

# **RICHARD K. SPENCER**

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## *PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY*

Richard Spencer is a music and business management professional with over 30 years of world-class experience in both disciplines.

His musical accomplishments are primarily in jazz guitar and music education, and Richard is a prior recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Fellowship. His major guitar teachers include Larry Coryell, John Abercrombie, Jack Petersen, Mick Goodrick, Pat Martino, and John X. Reed.

Richard has taught a variety of music studies at Southwestern University, Cedar Valley College, Eastfield College, and Concordia University. His professional music performing experience includes touring and recording with Chico Hamilton (a renowned NEA jazz master), and gigging with Bob Berg, Wallace Roney, Don Braden, Gene Ramey, Ralph Moore, Tiger Okoshi, and others.

Richard is the founder/director of a nonprofit 501c3 community music school in Austin, whose primary program areas are: New School of Music, Austin; Texas Jazz & Blues Camp, and Blue Jazz Festival. In addition to exceptional music education and performance programming, NSM also scholarships up to half of its enrollment to underserved youth.

His management and technology consulting experience includes a variety of IT enterprise and outsourcing projects for public and private sector clients – including Exxon-Mobil, USAA, Verizon, The State of Texas, The State of Arizona, Accenture, and IBM. Richard previously co-founded a technology services startup, Jazz IT, Inc, acquired angel investors for round 1 (\$1.2M), and secured the initial major customers. Upon developing the firm's revenue (\$1.3M) and transitioning to a network management focus, the firm subsequently merged with MegaPath/Fusion Connect, which is an ongoing concern. Richard retired from IT consulting work in 2018 to focus on growing and developing New School of Music, Austin and its community service programs.

Richard holds an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Music Education (Jazz Studies) from the University of North Texas, and a Bachelor of Music (Jazz Performance) from the University of North Texas.

Richard resides with his wife, Paula, in Austin, and they have three grown sons, and nine grandchildren.