mini-musical. Previously toured nationally as a pianist and music director for Child’s Play Touring Theatre (2004-05), performing improvised piano and acting on stage daily for hundreds of kids and teachers, and teaching classes on creativity, songwriting, and general music. Performed piano & music directed/conducted in professional musical theatre productions in New York City, Chicago, and the Midwest (2000-4). Understudied as Music Director for “Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh” on Off-Broadway (2001). Served as Music Director for “Sex the Musical!” at Danny’s Skylight Room on Off-Off Broadway (2002). Frequently conducted 6-10 piece orchestras while performing piano. Served as full time accompanist for Mona Shores High School (2012-15), which included daily advanced sight-reading skills and frequent performances, including a live filming by The Travel Channel during America’s Tallest Singing Christmas Tree. Accompanist for the Musical Theatre department each summer at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp (2012-15). Performed and directed in additional educational settings, including Marymount School (NYC) and Gymboree Play & Music (Chicago). Began career while still in school (1995) with The Racine Youth Players in Racine, WI - music directing for kids ages 5-19, & performing in over a dozen musicals, garnering positive local press and an offer to take over the company.

## Education

**M.F.A. from New York University/Tisch School of the Arts in Musical Theatre Writing (2002).** Collaborated with dozens of classmates, performed as vocalist/pianist during masterclasses and for staged readings, received weekly critique from industry professionals including William Finn, Mel Marvin, Sybille Pearson. Co-wrote the musical “Benjamin Starling” with Danny Pitt Stoller, which had a staged reading in NYC featuring Broadway actors such as Megan McGinnis (Belle on Broadway) & was also produced by Spirit of Broadway Theatre in CT for a 4-week professional run.

**B.A. in Music and Theatre from Lawrence University & Conservatory of Music (2000).** Cum laude honors in course, and independent study for the directing and performing of final project: “The Believers” an original musical. Graduated with a double major (emphasis in Piano Performance & Dramatic Literature), in addition to an English minor. Hired as Teaching Assistant for Freshman and Sophomore level Music Theory classes, after excelling in the highest track of music theory courses offered. Recipient of 5-year high honors scholarship, and the IDEA Fellowship, providing a grant awarded to highly creative individuals, which funded a semester of study of the creative / performing arts in London, England.