

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Karen Rees

111 Angie Lane, Montgomery, Texas, 77316

Phone: 972-369-6037

Email: txsoprano@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Doctor of Music	Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois Voice performance and pedagogy	1994-2001
Bachelor of Education	University of Lethbridge, Alberta Music Major (Band, Choir and Classroom Music) French Minor	1988-1990
Opera Diploma	Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario Graduate studies in voice and opera performance	1986-1987
Bachelor of Music Education	University of Calgary, Alberta Music Education Major Voice Performance	1983-1986
Bachelor of Music	Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario Voice Performance	1981-1983

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sam Houston State U	Voice Instructor Adjunct voice instructor in the Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre. I teach individual voice lessons for musical theatre majors enrolled in Musical Theatre Applied voice classes (MTVO 1201/3201 Fall and Spring 2015-16) for credit. Students receive 50 minute weekly lessons. Instruction includes vocal technique, repertoire coaching, performance preparation and musicianship.
Texas High Schools: Montgomery High School Obra D. Tompkins H.S. Lovejoy High School	Voice Instructor Private voice instruction for high school and middle school provided during school hours on campus. In addition to teaching vocal technique, I assisted students with their preparation for local, regional and state auditions, UIL solos and ensembles, and choral auditions. Additionally, I served as a judge/adjudicator on numerous UIL panels for regional, pre-are and area choir auditions. 2008-2010
Private Voice Studio	Private Voice Instructor I have provided instruction in vocal technique, style, languages, drama and theory. Musical theatre and speech arts scene direction and staging for soloists, duets and groups. Many of my students have established professional singing careers. Additionally, they experience successful university entrance auditions, Provincial and National level competitions and professional theatre auditions. 1990 – Present
Banff School of Fine Arts Banff, Alberta, Canada	Dramatic Integration: 20th Century Opera, Assistant to Director My role as assistant to the director of this six week summer opera involved coaching and mentoring graduate level singers as well as managing scheduling of sessions, facilities and performances in various venues on campus. As well, my teaching responsibilities involved assisting the directors with character and scene development, experimental voice and improvisation sessions. I worked closely with voice department head to tailor individual vocal programs for international participants, aged 18 and up. Summer 2000

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Westwood Community
High School
Fort McMurray, Alberta

High School Choral Director

Choral direction for high school choir comprised of students grade 9 – 12. I provided choral instruction for a choir that grew from 12 to 55 students in 4 years. By 2000, the choral program had grown to include a full grade 9-12 concert choir, an auditioned chamber choir, and a jazz vocal ensemble. Westwood Choirs quickly became contenders at the Provincial level and won many awards and accolades for their performances at local and regional festivals and competitions. In addition to choral instruction, I prepared the chorus and soloists for high school musical productions. 1999-2001

Keyano College
Fort McMurray, Alberta

College Choral Director

The Keyano Ladies Ensemble consisted of 20-25 talented female singers. I prepared the choir for seasonal concerts, community and festival performances, in addition to building the musical strengths of the choir and continuously improving musicianship capabilities through sight singing and ear training. 2002-2004

College Musical Theater Vocal Coach

As a member of the Keyano Theater creative team, I worked with the music director and director to prepare soloists and chorus for musical theater performances on the Keyano Main Stage with live orchestra. Productions coached included *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Beauty and the Beast*. 2004-2006

College Sight Singing and Ear Training Classroom Instructor

I instructed university transfer sections of the first and second year sight singing and ear training courses. Application of the Kodaly Method, Canadian Royal Conservatory of Music curriculum, and other methodologies were used in my classes, in addition to applying knowledge through the keyboard and in practical written music notation. 2004-2005

Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois

Classroom Voice Instructor

As part of my graduate teaching assistantship, I instructed classroom voice for first and second year university group voice for non-singers, singing for actors and voice minors. Chicago, Illinois, USA. My teaching responsibilities included coaching musical theater vocal roles, evaluation of classroom work, assisting the director, and assisting with stage management. 1994-1996

Keyano College
Fort McMurray, Alberta

Children's Choral Program Director

I founded the children's choral program at Keyano College after identifying a need for choral music education in our community. The program quickly grew to over 100 community participants and four ensembles, including a junior choir, senior choir, vocal jazz ensemble and auditioned chamber choir. The Keyano Children's choirs became contenders at the local, regional and provincial levels of competitions and won many awards for their performances. 1990-1993

