

LARA C WILSON, D.M.A.

Mezzo Soprano

843.450.0520 • larawilsonsc@yahoo.com

laracwilson.com • larawilsonstudio.com

EDUCATION

DEGREES

- University of South Carolina Doctor of Musical Arts, Vocal Performance** **2019**
- Graduate Teaching Assistant in Voice (2016 – 2019)
 - Graduate Assistant in Music Entrepreneurship (2016 – 2018)
- Indiana University, Master of Music, Vocal Performance** **1997**
- Cincinnati College - Conservatory of Music, Bachelor of Music, Vocal Performance** **1991**

PUBLICATIONS

- Bel Canto to Punk and Back: Lessons for the Vocal Cross-Training Singer and Teacher** **2021**
Voice and Speech Review, February 2021 online; Volume 15, Issue 3, December 2021
- Bel Canto to Punk and Back: Lessons for the Vocal Cross-Training Singer and Teacher** **2019**
Dissertation

Abstract: Tremendous advances in the field of vocal pedagogy have given the profession an opportunity to approach teaching voice in a different way. It is time to recognize that students can be taught multiple styles healthily, enabling them to become more flexible and marketable performers. The key is the functionality and flexibility obtained with the proper techniques of cross-training.

Chair: Professor E. Jacob Will

Committee Members: Dr. J. Daniel Jenkins, Dr. Lynn Kompass and Professor Janet Hopkins

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY

- Assistant Professor of Voice and Opera, University of Alabama at Birmingham** **2021 - Present**
- Teach applied voice for junior and senior musical theater majors
 - Teach applied voice specializing in classical, musical theater and commercial styles for undergraduate and master's level voice majors and minors concentrating in music technology, music education, music therapy and general music
 - Organize and administrate studio and performance classes, juries, recital hearings and degree recitals
 - Stage Director for yearly Opera Production and Opera Workshop
 - 2025 NOA Honorable Mention Awarded for The Pirates of Penzance
 - Sponsor and adjudicate students in AL NATS, SERNATS and National NATS music theater and classical voice auditions, with students winning first, second and third in their respective divisions, as well as finalist at the NATS National Auditions

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Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice, Valdosta State University **2020 - 2021**

- Teacher of applied voice for undergraduate Bachelor of Arts and music minors, assisting with studio classes, juries, recital hearings and degree recitals
- Teacher of applied voice for musical theater and theater majors, assisting with studio classes, juries, and professional auditions as well as functioning as liaison between the theater and music departments
- Sponsor and adjudicator of students in GA NATS music theater and classical voice auditions

Adjunct Professor of Voice, University of North Carolina at Pembroke **2018 - 2020**

- Instructor of applied voice for undergraduate commercial music industry, musical theater and classical voice majors, minors and nonmajors
- Specializing in classical and contemporary vocal pedagogy and repertoire
- Serving on recital committees and juries
- Sponsor of students in NC NATS musical theater auditions with first and second place winners in their respective divisions

Adjunct Instructor of Voice, Coker University **2019 - 2020**

- Instructor of applied voice for musical theater majors, minors, and non-majors
- Specializing in contemporary vocal pedagogy

Adjunct Professor of Music and Arts Entrepreneurship, University of South Carolina **2018 - 2019**

Graduate Assistant in Voice, University of South Carolina, School of Music **2016 - 2019**

- Graduate Assistant Instructor of applied voice for undergraduate and graduate vocal majors, minors, and music education majors
- Instructor of class voice for up to 15 students focused on healthy vocal technique and practical application to other areas of music
- Graduate Assistant substitute instructor for vocal pedagogy and diction
- Instructor focused on preparing students for scholarship auditions, juries, recitals, and competitions
- Teacher of both classical and contemporary vocal styles

COMMUNITY

De Coda – Music for Transformation Initiative, Lee Correctional Institution **2016 - 2019**

Class and private voice instructor for Lee Correctional Institution cultivating and providing instruction in vocal technique, musicianship, and performance strategies. Connecting with adults in a program to encourage rehabilitation and anti-recidivism, a collaboration with De Coda and The University of South Carolina SPARK Laboratory.

