

elias wolf

Music Educator / Vocal Arranger / Performing Artist & Songwriter

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EDUCATION

- **Berklee College of Music**, Bachelor's of Music (Summa Cum Laude) 2006 - 2010
Professional Music; Voice Performance & Songwriting
- **University of Oregon**, Women's and Gender Studies Major 2003 - 2005
- **Continuing Education Experience**
 - **Liberating Strategies**: 3-month Relational Accountability Workshop 2025
 - **Lesley University**: 2-week Expressive Arts Therapy graduate level coursework 2023
 - **Holistic Resistance's Facilitator Training**: 3-Month Cohort 2022
 - **Embodied Social Justice**: 50-Hour Certificate Program 2021
 - **Holistic Resistance's *Disrupting Our Whiteness***: 4-Month Cohort 2021
 - **Center for Mindful Self-Compassion**: 10-Week Online Training 2020
 - **Embodied Trauma-Informed Contemplative Teaching**: 7-Week Online Course 2020
 - ***All The Way In***: Year-Long Mastery Level Vocal Improvisation Workshop 2019
 - **Girls Circle Facilitator Training**: One Circle Foundation Weekend Intensive 2017
 - **POSTYR Summer Intensive**: Weeklong Composer Workshop 2015
 - **Dar Williams' *Writing A Song That Matters***: Weeklong Intensive 2014
 - **Cultural Leadership Retreat and Facilitator Training**: Berklee College of Music 2010

TEACHING AND DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

Involved in contemporary a cappella since 2002 as music director for the University of Oregon's award-winning a cappella group Divisi, featured in the best-selling book "Pitch Perfect" (later made into the blockbuster film); renowned nationally within the a cappella community as an educator who empowers youth and young adults, focusing on music and its impact on social change.

- **Queer Choir**: Creator and Facilitator 2023 - present
- **Gaia Music Collective**: Guest Facilitator 2024
- **Academy of Arts and Academics**: Voice, Choir and Keyboard Skills Instructor 2023 - 2024
- **Voice, Piano and Songwriting Teacher**: Private and Group Lessons 2003 - present
- **Guest Speaker, Instructor, Clinician**: 2014 - present
 - 1440 Multiversity (2020), London A Cappella Festival (2019), National A Cappella Convention (2016, 2019), SoJam North Carolina (2018), Boston A Cappella Festival (2018) Bucknell University (2015), Sweet Adelines National Convention (2014) and many more
- **WeSing Intergenerational Choir**: Founder, Director and Vocal Arranger 2019 - 2022

- **Kamehameha High School, Hawai'i Campus:** Guest Vocal Instructor 2021
- **OSA Vocal Rush:** Founder, Director & Lead Vocal Arranger 2011 - 2020
- **Oakland School for the Arts:** Vocal Music Faculty 2011 - 2020
Assistant Chair 2015 - 2017
- **RISE High School A Cappella Group:** Founder and Director 2016 - 2020
- **Sing Out Loud Vocal Music Summer Camps:** Founder and Teacher 2013 - 2019
- **Diablo Women's Chorale:** Conductor and Artistic Director 2017 - 2018
- **Uptown Women's Vocal Ensemble:** Music Director 2012 - 2015
- **Wesley United Methodist Church:** Choral Director 2010 - 2013
- **Ethos Music Center:** Choir and Voice Teacher 2008 - 2009

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Award-winning singer-songwriter, vocal arranger and performer experienced in jazz, folk, pop, and musical theater.