Voice Instructor and Program Lead

I developed, implemented and taught a two year diploma voice program which included courses in applied voice, music theory, vocal ensembles, singing for actors, vocal literature, diction and language, as well as graded performance requirements. University Transfer courses were included in the program. 1990-1993

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CERTIFICATIONS

Somatic Voicework™ Level I Certification with Jeanie LoVetri
Somatic Voicework™ Level II Certification with Jeanie LoVetri
Somatic Voicework™ Level III Certification with Jeanie LoVetri

Vancouver 2015
Ohio 2017
Ohio 2017

VOLUNTEERING, COMMUNITY SERVICES, CONTRACT EMPLOYMENT

- Over a three year period, with the support of the Fort McMurray Rotary Club, I initiated a project to bring the Red Deer Symphony to Fort McMurray in 2003. With the support of many community members and sponsorship of over \$60,000, the concert was a major success, selling out 3 weeks prior to the performance date. As project director, I oversaw all aspects of the concert including fundraising and budget writing, volunteer recruitment, securing sponsorship through grant applications, theatre production, advertising, ticketing, programming, and maintaining ongoing communication with the Red Deer Symphony, Keyano Theatre, the Sponsors and the Rotary Club.
- 2004 Festival of Trees, Entertainment Coordinator
Responsibilities included contacting and contracting performers, scheduling, identifying and assisting with technical stage requirements and programming for three days and three evenings, including booking special entertainment For the Festival of Trees Gala which raised over \$500,000.
- Over the past 15 years, I have had the pleasure of vocal coaching students at Seven Lakes High School (Katy, Texas), Lovejoy High School (Fairview, Texas) and Westwood Community High School (Alberta, Canada) in musical Theatre productions of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *The King and I*, *Into the Woods*, *Les Miserables*, *Chicago*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Grease*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Sound of Music*, *Seussical*, *The Musical!*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Additionally, I enjoyed working with the WCHS Improv Team on a special opera scenario in preparation for their Canadian National winning competition performance.
- At Keyano College, I acted as a juror for Voice Juries and as a clinician for the High school jazz festival in 2004 as a jazz choir clinician. Additionally, I have taught for music instructors on leave for extended periods in choir and ear training from 2004-2005.

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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Over the past two decades, I have established a career as a professional singer with opera companies, orchestras and in recital concerts. My singing work has included main stage, orchestra, chamber ensemble and touring operas in schools across the province, presenting opera to children of all ages. I am a member of the Canadian Equity Actors Association.

Adjudicator and Judge at music festivals and UIL competitions in Texas and Alberta, Canada.

Active member of NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing).

Active member of GHNATS (Greater Houston NATS).

Active member of TMEA.

Scholarship committee member for The Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

Board member of the Alberta Choral Federation representing the Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Board member for the Fort McMurray Rotary Musical Festival Committee.

Concert production chair for Fort McMurray Rotary Music Festival Committee.

Clinician for vocal workshops and choir workshops.

Scholarship committee chair for Studio VII board at Seven Lakes High School, Katy, Tx.

Rostered professional singer for Ingraham Cultural Resources, Vancouver, BC.

Canadian Actors Equity member.

OPERATIC ROLES PERFORMED

Madame de la Grande Bouche	Beauty and the Beast	Keyano Theatre Productions, 2006
Queen of the Night	Die Zauberflöte	Edmonton Opera, November 2001
Dew Fairy/Sandman	Hansel und Gretel	Edmonton Opera, 2000
Edith	Pirates of Penzance	Edmonton Opera, 2000
Olympia	Les Contes D'Hoffmann	Edmonton Opera Outreach Program, 1999;
		Canada Opera Piccola, 1986
Miss Wordsworth	Albert Herring	Northwestern University, 1995
Louise	The Land Beyond the Forest	Alberta Theatre Projects, 1992
Cunegonde	Candide	Calgary Opera, 1990
Guinevere	Camelot	Keyano Theatre Productions, 1990
Maria	West Side Story	Centre Stage Productions, 1989
Johanna	Sweeney Todd	Centre Stage Productions, 1988
Adele	Die Fledermaus	Debut Opera Calgary, 1988
Blönchen	Die Entführung aus dem Serail	AIMS, Graz, Austria, 1987
Barbarina	Le Nozze di Figaro	Canada Opera Piccola, 1986
Miss Silverpeal	The Impresario	Calgary Opera Tour, 1985