Columbia Arts Academy **2018**

Private voice instructor teaching multiple genres and styles to students of all ages and levels

Vocal Instructor and Music Director, Charleston Performing Arts Center, SC **2015 - 2016**

- Developed from the ground up, a program for children ages five to seventeen to develop vocal aptitude, musical knowledge and performing abilities in a group setting

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- Acted as Music and Vocal Director for final performances
- Taught children basic stage craft, stage deportment and technical knowledge of the theatre to increase confidence and self-esteem

Voice Teacher, Summit Music School, CT

2003 - 2004

Vocal instructor in multiple styles for community music school with a wide range of both traditional and non-traditional students

Vocal Coach, The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, CT

2003 - 2004

Vocal Coach for the Partners Program, mentoring young performers hired by the Bushnell Center in vocal instruction and performance standards

PRIVATE STUDIO

Private Studio Vocal Instructor, GA, SC & AL

2005 - Present

- Assist students to achieve college music scholarships and admittance to colleges and universities, NATS recognition, professional and community theater roles and placement in local performing arts programs
- Specialize in both contemporary and classical vocal styles to include country, rock, folk, jazz, blues, and musical theater

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NATS National Convention, Knoxville, TN

2024

NATS Science Informed Voice Pedagogy Institute

2023

Boston Conservatory at Berklee's 2022 Vocal Pedagogy Professional Workshop

2022

Student of ONE VOICE Master Teacher and Coach, Jackson Perrin

2021 - 2024

Music Theater Styles, CCM Vocal Pedagogy Institute, Shenandoah Conservatory

2021

Music Theater Repertoire Intensive, CCM Vocal Pedagogy Institute, Shenandoah Conservatory

2020

USC COLA Jazz Camp, Participant

2019

Estill Voice Training: Levels One and Two, Bellevue College, WA

2018

Somatic Voice Work with Jeanette LoVetri: CCM Vocal Pedagogy, Baldwin College, OH

2017

Re-Certification in commercial vocal technique; completed Levels 1-3

Somatic Voice Work: Music Theater Vocal Pedagogy Certificate, Shenandoah Conservatory

2003

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of South Carolina School of Music, Graduate Assistant in Music Entrepreneurship

2016 - 2018

Selected Achievements:

- Event Organizer for *Savvy Arts Venture Challenge*, the world's leading experiential entrepreneurship workshop for musicians, performing artists and educators in June of 2017 at the University of South Carolina
- Creator and implementor of Spark Laboratory Initiative *Changing Perspectives: A Look at Women in Music*, a lecture and panel discussion featuring Dr. Virginia Allen and other respected educators and community leaders. Collaborated with Sigma Alpha Iota on *A Look at Women in Music* program to increase awareness of the Spark Lab and Music Entrepreneurship department at USC and addressed the challenges facing women working in the music industry
- Event planner and assistant for the USC School of Music and The College Music Society's Summit: *21st Century Music School Design*, a program to re-design music schools to encompass the needs of 21st century learner and educator of music curriculum

Charleston Chamber Opera, Charleston, SC Executive Director / Co-Founder

2007 - 2013

Prior to closure in 2013, the only not-for-profit professional opera company in Charleston offering stand-alone performances and concerts for events and local music festivals.

Co-founded and built successful opera company from the ground up, providing decisive leadership and direction for all business and financial operations, program management, marketing and communications, new business development and talent recruitment/management.

Directed, staffed and or produced 22+ unique collaborative operatic productions and over 50 performances.

Secured and managed volunteers, delivered comprehensive proposals and fundraising presentations, and customized programs in alignment with donor needs.

Managed full lifecycle delivery of all productions and events, skillfully coordinating logistics, talent auditions, staff/crew recruitment, budgeting, and fundraising.

