

Sharon Bjorndal Lavery

Pianist, Coach, Conductor, Soprano

1325 Windstone Drive, Waco, TX 76712

SBLAVERY@GMAIL.COM

(973) 615-4790

EDUCATION

The Juilliard School

D.M.A., Collaborative Piano, 2012

- Recipient of the C.V. Starr Award, a full-fellowship scholarship with stipend to attend The Juilliard School

- Document: *Singing in Norwegian: A Guide to Diction, Interpretation, and the Songs of Agathe Backer Grøndahl*

Manhattan School of Music

M.M., Piano Accompanying & Chamber Music, 2001

Oberlin College Conservatory

B.M., Piano Performance, Voice Performance (double major), 1999

- Awarded Oberlin Faculty Prize in Accompanying at graduation, which included a monetary award

- Phi Kappa Lambda membership for qualifying GPA

PROFESSIONAL POSTS, ENGAGEMENTS, AND FESTIVALS

Utah Symphony | Utah Opera, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Chorus Director and Opera Assistant Conductor, 2022-2024

Recruit and prepare Opera Chorus and Symphony Chorus for all productions

Conductors: David Robertson, Robert Tweten, Stephanie Rhodes Russell,
Ben Manis, Conner Covington, Steven White

Assist and cover conduct for all opera productions

Assist with all budgets and planning

Judge competitions

Create enrichment courses and opportunities for choristers

Productions during tenure:

La fille du régiment/Donizetti

La bohème/Puccini

Messiah/Handel

The Little Prince/Portman

Le nozze di Figaro/Mozart

Access to Music (arias and overtures for special-needs community)

Thaïs/Massenet

University of North Texas, Denton, TX, USA

Lecturer of Opera Coaching, 2024-present

As full-time faculty, prepare singers in 3 annual opera productions

Duties include Head Coach, Chorus Master, Pianist, Conductor

Productions during tenure:

Così fan tutte/Mozart

Die Fledermaus/Strauss
Proving Up/Mazzoli

Baylor University, Waco, TX, USA

Lecturer of Collaborative Piano, 2022-2023

Guest Coach, Accompanist, Visiting Judge for Piano Competitions, Teacher for Summer Pianist Institute, 2017-2022

As full-time faculty, accompanied students on recitals, juries, lessons, opera rehearsals, competitions, recordings

Substitute Teacher for Dr. Jamie Van Eyck and Professor Joseph Li in coaching singers in private sessions, voice studio class, and opera ensembles

Accompanied student Austin Gabe Henry for Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition, winning first place, and performed for Dr. Michele Henry's Music Education classes in UIL Song presentation at China Spring Middle School

Productions during tenure:

Patience/Gilbert & Sullivan

Monsieur et Madame Denis/Offenbach

McLennan Community College, Waco, TX, USA

Assistant Professor of Music, 2017-2022

COURSES TAUGHT

Applied Piano, Theory, Ear-Training, Chorale (co-taught), Opera Workshop (co-taught), Vocal Coaching, Instrumental Coaching

OTHER DUTIES

Accompany students for recitals, juries, recordings, National Teachers of Singing competition contestants (including faculty representation for Singer of the Year competition), organize accompanying assignments for all students, recruit, organize Annual MCC Piano Competition, accompany and perform Faculty Recitals

OPERA WORKSHOP

Coach, play, contract orchestra, conduct productions:

Daughter of the Regiment/Donizetti, 2018

Pirates of Penzance/Gilbert & Sullivan, 2019

The Old Maid and the Thief/Menotti, 2021

The Tinker of Tivoli/Rossini (arranged for children's opera), 2022

University of Texas at Austin

Guest Coach, 2017-2018

Substitute Teacher for Professors Tamara Sanikidze and Kelly Kuo in coaching singers, collaborative piano lessons, and French diction class

Bard College & Conservatory, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, USA

Visiting Instructor of Music, 2004-2009

COURSES TAUGHT

Applied Piano – Private Lessons, Class Piano, Keyboard Skills for Music Majors, The Art of Collaboration & Chamber Music, Introduction to Music Theory, Theory II & Ear Training, Lyric Diction: Italian, German, French, Latin, English,

Tutorials: Flute Theory, Vocal Coaching, Chamber Singers, Symphonic Chorus, Conservatory Ear-Training, Conservatory Diction Tutoring

OTHER DUTIES

Pianist for American Symphony Orchestra, Faculty Recitals, collaborating with Rufus Muller, tenor and Diane Chaplin, cello. Guest Pianist with Colorado String Quartet. Voice Studio Recital Accompanist, Cello Studio Recital Accompanist

University of Louisville, Kentucky, USA

Staff Pianist, 2014-2016

Accompanied voice students in lessons, coachings, performances, masterclasses

Louisville Classical Academy

Music Faculty, 2013-2016

Taught grades 3-12: private piano lessons, private voice lessons, music fundamentals (theory, ear-training, appreciation with Orff component), middle and high school choirs

New York City Opera

Pianist, Assistant Chorus Master, Children's Chorus Master, Outreach Teaching Artist
2001-2004, 2009-2010

Duties in the following productions: chorus preparation as conductor and pianist, offstage conducting (chorus and banda), pianist for chorus auditions, coach for small roles, children's chorus master

Agrippina/Handel
La bohème/Puccini
Carmen/Bizet
Dead Man Walking/Heggie
Don Giovanni/Mozart
Don Pasquale/Donizetti
Ermione/Rossini
Esther/Weisgall
L'Etoile/Chabrier
Der fliegende Holländer/Wagner
The Glass Blowers/Sousa
Lillith/Drattell
Little Women/Adamo
Madama Butterfly/Puccini
Le nozze di Figaro/Mozart
The Magic Flute/Mozart
Of Mice and Men/Floyd
The Mikado/Sullivan
Rigoletto/Verdi
Sweeney Todd/Sondheim
La traviata/Puccini
Il trittico/Puccini
Tosca/Puccini
Turandot/Puccini

