

Devon Michael Russo

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Education

D.M.A

Boston University

2018-22

Doctor of Musical Arts: Vocal Performance

Participated in classes across departments, ranging from Musicology with Joshua Rifkin, art song with Dr. Javier Arrebola, Baroque Chamber Music and Figured Bass with Peter Sykes and Oratorio with Aaron Sheehan, productions with the Opera Institute, Masterclass with Tom Cipulo and Ryan McKinny, guest lectures from Ēriks Ešēnvalds, and vocal lessons from Penelope Bitzas.

Doctoral Thesis: *Equitantes Super Phoenix: Cataloging Twenty-first Century Music Making After the Early Music Revival*. Including interviews with Caroline Shaw, Nico Muhly, Jonathan Dove, Ēriks Ešēnvalds, Juliana Hall, Dashon Burton, Christian Immler, Christopher Lowery, and Patrick Dupré Quigley.

Major Repertoire Studied: Mazzoli *Proving Up* with BU Opera Institute: Johannes "Pa" Zegner, Brahms *Vier ernste Gesänge* Op. 121, Schutz Solo Bass Motets *Symphonie sacrae I*, Jonathan Dove *Three Tennyson Songs*, Juliana Hall *AHAB* [New England & Boston Premiere], Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem* Baritone Solo [Cover] with BU Symphony Orchestra and Choir, Duparc songs, Poulenc *Tel jour, telle nuit* FP 86 and *Chansons villageoises* FP 117, Britten *Tit for Tat*, *Canticle IV: Journey of the Magi* Op. 86, *Songs and Proverbs of William Blake* Op. 74, Bach *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* BWV 62: "Streite, siege, starker Held!"

M.M.

Manhattan School of Music

2013-15

Master of Music: Vocal Performance

Highlights include Handel's *Samson* directed by Benjamin Luxon and Kenneth Cooper, Mozart's *Don Giovanni* directed by Kenneth Merrill, participation in the Chamber Choir and Choral Scholar with the Oratorio Society of New York both with Kent Tritle, many productions and out reach with the Opera Theater and American Song with Paul Sperry all while studying with Mark Oswald. Master's Thesis: *Charles Ives and the New England Transcendentalists*.

B.M.

University of Rhode Island

2008-13

Bachelor of Music: Vocal Performance

Bachelor of Music: Music Education

Participated in both music education and music performance classes including instrumental conducting with Brain Cardany, Theory and Piano with Manabu Takasawa, and voice with Mark Conley. Major performance features include the baritone solos in Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, and the title role in Gianni Schicchi. Concerto Competition Winner 12/13: "News Has a Kind of Mystery" from Adams' *Nixon in China*.

University Teaching Experience

Bryant University

Smithfield, RI

Director of Choral Activities

October 2022-Current

Director of the Bryant Singers and Faculty Advisor to the Bottom Line

- Direct and conduct the concert choir, the Bryant Singers. Duties include selecting repertoire and planning concerts, selecting and hiring musicians (collaborative pianists and orchestral players), plan season, recruit students, manage and collaborate with student e-board, maintain choral library and rehearsal space.
- Stage theatrical concerts in the spring semester.
- Faculty Advisor for the school's collegiate a cappella group, the Bottom Line. Duties include rehearsing group, maintaining and teaching ensemble's vocal pedagogy, collaborating with arrangers, maintaining rehearsal space, advised on ensemble's debut album, travel with ensemble for participation in the International Championship of Collegiate A Capella (ICCA) as well as prepare ensemble for participation musically.
- 2023 ICCA Semfinalists

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI

Artist-Teacher in Classical Voice

September 2023-Current

Voice Lessons

- Conduct individual voice lessons and studio classes for undergraduate students, offering guidance and acting as a vocal model in vocal technique, breath, diction, and stage acumen. Provide students with preparation for vocal performances, juries, auditions, and competitions by aiding in selection of appropriate repertoire.
- Organize and conduct yearly auditions for new students.

Opera Workshop

- Plan, direct, and conduct yearly opera productions, from selecting repertoire, selecting and rehearsing an orchestra or ensemble depending on the production, devising innovative stage concepts that incorporate the space of a concert hall for theatrical productions, and finding and maintaining rights for production materials from different major publishing companies.
- Develop a clear and compelling artistic vision for each production while incorporating personal creativity among the student performers.
- Collaborate with other faculty members to design inclusive and far-reaching curricula and stagings for both staged productions and classes focused on acting and theatrical technique.
- Casting and conducting auditions to ensure student participants are both supported and rewardingly challenged with their assignments.
- Maintain and manage production budget while collaborating with local theatre and event companies for lighting, set, and various other production needs.