Assisted in multiple collaborations with local arts organizations, including the Gibbes Museum, Piccolo Spoleto, and Chamber Music Charleston.

Selected Achievements:

- Defined and instituted short and long-term business plans, growth strategies, and operating infrastructures
- Built a satisfied donor base and positive referral network transforming prospects into new donors and volunteers
- Established and enforced system of benchmarks and accountability to optimize staff productivity and program performance
- Recognized for maximizing marketing and media campaign performance and effectiveness
- Established and oversaw highly qualified Board of Directors

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- Authored several successful grant proposals, securing funding from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, South Carolina Arts Commission and City of Charleston's Low Country Quarterly Grant

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE / RECORDINGS

Vesperae Solenes, Mozart (Mezzo Soloist)	Independent Presbyterian Church, AL	2026
Gloria, Vivaldi (Mezzo Soloist)	Indian Springs with Alabama Symphony	2026
UAB PRISM Concert (Mezzo Soloist)	University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL	2026
Serenade to Music, Vaughn Williams (Mezzo Soloist)	Indian Springs with Alabama Symphony	2025
UAB PRISM Concert (Mezzo Soloist)	University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL	2025
AIEVA Chamber Music Concert (Mezzo Soloist)	University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL	2025
UAB PRISM Concert (Mezzo Soloist)	University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL	2024
UAB Requiem, M. Trotter (Mezzo Soloist)	European Debut, UAB Birmingham, AL	2024
Sirens, Rock/Pop Band (Lead Singer)	Birmingham, AL	2024
Threads of Blue, Recording (Vocalist)	Douglas Ray Jaffee Lyricist, Produced by Craig Brandwein	2023
Clouds in a Jar, Recording (Vocalist)	Douglas Ray Jaffee Lyricist, Produced by Craig Brandwein	2023
UAB Concert Band (Soloist)	University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL	2022
UAB Jazz Ensemble (Soloist)	University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL	2022
Cathedral Brass (Guest Soloist)	American Village, Birmingham, AL	2021
UAB Commercial Music Ensemble (Soloist)	University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL	2021
VSU Pops in the Park (Featured Vocalist)	Valdosta State University, GA	2020
Darkwater Women in Music Festival (Soloist)	UNC Pembroke, NC	2020
Les Femmes Fleurs (Soloist)	Columbia, SC	2020
48 Fables - Rock/Americana Band (Lead Singer)	Columbia, SC	2019 - 20
Eleven 11 - Jazz Combo (Lead Singer)	Southeast	2014 - 22
USC Inauguration and Graduation (Soloist)	University of South Carolina, SC	2018 - 19
Flutetails (Actor)	Columbia, SC	2018 - 20
IVA Mind (Back-Up Singer)	Columbia, SC	2019 - 20
A Day at the Beach, Premiere (Fox)	Richard Maltz, Aiken, SC	2017
The Orchestra Sings (Featured Soloist)	Aiken Symphony, SC	2017
Dream Girls, A Revue (Featured Vocalist)	Charleston Performing Arts Center, SC	2016
Romantic Era (Featured Soloist)	Columbia Choral Society, SC	2016
Patience (Lady Jane)	Camp Hill Light Opera, PA	2013
Pirates of Penzance (Ruth)	Greenville Light Opera, SC	2013
Afternoon Adagio, Gala Concert (Soloist)	Savannah Philharmonic, GA	2012
El Amor Brujo: Emanuel de Falla	Piccolo Spoleto, Charleston, SC	2012
Passions Chamber Concert (Guest Soloist)	Savannah Philharmonic, GA	2011
Shakespeare Alive! (Scenes: Soloist)	Piccolo Spoleto, Charleston, SC	2011
Amore! (Scenes: Carmen, Dahlila)	Piccolo Spoleto, Charleston, SC	2010
Suor Angelica (Principessa)	Piccolo Spoleto, Charleston, SC	2009