San Diego Opera & San Diego Symphony

Pianist/Répétiteuse, 2016

West Coast premiere of Jake Heggie's *Great Scott***Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville, KY**

Pianist, Cantor, 2014-2016

Kentucky Opera

Pianist/Répétiteuse, 2015-2016

<i>A Woman in Morocco</i> /Daron Hagen	2015
<i>Three Decembers</i> /Jake Heggie	2015
<i>Showboat</i> /Kern & Hammerstein II	2016
<i>Madama Butterfly</i> /Puccini	2016
<i>Die Entführung aus dem Serail</i> /Mozart	2016

Bard Summerscape Festival

Pianist/ Conductor/ Chorus Master, 2003-2008

American Symphony Orchestra

Leon Botstein, Music Director

Osud/Janáček

Choral Works of Franz Liszt

Genoveva/Schumann*The Tender Land*/Copland*Der Zwerg*/Zemlinsky*Of Thee I Sing*/Gershwin

Trilogy of Operettas/Offenbach

Hoc/Shostakovich*Król Roger*/Szymanowski**Opera Company of Philadelphia**

Chorus Master, 2004

Don Carlo/Verdi**Manhattan School of Music Opera Center**

Chorus Master, 2002, 2005, Coach & Continuo, 2002

Béatrice et Bénédicte/Berlioz*Zemire und Azor*/ Spohr*Idomeneo*/Mozart**Wolf Trap Opera**

Pianist/Répétiteuse, 2002

Serse/Handel**Music Academy of the West, Santa Barbara, CA**

Coach/Pianist, 2002

<i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i> /Strauss	2000
<i>Pelléas et Mélisande</i> /Debussy (2-piano version)	2001
Pianist for Masterclasses	

Marilyn Horne
Lotfi Mansouri
Warren Jones
Marshall Williamson

SCHOLARSHIP

International Edvard Grieg Society Conference

2015

A Foreign Affair:

The Marriage of Music and Poetry in Grieg's "Haugtussa," Op. 67

Paper presented in Bergen, Norway and published at

www.griegsociety.com

TRAINING (Teachers and their academic affiliations)

Piano

Lillian Freundlich, Peabody Conservatory
Joseph Schwartz, Oberlin Conservatory
Monique Duphil, Oberlin Conservatory
Warren Jones, Manhattan School of Music
Margo Garrett, The Juilliard School
Jonathan Feldman, The Juilliard School

Voice

Irene Gubrud, Aspen Music Festival
Lorraine Manz, Oberlin Conservatory
Sandra Darling, Montclair State University

Diction

Marianne Barrett (German), Manhattan School of Music
Palma Toscani (French), Manhattan School of Music
Robert Cowart (Italian), Manhattan School of Music
Dagmar Rydlo (Czech), Toronto
Gina Levinson (Russian), The Juilliard School
Kathryn LaBouff (English), The Juilliard School
Tom Grubb (French), The Juilliard School
George Novak (Polish), Bard Summerscape Festival
Beryl Foster (Norwegian), through publications

Conducting

Gail Archer, Manhattan School of Music
Kent Tritle, The Juilliard School

PERFORMANCES

Piano Soloist for Society of Musical Arts, NJ, 2024
Florence Price, *Concerto for Piano in One Movement*

Mezzo-soprano Soloist for Central TX Choral Society, 2023
Duruflé, *Requiem*

Piano Soloist for Waco Community Orchestra, 2021-2023
Grieg, *Piano Concerto in A Minor*
Agathe Backer Grøndahl, *Andante quasi allegretto*
Florence Price, *Concerto for Piano in One Movement*

Recital with Baritone Mark Diamond, 2023
Ravel, *Histoires naturelles*

Soprano Soloist for Vox Seraphim Chorus and Orchestra, 2023
Handel, *Messiah*: But who may abide, Rejoice greatly

Vocal Soloist for Waco Symphony, 2022
Lord of Rings Suite
Titanic Suite

Pianist for Waco Symphony, 2021-2023
Respighi, *Pines of Rome*

Piano Soloist for Louisville Ballet, 2016
Hindemith, *Kammermusik No. 2*, Op. 36, No. 1

Piano Soloist for Louisville Orchestra, 2017
Saint-Saëns, *Carnival of the Animals*
Kelly Corcoran, conductor

Recitals and Radio Appearance with Anne Richardson, cello
Louisville Bach Haus 2013
Saint Paul United Methodist, Louisville, KY 2013
WUOL 2016

<https://soundcloud.com/wuol/anne-richardson-in-studio>

Recitals with Soprano Emily Albrink
Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL 2014
St. Francis in the Fields, Harrods Creek, KY

RECORDINGS

The Call to Earth: Songs of Daniel Gilliam 2016
Pianist with tenor, Steven Paul Spears
<http://www.fictivemusic.com/thecalltoearth/>
Available on iTunes

Albany Records *Spohr: Beauty and the Beast* 2005
Chorus Master: Manhattan School of Music Opera Chorus
https://play.spotify.com/album/5ONm42ooKkH7cWOgWJL2Rn?play=true&utm_source=open.spotify.com&utm_medium=open

Independent Label *In the Sanctuary: Celebrating 100 Years of Worship* 2008
Pianist, Conductor, Organist, and Producer:

Chancel and Children's Choirs of the
Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

Independent Label *Akir: The Complete Choral Works of Bayani Mendoza de Leon*
Pianist 2001