

# S Joshua Sheppard, Bass-Baritone

10 Osprey Drive Millville, NJ 08332

+1 (609) 805-6786 | sjoshuasheppard@gmail.com | sjoshuasheppard.com

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## PERSONAL SUMMARY

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Award-winning voice pedagogue and performer specializing in classical vocal technique. D.M.A. in Voice Performance and Literature with demonstrated excellence in developing college-aged singers and guiding students to prestigious graduate programs and professional careers.

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Music entrepreneurship, student-centered curriculum development in classical voice and voice-adjacent fields, bio-mechanical and exercise science principles underlying singing, contemporary approaches to voice pedagogy across diverse musical genres, bridges between voice science and embodied practice, nutritional optimization for vocal health and longevity

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## EDUCATION

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### Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

D.M.A. in Voice Performance and Literature

2025

Primary Voice Teacher: Anthony Dean Griffey, Professor of Voice

Vocal Coach: Alison d'Amato, Associate Professor of Vocal Coaching

### Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

M.M. in Voice Performance and Literature

2022

Primary Voice Teacher: Anthony Dean Griffey, Professor of Voice

Vocal Coaches: Timothy Long, Artistic and Music Director of Opera

Russell Miller, Professor of Vocal Coaching and Repertoire

### Vanderbilt University

Nashville, TN

B.M. in Voice Performance and Literature, Cum Laude

2020

Primary Voice Teacher: Amy K. Jarman, Senior Lecturer in Voice

Vocal Coaches: Ben Harris, Senior Lecturer in Vocal Coaching

Jennifer McGuire, Principal Senior Lecturer in Collaborative Piano

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## ACADEMIC TEACHING AWARDS

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### **Graduate Teaching Assistant Prize**

**Rochester, NY**  
2023–2024

Awarded by an independent committee to graduate students who distinguish themselves for excellence in teaching. One reviewer wrote, "S Joshua is an excellent teacher with a natural rapport and sincere enthusiasm towards the progress and success of his students." His department nomination notes that "his standout qualities are his genuine care for his students, excellent teaching persona, and natural ability to create a supportive learning environment." Awarded for the 2023-2024 academic year.

### **Jack L. Frank Award for Excellence in Teaching**

**Rochester, NY**  
2023–2024

Awarded annually to a faculty member who by means of unusually inspired and effective teaching has contributed significantly to the education of the Eastman Community Music School's students. Awarded for the 2023-2024 academic year.

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## STUDENT OUTCOMES

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Over four years of teaching, students have gone on to gain acceptance to prestigious music programs, win competitions, and begin careers in music including:

### **Graduate Programs**

Eastman School of Music  
Jacobs School of Music  
Mannes School of Music  
Oklahoma City University  
University of Florida  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
University of Michigan

### **Professional Positions**

Associate Music Director at Epiphany United Methodist Church  
Choir Director and Lecturer in Music Voice at Fort Lewis College  
Music Director at PJ State Chinese Methodist Church  
University of Redlands Conservatory of Music Faculty

## Competition Awards

1st place in "KCON" at UC Berkeley

1st place in "Creation of Voice" at the University of Rochester

Honorable mention in "Rotary Vocal Music Competition," musical theater division in the greater Rochester area

## Young Artist Programs

Chautauqua

Rochester Summer Opera

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### University of South Dakota

Vermillion, SD

Assistant Professor of Music, Voice

Expected August 2026

- Teach applied voice lessons to undergraduate and graduate students, assessing student performance against discipline standards and preparing students for professional performance opportunities and competitions
- Direct fall opera production, providing stage direction for performances
- Teach vocal diction and song literature courses, incorporating scholarly findings and current pedagogical approaches
- Supervise independent studies, student recitals, and studio classes; assess student recitals and juries
- Advise assigned students regarding degree requirements, program planning, and academic integrity standards
- Maintain professional development through performance and study; present artistic work and scholarly findings to regional and/or national audiences
- Actively participate in student recruitment and retention efforts, particularly in the voice area
- Contribute to departmental committees, governance responsibilities, departmental events, visiting artist presentations, and voice area programming

### Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

Applied Voice Lessons Teaching Assistant

2022–2025

- Instructed 13–16 undergraduate and graduate students in weekly applied voice lessons
- Mentored seven students over four years in graduate applications, achieving a 100% acceptance rate to competitive programs including Eastman School of Music, Jacobs School of Music, and University of Michigan