Voice Methods for Music Therapy

- Instruct students in dynamic and interactive class sessions by means of lectures, group activities, discussion of prepared materials, and demonstrations, to cultivate a deep and applicable understanding of vocal technique for therapeutic use.
- Introduce music therapy students to diverse vocal interventions, such as vocal improvisation, songwriting, vocal play and vocal expression, tailored to meet the needs of clients across various populations and clinical settings.

Boston University

Boston, MA

Voice Department Graduate Assistant

September 2018-May 2022

- Taught Voice Class for a wide ranging student body from music majors of other instruments to non-majors interested in exploring voice for the first time. Gave students a introduction to proper singing posture, vocal technique, exercises, and performance opportunities.

- Taught non-major undergraduate voice lessons, participated and graded semester juries.
- Tutored graduate and undergraduate level music theory

Providence College

Providence, RI

Voice Faculty Member

January 2018-Current

- Taught major and non-major voice lessons on wide ranging repertoire spanning the Western classical music tradition as well as popular praise music, jazz, and musical theatre. Participated and graded semester juries. Students include Music, Theatre, and Musical Theatre majors and minors.
- Taught in masterclass setting for voice department as well as giving guest lectures in Opera History and Vocal Health.
- Actively participated in the faculty concert series and performances. Including a performance of Faure's Requiem, as the baritone soloist with the assembled choirs and instrumental ensembles.
- Composed Original Score for the Department of Theatre and Dance production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

Community College of Rhode Island

West Warwick, RI

Voice Faculty Member

January 2017-May 2022

- Taught major, minor and non-major voice lessons on repertoire focusing on the Western classical music tradition as well as jazz, and musical theatre. Participated and graded semester juries. Students continued on to full four year colleges and participated in RINATS competitions.
- Taught personal studio masterclasses, arraigned guest teachers in for masterclass, and coached students on their assigned opera roles.

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI

University Chorus Assistant Conductor

Spring 2018

- Assisted in preparing the ensemble for their semester concert. Conducted, added pedagogical insights, and ran sectionals during rehearsals. Acted as a vocal model for the bass section.

Johnson & Wales University

Kingston, RI

JWU Players Musical Director and Conductor

Spring 2009

- Acted as Musical Director for the JWU Players production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Lead group and solo musical rehearsals, and conducted the pit orchestra for the run of the production, as well as assisting with staging scenes.

Other Teaching Experience

Handel and Haydn Society

Boston, MA

*Assistant Conductor of the Chorus of Sopranos and Altos: Youth Choruses
Musicianship Class Teacher*

2021-Current

- Lead and conduct sectional rehearsals for the CSA, focusing on vocal technique, intonation, phrasing and interpretation to ensure an expressive and personalized choral sound.
- Collaborate with the Music Director, Alyson Greer Espinosa, on the selection of repertoire for the ensemble.
- Provide individual vocal coaching and support for chorus members addressing specific vocal needs of students.
- Offer guidance on language and lyric diction to aid in student's personal discovery of pronunciation, diction, and vocal expression in various languages.
- Conducted the CSA in public performances of Schubert's Psalm 23, D. 706 'Gott ist Mein Hirt'

- Lead rehearsal of combined chorus of Soprano & Altos and Tenor & Basses in preparation for the Gala Performances of Handel's Let the Celestial Concerts All Unite (Sampson) and Hallelujah Chorus (Messiah) with the Handel and Haydn Society Orchestra and Choir.
- Coached ensemble on German diction
- Instructed students in Musicianship classes of various levels on various systems of ear training (Solfège, Takadimi rhythm, and hand signs) while covering fundamentals of music theory.

South Kingstown High School

South Kingstown, RI

Clinician

Summer 2021

- Prepared new students in the bass and tenor sections of the select choir.
- Aided in student placement within sections, vocal technique, and range expansion.

Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School

Providence, RI

Voice Faculty Member

January 2016-2019

- Taught students of all ages and skill levels in a community music setting. Students ranged from 8 year olds teaching private 'music lessons' where students focused on basic vocal technique and musical fundamentals, to advanced middle school and high school students auditioning for all-state choirs, solo and ensemble, and undergraduate degrees in music, and finally older students either returning to their musical lives or finding their musical footing for the first time.

South Shore Conservatory

Hingham, MA

Voice Faculty Member

January 2016-2018

Summer Vocal Institute Instructor

- Taught students of all ages and skill levels in a community music setting. Students ranged from 8 year olds teaching private 'music lessons' where students focused on basic vocal technique and musical fundamentals, to advanced middle school and high school students auditioning for all-state choirs, solo and ensemble, and undergraduate degrees in music, and finally older students either returning to their musical lives or finding their musical footing for the first time.
- Consistently performed as part of the Conservatory Series, and was featured many times during the summer festival concerts.
- During the Summer Vocal Institute would conduct, mentor and coach high school aged students.

North Kingstown School District

North Kingstown, RI

Music Career & Technical Education Board Member [CTE]

2015-Current

Vocal Coach for Departmental Musical Theatre Productions

Departmental Substitute in Advanced Placement Music Theory, String Orchestra, and Concert Choir

- Coached students on assigned roles in departmental productions. Including award winning productions of Les Misérables and Beauty and the Beast.
- Take part in planning meetings for the CTE program, organizing internships for future senior students, teaching masterclasses for participants.

Meadowbrook Waldorf School

West Kingstown, RI

Choir Instructor

2016-2017

- Prepared students for concerts, selected repertoire, conducted students in concert.

Select Performances

OPERA ROLES

Judge Turpin/Fogg/Ensemble	<i>Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street</i>	Trinity Repertory Company	2023
Chorus	<i>Lohengrin</i>	Metropolitan Opera	2023
Johannes "Pa" Zegner	<i>Proving Up</i>	Boston University Opera Institute	2021
Drunken Poet/Hymen	<i>The Fairy-Queen</i>	Haymarket Opera Company Summer Opera	2019
Badger/Pastor (Cover)	<i>The Cunning Little Vixen</i>	Boston University Opera Institute	2019
Arbas	<i>Cadmus et Hermione</i>	Amherst Early Music Festival Opera Project	2018
Second Armored Man/ Papageno (Cover)	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Connecticut Lyric Opera	2017
Le Carnaval (Cover)	<i>La Carnaval de Venise</i>	Boston Early Music Festival	2017
Sam	<i>Trouble in Tahiti</i>	Nahant Music Festival	2016
Le Carnaval, Operatuer, Lycas, Les Escoliers	<i>Le Carnaval Mascarade</i>	Baroque Opera Workshop at Queen's College	2016
Dandini (Cover)	<i>La Cenerentola</i>	Opera in Williamsburg	2016
Tirenio	<i>Il Pastor Fido (Handel)</i>	Amherst Early Music Festival Opera Project	2015
Don Giovanni (Cover)	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Manhattan School of Music Accompanying Singers Seminar	2015
Oloferne	<i>La Giuditta</i>	Manhattan School of Music Baroque Aria Ensemble	2015
Farasmane	<i>Radamisto</i>	Manhattan Opera Studio Summer Festival	2014
Papageno	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Manhattan Opera Studio Summer Festival	2014
Manoah	<i>Samson</i>	Manhattan School of Music Baroque Aria Ensemble	2014
Sylvester	<i>Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters</i>	Manhattan School of Music Opera Theater	2013
Samuel	<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Opera Providence	2013

CONCERT & ORATORIO SOLOS

Der Holländer	<i>Der fliegende Holländer</i>	Tundi Productions	2023
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Bass Soloist	<i>Missa in Angustiis "Lord Nelson Mass" Hob. XXII:11</i>	Chorus of Westerly	2022
Pontius Pilate & Bass Aria Soloist	<i>St. Luke Passion</i>	Trinity Lutheran Church	2022
Baritone Soloist (Cover)	<i>Ein Deutsches Requiem, Op. 45</i>	Boston University Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Chorus	2022
Bass Soloist	<i>Messiah</i>	Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra	2019
Jesus	<i>St. Mark Passion (Bach)</i>	Trinity Lutheran Church	2018
Bass Soloist (Understudy)	<i>Messiah</i>	Oratorio Society of New York	2016
Baritone Soloist	<i>In Terra Pax (Finzi)/ Fantasia on Christmas Carols</i>	Blacksburg Master Chorale	2016
Bass Soloist	<i>Paukenmesse</i>	Nashua Choral Society	2016
Baritone Soloist	<i>Requiem (Faure)</i>	St. Stephen's Church (Providence, RI)	2016
Bass Soloist	<i>Carmina Burana (No. 19)</i>	Boston Symphony Orchestra	2016
Elijah	<i>Elijah</i>	Masterworks Choral Summer Sing	2016
Bass Soloist	<i>Weihnachts-Oratorium</i>	Harvard pro Musica	2015
Argante	<i>Rinaldo</i>	Manhattan School of Music Baroque Aria Ensemble	2014

