

Melinda Whittington

melinda.whittington@gmail.com

www.melindawhittington.com

(336) 392-0146

Managed by Kristin Cowdin at Sempre Artists:

www.sempreartists.com/melinda-whittington

EDUCATION

The Academy of Vocal Arts (2013 – 2015)

University of North Carolina at Greensboro (2007 – 2009)

Master of Music in Vocal Performance

Cumulative G.P.A.: 3.94

Voice with Dr. Carla LeFevre and Pedagogy with Dr. Robert Wells

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2001 – 2005)

Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Cumulative G.P.A.: 3.89

Voice with Barbara Peters and Rebecca Swingle-Putland

YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAMS

Wolf Trap Opera: Filene Young Artist (2014, 2015)

San Francisco Opera: Merola Young Artist Program (2012)

Brevard Music Center: Janiec Opera Company (2010 and 2011)

Oberlin in Italy Summer Opera Program (2004)

TEACHING/DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

Private Voice Teacher: Charlotte, NC (2007 – present)

- Teach students of a variety of ages and skill levels in classical and non-classical singing styles (jazz, pop, gospel, rock, and musical theater)
- Schedule lessons, masterclasses, and recitals

Opera Carolina Academy Instructor: Charlotte, NC (2015 – 2017)

- Two-week summer camp for high-schoolers
- One of two lead teachers in both 2015 and 2017; masterclass instructor in 2016
- Led daily voice classes, ensemble rehearsals, and diction classes; organized final performance and chose repertoire

Director: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Myers Park Presbyterian (2013)

- Produced, directed, staged, and conducted the show, featuring church and community members ages 8 – 88
- Organized volunteer groups for costume alterations, backstage management, sound/lights, box office, and refreshments

Voice/Beginning Piano Teacher: Charlotte Performing Arts Academy, Charlotte, NC (2009 – 2011)

- Taught private voice, beginning piano, and piano/voice combination lessons
- Assisted with organization of recitals

Voice Teacher: Duke University's *Expressions!* Performing Arts Camp, Durham, NC (2007 – 2009)

- Camp for middle-school students, with training in acting, music, and dance
- Taught group voice classes and masterclasses; rehearsed solos, small ensembles and large group numbers for the final recital
- Planned a final concert, integrated with the other disciplines
- Managed students in their daily activities

Kids' Camp and Elderhostel Assistant: Eastern Music Festival, Greensboro, NC (2009)

- Camp: assisted main teacher in music instruction; coordinated drop-off, pick-up, snacks
- Elderhostel: assisted the director in taking care of participants' schedule, transportation, meals, and concerts

Voice Teacher: Szymanski Studios, Chapel Hill, NC (2005 – 2007)

- Taught 15 – 20 weekly private students, ages 13 – 48, in classical, jazz, pop, and musical theatre singing styles
- Coached group performance masterclasses
- Scheduled lessons and corresponded with students and families

Voice Teacher: Youth Performing Arts Conservatory, Carrboro Arts Center, Carrboro, NC (2005-2008)

- Taught weekly group voice classes in three groups; ages 8-10, 11-13, and 14-18
- Taught children to become "singer-actors" and develop healthy vocal habits
- Selected the musical scenes and planned classes
- Collaborated on musical theatre scenes with the dance and acting instructors

Co-Musical Director: *The Music Man*, Chapel Hill, NC (2008)

- A collaboration between the Youth Performing Arts Conservatory and Playmakers' Repertory Company (professional theater company housed at UNC) with a cast of 40 elementary, middle, and high school students
- Co-led musical rehearsals
- Coached the main characters individually and in small ensembles
- Collaborated with choreographer, directors, stage manager, other artistic staff
- Rehearsed and conducted the pit orchestra

Vocal Coach and Assistant: UNC High School Music Camp, Chapel Hill, NC (2003, 2005, and 2008)

- Coached students on audition and performance repertoire
- Served as a section leader in the large choir
- Organized students in daily activities

Masterclass Clinician: Wake Technical Community College, Raleigh, NC (2005 – 2007)

