

TOM VENDAFREDDO

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EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Musical Theatre

San Diego State University, 2012

Thesis: *A Blended Pedagogy: Synthesizing Best Practices of Opera and Musical Theatre Programs to Promote a Holistic Approach to Training the Singing Actor*

Music Direction Intensive – Goodspeed Opera House with Michael O’Flaherty

B.M. in Music Education and Vocal Performance, with distinction

Eastman School of Music, 2008

Secondary Piano Studies

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Musical Theatre Performance and History

Musical Theatre Vocal Styles

Vocal Pedagogy (Bel Canto, Mix, Belt)

Music Direction

Beginning Acting

Lyric Diction and IPA (English, German, French, and Italian proficiencies)

Piano/Accompanying

Coach/Accompanist

Musicianship (Aural Skills, Music Theory)

Advanced Media Software

Choral and Orchestral Conducting

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL

Musical Theatre Dance Showcase (Music Director/Accompanist), 2012

Dance performance-oriented course in which students examine a wide variety of ensemble and small group repertoire from various styles of musical theatre. The course culminates with a public performance of the material, showcasing the students’ work as a vocal and dance ensemble.

San Diego State University

THEA 351: *Musical Theatre Performance* (Graduate Student Instructor), 2012

Solo performance of vocal selections and scenes in musical theatre for undergraduate theatre majors. Emphasis is placed on characteristics and performance styles.

THEA 350: *Voice Lab/Musical Theatre Styles* (Graduate Student Instructor), 2010-2012

Group voice class and laboratory for the undergraduate musical theatre performance class (THEA 351), one element of this course is vocal coaching solo material; another is an introduction to musical theatre styles through group vocal performance and practice.

THEA 115: *Acting for Non-Majors* (Graduate Student Instructor), 2011

Improvisational exercises (verbal and nonverbal) in sensory awareness, observation, concentration, listening and response skills, and application to other fields. Individual presentation techniques are taught for the pre-professional in other disciplines.

THEA 620A & B: *History of Musical Theatre* (Student Lecturer), 2010-2011

Graduate seminar examining major musical theatre productions, practitioners, styles, trends and genres through a chronological survey of musical theatre history, tracing its origins in comic opera and operetta to contemporary Broadway.

Selected Lectures:

Broadway in the 1950s: The Golden Era

Harold Arlen: Broadway's Lesser Known 'Most Original' Composer

An Era of Revolution: American Musical Theatre in the 1960s

Jule Styne: Refining the Art of Collaboration in Musical Theatre

THEA 446C: *Undergraduate Practicum in Theatre Arts* (Graduate Student Instructor), 2011-2012
Practical experience in departmental musical theatre performances.

THEA 627: *M.F.A. Musicianship* (Graduate Student Instructor), 2010-2012
Music theory, aural skills, and beginning piano for the musical theatre practitioner.

THEA 345: *Theatre Marketing and Publicity* (Graduate Student Instructor), 2011
Practical experience in marketing and publicity for the theatre, including PSA's, press releases, layout-graphics for written materials, magazine and newspaper advertisements, marketing strategy and campaign development for a full season of plays and musicals.

La Jolla Playhouse

Musical Theatre (Lead Teacher), 2011

Musical theatre laboratory engaging 3rd to 12th grade students in exercises to help strengthen their vocal and physical skills as well as expand their musical theatre vocabulary. Beginning vocal technique and basic choreography are the basis for learning.

Grossmont Community College, El Cajon, CA

THTR 235: *Fundamentals of Theatre: Scene/Song*, 2011

Performance-oriented course in which students participate in a variety of musical theatre projects incorporating singing, acting, blocking, and choreographed movement.

Baeksuk University, Seoul, South Korea

Advanced Piano Accompanying (Guest Lecture), 2010

Undergraduate seminar in collaborative piano technique. The course focuses on a wide variety of genres, ranging from German lieder to musical theatre.

Private Voice Studio, 2004-present

One-on-one coaching and voice instruction. Genres including musical theatre, art song, opera, operetta, musical theatre, jazz, gospel, R&B, rock, folk, country, and pop.

Lakes Community High School, Lake Villa, IL

Director of Choirs, 2008-2010

Repertoire selection and direction of 9th to 12th grade choral music for four curricular ensembles (mixed and treble voices), and three extra-curricular ensembles (show choir, jazz choir and chamber choir), music direction for two musicals per year, rehearsal and performance accompanist for various vocal and instrumental groups, program and conduct three choral concerts per year, including preparing soloists, sectionals, and individual coaching outside of classroom instruction, preparation for students participation in IMEA All-District/All-State Choir auditions, preparation for student participation in solo/ensemble voice competition at Northwestern University, preparation of three ensembles for IHSA

Organization Contest, host IHSA Organizational Contest, host District 117 Choral Festival.

AP Music Theory, 2008-2010

Intensive preparation for the Advanced Placement Music Theory Exam administered by the College Board. Development of aural, written, compositional, and analytical skills through written, aural, performance, creative, and analytical exercises.

