



Matthew Morris

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Profile

As a crossover performing artist, artistic director, administrator, and teacher working in the mediums of film, television, physical theater, musical theater, and opera, I believe that truthful and dynamic storytelling is essential and possible in any medium. As *Le Monde* in Paris declared, “*you really want to hear [Matthew Morris] in either an opera or a musical. He has a big presence, a warm baritone voice, immense humanity, and the gift of an actor.*” In recent seasons, I appeared at the American Repertory Theater, Barbican Theatre on The West End, Les Bouffes du Nord in Paris, Piccolo Teatro in Milan, Gotham Chamber Opera, New York City Opera, The Kennedy Center, Santa Fe Opera, El Paso Opera, Amarillo Opera, Savannah Voice Festival, Fire Island Opera Festival, Summer Opera Tel Aviv, Aldeburgh Music Festival, Tanglewood, Théâtre de Caen, Boston Symphony Orchestra, American Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Leipzig MDR Symphony Orchestra, the National Tour of *Scrooge: The Musical*, on television in *Law & Order*, and in the feature film *The Producers!* Since 2012 I have been the associate artistic director of SongFest, the premier art song training program and festival in the United States, where I am also director of all vocal performance programs and director of curriculum development, innovating tailor-made courses for complete singing-actors from undergraduate through professional levels.

Objectives

Truthful and dynamic storytelling is essential for the twenty first century performing artist, and as I strongly believe, achievable in any storytelling medium. My work as a performer informs my teaching, and my work as a teacher informs my performing. From my own diverse experience as a lyric and non-lyric performer, I prepare performing artists to move seamlessly from the mediums of theatre to television to opera to musical theatre to physical theatre while maintaining a core foundation of truthful, dynamic, and personal story-telling. By combining work on students’ strengths and primary genre with complimentary work on skills that are less familiar and emphasized in another genre, extraordinary progress and versatility can be achieved.

My goal as a teacher is twofold: first to re-ignite the magic of performance in each student that brought them to this career in the first place. It is the foundation for any creative work. Only by giving students back to themselves, can they own their progress and move forward as their own creative artists. I create a safe space, encourage students to find an instinct, and ask them to follow it through completely. Only then have we established their individual creative spark that is the starting point for all future work. Once this is established, we can move to my second goal: to teach young artists to be their own teachers. I encourage students to identify their own artistic desires and become aware of their own process. Then I provide them with the tools necessary to continue working on that process by themselves. When we have finished our work, stu-

dents should know their strengths and weaknesses (or as I call them “areas for growth”), as well as how to emphasize their strengths and how to develop their areas for growth. Hopefully they will then combine their child-like original love for performance with an adult-like ownership of their craft and process, which will serve them in the professional world for decades to come.

Experience

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, SONGFEST, LOS ANGELES CA - 2013-PRESENT

- Scheduling
- Organizational Development, Fundraising, & Major Gift Development
- Grant writing
- Artistic Planning
 - concert planning, preparation, scheduling, staging
 - devised, curated, directed, and choreographed a touring show of “Songs in the Key of LA” with multiple singers across multiple high profile LA venues including the Huntington Library and the Hammer museum with LA Opera all based on the work of MacArthur Genius Grant Award Winner Josh Kuhn recovering pop music from the turn of the century about Southern California
 - developed, curated, and cast a concert of Hughes and Whitman songs for the Hampson Foundation
 - created, program, choreographed, and directed “Honest American” concerts for Young Artists emphasizing truthful storytelling through singing acting
- Curriculum Director and Developer
 - teacher of performance practicum course
 - private coach
 - liaison between the students and administration as well as the faculty and administration
- Creator and Developer of Alumni Association
 - created an alumni contact database, list of accomplishments, recital/rehearsal/practice venues
 - created alumni recital calendar
 - composed alumni newsletter
- Website Designer and Editor
- Social Media Director
 - Manager of social media content on Facebook, Twitter, Soundcloud, YouTube
- Director of Marketing for snail mailings/constant contact campaigns
 - writing copy for official letters and other company materials

DIRECTOR OF THE YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM, SONGFEST, LOS ANGELES CA - 2012-PRESENT

- Curriculum Director and Developer
 - Designed a curriculum for singers who have a solid technical basis which allows them to focus on interpretation and singing-acting, using techniques gathered from my own work at Juilliard & Bard Conservatory, as well as professionally with Peter Brook, Lecoq Methods, the Meisner Technique, Diane Paulus, Peter Sellars, Eve Shapiro, Dawn Upshaw, with refer-

ence to the work of Wesley Balk. Participants are generally juniors and seniors in college and graduate students from top regional music programs and conservatories including Juilliard, Curtis, Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, USC, Northwestern, Mannes, MSM, and more. Recent alumni include Emily D'Angelo, mezzo with the Canadian Opera Company winner of the 2016 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions & Madison Leonard, Merola graduate and winner of Houston Grand Opera's Eleanor McCollum Competition.) Singers receive one lesson/week, Alexander Technique, private coachings, a seminar on "Producing your own recital", small group afternoon master classes with senior faculty, and at least two performance opportunities.

