
NICHOLAS KLEIN, DMA

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Enthusiastic and experienced voice teacher, administrator, opera/musical theater director, choral conductor, performer, music director, and vocal coach/accompanist eager to lead and contribute to team and student success through hard work, attention to detail, and excellent organizational skills. Clear understanding of vocal pedagogy for Western classical and contemporary vocal styles, as well as a specialty in teaching transgender singers. Understanding and application of a variety of educational frameworks and training in musical theatre/opera performance and production, accompanying, and vocal coaching. Motivated to learn, grow, collaborate, and excel in a university level music program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Winnifred Collier Ringhoffer Award for Professional Development Recipient (NATS) 2022
- Northwest Voice Conference; Co-Organizer, Seattle, WA 2022
- Numerous students accepted to renowned graduate schools (Yale, Boston Conservatory, CU Boulder, etc.)
- Student placement and honorable mentions in District and Regional NATS auditions 2020-2022
- Presented on the Efficacy of Mental Practice for Motor Skill Enhancement in Singing 2022
- Presented on Vocal Pedagogy and Teaching for Transgender Singers 2021
- Successful recruiting and retention of voice students at University of Washington 2019-2020
- Concert Director at Ohio Music Educators Association Conference for Professional Development 2013
- Numerous Superior Ratings at OMEA District and State Choral Contest 2012-2018
- Outstanding Music Education Student Award Recipient 2009-2011
- National Association of Teachers of Singing Musical Theater Division Winner 2009, 2010, 2011
- Boy Scouts of America; Eagle Scout 2005

SKILLS

- Teaching efficient vocal function
- Piano accompaniment and vocal coaching
- Choral Conducting
- Verbal and written communication
- Strong sight-reading skills (voice and piano)
- Vocal Pedagogy
- Music theory and aural skills training
- Music and Stage Direction
- Leadership
- AV engineering and live sound
- Proficiency in Italian, German, French, Spanish, and Latin diction
- Detail-oriented
- Planning, Organization, and Coordination
- Music Notation Software (Finale and Sibelius)

WORK HISTORY

Assistant College Lecturer in Voice, 08/22 to present

Head of Voice, Cleveland, OH

Cleveland State University

- Structure and organize curriculum to adequately prepare students with applicable skills to meet professional goals
- Plan and prepare syllabi for multiple semesters in various courses of Vocal Music
- Prepare and deliver lectures in Vocal Pedagogy and Diction for Singers
- Prepare and deliver lectures in Music Performance Pedagogy
- Prepare and deliver lectures in Music Education courses
- Prepare and direct scenes and chamber operas in Opera Workshop
- Plan and conduct weekly lessons for undergraduate and graduate voice students in both Western classical and contemporary vocal styles (including numerous trans and non-binary singers)
- Aide in repertoire choices and assignments for all private voice students
- Deliver weekly studio classes

- Communicate with students about coursework, course expectations, and assignments
- Communicate regularly with School of Music administration
- Communicate regularly with other Voice Faculty members
- Maintain accurate and up to date grades for all students
- Organize, attend, and contribute to end of semester voice juries
- Provide consistent and frequent student feedback to encourage and promote student growth and success
- Submit midterm progress reports for students experiencing trouble in any classes
- Plan, organize, and conduct end of semester voice juries
- Guest lecture in Choral Methods courses

Lecturer in Vocal Music, 09/2021 to 06/22

Eastern Washington University – Cheney, WA

- Plan and prepare syllabi for multiple quarters in various courses of Vocal Music and Music Theory
- Prepare and deliver lectures in Vocal Pedagogy, Diction for Singers, and Sight Singing/Ear Training
- Prepare and direct scenes and chamber operas in Opera Workshop
- Plan and conduct weekly lessons for undergraduate and graduate voice students in both Western classical and contemporary vocal styles (including numerous trans and non-binary singers)
- Aide in repertoire choices and assignments for all private voice students
- Deliver two vocal masterclasses per week
- Communicate with students about coursework, course expectations, and assignments
- Communicate regularly with Department of Music administration
- Maintain accurate and up to date grades for all students
- Organize, attend, and contribute to quarterly voice juries
- Provide consistent and frequent student feedback to encourage and promote student growth and success
- Submit midterm progress reports for students experiencing trouble in any classes
- Plan, organize, and conduct quarterly voice juries
- Guest lecture in Choral Methods and Music Education courses