Electronic Keyboarding, 2008-2010

Beginning piano instruction, with an emphasis music literacy and beginning composition. Curriculum supplemented with Alfred's Music Theory and Sibelius software.

Palatine Children's Chorus

Assistant Director and Principal Accompanist, 2002-2004

Teach beginning vocal pedagogy, music theory, aural skills, and choral literature to 2nd to 12th grade singers. Conduct rehearsals and public performances in the absence of the director. Accompany rehearsals and public performances.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

San Diego State University

THEA 351: *Musical Theatre Performance*, 2012

Revision of an existing syllabus to change the focus from audition techniques to performance techniques. Main modifications were the inclusion of scene partners and short lectures on historical performance practices.

THEA 350: *Musical Theatre Styles: Voice Lab*, 2011

Significant revision of an existing vocal coaching syllabus to incorporate exploration of musical theatre style through lecture, workshop and group performance.

THEA 627: *M.F.A. Musicianship*, 2010

Creation of a new musicianship syllabus that synthesizes elements of music theory, aural skills, and basic piano for the musical theatre practitioner. An entrance examination developed to assess aptitude, as well as a final comprehensive examination to assess improvement in both music theory and aural skills.

THEA 115: *Acting for Non-Majors*, 2011

Creation of a new syllabus that integrates scene study and the basic principles of acting with exploration of physicalization, characterization, improvisation and the actor's voice.

THEA 345: *Theatre Marketing and Publicity*, 2011

Significant revision of an existing syllabus; exploration of marketing and publicity through social media, research and discussion, guest lectures, and practical application.

La Jolla Playhouse

Musical Theatre, 2011

Creation of a new syllabus to teach the principles of musical theatre singing and dancing to seven different classes, ranging in age from 3rd to 12th grade students.

RESEARCH

MFA Thesis: “A Blended Pedagogy: Synthesizing the Best Practices of Opera and Musical Theatre Training Programs to Promote a More Holistic Approach to Training the Singing Actor

MFA Research Project: “A Paradigm Shift in the Role of the Musical Theatre Audition Accompanist”

SELECTED LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS

Michael Bennett THEA 650, San Diego State University, November, 2011

Precision Dance and the Dance Director THEA 650, San Diego State University, October 2011

Fred and Adele Astaire THEA 650, San Diego State University, September, 2011

The Directing Style of Noel Coward, “The Master” THEA 659, San Diego State University, September, 2011

Bill “Bojangles” Robinson THEA 650, San Diego State University, September, 2011

An Era of Revolution: Musical Theatre from 1960 - 1969 THEA 622B, San Diego State University, January 2011

Jule Styne: Refining the Art of Collaboration in Musical Theatre THEA 650, San Diego State University, February, 2011

1950s: The Golden Age of Broadway THEA 622A, San Diego State University, December 2010

Harold Arlen: Broadway’s Lesser Known, ‘Most Original’ Composer THEA 620A, San Diego State University, November 2010

Circles of Presence THEA 115, San Diego State University, September, 2011

Sight-Singing for the Actor THEA 627, San Diego State University, September, 2010

Techniques for Sight-Singing in the Vocal Audition THEA 627, San Diego State University, November, 2011

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOP TEACHING

Graduate Attendee, Association for Theatre in Higher Education: Chicago, IL, July 2011

Guest Presenter, Grossmont Musical Theatre Festival, Grossmont Community College: El Cajon, CA, January 2011

College Audition Accompanist, Illinois High School Theatre Festival, University of Illinois (Champaign, IL) and Illinois State University (Normal, IL), January 2005 –present

Workshop Instructor, *Musical Theatre Audition: HELP!*, Illinois High School Theatre Festival, University of Illinois (Champaign, IL), January 2007

Workshop Presenter, *Musical Theatre Voice Styles*, Illinois High School Theatre Festival, Illinois State University (Normal, IL), January 2006

Workshop Instructor, *Wizness Bizness*, Metropolis Performing Arts Center: Arlington Heights, IL, July 2005

Workshop Instructor, *Singing and Acting: They Go Together!*, Illinois High School Theatre Festival, University of Illinois (Champaign, IL), January 2005, Illinois High School Theatre Festival

Staff Accompanist, ShowChoir Camps of America, Millikin University (Decatur, IL) and Heidelberg College (Tiffin, OH), July 2004 – July 2006