OPERATIC ROLES STUDIED/UNDERSTUDIED

Gilda, in Rigoletto (Verdi); Oscar, in Un Ballo in Maschera (Verdi); Frasquita, in Carmen (Bizet); Mabel, in Pirates of Penzance (Gilbert and Sullivan); Musetta, in La Boheme (Puccini); Yum Yum, in The Mikado (Gilbert and Sullivan); Marie, in La Fille du Regiment; Marguerite, in Faust (Gounod); Manon, in Manon (Massenet); Violetta, in La Traviata (Verdi)

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CONCERT AND ORATORIO PERFORMANCES

Soprano soloist	Mozart	Red Deer Symphony Orchestra, Fort McMurray, 2006
English Operetta and Ballads		Whistler Millennium Place, Bramwell Tovey, June 2001
Messiah	Handel	Victoria Symphony, British Columbia, December 2000
Guest Recitalist		Summer Integration, 20 th Century Opera Program, at the Banff School of Fine Arts
Soprano soloist	R. Strauss/Offenbach	Red Deer Symphony Orchestra, April 1999
Messiah	Handel	Lethbridge Simphonia and Red Deer Symphony, 1997
		Chicago Symphony of the Shores, December 1994
Guest Recitalist	Verdi	Chicago Lyric Opera, Barrington Chapter, May 1995
Chansons de Ronsard	Milhaud	Northwestern University Chamber Orchestra, 1995
		Wilfrid Laurier University Orchestra, 1989
German Requiem	Brahms	Keyano Community Chorus, Alberta 1993
Te Deum	Dvorak	Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra, 1989
Nelson Mass	Haydn	Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra, 1989
		Tri-University Festival Orchestra, Edmonton, AB, 1992
Coronation Mass	Mozart	Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra, 1990
Dona Nobis Pacem	Vaughan Williams	Wilfrid Laurier University Chorus and Orchestra, 1987
Mass in G Minor	Vaughan Williams	Wilfrid Laurier University Chorus and Orchestra, 1987
Requiem	Fauré	University of Calgary Orchestra, 1985
Exsultate, Jubilate	Mozart	University of Calgary Orchestra, 1985

CONDUCTORS

Tyrone Patterson	David Speers	Timothy Vernon	Stuart Bedford
Claude LaPalme	Stewart Grant	George Evelyn	Peter Dala
Leonard Ratzlaff	Mitchell Arnold	Victor Yampolsky	Frederick Ockwell
Mel Kirby			

DIRECTORS

David Gately	Michael Cavanagh	Bernard Uzan	Rhonda Levine
Colin Graham	Leopold Simoneau	Pierette Alarie	Donald Bell
David Falk			

VOICE TRAINING, COACHES, MASTERCLASSES

Sunny Joy Langton, Richard Boldrey, Victor Martens, Alexandre Gray, Leslie Uyeda, Mignon Dunn, Leslie De'Ath, Marc Verzatt, Rhoda Levine, Joan Dornemann, Sheila Saperstein, David Falk, David Smuckler, Audrey Jolly, David McMurray-Smith, Denise Clark, Martin Isepp, Richard Miller, Maureen Forrester, Sherill Milnes, Regine Crespin

AWARDS

Second Prize, National Bel Canto Competition, US, 1994
First Prize, Northwestern University Concerto Competition, 1994
Berton Coffin Award and Canadian Finalist in L.A., CA, NATS Artist Awards, 1989

RELATED EDUCATION AND AWARDS

AIMS, Opera Studio, Audition Training Seminar and European Audition Tour, Graz, Austria
Canada Opera Piccola, Advanced Opera Training Apprentice, Victoria, Canada
Banff School of Fine Arts, Summer Opera Program, Banff, Alberta, Canada
Alberta Foundation of Performing Arts Grant, 1999
Canada Council Arts Grant, 1995
Kitchener-Waterloo Opera Guild Scholarship
Calgary Opera Guild Scholarship