- Prepared four students for University of Rochester musical theater auditions, with three securing lead roles and achieving 100% casting success
- Achieved an 83% student retention rate and guided three students to prestigious graduate programs in 2025
- Developed innovative Feldenkrais-inspired curriculum, enabling students to bridge voice science with embodied practice
- Organized and facilitated four or more masterclasses annually, significantly enhancing student performance confidence and stage presence
- Leveraged performance experience in over 20 operatic roles to provide real-world context in voice lessons, enhancing student understanding of repertoire interpretation, musical collaboration, and vocal technique
- Recruited and assessed prospective voice students annually through strategic outreach, consistently maintaining high-caliber studio enrollment
- Provided lyric diction coaching in Italian, German, French, and Russian repertoire
- Adjudicated bi-annual voice auditions and spring juries, providing comprehensive written assessments of student progress
- Engaged in ongoing pedagogical development through faculty and peer teaching observations and reviews

### **Eastman Community Music School**

**Rochester, NY**

Voice Intern

2022–2024

- Instructed five to eight community students weekly across diverse age ranges (10–70) and all experience levels in applied voice lessons, maintaining high engagement across classical, musical theater, contemporary/original song development, jazz and children’s repertoire
- Mentored one student in graduate applications who gained acceptance to the Mannes School of Music
- Contributed to departmental curriculum revision at four annual faculty meetings, developing progressive level frameworks to track and demonstrate student advancement over time
- Coached students in audition strategies, repertoire selection, and vocal technique across diverse performance contexts including local performances, competitions, student showcase recitals, and spring juries
- Pursued ongoing professional development through lesson observations and faculty mentorship

**Private Voice Studio****Nashville, TN & Rochester, NY**

Voice Teacher

2018–2025

- Recruited and instructed five adult students across diverse experience levels in classical, musical theater, contemporary commercial music, and jazz genres
- Designed individualized lesson plans tailored to each student's vocal goals, resulting in technical improvement and enhanced performance confidence
- Facilitated community engagement through placement in local choral ensembles and open mic venues

**Studio of Anthony Dean Griffey****Rochester, NY**

Invited Guest Lecturer

2022–2025

- Facilitated and led voice studio class six or more times annually for 15–20 students in Professor Anthony Dean Griffey's absence, maintaining pedagogical continuity and providing guidance on vocal technique, repertoire interpretation, and performance strategies
- Cultivated a collaborative learning environment by encouraging peer assessment and moderating constructive feedback among studio members

**Vanderbilt Chorale****Nashville, TN**

Bass Section Leader

2018–2020

- Led weekly sectional rehearsals for eight to twelve bass singers, providing targeted coaching and repertoire preparation that enhanced blend, pitch accuracy, and rhythmic cohesion
- Provided piano accompaniment for sectional rehearsals as needed and conducted when accompanist was available, demonstrating musical versatility and adaptive leadership
- Completed advanced choral conducting study under Dr. Tucker Biddlecombe, Director of Choral Activities and Nashville Symphony Chorus Director, developing rehearsal efficiency and ensemble direction

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## OPERA CREDITS

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Role	Opera (Composer)	Company	Year
Second Armoured Man	Die Zauberflöte (Mozart)	Aspen Music Festival	2026
Snug	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (Britten)	Aspen Music Festival	2026
Jose Tripaldi	<i>Ainadamar</i> (Golijov)	Eastman Opera Theatre	2025
Father	<i>Silent Light</i> (Paola Prestini)	Eastman Opera Theatre	2024
Ben Upthegrove	<i>The Telephone</i> (Menotti)	Independent Production	2024
Ein Musiklehrer	<i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i> (Strauss)	Eastman Opera Theatre	2024
Pizarro / Fernando	<i>Fidelio</i> (Beethoven)	Opera Company of Middlebury	2023
Count Ceprano / Usciere	<i>Rigoletto</i> (Verdi)	Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra	2023
Alvaro (cover)	<i>Florencia en el Amazonas</i> (Catan)	Eastman Opera Theatre	2023
Melisso	<i>Alcina</i> (Handel)	Eastman Opera Theatre	2023
Mortimer / Judge	<i>Lear on the 2nd Floor</i> (Davis)	Eastman Opera Theatre	2022
Major General Stanley	<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> (Gilbert & Sullivan)	Rochester Summer Opera	2022
Narrator / Mysterious Man	<i>Into the Woods</i> (Sondheim)	Eastman Opera Theatre	2022
Giove	<i>La Calisto</i> (Caccini)	Eastman Opera Theatre	2022
Sodbuster	<i>Proving Up</i> (Mazzoli)	Eastman Opera Theatre	2021
Mr. Greatorex / Gissing	<i>Elizabeth Cree</i> (Puts)	Eastman Opera Theatre	2021
Edmund	<i>Mansfield Park</i> (Dove)	Vanderbilt Opera Theatre	2019
Figaro	<i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i> (Mozart)	Prague Summer Nights Festival	2019
Dr. Pangloss / Cacambo	<i>Candide</i> (Bernstein)	Vanderbilt Opera Theatre	2018
Sciarrone	<i>Tosca</i> (Puccini)	Festival Lyrique de Belle-Ile	2018

