

# CONRAD ASKLAND

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## SUMMARY

- **Music Director with 35+ years of experience**, specializing in live touring shows; Berklee College of Music Alum.
- **Led three Cirque du Soleil productions** with global tours reaching 2M+ audiences (U.S., Europe, Asia).
- **Expert in Ableton Live** show control, cue integration, and reducing show-stop errors.
- **Calm, centered, and trusted bandleader** who cultivates cultures that support artists and seamless performances.
- **Former Studio Keyboardist, Music Producer, and Audio Engineer** at Road Records of Southern California.

## EXPERIENCE

**Cirque du Soleil – CRYSTAL Tour** **Global**  
*Bandleader, Keyboards, Accordion, and Ableton live Specialist* 2022 – 2025

- Led music direction for the CRYSTAL world tour across five continents for audiences exceeding two million, managing all Ableton Live programming, integrating new acts, and ensuring seamless nightly playback and cue execution.

**Original Production** **Mount Vernon, WA**  
*Creator – PTGA The Musical* 2019 – 2022

- Composed and orchestrated the world-premiere musical *Pray the Gay Away*®, a bold, LGBTQ+-affirming production confronting the history and harm of gay conversion therapy through satirical yet emotionally charged storytelling.

**Sideshow, Mamma Mia, Regional Theater** **Seattle, WA**  
*Music Director, Conductor* 2018 – 2019

- Directed and conducted live pit orchestra for regional theater production of *Mamma Mia*.
- Integrated vocal arrangements, cueing, and orchestration to support cast and choreography.

**Cirque du Soleil – VAREKAI Tour** **Global**  
*Bandleader, Keyboards, and Ableton Live Specialist* 2017

- Re-engineered the Ableton Live show file to reduce playback errors from approximately 15% to under 2%.
- Directed musicians, and ensured reliable cue integration for consistent high-quality performances throughout the tour.

**Norwegian Cruise Line – Rock of Ages and Burn the Floor** **Global**  
*Music Director, Bandleader, and Keyboardist* 2014 – 2017

- Led the band and conducted nightly performances of Rock of Ages aboard a flagship cruise line.
- Maintained show reliability and fostering a high energy culture that supported consistent production quality.

**Witches, PAN and Romeo & Juliet Musicals, Regional Theater** **Global**  
*Music Director, Conductor, and Orchestrations* 2012 – 2015

- Directed and conducted live performances for original regional productions of Witches and PAN.
- Crafted orchestrations that brought new stories to life for both young and adult audiences.

**Cirque du Soleil – ZAIA Show** **Macau, China**  
*Bandleader, Keyboards, Accordion, and Ableton Live Specialist* 2008 – 2012

- Led the band, performed on keyboards and accordion, and oversaw all Ableton Live programming and maintenance.
- Managed and supported an 8-member ensemble of musicians and singers in a high-pressure international setting.

**Road Records** **Southern California**  
*Music Producer, Audio Engineer, Studio Keyboardist* 1989 – 2005

- Programmed MIDI-based studio rigs and integrated hardware/software synths for multitrack recording sessions.
- Engineered and mixed live and studio recordings using Pro Tools, Cubase, and analog console workflows.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Music Director and Conductor, Regional Theater   Seattle, WA	2006 – 2007
Touring Keyboardist   Freddy Fender of the Texas Tornados	1997 – 2004
Piano Player, Calico Saloon and Bird Cage Theater   Knott’s Berry Farm	1994 – 1997

EDUCATION

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Master of Arts in Leadership and Cultural Management   Colorado State University
Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance   Berklee College of Music
Ableton Live Professional Certification   Berklee College of Music

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Show Control & Playback: Ableton Live, MIDI, Click/Stem Integration, Redundancy Workflows
Audio Production & Recording: Pro Tools, Cubase, Analog Console Workflows, Multitrack Recording, Live Sound Engineering
Notation & Orchestration: Dorico, Sibelius, Orchestration and Score Preparation for Musical Theater and Stage Shows
Video & Media Tools: Final Cut Pro video editing
Music Publishing & Marketing: Digital Distribution Platforms, Streaming Management (1.5B+ Streams)