- Lectured about vocal technique and performed in music appreciation classes
- Held masterclasses

Musical Director: Psalm 100 A Cappella group at UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC (2003 – 2004)

- Led rehearsals each week, auditioned soloists, helped with arranging music
- Conducted the group in performances

CHURCH MUSIC EXPERIENCE

Soloist/Section Leader: St. Monica's Catholic Church, Philadelphia, PA (2013 – 2015)

Cantor: St. Patrick's Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA (2014 – 2015)

Soloist/Section Leader: Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC (2010 – 2013)

- Also led warm-ups for rehearsal and sectional rehearsals; conducted numerous services and rehearsals in the director's absence

Youth Choir Director: Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC (2011 – 2013)

- Led weekly rehearsals; conducted performances in church and the community
- Planned, organized, and chaperoned outings and retreats

Interim Minister of Music: Mint Hill Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC (2009 – 2010)

- Planned and prepared music for the three weekly services: selected hymns and special music, arranged the order of worship
- Led weekly rehearsals for both the adult and youth choirs

Soloist/Section Leader: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Durham, NC (2004 – 2008)

- Also directed the choir in the director's absence

Director of Children's Music: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Durham, NC (2007 – 2008)

- Directed the *Ephphatha* After-school Music Program:
 - Taught basic musical skills, including note and rhythm reading, sight singing, intervals and scales, as well as choral vocal technique
 - Conducted the musical selections in church services
- Taught Sunday School music for preschool and elementary children

Assistant Director and Clinician: Summer Music Camp at St. Stephen's Episcopal (2007 – 2008)

- Coordinated and managed registration
- Conducted the 5th-6th grade choir
- Taught music theory classes and led high school sectionals
- Directed/conducted final combined performance

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

German: Conversational, four semesters of academic study, German diction class, and a summer of living and traveling alone throughout Germany and Austria.

French: Proficient, four semesters of academic study, French diction class.

Italian: Proficient, three semesters of academic study, Italian diction class, and a summer of study in Italy.

Spanish: Proficient, four semesters of academic study as an undergraduate.

Russian: Independent study, in preparation of Tatiana (*Eugene Onegin*)

Czech: Independent study, in preparation for the title role in *Rusalka*

GRANT WRITING

Sigma Alpha Iota Impact Project Grant, 2005

Wrote a grant application to attain funds for a two-day residency with American composer Libby Larsen. Once the grant was awarded, I worked with the various department heads to organize events during her residency, which included teaching music history and theory classes, individual coachings with composition students, and masterclasses, culminating with a concert of her music.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA)
Phi Beta Kappa Honor Fraternity
Opera America
National Association of Teachers of Singing
Sigma Alpha Iota Women's Music Fraternity

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Pittsburgh Festival Opera Mildred Miller Vocal Competition, 2017

Third Place Winner

Fort Worth Opera McCammon Vocal Competition, 2016

Third Place Winner

Birmingham Opera Vocal Competition, 2015

First Place Winner

Metropolitan Opera National Council, 2013

National Semifinalist

Southeast Region Winner and SC District Winner

Gerda Lissner Foundation Competition, 2014 and 2013

National Finalist and Encouragement Award Winner

New York Lyric Opera Competition, 2013

National Finalist and Second Place Winner

Florida Grand Opera Young Patronesses of the Opera Competition, 2013

National Semifinalist

Charlotte Opera Guild Competition, 2013 and 2012

First Place Winner

Metropolitan Opera National Council, 2012

SC District Winner and Southeast Region Encouragement Award Winner

National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award (NATSAA), 2010
 NC District Competition Winner and Southeast Region Second Place Winner

Phillips Travel Scholarship, 2006

One of 17 students granted the award out of a university-wide pool of applicants. Applicants must present an idea for independent study and a detailed itinerary and budget. I completed a three-month study of opera in Germany and Austria, seeing over 40 operas during the summer of celebrations for Mozart's 250th birthday.