- **elias wolf / Lisa Forkish Solo Act:** Band Leader and Performer 2007 - present
Performing original music and jazz standards at various venues around the country including SF Jazz Center, Yoshi's, Berklee Performance Center and Jimmy Mak's
www.lisaforkish.com
- **HIVE Vocal Group:** Co-Founder, Arranger, Performer 2017 - 2020
www.hivevocal.com
- **The Riveters Vocal Group:** Founder, Arranger, Performer 2012 - 2015
<http://artistecard.com/theriveters>
- **CAVALISA Bossa/Jazz Duo:** Co-Founder, Lead Vocalist, Arranger 2011 - 2014
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fL7eD70OPQk>
- **Divisi, University of Oregon's A Cappella Group:** Music Director, Arranger, Soloist 2002 - 2006

MUSIC COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- **Oakland Sings! Benefit Concert for LGBTQIA+ Refugees:** Producer 2020
- **Oakland Sings! Benefit Concert for Oakland Houseless Community:** Producer 2019
- **Women's A Cappella Association:** Executive Director and Education Coordinator 2012 - 2019
- **A Cappella Education Association:** CA State Representative 2013 - 2019
- **Take Back The Night Boston:** Lead Coordinator 2010
- **Vagina Monologues Production/ Fundraiser for Boston Rape Crisis Center:** Director 2010

AWARDS AND HONORS

Founder and Director of Vocal Rush -- winner of five national championship titles over the course of six years -- as well as director of four other groups to place in various competitions; recipient of the Mason McDuffie "Outstanding Educator Award"; named "Songwriter of the Year" in Portland, OR.

- **Lane Arts Council Project Grant** 2024
- **Music Relief Project Grant: Recipient** 2020
- **International Championship of High School A Cappella Finals: 1st Place (Vocal Rush)** '12, '13, '15, '17
- **Varsity Vocals' "The Open" at Carnegie Hall: Selected Competitor (HIVE)** 2018
- **International Championship of High School A Cappella Semi-Finals : 3rd Place (RISE)** 2017
- **Bend A Cappella Festival Championship: 1st Place (Encore, OSA Middle School Group)** 2017
- **National A Cappella Convention High School Championship: 1st Place (Vocal Rush)** 2016
- **Mason McDuffie Education Foundation Outstanding Educator Award: Recipient** 2014
- **National Harmony Sweepstakes Regional Competition: 3rd Place (The Riveters)** 2014
- **Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards: Nominee, Best Jazz Song (The Riveters)** 2014
- **NBC's "The Sing-Off": 3rd Place (Vocal Rush)** 2013
- **Johnny Mercer Foundation Songwriters Showcase: Featured Performer & Songwriter** 2010
- **Berklee's "Songs for Social Change" Songwriting Contest: Runner-Up** 2010
- **Berklee Urban Service Award: Social Activism & Community Building: Recipient** 2010
- **Walter W. Harp Liberal Arts Music & Society Award: Excellence Award of Honorable Mention** 2010
- **Portland Songwriters Association "Songwriter of the Year": Recipient** 2009
- **International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella: Selected Adjudicator** 2009 - present
- **Berklee College of Music's World Scholarship Tour Award: Recipient** 2006 -2010
- **International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella Finals: 2nd Place (Divisi)** 2005

RECORDINGS

Self-produced five recordings of original music (including latest solo release "From the Ashes" -- a one-woman, all-vocal original album that combines lush and dissonant a cappella arrangements with honest and soulful songwriting) as well as recordings with various other jazz and a cappella projects.

- **Lisa Forkish LP - *From the Ashes*: Songwriter, Arranger, Vocalist, Producer, Engineer** 2022
- **Lisa Forkish EP - *Love Warrior*: Songwriter, Arranger, Vocalist** 2017
- **The Riveters EP - *She Don't Stop*: Arranger, Vocalist** 2014
- **CAVALISA LP - *Vast is the Sky*: Lead Vocalist and Co-Arranger with Cava Menzies** 2013
- **Lisa Forkish LP - *Bridges*: Songwriter, Arranger, Vocalist** 2012
- **Lisa Forkish EP - *With Her Heart In Her Mouth*: Songwriter, Arranger, Vocalist** 2010
- **Lisa Forkish LP - *Between You and Me*: Songwriter, Arranger, Vocalist** 2008