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## CONCERT

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All performances listed below were as a soloist

Work	Composer	Presenter	Year
Critical Writings (World Premiere)	Matias de Roux	Cornell's Ensemble X	2026
<i>Kopernikus</i> (Concert version)	Vivier	Meridionalis — Bogotá, Colombia	2025
<i>Missa Solemnis</i>	Beethoven	Eastman School Symphony Orchestra	2025
<i>Süsser Trost, mein Jesus kömmt, BWV 151</i>	Bach	Eastman Bach Cantata Series	2025
<i>Messiah</i>	Handel	Eastman School of Music	2024
Neue Liebeslieder	Brahms	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	2024
A Night at the Opera Gala		Niagara Opera Company & Lewiston Art Council	2024
<i>Canti dell'Eclisse</i>	Rands	Musica Nova Ensemble	2024
<i>Creation</i>	Haydn	SUNY Geneseo Orchestra	2023
<i>Alzheimer's Stories</i>	Cohen	Buffalo Philharmonic Chamber Players	2023
<i>Barmherziges Herze der ewigen Liebe, BWV 185</i>	Bach	Eastman Bach Cantata Series	2023
<i>A Sea Symphony</i>	Vaughan Williams	Eastman Philharmonic Orchestra	2023
Opera Under the Stars		Rochester Summer Opera	2023
<i>Creation</i>	Haydn	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	2022

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## COMPETITIONS

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Award	Competition	Year
2nd Place	Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition	2025
Finalist	Friends of Eastman Opera Competition	2022
1st Place	NATS Mid-South Division	2019

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## CHORAL EXPERIENCE

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Third Presbyterian Church Choral Scholar	2020–2022
St. George's Episcopal Church Choral Scholar	2019–2020
Nashville Symphony Chorus Member	2019–2020

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## SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

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### Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

Graduate Assistant for Professor Anthony Dean Griffey

2020–2022

- Coordinated comprehensive studio operations for 15–20 graduate and undergraduate voice students, managing complex scheduling logistics to align each student's individual collaborative pianist with Professor Griffey's availability for lessons and studio class
- Streamlined studio administrative processes including student communications and practice room allocation system, reducing scheduling conflicts, improving operational efficiency, and enabling Professor Griffey to focus on pedagogical excellence
- Developed and distributed comprehensive COVID-19 safety protocols for studio operations, ensuring 100% compliance with university health guidelines while maintaining continuity of instruction for all studio students
- Mentored four incoming graduate assistants over three years in administrative procedures and studio management protocols
- Provided ongoing administrative support and consultation to Professor Griffey and future graduate assistants to ensure a continuity of studio operations beyond the formal appointment period

### Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

Studio Representative for the studio of Anthony Dean Griffey

2020–2022

- Represented 15-20 voice students, serving as confidential advocate and liaison to address student concerns and facilitate communication with voice department faculty
- Collaborated with studio representatives to collect and analyze anonymous feedback surveys from 100-120 voice students across all studios, presenting biannual findings and recommendations to 15 voice, opera, and vocal coaching faculty during department meetings
- Resolved interpersonal conflicts through confidential mediation processes, achieving constructive outcomes while maintaining positive studio dynamics and student-faculty relationships

### Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

Faculty Search Committee - Opera Department

2022

- Selected to serve as a graduate student representative on a faculty search committee responsible for hiring an Assistant Professor of Opera
- Conducted structured candidate interviews with fellow studio representatives, providing comprehensive candidate evaluations and recommendations and ensuring student voice was represented in faculty selection process

**Philanthropy Lab****Nashville, TN**

Student Grant Allocation Committee

2020

- Advocated to allocate \$50,000 in discretionary grant funding towards housing-insecure populations, strategically targeting nonprofits serving North Nashville's tornado-affected areas and adapting criteria during COVID-19 to prioritize displaced immunocompromised individuals
- Conducted comprehensive evaluations of five local non-profits to assess organizational capacity, community impact, and service delivery to vulnerable populations across multiple crises
- Demonstrated adaptive strategic leadership by collaborating with committee members to refine funding priorities in response to evolving community needs, ensuring resources reached the most at-risk populations

**Millville High School****Millville, NJ**

Superintendent Search Committee

2015

- Selected to serve as student representative on district-wide superintendent search committee
- Conducted candidate interviews and provided comprehensive written and verbal evaluations that informed the selection of district leadership serving 5,100 students