

Erin Elizabeth Smith

Vocal Instructor and Professional Opera and Musical Theatre Performer

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Chicago, IL



Professional Summary

Accomplished voice instructor and performer with over two decades of experience teaching vocal technique, acting, and interpretation across multiple genres including opera, musical theater, and popular styles. Adept at developing comprehensive curriculum, planning engaging recitals and performances, and providing individualized training to students of all ages and levels. Leverages extensive performance background and world-class training from renowned institutions like The Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, and Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program. Passionate about nurturing students' talents, enhancing their skills, and inspiring them to reach their full artistic potential. Multilingual instructor proficient in coaching diction and repertoire in Italian, French, German, Spanish, and English. Featured performer in the Emmy award-winning production of Madame Butterfly Live from Lincoln Center.

EDUCATION

- **Artist Diploma, The Juilliard Opera Center (2002-2004)**
 - Advanced operatic training and performance
 - Selected for prestigious professional development program
- **Master of Music, Manhattan School of Music (2000-2002)**
 - Voice Performance
 - Advanced vocal technique and performance studies
- **Bachelor of Music, Manhattan School of Music (1996-2000)**
 - Voice Performance
 - Foundation in music theory, history, and performance practice

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Voice Teacher, New Music School, Chicago, IL (2014-2017)**
 - Established a conservatory program, recruiting professional actors, singers, and dancers to enhance student training

- Developed comprehensive curriculum and directed scenes, musicals, and recital programs
- Taught master classes and facilitated additional master class opportunities with guest artists
- Maintained a private voice studio within the school with up to 25 students, providing individualized hourly lessons
- **Voice Teacher, Private Studio**, New York, NY and Chicago, IL (1999-Present)
 - Maintain a thriving private voice studio spanning over two decades, teaching students from beginner to advanced levels
 - Design customized warm-ups and exercises based on elite training from Juilliard, Domingo-Cafritz program, and Manhattan School of Music
 - Specialize in comprehensive vocal development including register shifts, breaks, extreme ranges, expansion, legato, staccato, and strengthening middle and head/chest voices
 - Provide foundational music education including music theory, sight-reading, diction, interpretation, and acting techniques
 - Research and assign appropriate repertoire across diverse genres: opera, musical theater, pop, spiritual, gospel, jazz, and blues
 - Coach multilingual performance in Italian, German, French, Spanish, and English
 - Organize and produce semester student recitals and performance programs
 - Build clientele primarily through word-of-mouth recommendations, demonstrating consistent results and student satisfaction

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

- **Sister Berthe**, *The Sound of Music*, Lyric Opera of Chicago
- **Donna Elvira**, *Don Giovanni*, Arizona Opera
- **Harper**, *Angels in America*, Fort Worth Opera
- **Dinah**, *Trouble in Tahiti*, Tanglewood Music Center (broadcast on NPR)
- **Emilia**, *Otello*, Washington National Opera
- **Edith**, *Pirates of Penzance*, The New York City Opera
- **Kate Pinkerton**, *Madame Butterfly*, The New York City Opera (Emmy Award)
- **Meg Page**, *Falstaff*, The New York City Opera
- **Albina**, *La Donna del Lago*, The New York City Opera
- **Annina**, *La Traviata*, The New York City Opera
- **Sesto**, *La Clemenza di Tito*, Washington National Opera
- **Wanda**, *Sophie's Choice*, Washington National Opera
- **Maddalena**, *Rigoletto*, Teatro Pergolesi
- **Cherubino**, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Belle Île en Mer

SKILLS

- **Languages:** Fluent in Italian; Proficient in French and German; English (native)
- **Teaching Expertise:** Vocal Pedagogy, Performance Coaching, Repertoire Selection, Student Motivation, Curriculum Development
- **Performance & Direction:** Acting (various techniques), Direction of musicals and scenes, Stage presence, Character development
- **Administrative:** Program development, Recital organization, Master class coordination

MASTERCLASSES TAUGHT

- Salzburg, Austria
- The Juilliard School, New York
- Manhattan School of Music, New York
- New Music School, Chicago
- Washington National Opera, Washington D.C.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- **Emmy Award** - *Madame Butterfly* (Kate Pinkerton), New York City Opera "Live from Lincoln Center"
- **Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions** - District and Regional Winner
- **Full Scholarship Recipient:** The Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, Salzburg Vocal Program

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS)
- American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA)
- Opera America