- Designed Discovery Class
 - Singers participate in "Discovery" class three times per week for two hours. I created to explore techniques for complete dynamic performances and self proficiency for the singing-actor. The first hour of the class focuses on exploratory exercises to develop the singers' "tool box" of expression: musically, theatrically, and physically. The second hour of class is dedicated to putting those new skills into practical application with songs in the singers' native language. At the end of the month, our work is shared with the community through final concerts entitled "Honest American" recitals.
- Created Honest American Concerts
 - Honest American Concerts emphasize truth in musical story-telling in the performer's native language.

PRIVATE ACTING COACH/VOICE TEACHER, NEW YORK NY 2012-PRESENT

- Maintain private voice/acting studio
 - Teach private acting lessons to precollege students, conservatory students, and professional artists
 - Teach private voice lessons to precollege students, conservatory students, and professional artists
 - Produce private performance salons for students and professionals to debut new repertoire

ACTING COACH/VOICE TEACHER, SONGFEST, LOS ANGELES, CA - 2012

- Taught Private Acting Lessons
- Taught Private Voice Lessons
 - Students ranged from ages 16-26 from schools such as Eastman, Juilliard, and the New England Conservatory

VOICE TEACHER, 3RD STREET MUSIC SCHOOL, NEW YORK NY 2012-2014

- Taught Private Voice Lessons to students from age 6 to adult.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AND PERFORMER, YOU ARE NOT ALONE, NEW YORK, NY - 2011-2012

- Produce a concert series entitled *You Are Not Alone* to benefit The Trevor Project, the national suicide-prevention hotline for LGBTQ youth. Our concerts have raised over \$16,000 for the Trevor Project to date, bringing the message

of hope, love, and self-acceptance to hundreds of children across New York State. Betty Buckley, Lea DeLaria, Aaron Lazar, Jeanine Tesori, and Ricky Ian Gordon are just a few of the Broadway stars that have performed on the series to packed crowds of school children and children from New York City's youth shelters attending free of charge.

- Perform in *You Are Not Alone* benefit concerts

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER, GILMAN SCHOOL, BALTIMORE, MD - 2008-2009

- Directed all musical activities for Gilman's Middle School
 - taught general music to grades 6-8
 - conducted the "Littlemen" choir of 6th graders and the "Middlemen" choir of 7th and 8th graders
 - music directed the musical *Annie*
 - taught private voice lessons to grades 6-12
 - taught a character development course named "Talk"
 - assistant taught a course on developing study skills
 - proctored study halls.

Education

Balance Arts Center Alexander Teacher Training 2016-Present

(partially completed certification towards being an AMSAT qualified Alexander Technique Teacher)

Bard College Conservatory, Annandale-on-Hudson NY 2010-2012 M.M. Vocal Arts

The Juilliard School, New York NY 2003-2007 B.M. Voice Presidential Distinction

The Gilman School, Baltimore MD 1999-2003 High School Diploma, 2003 School Government President, Summa Cum Laude

Columbia University, New York NY 2004-2007 Courses in History, Philosophy, Language, and Literature

The Alliance Française, New York NY 2007-2012 French Language and Literature Studies

Skills

Operatic Baritone (Vocal Studies Trish McCaffrey, William McGraw, Edith Bers), Actor (Meisner, Adler, Strasburg, Eve Shapiro), Physical Theater (Lecoq Movement and Masque Studies), Dancer (classical ballet, jazz, dance), Yoga (Hatha), Musical Instruments: piano (proficient), clarinet (beginning), guitar (beginning), Alexander Technique teacher, Languages: French (fluent), Spanish (fluent), Italian (proficient), and German (proficient), Website Designer, Graphic Designer, Soccer Player (MIAA State Champion Team), Swimmer (Captain Varsity Swim Team)

Referrals

Available upon request.