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Amahl and the Night Visitors (Mother)	CCC, Charleston, SC	2008
The Women (Wife) & Bon Appetite (Julia Child)	Piccolo Spoleto, Charleston, SC	2008
Rigoletto (Maddalena)	Harrisburg Opera, PA	2006
Madame Butterfly (Suzuki)	Harrisburg Opera, PA	2005
Orpheus in the Underworld (Public Opinion)	Ridge Light Opera, NJ	2005
Barber of Seville (Berta and Rosina Cover)	Tulsa Opera, OK	2004
Iolanthe (Fair Queen)	Theater at Monmouth, ME	2004
Pirates of Penzance (Ruth)	Theater at Monmouth, ME	2003
"Oh Joy! Oh, Rapture!" Recording (Phoebe, Pitti-Sing)	NY, New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, NY	2002
Merry Widow (Dodo – Met Version)	Natchez Opera Festival, MS	2002
Mikado (Katisha)	Theater at Monmouth, ME	2002
Mikado (Katisha)	Opera Northeast, NY	2002
Suor Angelica (Abbess)	Natchez Opera Festival, MS	2002
The Sorcerer (Lady Sangazure)	New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, NY	2001
Ariadne auf Naxos (Dryade)	Dell'arte Opera Ensemble, NYC	2000
Hansel and Gretel (Sandman)	Des Moines Metro Opera, IA	2000
La Cenerentola (Tisbe)	Des Moines Metro Opera – Scenes, IA	2000
Princess Ida (Lady Blanche)	New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, NY	2000
The Magic Flute (Second Lady)	Des Moines Metro Opera – Scenes, IA	2000
The Rape of Lucretia (Lucretia)	New York Chamber Opera, NYC	2000
The Rape of Lucretia (Lucretia)	Des Moines Metro Opera – Scenes, IA	2000
Ariodante (Polinesso)	New York Chamber Opera, NYC	1999
Il Matrimonio Segreto (Fidalma)	Sarasota Opera – Scenes Program, FL	1998
The Dream of Valentino (Nazimova)	Sarasota Opera – Scenes Program, FL	1998
Trial by Jury (Counsel)	New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, NY	2001-03
Rigoletto (Maddalena)	Indiana University Opera Theatre, IN	1996
The Rape of Lucretia (Bianca Cover)	Opera Theatre of St. Louis, MO	1996
The Magic Flute (Third Lady)	Indiana University Opera Theatre, IN	1994

ORATORIO / RECITAL

Faculty Recital (Soloist)	University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL	2024
Faculty Recital (Soloist)	University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL	2023
Faculty Recital (Soloist)	University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL	2022
Collaborative Piano Recital of Jazz and Rock	Valdosta State University, GA	2021
Dance and Piano Collaboration (Soloist)	Valdosta State University, GA	2021
Collaborative Recital – Musical Soiree'	Climb Music Studios, Columbia, SC	2020
Faulty Recital – Songs of Spain	UNC Pembroke, School of Music, NC	2020
Solo Recital – Vivaldi, Bizet, and Brahms	USC School of Music, SC	2019
Faulty Recital – Chanson de Paris	UNC Pembroke, School of Music, NC	2019
Solo Recital – Contemporary Chamber Music	USC School of Music, SC	2018
Solo Recital – Folksongs and Lullabies	USC School of Music, SC	2018
Solo Recital – A Night of Cabaret	USC School of Music, SC	2017

