

Craig Allen, Adjunct Voice Faculty, Winthrop University



Singer, dancer, actor, director, and choreographer Craig Allen has been described as an exemplary soloist (Kansas City Star) with a brilliant nimble voice (KC Metropolis). He is on the music faculty at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. When he is not teaching, he is an active performer, recently seen in *Carmen* with Opera Carolina, *Showboat* with Central Piedmont, and *Loose Leaves* with the Wanda Project Dance company. Craig appreciates the arts for their intersection with each other and with other academic disciplines.

Audrey Babcock, Assistant Professor, UNC Charlotte



Ms. Audrey Babcock has gained notoriety as a sought-after *Carmen* having over 117 performances of this femme fatale under her belt. She has performed with Seattle Opera, Florida Grand Opera, New York City Opera, San Diego Opera, the ASO, the NSO, and more. She has spent her career promoting new works with companies such as Prototype Festival, American Lyric Theatre, and Beth Morrison Projects. Her flamenco duo *Beyond Carmen*, is stepping into the recording studio to make a documentary this march which explores her Sephardic roots playing with textures of the marginalized people of the diaspora in the dying language of *Ladino*. Ms. Babcock is an

Assistant Professor at UNC Charlotte.

Dr. Teri Bickham, the University of North Carolina Greensboro



Soprano Teri Bickham is praised for her “fine piano nuances” and “expressive legato line.” Her career has taken her to Italy, Austria, and prestigious houses in the United States. She has performed a diverse repertory of operatic roles and placed in many prestigious competitions. Dr. Bickham regularly performs with orchestras throughout the country, is an avid recitalist and scholar, and can be heard under the Albany Records label. She earned degrees from the University of Maryland College Park (DMA), the

University of Houston (MM), and Towson University (BM) and is an Assistant Professor of Voice at UNC Greensboro.

Amber Nicole Dilger, Songflight Studio



The art of storytelling frames everything Amber Nicole Dilger teaches. Her students have graced the stages of National Equity Tours, Boston Conservatory, Oklahoma City University, Interlochen Arts Academy, National YoungArts Foundation, International Thespians Festival Nationals-Musical Theatre, as well as summer intensives for classical voice at NYU Steinhardt, Oberlin, and Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Equally at home performing, her professional career includes roles in musical theatre, opera, and Great American Songbook concerts. Amber Nicole specializes in coaching to overcome performance anxiety. 2020 Joan Frey Boytim Award for Independent Teachers recipient. Member of Actors Equity Association. www.AmberNicoleDilger.com

Prof. Jessica Doyle-Mekkes, East Carolina University



Jessica Doyle-Mekkes is the vocal instructor for the Musical Theatre BFA program at East Carolina University. In addition to Applied Voice, she teaches Intro to Musical Theatre Voice, which explores the structure and function of the voice, vocal health & hygiene, and the brain science of performance anxiety. She also teaches an 8-week Rock/Pop intensive. Voice science and vocal health live at the forefront of Jessica's teaching and research. Her current research interests involve the negative effects lack of sleep has on the voice, as well as on singers' emotional, mental, and creative well-being. Jessica has worked as a vocal coach & clinician on both coasts (NY & LA) many states in between, and internationally.

Dr. Katie DeFiglio, University of North Carolina at Pembroke



Dr. Katie DeFiglio is part of the full-time Voice Faculty at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, where she enjoys teaching a wide range of styles to Musical Theatre, Music Industry, and Music Education voice majors. She earned her Doctor of Musical Arts in Voice Pedagogy at Shenandoah Conservatory, and her dissertation research involved a study titled "Psychophysiological Characteristics of Music Performance Anxiety in Singers." In addition to NATS, Dr. DeFiglio is also a member of the Voice Foundation, the Musical Theatre Educators Alliance, the Michael Chekov Association (MICHA), and the Pan-American Vocology Association.

Deirdre Welborn Francis, Anderson University



For over thirty years, Deirdre Welborn Francis has enjoyed a diverse musical career as a performer, teacher, conductor, and church musician. She is an Associate Professor of Music at the South Carolina School of the Arts at Anderson University where she has served on the faculty for 26 years. At AU she teaches voice (including classical, music theater, commercial music and worship leadership majors, as well as vocal pedagogy, vocal diction, and conducts the Anderson University Women's Choir. She is certified in Somatic Voicework® through the Shenandoah University Contemporary Commercial Singing Vocal Pedagogy Institute. She was also certified as a Singing Voice Specialist through late Karen Wicklund and the Florida Center for Voice and Speech and works to rehabilitate injured singers. She is a frequent choral clinician for Honor Choirs and Choral Festivals throughout SC. She is an active member of the National

Association of Teachers of Singing, having served the South Carolina Chapter as Vice-President, President, and as District Governor.

Madeleine Gray, Voice Department Chair, Peabody Preparatory Institute of the Johns Hopkins University



Mezzo soprano Madeleine Gray was born in New York, but for many years made her home in the United Kingdom; she holds degrees from LMU (BA), Surrey University (MMus) and the Royal Northern College of Music (PPRNCM). She has always combined an active performance schedule as a principal artist and recitalist with a busy teaching career, and in 2016 joined the Peabody Preparatory Institute as Voice Department Chair. She served as a Board Member for the MD/DC district NATS from 2016-2019.

