

# MATTHEW STERN

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Music Director - Pianist - Conductor - Educator - Director - Vocal Coach

## Curriculum Vitae

### OVERVIEW:

Matthew's work focuses on the meeting of musicality and storytelling. He helps performers and students to build agency, authenticity, and bravery through song interpretation and performance. He is trained and practiced in the skills of a director, music director, conductor, pianist, and vocal coach, and enhances those skills with a text-driven approach to song interpretation founded on actor training techniques including Linklater voice work, Alexander technique, and Sheri Sanders' Pop/Rock audition training. His intense study of acting and vocal techniques and all aspects of musical theatre combined with his professional experience make him a uniquely versatile coach and educator.

### EDUCATION:

**Master of Fine Arts** in Theatre Studies, concentration in **Music Theatre** (focus on vocal coaching and music direction), Boston University, 2016

- Thesis: Music Directing PARADE - Using My Voice as a Collaborator and Educator

**Bachelor of Fine Arts** in **Vocal Performance** and Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University

- Graduated Summa Cum Laude
- Inducted to Phi Beta Kappa, Brandeis University Chapter, 2008

### Training:

- **Rock the Audition Teacher Training:** Sheri Sanders
- **Piano:** Matthew Larson, Scott Nicholas
- **Singing:** Pamela Wolfe, Heidi Hayes
- **Conducting:** William Lumpkin, Anne Howard Jones, Scott Allen Jarrett, James Olesen, Neal Hampton, Daniel Stepner, Lawrence Wolfe
- **Vocal Pedagogy:** James Demler
- **Voice and Speech:** Paula Langton (**Linklater**), Christine Hamel (**Linklater, Phonetic Pillows**)
- **Alexander Technique:** Betsy Polatin
- **Theatre Education:** Michael Kaye, Jim Petosa

### PERFORMANCE AND MUSIC DIRECTION EXPERIENCE:

#### Music Direction in NYC

Raise Your Voice ( <i>feat. Jay Armstrong Johnson</i> )	Symphony Space	2024
All in Good Company ( <i>feat. Jess Darron, JoJo Fleites</i> )	The Cutting Room	2023

#### Music Direction for Professional Theater

The Drowsy Chaperone ( <i>dir. Larry Sousa</i> )	Lyric Stage Company of Boston	2024
Little Women ( <i>dir. Ilyse Robbins</i> )	Greater Boston Stage Company	2022
Sing Street ( <i>dir. Rebekah Taichman, chor. Sonya Tayeh</i> )	The Huntington, 321 Productions	2022
-Associate Music Director (MD: <b>Fred Lassen</b> , MS: <b>Kris Kukul</b> , <b>Pete Gorden</b> )		

A Gentleman's Guide to Love... (dir. Spiro Veloudos)	Lyric Stage Company of Boston	2022
The Old Man and the Old Moon (dir. Julia Deter)	Umbrella Stage Company	2021
All is Calm (dir. Ilyse Robbins)	Greater Boston Stage Company	2021
-New England Premiere, Elliot Norton Nomination for Best Musical Director, Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Musical Production		
Tuck Everlasting (dir. Nancy Curran Willis)	Umbrella Stage Company	2019
-New England Premiere		
James and the Giant Peach (dir. Emily Ranii)	Wheelock Family Theatre	2019
Fun Home (dir. Paul Daigneault)	SpeakEasy Stage Company	2018/9
-IRNE Award Nomination for Best Music Director		
Allegiance (dir. Paul Daigneault)	SpeakEasy Stage Company	2018
-New England Premiere		
She Loves Me (dir. Ilyse Robbins)	Greater Boston Stage Company	2017
<b>Merrily We Roll Along</b> (dir. Maria Friedman)	<b>The Huntington</b>	2017
-IRNE Award for Best Musical Director, IRNE Award for Best Musical, Elliot Norton Nomination for Best Musical Director		
The Bridges of Madison County (dir. M. Bevin O'Gara)	SpeakEasy Stage Company	2017
-New England Premiere		
Altar Boyz (dir. Tyler Rosati, Ceit Zweil)	Greater Boston Stage Company	2017
Brecht on Brecht (dir. Jim Petosa)	New Repertory Theatre	2017
Mame (dir. Ilyse Robbins, feat. Kathy St. George)	Greater Boston Stage Company	2016
The Scottsboro Boys (dir. Paul Daigneault)	SpeakEasy Stage Company	2016/7
-New England Premiere; <u>IRNE Award for Best Musical Director</u> ; Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Musical Production		
Violet (dir. Paul Daigneault)	SpeakEasy Stage Company	2016
-Regional Theatre Premiere of the revised version; Elliot Norton Award Nomination for Outstanding Musical Production		
A Christmas Carol (dir. Troy Siebels)	Hanover Theatre	2015
A Funny Thing...Forum (dir. Weylin Symes)	Greater Boston Stage Company	2015
Shrek (dir. Shelley Bolman)	Wheelock Family Theatre	2015
-IRNE Award Nomination for Best Music Director		
Big Fish (dir. Paul Daigneault)	SpeakEasy Stage Company	2015
-Collaboration with Andrew Lipa, John August, and August Eriksmoen to develop a small cast version as well as a reduced orchestration		
Assassins (dir. Jim Petosa)	New Repertory Theatre	2014
Hairspray (dir. Susan Kosoff)	Wheelock Family Theater	2014
-Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Musical Production; IRNE Award Nomination for Best Music Director		
Ragtime (dir. Meg Fofonoff)	Fiddlehead Theatre Company	2012
-Broadway World Boston Award for Best Music Director; IRNE Award Nomination for Best Music Director		
The Nutcracker (dir. Caitlin Lowans)	Greater Boston Stage Company	2011
Candide (dir. Ralph Petillo)	Berkshire Theatre Festival	2009
Cabaret (dir. Rick Lombardo)	New Repertory Theatre	2009
-Assistant Music Director		

