

I am The ROCK

Stephen Barr

Job: Assistant professor of music

Joined SRU: 2006.

Background: I was born in Erie and attended high school at Hickory High School in Hermitage. I did my undergraduate work in music composition at Westminster College in New Wilmington and earned my master's degree at University of South Florida. I finished a doctoral degree in music, composition and conducting emphasis at West Virginia University in 2007 and directed high school choirs for two years in Florida before coming to SRU.

Interests: Composing is my main 'hobby,' but actually like a second vocation. If I'm not conducting or writing, then I enjoy reading and have been known to indulge in a video game from time to time. I also have a 2-year-old son who gets a lot of my attention. We read books and play cars a lot.

Person(s) I would most like to have dinner with: Any number of people from the world of composers and conductors, most of who are unfortunately now deceased: Robert Shaw, probably our most famous American choral conductor; and Claude Debussy, a super-important French impressionist composer.

Why I work at The Rock: I came to SRU because the opportunity presented a logical next step in my career aspirations – it was the right mix of responsibilities and a place where I could develop my skills as a choral conductor. The fact that the school is close to where I grew up, and so my family is nearby, is also great. I stay because of my students – we have wonderful students here at SRU – and as the director of choirs I get to interact with not only music students, but also students from many different disciplines from around the campus. We work very hard, but also make sure to have fun too.

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