PERFORMING EXPERIENCE: STAGE

Forever Plaid (Brad Zimmerman)	Jinx	Chestnut Fine Arts (2013)
Gifts of the Magi (Marc Lococo)	Willy/Jim Ud.	Porchlight Music Theatre (2012)
Zanna, Don't!	Zanna	San Diego State University (2012)
Rent (Ron Kellum)	Steve/Angle Ud.	San Diego Musical Theatre (2012)
Into the Woods	Jack	Wishing Star Theatre (2011)
Little Women	Laurie	SDSU (2011)
big: The Musical (Gary Griffin)	Ens/Yng Josh Ud.	Drury Lane Oakbrook (2002)
The Boy Friend	Tony	SDSU (2011)
Urinetown (Laura Pulio)	Bobby Strong	Harper Theatre Ensemble (2010)
Pump Boys and Dinettes	L.M.	Metropolis PAC (2009)
It's a Wonderful Life (Sean Murray)	Mr. Church	Cygnnet Theatre (2011)
High School Musical	Troy Bolton	Stages Rochester (2003)
Joseph...	Joseph	Schaumburg On Stage (2004)
Titanic	Harold Bride	Lake Zurich Playhouse (2003)
She Loves Me	Arpad Laszlo	Music on Stage (2002)
Candide (scenes)	Candide	Eastman Opera Theatre (2007)
The Merry Widow (Steven Daigle)	St. Brioche	EOT (2008)
This Is the Rill Speaking (J. Pape)	Tommy/Manny	EOT (207)
Fiddler on the Roof	Perchik	Viking Theatre (2003)
A Funny Thing....	Hero	VT (2002)

MUSIC DIRECTING EXPERIENCE: STAGE

MFA Showcases: San Diego State University, Fall 2010 and Spring 2011: Music directed, arranged and accompanied the canon of musical theatre heritage from George M. Cohan to Stephen Sondheim.

In the Heights (Dir. Rachel Rockwell)	Paramount Theatre, Aurora, IL
The Jungle Book (Music Asst. to Doug Peck)	Goodman Theatre
The Wedding Singer (Dir. Ron Kellum)	Red Mountain Theatre Company, Birmingham, AL
Shrek: The Musical (Michael Mahler, MD)	Chicago Shakespeare Theatre
Sweet Charity (Doug Peck, MD)	Writers' Theatre, Glencoe, IL
The Spitfire Grill	The Bohemian Theatre Ensemble, Chicago
Odyssey (AMD to Todd Almond)	Old Globe Theatre, San Diego
Hello Again (AMD to Chris Littlefield)	University of Rochester
It's a Wonderful Life (AMD to Billy Thompson)	Cygnnet Theatre, San Diego
Cindy's Fella (reading)	Original Musical, Chicago
You Can't Take It with You (created original music with Josh Schmidt)	University of Rochester, NY
The Wiz	Metropolis Performing Arts Center, Chicago
Rent: School Edition	Up and Coming Theatre, Chicago (2009)
Mame	Midlakes HS Theatre Experience, Rochester (2006)
The Wiz	Metropolis Performing Arts Center, Chicago (2005)
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown	Overshadowed Productions, Chicago (2004)
Wizard of Oz	Best of the Best Theatre Company, Chicago (2002)
Into the Woods	Best of the Best Theatre Company (2003)

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE: STAGE

Hello Again (scenes)

San Diego State University, 2011

Children of Eden (scenes)

San Diego State University, 2011

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Chicago Federation of Musicians

Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society (SDSU Chapter 96)

MTEA (Musical Theatre Educators Alliance)

ATHE (Association for Theatre in High Education)

ITA (Illinois Theatre Association)

IMEA (Illinois Music Educators' Association)

MENC (Music Educators' National Conference)

ACDA (American Choral Director's Association)

NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association)

San Diego Actors' Alliance

COMMUNITY OUTREACH, DONOR, AND SERVICE EVENTS

"Musical Theatre Contemporary Portfolio," San Diego State University, December 2011.

"MFA Musical Theatre Program Donor Demonstration and Tour," San Diego State University, October 2011.

"Meet the MFAs, Alumni Center Luncheon," San Diego State University, October 2011. **"SDSU Presidential Campaign Kick-Off Gala,"** San Diego State University, September 2011.

"Dean's Luncheon to Welcome President Hirshman," San Diego State University, August 2011.

"Musical Theatre Heritage Portfolio: Bernstein to Schwartz," San Diego State University, May 2011.

"President Webber Farewell Gala," San Diego State University, April 2011.

"Alumni Center Donor Reception," San Diego State University, March 2011.

"In Whatever Time We Have," American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Davenport's Piano Bar, Chicago, IL, December 2010.

"Musical Theatre Heritage Portfolio: Cohan to Lerner & Loewe," San Diego State University, December 2010.

"A Grand Night for Singing Donor Reception," San Diego State University, October 2010.

"Small Steps, Big Dreams," Golisano Children's Hospital, Rochester, NY, July 2009.

"An Afternoon of Hope," American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Parkminster Presbyterian Church, Chili, NY, May, 2007.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Phi Kappa Phi (San Diego State University)

Jeanne Jones Musical Theatre Scholarship

Roscoe-Tiffany MFA Musical Theatre

Shiley Musical Theatre Scholarship

Scholarship

Marion Ross Scholarship

Gail Johnson McAdams Memorial Scholarship

Howard Hanson Scholarship

Carey G. Wall Recruitment Scholarship for the Musical Theatre MFA Program