### Additional Professional Engagements

- **Gala Music Director** - Huntington Theater (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023; featuring **Santino Fontana, Kate Baldwin**, Marva Hicks, Eden Espinosa, Jenni Barber, Keith David, Maria Friedman, Joel Perez), Umbrella Arts Center (2019), SpeakEasy Stage (2016), New Repertory Theater (2013, 2014)
- **Audition Pianist** - Tara Rubin Casting, Six on Broadway LP, Huntington Theatre Company, American Repertory Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre, Emerson College Musical Theatre Program, Greater Boston Stage Company, SpeakEasy Stage, Lyric Stage, Fiddlehead Theatre, New Repertory Theatre, Wheelock Family Theatre, Aspen Theatre
- **Master Class Accompanist** - Eden Espinosa, Tara Rubin, Stephen Schwartz, Betty Buckley, Rita Gardner, Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, Natalie Weiss, Seth Rudetsky, Andrea Burns, Mandy Gonzalez, Sheldon Harnick, Jonathan Tartaglia, Terrence McNally, Sheri Sanders, Steven Reineke, Andréa Burns, Caesar Samayoa, Betsy Wolfe, Michael Kosarin, David Stone, Anthony Nunziata, Adam Gwon
- **Adjudicator** - National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Competition
- **Concert Music Director** - Amy Jo Jackson at Club Café, Kevin Hanley and Kevin Hadfield at Club Café, Michael Dunavant, Lynda Bussgang, Michael Flynn, and UFORGE Gallery Cabaret Series
- **Cocktail/Lounge Pianist** for various private functions
- **Keyboard Programming** for various theatrical productions including *Matilda*, *Shrek*, *Les Misérables*, *Hairspray*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, etc.
- **Concert Pianist** for Side by Side Concerts featuring members of the New York Pops, conducted by Steven Reineke (2018) and Michael Kosarin (2016)

### Music Direction for University Theater and Opera

Anyone Can Whistle ( <i>dir. Clay Hopper</i> )	Boston University School of Theatre	2020
String ( <i>dir. McCaella Donovan</i> )	Boston University School of Theatre	2019
Cabaret ( <i>dir. Otis Sallid</i> )	Boston Conservatory at Berklee	2019
Runaways ( <i>dir. Elaine van Hogue</i> )	Boston University School of Theatre	2018
Parade ( <i>dir. Clay Hopper</i> )	Boston University School of Theatre	2016
25th Annual...Spelling Bee ( <i>dir. Scott Edmiston</i> )	Northeastern University Dept. of Theatre	2016
That 1770's Show	Hasty Pudding Theatricals, Harvard University	2016
Angels in America ( <i>cond. William Lumpkin</i> ) -Assistant Music Director	Boston University Opera Institute	2015
The Human Comedy ( <i>dir. Jim Petosa</i> )	Boston University School of Theatre	2014
Don Giovanni ( <i>cond. William Lumpkin</i> ) -Assistant Music Director	Boston University Opera Institute	2014
Florencia en el Amazonas ( <i>cond. William Lumpkin</i> ) -Assistant Music Director	Boston University Opera Institute	2014
Pacific Overtures ( <i>dir. Jim Petosa</i> )	Boston University School of Theatre	2013
Siren Song ( <i>cond. William Lumpkin</i> ) -Assistant Music Director	Boston University Opera Institute	2013
Assassins ( <i>dir. Jim Petosa</i> )	Boston University School of Theatre	2012
Merrily We Roll Along ( <i>dir. Jim Petosa</i> )	Boston University School of Theatre	2010
Saturday Night ( <i>dir. Eric Hill</i> )	Brandeis Theatre Company	2008
Threepenny Opera ( <i>dir. Eric Hill</i> ) -Assistant Music Director	Brandeis Theatre Company	2007

