

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Bianca Jackson, coloratura soprano, is an Assistant Professor of Music at Norfolk State University. Bianca possesses over twenty years' experience in classical, sacred, and contemporary genres and has performed across the U.S. and in Italy. Last season, she was a soprano with the Virginia Opera Chorus. Bianca has performed with the Norfolk State University Theatre Company as featured soloist in *Black Nativity* and a Tribute to Whitney and Aretha. Her debut recital in Hampton Roads was with the Chesapeake Civic Chorus, under the direction of Geraldine Boone. She has been featured soloist on several recordings with the Tougaloo College Concert Choir and Jazz Ensemble. Honors include a Mississippi Arts Commission Fellowship, first place in the North Louisiana NATS graduate division, first place in the Texoma NATSAA South Texas district auditions, encouragement award for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and finalist in New York City's Career Bridges Competition. Bianca presented and performed at the National Opera Association's Southeastern Regional Conference on selected operas of William Grant Still. Bianca earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance from The University of Texas at Austin, with certification in African and African American Studies. Other degrees include a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and Music Performance and Music Education degrees from Tougaloo College.

Gregory Gardner earned a Bachelor and Master of Music degree in vocal performance from Howard University. He completed summer study at the Maurice Ravel Academy in St. Jean-de-Luz, France and the Summer Vocal Institute in Graz, Austria. He has been a soloist with the New York Pops, the Virginia Symphony, and the Virginia Opera. He has performed nationally and internationally in opera, oratorio, musical theater, and song recitals. In 2007, he relocated from New York to Norfolk, Virginia, his hometown, and joined the music faculty at Norfolk State University where he is an assistant professor of voice and coordinator of the Division of Music, teaching and mentoring many undergraduate and graduate students.