Training Programs and Ensemble Experience

Seraphic Fire	Bass	A Seraphic Fire Christmas	2023-current
Internationalen Sommerakademie am Mozarteum Salzburg		Lied and Oratorio Course	2023
Metropolitan Opera Chorus	Bass 2	Extra Chorus	2023-current
New York Philharmonic Chorus	Bass		2022-current
Marsh Chapel	Choral Fellow - Bass 2		2022-current
The Crossing	Bass		2022-current
Santa Fe Desert Chorale	Bass		2022-current
Upper Valley Baroque	Bass		2022
Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute		Artist Training Program	2021
Orford Musique		Christian Immler Masterclass	2020/21
Singing Down the Barriers		University of Michigan	2021

Source Song Festival	MNDuo	2021
Voces8 Choral Scholar Program	Young Artist Training Program	2019/20
Aspen Music Festival and School	Seraphic Fire Professional Choral Institute	2018
Connecticut Lyric Opera	Young Artist Training Program	2017/18
Boston Early Music Festival	Young Artist Training Program	2017
Ensemble Altera		2017-Current
Brevitas Choir		2019
Oratorio Society of New York	Choral Scholar	2014/15
Quicksilver Baroque Orchestra: Schien Madrigals		2017
Boston Lyric Opera		2016-Current
Odyssey Opera of Boston		2015/18

Compositional Activities

- While The Gods Were Laughing - A Symphonic Poem for Piano and Orchestra 2023
- Macbeth - Full Original Soundtrack for Stage and Screen productions with the Burbage Theatre Company and the Providence College Theatre Department 2021/2022
- Three Songs for BASS Voice by Henry Purcell - Contemporary Realization of the Three Solo Bass songs by Purcell for Bass Voice and Piano 2021
- O Were My Love Yon Lilac Fair - Art Song Setting of the Robert Burns Poem for Bass Voice and Piano 2019

Award and Scholarship

- The Lyndon Woodside Oratorio-Solo Competition Semifinalist 2023
- Esther B. and Albert S. Kahn Career Entry Award Finalist Boston University 2022
- Doctoral Assistanship Boston University
- Merit Scholarship Boston University
- Work Study Recipient Manhattan School of Music
- The American Prize in Voice Friedrich & Virginia Schorr Memorial Award (Art Song and Oratorio) Semifinalist 2016/17
- University of Rhode Island Concerto Competition Winner Year 2012-2013 [Nixon in John Adams' *Nixon in China*]
- Merit Scholarship University of Rhode Island
- NATS Artist Awards Competition Runner Up Rhode Island 2012

Professional Affiliations

- Associated Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA)
- National Association of Teachers of Singing [Home Chapter: Rhode Island] (NATS/RINATS)
- Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society

Vocal Instructors: Penelope Bitzas, Mark Oswald, Mark Conley

Coaches: Christian Immler, Dashon Burton, Aaron Sheehan, Peter Harvey, Julianne Baird, Kenneth Merril, Kenneth Cooper, David Mayfield, Michelle Beaton

Directors: Gilbert Blin, Antonio Fava, Drew Minter, Walker Lewis, Benjamin Luxon, Dona Vaughn, Richard Gammon, Nathaniel Merchant, Rene de la Garza

Conductors: Paul O'Dette, Stephen Stubbs, Kent Tritle, Adam Pearl, Kevin Mallon, Jorge Parodi, Marcello Cormio, David Angus, John Oliver

Masterclasses: Thomas Hampson, Frederica von Stade, Ryan McKinny, Tom Cipullo, Jayne West, Kendra Colton, William Hite, Pamela Dellal