OPERA ROLES

*Tatyana	Eugene Onegin	Opera Carolina	2019
*Juliette	Romeo et Juliette	Pensacola Opera	2019
*Arabella	Arabella	Pittsburgh Festival Opera	2018
Contessa	Le Nozze di Figaro	Opera Carolina/ Grand Rapids (MI)	2018
Juliette	Romeo et Juliette	Birmingham Opera (AL)	
Ada	Cold Mountain	North Carolina Opera	2017
Donna Anna	Don Giovanni	Utah Opera	
Tatiana, <i>cover</i>	Eugene Onegin	Chicago Lyric Opera	
Micaëla	Carmen	Greensboro Opera	
Rusalka	Rusalka	Arizona Opera	2016
Fiordiligi	Così fan tutte	Ash Lawn Opera (VA)	
Donna Anna	Don Giovanni	Arizona Opera	
Marie Antoinette	The Ghosts of Versailles	Wolf Trap Opera (VA)	2015
Marguerite	Faust	Academy of Vocal Arts (PA)	
Contessa	Le Nozze di Figaro	Kentucky Opera	
Micaëla	Carmen	Wolf Trap Opera	2014
Lauretta	Gianni Schicchi	Opera Carolina	
Fiordiligi	Così fan tutte	Academy of Vocal Arts	2013
Donna Elvira	Don Giovanni	Green Mountain Opera (VT)	
Second Lady	The Magic Flute	Opera Carolina	
Sandrina, <i>cover</i>	La finta giardiniera	Merola Opera Program (CA)	2012
Mimi	La bohème	Opera Experience Southeast (NC)	
Violetta	La traviata	Brevard Music Center (NC)	2011
Alcina	Alcina	Brevard Music Center	
Pamina	The Magic Flute	Central Piedmont Opera (NC)	
Rosalinde	Die Fledermaus	Brevard Music Center	2010
Marie	The Bartered Bride	UNC-G Opera	2009
Peep-Bo	The Mikado	UNC-G Opera	2008

THEATER ROLES

Beggar Woman	Sweeney Todd	UNC-G Theater	2008
Holly	Uncommon Women and Others	Lab! Theatre	2005

Mrs. Mister	The Cradle Will Rock (Blitzstein)	UNC Theater	2005
Margaret Mead	Hair	UNC Theater	2004

CONCERTS

Soloist	John Corigliano's 80 th Birthday	Wolf Trap Opera (VA)	2018
Soloist	Romeo et Juliette	Charlotte Symphony	2016
Soloist	Schubert songs with chamber group	Heifetz Institute (VA)	
Soloist	Various arias and standards	Ocean City Pops (NJ)	2015
Soloist	Beethoven's 9 th Symphony	Philadelphia Sinfonia	2014
Soloist	Double Exposure (new opera workshop)	Opera Philadelphia	
Soloist	Full recital of arias	Wilson Symphony (NC)	
Soloist	Carmina Burana	Back Bay Chorale (MA)	2013
Soloist	Seven Last Words (<i>Dubois</i>)	Charlotte, NC	
Soloist	The Messiah (<i>Handel</i>)	Charlotte, NC	2012

RECITALS

Guest recital and masterclass, High Point University, High Point, NC, 2017
 Guest recital, Birmingham Opera, Birmingham, AL, 2016
 Guest recital, Music at Monica's Concert Series, Philadelphia, PA, 2015
 Guest recital, UNC Chapel Hill, 2014
 Guest recital, Phillips Collection, art museum in Washington D.C., 2014
 Guest recital, Arts Council of Wilson, Wilson, NC, 2014
 Guest recital, Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC, 2013
 Guest recital, Sardis Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC, 2011

* denotes upcoming

OTHER PERFORMANCES

Soloist for many local community and donor events and Random Acts of Culture for Opera Carolina
 Co-creator and performer of a *Downton Abbey Cabaret*, with ragtime pianist Ethan Uslan: the hour-long program has been featured at public radio stations including Philadelphia (WHYY) and Boston (WGBH), as well as events for the Philadelphia Club, Arizona Opera, and the Heifetz Institute. Our new program, *Tin Pan Opera*, explores the intersection of opera and popular song in the Tin Pan Alley era and beyond.