### Music Direction for Educational Theater

Rent (School Edition)	Brooks School	2022
Hello Dolly	Temple Beth Elohim	2016
Fiddler on the Roof	Alexander Children's Theater	2015
Seussical	Temple Beth Elohim	2015
The Producers	Temple Beth Elohim	2014
Once on this Island	Alexander Children's Theater	2014
Into the Woods	Newton South High School	2014
Spring Awakening	Newton South High School	2013
13	Temple Beth Elohim	2013
Schoolhouse Rock, Live!	Boston Children's Theater	2013
Alexander and the Terrible...Day	Boston Children's Theater	2013
Rent (School Edition)	Chelsea High School	2013
The Drowsy Chaperone	Newton South High School	2013
Honk	Stoneham Young Company	2013
The Wiz	Boston Collegiate Charter School	2012
Avenue Q (School Edition)	Newton South High School	2012
Fiddler on the Roof	Temple Beth Elohim	2012
Into the Woods	Stoneham Young Company	2012
Beauty and the Beast	Newton South High School	2012
25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee	Newton South High School	2011
Funny Girl	Temple Beth Elohim	2011
Chicago	Beaver Country Day School	2011
Cinderella	Riverside Theatre Works	2011
Hairspray	Newton South High School	2011
Vaudeville Cabaret	Newton South High School	2010
Milk and Honey	Temple Beth Elohim	2010

### Music Direction for Fringe Theater

Fun Home	Company Theater Center	2020
Oklahoma	Temple Beth Elohim	2016
The Music Man	Temple Beth Elohim	2015
Spamalot	Footlight Club	2013
-DASH Award Nomination for Best Music Director		
Legally Blonde	Next Door Theater	2013
Parade	Footlight Club	2013
-DASH Award for Best Music Director		
Grey Gardens	Arlington Friends of Drama	2012
-DASH Award Nomination for Best Music Director		
42nd Street	Winthrop Playmakers	2011
-DASH Award Nomination for Best Music Director		

Curtains	Arlington Friends of Drama	2011
I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change	Newton Country Players	2011
25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee	Walpole Footlighters	2010
Oliver	Footlight Club	2010
Assassins	Curtain Call Theater	2009
Urinetown	Curtain Call Theater	2009

Music Direction and **[Direction]** at French Woods Festival for the Performing Arts (2010-2023)

The Prom	<b>[Sunday in the Park...George]</b>	<b>[Bean a Long Day]</b>
<b>[Joseph and the...Dreamcoat]</b>	<b>[Lightning Thief]</b>	<b>[Merrily We Roll Along]</b>
Songs for a New World	<b>[Into the Woods]</b>	Mean Girls
<b>[Godspell]</b>	Cinderella	<b>[Shrek]</b>
Matilda	<b>[Crazy for You]</b>	<b>[Company]</b>
<b>[Curtains]</b>	Mamma Mia	Something Rotten
Beauty and the Beast	<b>[Disaster! the Musical]</b>	The Spitfire Grill
Newsies	A Gentleman's Guide to Love...	Nine
<b>[The Music Man]</b>	Bright Star	Funny Girl
Nice Work If You Can Get It	42nd Street	Little Shop of Horrors
The Hunchback of Notre Dame	How to Succeed in Business...	Babes in Arms
Crazy For You	Once Upon a Mattress	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
Pippin	Baby	She Loves Me
Ragtime	A New Brain	A Chorus Line
In The Heights	13	The Pajama Game
Dogfight	Aida	Xanadu
Light in the Piazza	Bonnie and Clyde	Chicago
Gypsy	Mary Poppins	West Side Story
Little Mermaid	James and the Giant Peach	Grand Hotel
Annie	Parade	Oklahoma
Little Women	Legally Blonde	The Rink
Sunday in the Park with George	Company A Year with Frog and	Urinetown
City of Angels	Toad	Cabaret
The King and I	9 to 5	Hello Dolly
Damn Yankees	Fiddler on the Roof	Evita
Little Me	Avenue Q	La Cage aux Folles
Violet	Les Miserables	Chess
Sweeney Todd	Spring Awakening	Mame
Kiss Me Kate	A Little Night Music	

