

MATTHEW STERN

(610) 220-2902
mstern303@me.com
www.mattsternmusic.com

Musical Theater Educator - Music Director - Vocal Coach Curriculum Vitae

OVERVIEW:

Matthew's work focuses on the meeting of musicality and storytelling. He is trained and practiced in the skills of a 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 the Colaianni Phonetic Pillow approach to speech. 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:

- **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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (all syllabi available upon request):

Boston Conservatory at Berklee - Instructor, Musical Theatre Division (Spring, 2016-Present)

- T-EN 2301 - Musical Theater 3 / T-EN 2302 - Musical Theater 4 - Fall, 2017-Present
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 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-AP 301/303 - Vocal Repertoire - Spring, 2016-Spring, 2018
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.

Boston University:

Music Theatre Lecturer (Fall, 2016-Present)

- CFA TH 217 - Music Theatre Performance Skills I (Fall, 2018-Present)
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
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
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
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)

- 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 (2010-2016)
Supervises the music direction faculty; serves as a 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

PERFORMANCE AND MUSICAL DIRECTION EXPERIENCE:

Music Direction for Professional Theater

James and the Giant Peach (<i>dir. Emily Rannii</i>)	Wheelock Family Theatre	2019
Fun Home (<i>dir. Paul Daigneault</i>)	Speakeasy Stage Company	2018
Allegiance (<i>dir. Paul Daigneault</i>)	Speakeasy Stage Company	2018
-New England Premiere		
She Loves Me (<i>dir. Ilyse Robbins</i>)	Greater Boston Stage Company	2017
Merrily We Roll Along (<i>dir. Maria Friedman</i>)	Huntington Theatre Company	2017
-IRNE Award for Best Musical Director, IRNE Award for Best Musical, Elliot Norton Nomination for Best Musical Director		
The Bridges of Madison County (<i>dir. M. Bevin O'Gara</i>)	Speakeasy Stage Company	2017
-New England Premiere		
Altar Boyz (<i>dir. Tyler Rosati, Ceit Zweil</i>)	Greater Boston Stage Company	2017
Brecht on Brecht (<i>dir. Jim Petosa</i>)	New Repertory Theatre	2017
Mame (<i>dir. Ilyse Robbins, feat. Kathy St. George</i>)	Greater Boston Stage Company	2016
The Scottsboro Boys (<i>dir. Paul Daigneault</i>)	Speakeasy Stage Company	2016/7
-New England Premiere; IRNE Award for Best Musical Director; Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Musical Production		
Violet (<i>dir. Paul Daigneault</i>)	Speakeasy Stage Company	2016
-Regional Theatre Premiere of the revised version; Elliot Norton Award Nomination for Outstanding Musical Production		
A Christmas Carol (<i>dir. Troy Siebels</i>)	Hanover Theatre	2015
A Funny Thing...Forum (<i>dir. Weylin Symes</i>)	Greater Boston Stage Company	2015

Shrek (<i>dir. Shelley Bolman</i>) - IRNE Award Nomination for Best Music Director	Wheelock Family Theatre	2015
Big Fish (<i>dir. Paul Daigneault</i>) -Collaboration with Andrew Lipa, John August, and August Eriksmoen to develop a small cast version as well as a reduced orchestration	Speakeasy Stage Company	2015
Assassins (<i>dir. Jim Petosa</i>)	New Repertory Theatre	2014
Hairspray (<i>dir. Susan Kosoff</i>) - Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Musical Production; IRNE Award Nomination for Best Music Director	Wheelock Family Theater	2014
Ragtime (<i>dir. Meg Fofonoff</i>) - Broadway World Boston Award for Best Music Director; IRNE Award Nomination for Best Music Director	Fiddlehead Theatre Company	2012
The Nutcracker (<i>dir. Caitlin Lowans</i>)	Greater Boston Stage Company	2011
Candide (<i>dir. Ralph Petillo</i>)	Berkshire Theatre Festival	2009
Cabaret (<i>dir. Rick Lombardo</i>) -Assistant Music Director	New Repertory Theatre	2009

Additional Professional Engagements

- **Audition Pianist** - Huntington Theatre Company, American Repertory Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre, Emerson College Musical Theatre Program, Stoneham Theatre, Speakeasy Stage, Fiddlehead Theatre, New Repertory Theatre, Wheelock Family Theatre, Aspen Theatre
- **Master Class Accompanist** - Eden Espinosa, 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, Sherie Sanders, Steven Reineke, Andrea Burns, Caesar Samayoa
- **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 *Shrek*, *Les Miserables*, *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

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

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

Oklahoma	Temple Beth Elohim	2016
The Music Man	Temple Beth Elohim	2015
Spamalot -DASH Award Nomination for Best Music Director	Footlight Club	2013
Legally Blonde	Next Door Theater	2013

Parade - DASH Award for Best Music Director	Footlight Club	2013
Grey Gardens - DASH Award Nomination for Best Music Director	Arlington Friends of Drama	2012
42nd Street - DASH Award Nomination for Best Music Director	Winthrop Playmakers	2011
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 at French Woods Festival for the Performing Arts (2010-2016)

Newsies	A Gentleman's Guide to Love...	The Spitfire Grill
The Music Man	Bright Star	Nine
Nice Work If You Can Get It	42nd Street	Funny Girl
The Hunchback of Notre Dame	How to Succeed in Business...	Little Shop of Horrors
Crazy For You	Once Upon a Mattress	Babes in Arms
Pippin	Baby	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
Ragtime	A New Brain	She Loves Me
In The Heights	13	A Chorus Line
Dogfight	Aida	The Pajama Game
Light in the Piazza	Bonnie and Clyde	Xanadu
Gypsy	Mary Poppins	Chicago
Little Mermaid	James and the Giant Peach	West Side Story
Annie	Parade	Grand Hotel
Little Women	Legally Blonde	Oklahoma
Sunday in the Park with George	Company	The Rink
City of Angels	A Year with Frog and Toad	Urinetown
The King and I	9 to 5	Cabaret
Damn Yankees	Fiddler on the Roof	Hello Dolly
Little Me	Avenue Q	Evita
Violet	Les Miserables	La Cage Aux Folles
Sweeney Todd	Spring Awakening	Chess
Kiss Me Kate	A Little Night Music	Mame

SKILLS AND PRINCIPLES:

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

REFERENCES:

Jim Petosa, Director of the School of Theatre, Boston University - jimjamespeto@aol.com

Neil Donohoe, Dean of the Theatre Division, Boston Conservatory - ndonohoe@bostonconservatory.edu

Alison Kur, Executive Director of Jewish Living, Temple Beth Elohim - akur@tbewellesley.org

Paul Daigneault, Artistic Director, Speakeasy Stage Company - pauldaigneault@speakeasystage.com

Matthew Larson, School of Music Faculty, Boston University - buosomatt@aol.com

Christine Hamel, School of Theatre Faculty, Boston University - chamel@bu.edu

Beth Schaefer, Camp Director, French Woods Festival - beth@frenchwoods.com

*Additional contact information available upon request