Brittany Chanell Johnson, Howard University



Brittany Chanell Johnson is a dynamic educator and practitioner of storytelling through song. She has a Music Education degree and a Masters of Music (Vocal Performance); and has proven herself as an operatic and musical theater performer, educator, workshop facilitator, and music director. Ms. Johnson is the founder of OnStage Performing Arts Collective (OnStagePAC.com), a performance-based training ground for young people interested in music, dance, and theater arts. In addition to her work with OPAC, Ms. Johnson is a proud member of the Howard University Musical Theatre Area faculty. Her teaching, directing, and coaching styles intertwine discipline, encouragement, and enthusiasm.

Dr. Grant Knox, Furman University



American tenor, Grant Knox has appeared with the Cincinnati Opera, Atlanta Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Chautauqua Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Tri-Cities Opera, Ohio Light Opera, Asheville Lyric Opera, Lyric Opera Atlanta, Rochester Lyric Opera, and with Maestro Lorin Maazel's Castleton Opera Festival. Equally at home in concert repertoire, Knox has been engaged by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Illinois Philharmonic, Greenville Symphony Orchestra, Peninsula Music Festival, Rochester Philharmonic, and Hendersonville Symphony. He

has been heard in recitals at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Constella Festival, the Colburn School and the Kerrytown Concert House. Dr. Knox serves as Associate Professor of Voice, Director of Opera, and Vocal Area Coordinator at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina where he was the 2016/17 recipient of the Alester G. Furman Jr. and Janie Earle Furman award for meritorious teaching. In the summer months, he is on the voice faculty at *SongFest* in Los Angeles.

Dr. Serena Hill LaRoche, University of South Carolina



Serena Hill LaRoche is an active clinician and singer with recent performances of Samuel Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Herbert Howells's *Hymnus Paradisi*, Poulenc's *Gloria*, and Vaughan William's *Dona Nobis Pacem* among others. Currently, LaRoche is Instructor of Voice at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, where she has the great privilege to work with eager graduate and undergraduate students in applied voice, diction, and vocal pedagogy courses. LaRoche has also recently engaged in summer apprentice instruction with Varna International Music Academy in Varna, Bulgaria, and musical theatre instruction with Broadway at USC.

Dr. Lisa Sain Odom, Clemson University



Dr. Lisa Sain Odom is an Assistant Professor of Music (Voice and Musical Theatre) at Clemson University and is an opera and musical theatre singer and actor. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Vocal Performance from the University of South Carolina. Equally comfortable in the worlds of opera, theater and film, Dr. Odom has performed roles including Julie Jordan (*Carousel*); the Baker's Wife (*Into the Woods*); Papagena (*Die Zauberflöte*); and Musetta (*La Bohème*). She has also appeared in a variety of commercials and films, and sings concerts with her trio The Blonde, the Brunette and the Redhead.

Keely Phillips-Carter, Studio of Keely Phillips-Carter



Keely Phillips-Carter originally hails from the lovely town of Tifton, Georgia. She holds a Performance Certificate in Musical Theater from The American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in New York City, as well as a B.A. in Classical Voice from Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia. Mrs. Phillips-Carter has studied and performed everything from Operetta to Rock Opera and has played lead roles in a myriad of professional theatrical

productions. Mrs. Phillips-Carter began teaching in 2012 and has been running a successful studio in Morrisville North Carolina ever since. Her main focus is to train singers to be able to handle all styles of music in a safe, healthy way. She also has a wealth of knowledge in musical theatre repertoire which she uses to create audition book packages for her clients and students.

Devonna B. Rowe, Peabody Institute of Music Johns Hopkins University



Dr. Devonna B. Rowe DMA Vocal Performance, Catholic University of America. World premiere performance George Walker's, Five Songs for Voice and Piano, the Center for Black Music Research. Voice faculty Vanderbilt University, Morgan State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Honored in the "Indispensable Role of Blacks Exhibit", Johns Hopkins University. Performances of Catalan and Portuguese songs, Barcelona Festival of Song, Barcelona, Spain. Workshops and Master

Classes include Art Songs by African American Composers: A Celebration of Life and Diversity and Singing and Vocal Health as NATS International Ambassador to Germany. Currently District Governor of MDDC NATS, Voice faculty, Peabody Institute of Music, Johns Hopkins University.

Timothy W. Sparks, UNC-Chapel Hill



Timothy W. Sparks, tenor, enjoys a versatile performing career that includes opera, oratorio, and concert work, with appearances in Europe and throughout the United States. Committed to contemporary music, he has participated in the premiere of several new stage works by noted American composers. His 2011 recording of the Arnold Schönberg chamber version of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* was released by Centaur Records. Mr. Sparks serves as a Lecturer in Voice and Diction at UNC-Chapel Hill and is an active adjudicator. Mr. Sparks received his BM in Vocal Performance from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and MM with the Performer's Certificate in Voice from the Eastman School of Music.

Dr. Robert Wells, UNC Greensboro



Robert Wells currently serves as NATS Vice President for Auditions and previously served two terms as Governor for the Mid-Atlantic Region of NATS. He is Professor of Voice and Coordinator of Vocal Pedagogy at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He regularly presents guest lectures and master classes throughout the United States, and most recently has worked with faculty and students at several universities during teaching residencies in Inner Mongolia and Southern China. Dr. Wells was, for a number of years, an Artist Faculty member of the Schlern International Music Festival in Fié allo Sciliar, Italy. His students have been recognized for their achievements in regional, national, and international competitions and young artist programs. Current and former students of Dr. Wells hold faculty positions at the university level and in public and private schools throughout the United States. A frequent recitalist, Wells has also enjoyed an active performance career in both oratorio and opera in the United States as well as Great Britain, Europe, and China. He earned both the Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Voice from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.