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE** (all syllabi available upon request):

Boston Conservatory at Berklee - **Assistant Professor of Musical Theater**, Theater Division (Spring, 2016-Fall, 2022)

- T-EN 2301 - Musical Theater 3 / T-EN 2302 - Musical Theater 4 - Fall, 2017-Spring, 2019, Fall, 2020-Fall, 2022  
Musical theatre studio course for sophomore students in the BFA Musical Theatre program. Students in the course develop skills around performing solo songs selected from a cross section of composers throughout history.
- T-EN 3301 - Musical Theater 5 / T-EN 3302 - Musical Theater 6 - Fall, 2019-Spring, 2020  
Musical theatre studio course for junior students in the BFA Musical Theatre program. Students in the course develop skills around performing musical theater scenes from a number of styles across the musical theater canon.
- T-EN 6301 - Musical Theater Styles and Analysis 3 / T-EN 6302 - Musical Theater Styles and Analysis 4 - Fall, 2017-Spring, 2018  
Musical theatre studio course for second-year students in the MFA Musical Theatre program. Focuses on performing repertoire from Brecht/Weill, Sondheim, and contemporary composers.
- T-SK 2403 - Piano 3 - Fall, 2021  
Skills lab for musical theater students learning to play piano. Course focuses on singing and playing with a lead sheet, as well as technical scales and chord exercises.
- T-AP 301/303 - Vocal Repertoire - Spring, 2016-Spring, 2018, Fall, 2019-Fall, 2022  
Works with a studio of 16 seniors, first-year, and second-year graduate students to recommend and add 15-17 songs to each individual's repertoire over the course of a semester in weekly half-hour coaching sessions. Organizes and accompanies recital programs for each student at the end of the semester, highlighting selected repertoire.
- Committee Work
  - Rehearsal and Production Committee (ongoing)  
Works with committee members to plan a season of shows each year that meets the needs of our diverse community. Evaluates current rehearsal and production practices, assesses national trends, and makes recommendations for change. Discusses the merits of associating course credit with production work, creating a guaranteed casting policy, limiting casting opportunities to certain grade levels, etc.
  - MFA Revisioning Committee (Spring 2021)  
Worked with committee members to gather data and make recommendations to the administration for the future of the MFA program in Musical Theater. Interviewed leaders of graduate programs in our institution, researched national trends for graduate theater programs, connected with potential professional partners for our revised program, and evaluated the need in the industry for an MFA program in theater.

Boston University:

**Music Theatre Lecturer** (Fall, 2016-Present)

- CFA TH 217 - Music Theatre Performance Skills I (Fall, 2018, Fall, 2020)  
Developed and co-teach a course in which students begin to explore storytelling through song. Students are coached in and out of class on solo repertoire utilizing exercises to explore beat work, character development, and laban action efforts.
- CFA TH 218 - Music Theatre Performance Skills II: Applying Stanislavski Principles (Fall, 2016 - Present)  
Developed and co-teach a course in which students deepen their ability to act a song. Students are coached in and out of class on solo repertoire utilizing exercises to explore beat work, character development, and laban action efforts. Students also engage in group singing exercises to develop their musicianship skills. In the second half of the term, students begin delving into scene work in preparation for continued exploration in Music Theatre Performance Skills III.

- CFA TH 317 Music Theatre Performance Skills III: Scene Study (Fall, 2016 - Present)  
Developed and co-teach a course in which all elements of the musical theater genre are examined to deepen the performers' understanding of form and style. Students are coached both in and out of class on scenes from three different eras in musical theater history, with the goal of strengthening the connection between actor, character, text, and music.
- CFA TH 419 - Music Theatre Performance Lab (Fall, 2016 - Present)  
Students learn musical theatre selections (classical/golden-age, Sondheim, contemporary, and pop/rock styles) to include in their repertoire book and develop skills to audition for musical theatre. Coach students regularly out of class, recommending repertoire, developing singing technique and skills for song interpretation, and providing instruction in creating song cuts for auditions.

