

2024 Masterclass Clinicians



Craig Allen has been described as an exemplary soloist (Kansas City Star) with a brilliant nimble voice (KC Metropolis). He has been seen in numerous recent productions, including *Impresario*, *Company* and *La Boheme*. Craig has performed in theatres across the country from Washington to Florida. He has been a soloist on the concert stage in Italy, Bulgaria, and with various ensembles such as Dubuque Chorale, Musica Vocale, Simon Carrington Chamber Singers, Walla Walla Symphony, and the Mid-Columbia Master Singers, among others, and has been a chorister in many houses in Europe. Craig is also an accomplished dancer, having danced featured roles in ballets including *Cinderella*, *Giselle*, *Nutcracker*, and *Snow White*, with companies such as Moving Body and the Wanda Project.

His directing and choreographing credits include *9 to 5*, *Down in the Valley*, Dubuque Chorale's *Breaking Boundaries*, *Memphis*, *In the Heights*, *Dogfight*, *West Side Story*, and *White Christmas*. Craig has been a vocal instructor at many institutions and is currently on the faculty at Winthrop University, pursuing his doctorate in vocal performance from the University of South Carolina. Craig is also serving as the vice president of South Carolina NATS. He holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Missouri-KC Conservatory of Music and Dance and degrees in voice and theatre, as well as a minor in dance from Texas Tech University.



Rachel Calloway, mezzo-soprano, is especially recognized as an interpreter of new and contemporary music.. Highlights of the 2023 - 2024 season include performances at The Castleton Festival, The Walker Arts Center (MN), continued collaborations with the Amernet Quartet, Su Lian Tan's opera *Lotus Lives* with the University of Buffalo's Center for the Arts, Mozart's Requiem with the South Carolina Philharmonic, Mahler's 2nd Symphony (alto soloist) with the New York Philharmonia Orchestra, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Florence Symphony Orchestra, and Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* with the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. Ms. Calloway serves on the faculty of the University of South Carolina as

Assistant Professor of Voice and Director of Spark: Music Leadership at Carolina. She joined the

faculty of the Cortona Sessions for New Music (Italy) in 2014, Summer Performing Arts with Juilliard in 2016, and the Chautauqua Opera Conservatory in 2023. Ms. Calloway holds degrees from The Juilliard School (BM) and Manhattan School of Music (MM).



Melissa Jean Chávez, soprano, has been acclaimed by the Washington Post for her “voluptuous voice” and “cooly exemplary production.” Roles include Fiordiligi in “Così fan tutte,” Laurie in “Tender Land,” the title role in “Adriana Lecouvreur,” Carmela in “La Vida Breve,” Donna Anna in “Don Giovanni,” Beatrix in “Les Bavards,” Libby Norton in the premiere of “Norton: A Civil War Opera,” Donna Elvira in “Don Giovanni,” Desdemona in “Otello,” Giorgetta in “Il Tabarro,” Rosalinda in “Die Fledermaus,” Hannah in “The Merry Widow,” Adina in “L’Elisir d’amore,” Giulietta in “Les contes d’Hoffmann,” Countess in “Le nozze di Figaro”. Chávez did her apprenticeship for four years as a young artist at the prestigious Castleton Festival, directed by the late Lorin Maazel.



Lisa Sain Odom is an Assistant Professor of Vocal Studies and Musical Theatre at Clemson University and is an opera and musical theatre singer and stage/film actor. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Vocal Performance from the University of South Carolina and has taught classical and musical theatre/contemporary voice at Western Carolina University and North Greenville University. She has sung opera and musical theatre in Europe and the US, and her students perform on Broadway, regional theatre, Disney World, and recently on American Idol. She won the 2020 NATS Pedagogy Award and writes for Classical Singer.



Dr. Tish Oney is Director of Education for GVLJazz, symphony soloist, and jazz singer Dr. Tish Oney earned her DMA in Jazz Studies from the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. Authoring the book, *Jazz Singing: A Guide to Pedagogy and Performance* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2022), Dr. Oney has presented master classes, workshops, and lecture recitals on multi-genre singing for ICVT (Vienna), NATS, the CS Music conference, the inaugural *Documenting*

Jazz conference (Dublin), and Jazz Education Network events. A veteran voice pedagogue, professor, and adjudicator for 25 years, Oney teaches professional multi-genre singers around the world. www.tishoney.com



Deirdre Welborn holds degrees from Furman University and Westminster Choir College and is an Associate Professor of Music at The South Carolina School of the Arts at Anderson University where she teaches vocal pedagogy, vocal diction, and applied voice. She is passionate about nurturing each student's authentic voice, preparing them for the 21st century by cross-training in a variety of classical and commercial styles. Her approach is holistic and largely informed by scientific knowledge of the body. She is active in the Association for Body Mapping Education. Her students consistently succeed in national competitions and have gone on to meaningful careers in music education, church music, and performance.



Robert Wells currently serves as Professor of Voice, Coordinator of Vocal Pedagogy, and Head of the Division of Music Performance at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He regularly presents guest lectures and master classes throughout the United States. In 2017, he was recognized with the Outstanding Teacher Award in UNCG's College of Visual and Performing Arts. His students have been recognized for their achievements in national and international performances and

competitions, and they have appeared with the Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Santa Fe, Glimmerglass, Chautauqua, Opera North, Opera Carolina, Arizona Opera, as well as musical theatre productions on and off Broadway. Numerous 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 career in both oratorio and opera in the United States as well as Great Britain, Europe, and China.

Dr. Wells has been an active member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) since 1995, serving as NATS Vice President for Auditions (2020 – 2022), Mid-Atlantic Region Governor (2011 – 2015), and as a member of the NC NATS Executive Board.



Described as “brilliant” (Opera Today) and “alluringly complex” (Opera News), **Dr. Ariana Wyatt’s, soprano**, recent opera engagements include appearances with Gotham Chamber Opera, Opera on the James, Opera Omaha, Opera Roanoke, Glimmerglass Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, the Juilliard Opera Center, and the Aspen Opera Theater. Her 2020 recording *Let Evening Come: American Songs Old and New* was named one of the

best classical recordings of 2020 by the Chicago Tribune. Ms. Wyatt is a graduate of the Juilliard Opera Center and the University of Southern California. She is an associate professor of voice at Virginia Tech.