

A composer, scholar, and drummer, Dr. Nolan Stolz is a “full” Professor of Music here at USC Upstate. Professor Stolz began teaching at the university level in 2004 and joined the faculty at Upstate in 2014. Recognized in the music field as an expert teacher and pedagogue, his reputation led to his position on the international editorial board of the *Korean Journal of Research in Music Education* and on the editorial board of the College Music Society’s new book series published by Routledge titled *Pedagogies and Innovations in Music*. Dr. Stolz spearheaded the first book in the series to be published, *Commercial and Popular Music in Higher Education: Expanding Notions of Musicianship and Pedagogy in Contemporary Education*. His jazz improvisation pedagogy article was published in *Musical Insights* in 2015. Additionally, Professor Stolz is often asked to provide feedback on new or revised music theory textbooks and to peer-review articles in scholarly journals and books from university presses.

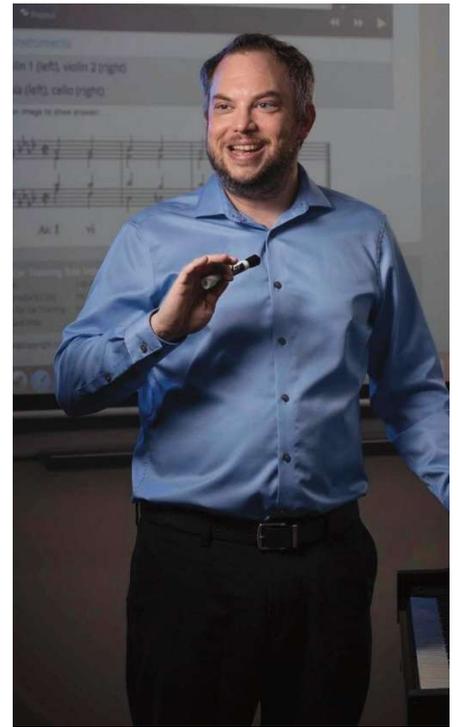


Photo from UP magazine

Dr. Stolz’s compositions are firmly rooted in the contemporary classical tradition yet are clearly influenced by his performance background in jazz fusion and progressive rock. The Brno Philharmonic (Czech Republic) recording his *Lincoln Highway Suite* was awarded second place in the American Prize in 2020. The follow-up to the Lincoln Highway Suite is the *Route 66 Suite* (2026), a work which has already garnered national media attention nationwide and interest overseas.

Professor Stolz is also known for his scholarly work on progressive rock and heavy metal, particularly on the music of Black Sabbath. His book *Experiencing Black Sabbath: A Listener’s Companion* (2017) has become the authoritative work on the subject, and a follow-up book on their music is planned. In 2025, Dr. Stolz published two book chapters: “The Origin of Progressive Metal Lyrics in Black Sabbath’s Music” in *Progressive Rock, Metal, and the Literary Imagination* and “Mutually Exclusive Two- and Three-Part Forms in Heavy Metal Songs” in *The Routledge Handbook of Metal Music Composition*.



Photo from UofSC website

Dr. Stolz received the Award for Faculty Excellence in Scholarly and/or Creative Pursuits from USC Upstate in 2019 and a Breakthrough Star Award from the UofSC in 2020 for his contributions to the fields of music composition, musicology, music theory, and performance. Dr. Stolz was the **only** faculty member not at UofSC to receive the system-wide award.