### **Graduate Teaching Fellow**

- Vocal Instructor and Vocal Coach (2013-2015)  
Provides individual repertoire coaching to all School of Theatre students enrolled in musical theatre performances classes, and to freshmen preparing to enroll in the musical theatre concentration. (Amounts to approximately 30-40 students in any given semester.)
- Collaborative Theatre Ensemble: The Concept Musical (Fall, 2014)  
Created a course for sophomore and junior School of Theatre students to explore the historical development of the concept musical through research and performance. The course culminated in a presentation of musical theatre scenes that were rehearsed throughout the semester. Students developed skills in both musical preparation and acting techniques for Brechtian, non-linear, and conceptual pieces of theater.
- Collaborative Theatre Ensemble: Sound and Music in Storytelling (Spring, 2015)  
Created a course for non-majors, theatre minors, and theatre majors to explore the relationship between sound and theatrical storytelling. Course exercises allowed students to focus on sound as language, creating tone in story, the use of sound effects, and how music can be born of story and vice versa. Students created original short works of theater in a collaborative ensemble, functioning as actors, designers, directors, and musicians.
- Music Theatre Performance Skills III: Scene Study (Fall, 2015)  
See description above.
- Music Theatre Performance Skills II: Acting the Song (Spring, 2016)  
See description above.

### **Teaching Assistant**

- Singing for the Actor (course accompanist and vocal coach, 2013-2015)  
Students learned fundamental skills for acting through song as an extension of their previous work with Linklater's *Freeing the Natural Voice*. Coached students regularly out of class to develop singing technique and song interpretation.
- Music Theatre Performance Lab (course accompanist and vocal coach, 2013-2015)  
See description above.

### Emerson College - **Affiliated Faculty**, Performing Arts Department (Spring, 2017; Spring, 2019)

- MU 205 - Music Analysis II  
Examines the musical analysis of works of musical theater by a variety of composers. Students in the course develop analytical musicianship skills, and learn how to apply information gleaned musical analysis to the dramatic interpretation of a piece of musical theater. Required for BFA Musical Theatre majors in junior year.

## Educational Theater Programs

- Faculty, French Woods Festival for the Performing Arts, Hancock, NY (2010-Present)  
Supervises the music direction faculty; serves as a director, music director, conductor, and pianist, working with hundreds of young musical theater performers (ages 7-18); music directs 8-12 productions each summer; conceives and directs Cabaret Troupe, a touring cabaret show featuring the most advanced performers the institution has to offer.
- Program Director, Jewish Actors Workshop, Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley, MA (2007-2016)  
Developed and taught a program for 8th-12th graders and increased enrollment from 12 students to 35 students in 8 years. Students connected the experience of rehearsing and performing to the Jewish values upheld in the community.
- Staff Music Director, Newton South High School, Newton, MA (2011-2014)  
Music directed seven productions between 2011 and 2015 with casts as large as 60 and student orchestras as large as 25 pieces

## **SKILLS AND PRINCIPLES:**

Voice	Vocal Pedagogy Principles	Ear Training
Song Interpretation	Conducting	Phonetics Principles
Pop/Rock Song Coaching	Synthesizer Programming	Alexander Technique Principles
Piano	Music Theory	Linklater Technique Principles

## **REFERENCES:**

Jim Petosa, Former Director of the School of Theatre, Boston University - [jimjamespeto@aol.com](mailto:jimjamespeto@aol.com)

Patsy Collins Bades, Former Chair of the Theater Division, Boston Conservatory - [pmbades@gmail.com](mailto:pmbades@gmail.com)

Neil Donohoe, Former Dean of the Theatre Division, Boston Conservatory - [neildonohoe123@gmail.com](mailto:neildonohoe123@gmail.com)

Alison Kur, Executive Director of Jewish Living, Temple Beth Elohim - [akur@tbenellesley.org](mailto:akur@tbenellesley.org)

Paul Daigneault, Artistic Director, SpeakEasy Stage Company - [pauldaigneault@speakeasystage.com](mailto:pauldaigneault@speakeasystage.com)

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Christine Hamel, School of Theatre Faculty, Boston University - [chamel@bu.edu](mailto:chamel@bu.edu)

Beth Schaefer, Camp Director, French Woods Festival - [beth@frenchwoods.com](mailto:beth@frenchwoods.com)

\*Additional contact information available upon request