

DR. WESLEY LAWRENCE, tenor
Sam Houston State University
College of Fine Arts &
Mass Communication
WesleySLawrence@gmail.com

CURRENT POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Voice - Sam Houston State University. 2016 to present

EDUCATION

Doctor of Musical Arts; Vocal Performance, Pedagogy cognate

College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) at the University of Cincinnati.
Completed 2013.

Project: "A Resource of Opera Scenes for Undergraduate Programs"

Master of Music; Vocal Performance

College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) at the University of Cincinnati.
Completed 2008.

Bachelor of Music; Vocal Performance

Gordon College.
Completed 2006.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Voice - Sam Houston State University. 2016 to present.

- Courses taught: Applied Voice, Performance Techniques for Singers, Opera Workshop.
- Accomplishments
 - Private students were finalists and semi-finalists at Texoma NATS competition.

Instructor of Voice and Director of Opera - University of North Dakota. 2012 to 2016.

- Courses taught: Applied Voice (undergraduate and graduate), Diction (Italian, French, German, and English, undergraduate and graduate), Opera Production, Opera Workshop, Staging for Singers, Vocal Methods, Recitals (undergraduate, graduate, and lecture), Graduate thesis advisor.
- Accomplishments:
 - Received the UND Foundation's Saiki Faculty Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 2014.
 - Elected to the University Senate as a representative for the College of Arts and Sciences in 2015.
 - Recruiting

- Built relationships with directors of music programs at 11 of the largest high schools in the state. Visit most annually to build relationships with teachers, give lessons to students, and workshop choirs.
 - Since 2012 the voice area has moved from under loaded studios to an overload of several hours.
 - Created “Music Major for a Day” visits, where desirable prospective students join choir, opera, get a lesson, and go out to lunch with current students.
- Diction for Singers has moved from a biannual rotation to an annual rotation, with class size increasing.
- Director of Opera - University of North Dakota. Position created in 2014.
 - Increased enrollment in Opera courses from 5 students to over 25 students in first four semesters, numbers continue to increase.
 - Created an annual Opera Production.
 - Moved the Opera from the recital hall to a theater in downtown Grand Forks.
 - Built the production level from self-produced to a design staff.
 - Built the budget from \$1,000 to its current level of over \$10,000 without any addition to the budget line from UND.
 - Created a new course to teach acting and performance techniques to new students.
 - Redesigned the Opera Scenes program to offer more opportunities for more advanced students.
 - Created an Opera Gala collaboration with the UND Symphony Orchestra. Responsibilities include: Select and assign the repertoire, create the orchestral parts, oversee musical preparation, design the rehearsal schedule, create the publicity materials.
 - Started an Opera Club that meets several times each semester to watch operas. Includes discussion of the composer, history, and operatic style.
 - Started fundraising events for UND Opera. First event doubled the budget for the opera program.
 - Worked in collaboration with community members to develop and organization that raises money to support opera in Grand Forks
- Other Duties
 - Became a member of the Graduate Faculty in 2014.
 - Redesigned the departmental web page to simplify and increase accessibility, re-writing the majority of the content.

- Director of annual holiday production that raises money for the voice and choral areas.
- Using personal connections, have set up Master Classes with two Metropolitan Opera singers in the past year.

Associate Artistic Director and Conductor - Grand Forks Chorales. 2013 to 2016.

- Duties include artistic management of the Community Chorale, artistic input into the Master Chorale, season planning, and conducting weekly rehearsals.
- Collaborate with Executive Director, Artistic Director, and Board of Directors in long-range planning, development, fiscal management, audience development, and community outreach.
- Co-created the Grand Forks Community Chorale in 2013.
 - Founding conductor of Community Chorale
- The Master Chorale performed at the North Central ACDA convention in 2014.

Adjunct Professor of Voice - Gordon College (Wenham, MA). 2011-2012.

Adjunct Professor of Voice - Cincinnati Christian University. 2009-2010.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, voice & opera - CCM. 2009-2011.

Instructor Intro to Opera - CCM. 2010.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Performance Experience (selected)

- *The Messiah* (Handel), tenor soloist. Texas Master Chorale. Spring, TX. December, 2017.
- *The Messiah* (Handel), tenor soloist. Voices of the Commonwealth. Lakeside Park, KY. November, 2017.
- Recital, *Liebeslieder Waltzes* (Brahms) and selected songs, University of North Alabama. Florence, AL. October, 2017.
- Recital, *Faculty Artist Series*, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Brownsville, TX, March, 2017.
- *Magnificat* (Bach), Texas Master Chorale. Spring, TX, 2016.
- *Requiem* (Mozart), tenor soloist. Grand Forks Chorales, Grand Forks, ND. 2016
- Featured soloist, Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orch, Grand Forks, ND, 2015.
- *Elijah* (Mendelssohn), tenor soloist. Grand Forks Chorales, Grand Forks, ND. 2015.
- *Requiem* (Mozart), tenor soloist. Valley City, ND. 2015
- Shared recital to benefit La Casa de la Esperanza orphanage. NH. 2015
- *The Creation* (Haydn), tenor soloist. Grand Forks Chorales. 2014.
- *The Messiah* (Handel), tenor soloist. Grand Forks Chorales. 2012 and 2013.
- Featured soloist, Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orch, Grand Forks, ND, 2013.