Instructor of Voice, 09/2021 to Present

Director of Vocal Jazz, 09/2021 to Present

Seattle Pacific University – Seattle, WA

- Plan and prepare syllabi for multiple quarters in various courses of Vocal Music and Choral subjects
- Prepare and deliver lectures in Diction for Singers, Singer's Art, and Class Voice
- Plan and conduct weekly lessons for undergraduate voice students in both Western classical and contemporary vocal styles
- Aide in repertoire choices and assignments for all private voice students
- Communicate with students about coursework, course expectations, and assignments
- Communicate regularly with Department of Music administration
- Maintain accurate and up to date grades for all students
- Provide consistent and frequent student feedback to encourage and promote student growth and success
- Attend and contribute to quarterly voice juries
- Select music for the Vocal Jazz chamber ensemble, Dissonance, based on the vocal abilities, strengths, and areas of growth of the individual singers
- Plan and execute weekly choral rehearsals with the Vocal Jazz chamber ensemble, Dissonance
- Plan, organize, and execute quarterly performances
- Plan, organize, and execute recording projects for promotional use

Owner/Voice and Piano Teacher, 01/2019 to Present

Nick Klein Studios – Seattle, WA

- Teach weekly voice lessons in contemporary vocal styles and Western classical singing
- Teach weekly piano lessons in classical, jazz, and musical theater styles
- Assist students in repertoire selection
- Manage schedules, contracts, and communication
- Provide students with instructions for personal practice
- Manage budget and fee collection
- Provide accompaniment for student performances

Voice Teacher, 06/2021 to Present

The Voice Studio of Jordyn Day – Seattle, WA

- Teach weekly voice lessons in contemporary vocal styles (pop and musical theater specialty) and styling
- Teach music theory for riffing and styling through vocal exercises
- Assist students in repertoire selection
- Manage schedules, contracts, and communication
- Provide students with instructions for personal practice
- Provide accompaniment for student performances

Director of Music, 07/2019 to Present

AV Engineer, 08/2020 to Present

Central Lutheran Church – Seattle, WA

- Select and arrange music for numerous holiday performances and special events.
- Accompany morning worship services on piano and organ as part of worship team.
- Handle requests for specific musical selections.
- Use gestures to shape music being played, communicating desired tempo, volume and other performance aspects.
- Audition and select performers for musical presentations.
- Position members within groups to obtain balance among instrumental or vocal sections.
- Create spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel for daily, weekly and monthly reporting.
- Manage over 20 email communications per week.

Junior Faculty, 09/2019 to 06/2021

Graduate Teaching Assistant, 09/2019 to 06/2021

University of Washington – Seattle, WA

- Junior Faculty in Voice Performance
- Voice Area Graduate Teaching Assistant
- Plan and conduct weekly lessons for undergraduate voice students in both Western classical and contemporary vocal styles
- Teaching Assistant for Vocal Pedagogy with Dr. Kari Ragan
- Teaching Assistant for Advanced Vocal Repertoire with Professor Thomas Harper
- Assisted with and student directed productions in Opera Workshop with Professor Deanne Meek
- Assisted in coordinating multiple recitals and masterclasses
- Administered sight-singing exams for all prospective undergraduate and graduate students
- Guest lectured in Vocal Pedagogy, Art Song Repertoire, Opera Workshop, and multiple choral ensemble rehearsals

Choral Director, 09/2018 to 06/2019

German Village Society – Columbus, OH

- Planned and directed one choir rehearsal per week to increase music literacy and appreciation.
- Performed administrative tasks by developing budgets, designing and printing programs and applying for grants.
- Chose pieces of music to set choir up for success and challenge abilities.
- Selected and arranged music for numerous holiday performances and special events.

- Taught music appreciation, history and fundamentals to vocalists and musicians of all skill levels.
- Lead planning, rehearsal schedule and execution of public and private music performances.
- Positioned members within groups to obtain balance among vocal or instrumental sections.
- Directed group at live and recorded performances and rehearsals to guide rhythm, tempo and harmonic balances.
- Built interpersonal bonds with forty members to enhance meaning of music.
- Demonstrated singing techniques, teaching applicable music theory and explaining significance of pieces.
- Handled requests for specific musical selections.

Director of Choral Activities, 01/2016 to 01/2018

Grove City High School

- Directed 4 award-winning concert choirs and 2 award-winning competitive show choirs
- Directed the annual Spring Musical (credits include Beauty and the Beast, Les Misérables, Phantom of the Opera, Cinderella and The Addams Family).
- Planned and directed seven rehearsals daily in a variety of ensemble settings.
- Set up and run sound for all choir, band, and orchestra concerts as well as assemblies and guest speakers.
- Increased the enrollment in vocal music by over 20% in two years.