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Solo Recital – Mothers, Sisters, and Adversaries	USC School of Music, SC	2016
Requiem – Durufle (Alto Soloist)	Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian, SC	2014
Requiem – Durufle (Alto Soloist)	Circular Congregational Church, SC	2014
Recital – Heggie & Mahler	Charleston Music Club, SC	2009
Vivaldi Gloria (Alto Soloist)	Circular Congregational Church, SC	2009
Mozart Requiem (Alto Soloist)	New Bedford Symphony, MA	2007
Pergolesi Magnificat (Alto Soloist)	Circular Congregational Church, SC	2007
Recital – Britten & Mahler	Tulsa Opera, OK	2004
Recital – Opera & Music Theater	Natchez Opera Festival, MS	2002
Recital – Musica Sacre Concert Series	Lady of Sorrows, S. Orange, NJ	2001
Beethoven 9th Symphony (Alto Soloist)	Ridgewood Symphony, NJ	2000
Christmas Oratorio – Saints Saens (Alto Soloist)	North Jersey Choral Society, NJ	1999
Rejoice in the Lamb – Britten (Alto Soloist)	North Jersey Choral Society, NJ	1999
Cantata # 76 – Bach (Alto Soloist)	Musica Sacre Series, Atlanta, GA	1997

ADJUDICATION / AWARDS

Adjudicator	NATS National Auditions, Preliminary Round	2026
Adjudicator	Birmingham Music Club Guild Competition	2026
Adjudicator	NATS National Auditions, Preliminary Round	2025
Adjudicator	SERNATS, Deland, FL	2025
Adjudicator	NATS National Convention, Knoxville, TN	2024
Adjudicator	SERNATS, Tuscaloosa, AL	2024
Adjudicator	Birmingham Music Club Guild Competition	2024
Adjudicator	SERNATS, Mobile, AL	2023
Adjudicator	Birmingham Music Club Guild Competition	2023
Adjudicator	Georgia and Alabama NATS	2020
		-2026
Adjudicator	Birmingham Music Club Guild Competition	2023
Adjudicator	Birmingham Southern Concerto Competition	2023
USC SPARC Graduate Research Grant Recipient	University of South Carolina	2018
Yamaha Graduate Fellow Recipient	Eastman School of Music Leadership Conference	2017
MacAllister Awards	Regional Winner	1998
NSAL Competition, FL	Honorable Mention	1997
Birmingham Opera Competition	Encouragement Award	1997

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE / APPRENTICESHIPS

Sherrill Milnes Voicexperience	Savannah, GA	2012
Artist in Residence	Tulsa Opera, OK	2003-04
Artist in Residence	Natchez Opera, MS	2002
Opera Apprenticeship	Sarasota Opera, FL	1998
Opera Apprenticeship	Opera Theatre of St. Louis, MO	1996

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TEACHERS / COACHES

Jacob Will	Stephanie Samaras	Patricia Berlin	Lynn Kompass
Elaine Bonazzi	Elizabeth Hastings	Dwight Coleman	Patricia Havranek
Tish Oney	Tim LaFontaine	Stella Zambalis	Richard Nechampkin
Mariana Christos	Arlene Shrut	Frances Coleman	

DIRECTORS / MASTER CLASSES

Sherrill Milnes	Jay Lessinger	Diana Soviero	Albert Bergeret
Jenna Tamisiea	Don Westwood	Robert Larkin	Stephen Lord

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Professional Voice Over Actor **2005 – Present**
Voicing commercials, videos, and movie roles for national, regional, and local companies such as the American Medical Association, Diamond Almonds, Audible Books, Chick-fil-a, Universal Theme Parks, Weight Watchers, Kay Jewelers, Heifer International, Roper Saint Francis Hospital, the New York Yankees, and Pivotal Fitness.

On Camera Actor and Jingle Singer **1995 – Present**
Official on-air spokesperson for Morris Sokol Furniture and jingle singer for Waffle House, First Choice Health, Town Center Mall, SC, and Express Sunrooms.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS / BOARD POSITIONS

Opera Birmingham, Board Member	2025 – Present
Secretary, Executive Board, Alabama National Association of Teachers of Singing	2024 – Present
Education Chair, Executive Board, Southeastern Regional NATS	2024 – Present
National Opera Association, Member	2024 – Present
National Association of Teachers of Singing: SC, AL, and GA NATS, Member	2010 – Present
College Music Society, Member	2017 – Present
SC Association of Non-Profits: SCANPO, Member	2009 – 2013
Charleston Music Club, Member	2009 – 2016