- Recital “Francis Poulenc’s first settings of the poetry of Paul Éluard.” University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND, 2013.
- Recital *Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings* (Britten). New England Conservatory, Boston, MA. 2012.
- *Rigoletto* (Verdi), Matteo Borsa. Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati, OH. 2011.
- *Die Zauberflöte* (Mozart), First Armored Man. Cincinnati Opera. 2011.
- *Les Noces* (Stravinsky), tenor soloist. CCM chamber choir, Cincinnati, OH. 2011.
- *Turandot* (Puccini), Pong. CCM orchestra and choirs. 2011
- *Magnificat* (Bach), tenor soloist. Vocal Arts Ensemble, Cincinnati, OH. 2010.
- Recital “The Development of Richard Strauss.” CCM. 2010.
- *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (Wagner), Lehrbuben. Cincinnati Opera. 2010.
- *Die Fledermaus* (Strauss), Eisenstein. CCM Opera. 2010.
- *Credo* (Penderecki), tenor soloist. CCM orchestra and choirs. 2010.
- *Symphony No. 9* (Beethoven), tenor soloist. Asheville Symphony Orch., NC. 2009.
- *La Bohème* (Puccini), Rodolfo. Opera Theater Music Festival Lucca, Italy. 2008.
- *La Hija de Rappaccini* (Catàn), Giovanni. CCM Opera. 2008.
- *Cantata No. 29* (Bach), tenor soloist. Dayton Philharmonic, Dayton, OH. 2008.
- Recital (Abendmusik Recital Series). Wenham, MA. 2007.
- Recital (Westwood Recital Series). Cincinnati, OH. 2007.
- *Albert Herring* (Britten), Mayor Upfold. Opera North, Lebanon, NH. 2006.

Directing Experience (selected)

- *Così fan tutte* (Mozart), assistant director. Raven Summer Opera. Huntsville, TX, 2017.
- *Cendrillon* (Massenet), director. UND. 2016.
- *The Ransom of Sophia* (Stadem), director for premiere performance. Empire Theater, Grand Forks, ND. 2015.
- *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Offenbach), director. UND. 2015.
- *Trial by Jury* (Gilbert and Sullivan), director. UND. 2014.
- *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Janáček), associate director. CCM. 2011.
 - 3rd Place, National Opera Association awards.
- *La Canterina* (Haydn), director. CCM. 2010.
 - 2nd Place, National Opera Association awards.
- *Don Carlo* (Verdi), assistant director. Cincinnati Opera. 2009.
- *Carmen* (Bizet), assistant director. Cincinnati Opera. 2009.
- *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Offenbach), co-director. CCM. 2009.

Presenter / Clinician

- Guest Artist Master Class at the University of North Alabama. Florence, AL. October, 2017.
- Guest Clinician at the Lake Conroe Voice Competition. May, 2017.
 - *Auditioning for College, and the Way of the Music Major* (co-presenter: Dr. Joshua Bronfman).
 - *Introduction to Acting for Singers*.
- Guest Artist Master Class at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Brownsville, TX. March, 2017.
- *Vocal training tools to improve the choral sound*. North Dakota American Choral Directors Association Convention, 2014.
- Voice Clinician at annual “Real Men Sing!” festival in Minnesota. 2013.
- Guest Clinician, Greensburg Community High School, Greensburg, IN. 2010.

Music Director / Conductor (selected)

- Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church Choir. Spring, TX. 2017 to present.
- *Cendrillon* (Massenet). Musical preparation. UND. 2016.
- *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Offenbach). UND. 2015
- *Trial by Jury* (Gilbert and Sullivan). UND. 2014.
- Grand Forks Community Chorale, Grand Forks, ND. 2013 to 2016.
- International Music Camp a cappella choir conductor, International Peace Gardens. 2013 & 2014.
- *Legally Blonde, the Musical* –Triton Regional High School, Byfield, MA. 2012.
- Hampton Falls First Baptist Church Choir. Hampton Falls, NH. 2011 to 2012.
- *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Gesner). Blue Sky Theater, Hampton, NH. 2005.

Professional Choral Experience

- Cincinnati Opera Chorus; Henry Venanzi, chorusmaster. 2010, 2011, 2015, 2016.
- Grand Forks Master Chorale; Joshua Bronfman, conductor. 2013 to 2016.
- Vocal Arts Ensemble; Donald Nally, conductor. 2009 to 2011.
- The Crossing; Donald Nally, conductor. Philadelphia, PA. 2010.

Recordings

- *It Is Time*, The Crossing, Donald Nally, conductor. Navona Records. 2010.
- *Harmony in Context*, Miguel Roig-Francoli (tenor voice for example cd), McGraw-Hill. 2009.

Honors / Awards

- Saiki Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching Winner, 2014.
- National Opera Association opera production competition, third place, 2011.
- National Opera Association opera production competition, second place, 2010.

Adjudication

- Texoma Chapter, National Association of Teachers of Singing competition. 2016.
- North Dakota All-State auditions (choir & vocal jazz), 2013 and 2014.
- North Dakota Chapter, National Association of Teachers of Singing competition, 2013, 2014, 2016.