Interim Director of Music and Soloist, 09/2012 to 05/2019

Saint Joseph Cathedral – Columbus, OH

- Served as the Interim Director of Music for the Catholic Diocese of Columbus and Saint Joseph Cathedral.
- Duties included planning the choral schedule for the 2015-16 season, programming for concerts, programming for special Masses, and meeting and discussing with other religious figureheads, such as the Rector of the Cathedral and the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, to make sure all of the musical needs of the diocese were met.
- The largest aspect of this position was to serve as the Director of the Saint Joseph Cathedral Choir and Schola, a professional choir known for being one of the foremost Sacred Music ensembles in the United States.
- Perform solos in choral settings, for special performances, and as requested and hired by congregation members for weddings and funerals.
- Managed a music department budget of over \$50,000.

Director of Vocal Music, 01/2012 to 01/2016

Jackson Middle School

- Directed the Concert Choir and the award-winning Symphonic Choir.
- Served as the Co-Director for Grove City High School's "Touch of Class" Show Choir and "Class Act" Show Choir.
- Founded and directed the Jackson Middle School Vocal Jazz Ensemble, which has performed at numerous State Championship events, and the Jackson Middle School "Spark of Class" Show Choir, which has won numerous awards for Show Concept, Best Vocal Sound, Best Instrumental Combo, Best Costumes and Overall Grand Champion.
- Increased student enrollment in vocal music by over 50% in four years.

Music Director and Orchestra Pianist, 09/2014 to 04/2016

Opera Project Columbus – Columbus, OH

- Music Directed numerous large and chamber operas, as well as cabarets and showcases.
(Credits include The Old Maid and the Thief, Arias in Ebony, Powerful Puccini, Amahl and the Night Visitors, The Telephone)
- Prepared scores for auditions and rehearsals.
- Coordinated pit orchestra musicians.
- Rehearsed principal performers and chorus in musical preparation.
- Accompanied auditions and call-backs, including significant sight-reading for auditions.
- Played piano in numerous orchestras.

Music Director and Pit Orchestra Pianist, 05/2006 to 08/2014

Solon Center for the Arts– Solon, OH

- Music Directed numerous summer stock musicals.
(Credits include Lucky Stiff, City of Angels, Into the Woods, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, All Shook Up, The Last Five Years, Assassins, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Brigadoon)
- Prepared scores for auditions and rehearsals.
- Coordinated pit orchestra musicians.
- Rehearsed principal actors and chorus for musical preparation.
- Accompanied auditions and call-backs, including significant sight-reading for auditions.
- Played piano in numerous pit orchestras

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Lecturer – Operation Opera (Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA) – 2022

The Efficacy of Mental Practice for Motor Skill Enhancement in Singing

Masterclass – Operation Opera (Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA) – 2022

Judge – North Idaho District 1 Large Group Choir Festival (North Idaho College, Coeur d’Alene, ID) – 2022

Judge – Northwest Regional NATS (Online) – 2022

Judge – Inland Northwest NATS (Online) – 2021

Judge – Puget Sound NATS (Online) – 2021

EDUCATION

Doctor of Musical Arts: Vocal Performance, 2021

University of Washington - Seattle, WA

- Coursework in Vocal Pedagogy, Vocal Repertoire, Opera, and Music History
- Research:
 - *The Efficacy of Mental Practice for Motor Skill Enhancement in Singing*
 - *Teaching Transgender Singers*
 - *Homosexuality in the Operas of Benjamin Britten*

Capital University

The Zoltan Kodály Pedagogical Institute – The Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music: one-month residence, July 2013

M.M: Music Education, 2015

Summa Cum Laude

Kodály Certification; Levels 1, 2 & 3: 2015

B. M: Music Education, 2012

Magna Cum Laude

PUBLICATIONS

- **The Efficacy of Mental Practice for Motor Skill Enhancement in Singing**, ProQuest, 2021
- **Experts Weigh In On Current Job Market Trends**, Zippia – The Career Expert, 2021

AFFILIATIONS

- National Association of Teachers of Singing, Member
 - National Committee for Development, Member
 - Ohio Chapter, Member
 - Puget Sound Chapter, Member
 - Inland Northwest Chapter, Member
- Musical Theatre Educators’ Alliance
- American Choral Directors Association
- The College Music Society