

# John Elson Williams

## Curriculum Vitae

### Teaching Appointments

#### **\*University of West Georgia**

2017-current

- **Die Fledermaus, the opera:** music director, Spring 2019: Collaborated with director Dawn Neely and pianist Bernie Wong in the production process, provided leadership to the cast in rehearsals and private coachings where vocal technique was extensively discussed, rehearsed pianist.
- **Opera Scenes:** music director, Fall 2018: Collaborated with director Dawn Neely in the production process, provided leadership to the cast in rehearsals and private coachings where vocal technique was extensively discussed, rehearsed pianist.
- **Evil Dead, the musical:** music director, Fall 2018: Collaborated with director Shelly Elman in the production process, provided leadership to the cast in rehearsals and private coachings where vocal technique was extensively discussed, rehearsed band, and collaborated with sound engineer for sound mixing.
- **Godspell, the musical:** music director, Fall 2017: Collaborated with director Amy Cuomo and producer Shelly Elman in the production process, provided leadership to the cast in rehearsals and private coachings where vocal technique was extensively discussed, rehearsed band, and collaborated with sound engineer for sound mixing.
- **World Music Seminar:** since 2017, students define musical terms and dive into world music of indigenous peoples and practices.
- **Voice Lessons:** since Spring 2018, students discuss, define, and learn principle techniques of singing.

#### **\*North Raleigh School of Music, North Carolina**

2019-current

- **Aladdin, Jr. the musical:** music director, Summer 2019: Collaborated with director Erin Wenger in the production process, provided leadership to the cast in rehearsal and private coachings where vocal technique and text to music relationship extensively discussed, rehearsed pianist.
- **Little Women, the musical :** music director, Summer 2019: Collaborated with director Erin Wenger in the production process, provided leadership to the cast in rehearsal and private coachings where vocal technique and text to music relationship extensively discussed, rehearsed pianist.

#### **Masterworks Community Chorale of Newnan, Georgia**

2015-2017

- Assistants the director, Kathy Bizarth, in maintaining social networks, writing program notes and conceiving of programmatic themes, and assisting in instructing choral members in healthy vocal technique and the relationship between text and music.

#### **Georgia Academy of Dance and the Performing Arts of Peachtree City, Georgia**

2015-2016

- Private vocal instruction for novice to intermediate singers, including classical &
- Private piano instructor for novice students.

## **Education**

### **University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA**

Doctor of Philosophy in Vocal Pedagogy, August 2012-present

GPA: 3.7/4.0

-Began my pedagogical courses as I explored the mechanics of the ear, nose, & throat, during phonation.

### **Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD**

Master of Music in Vocal Performance & Pedagogy, graduated May 2012

- GPA: 3.5/4.0

-Participated in 5 operas, numerous recitals & performances, held a church job, gave a final solo recital. Additionally, I took courses related to teaching singing as well as repertoire.

### **East Carolina University, Greenville, NC**

Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance & English minor, graduated May 2010

- GPA: 3.3/4.0

### **Voice Teachers:**

Rachel Joselson, Stanley Cornett, Jonathan Pilkington\*, Perry Smith, Louise Toppin

### **Vocal Coaches:**

Wayne Wyman\*, Tony Nickle, Eilleen Cornett, Kathryn Lewis, Robert Muckenfuss

## **Leadership Experience**

### **\*Cathedral of Christ the King of Atlanta, Georgia**

Tenor Soloist/Section Leader, 2015-current

### **First Lutheran of Conroy, Iowa**

Music Director, 2013-2014

- Head of the committee of Ecumenical Good Friday Service with three churches
- Head of the committee of Ecumenical Candlelight Service with four churches

### **First & Franklin Church of Baltimore, Maryland**

- Tenor Soloist/Section Leader 2012-2013

### **First Presbyterian Church of Rocky Mount, North Carolina**

- Tenor Soloist/Section Leader, Assistant Music Director of Children's Choir, 2005-2012

## **Professional Affiliations**

### **Phi Mu Alpha, Sinfonia**

Chapter Music Director, 2005-2010

Province Music Director, 2010-2012

- Taught music & managed the chapter in singing functions around Greenville
- Arranged music for the chapter to perform
- Premiered piece for the National President & Executive Director
- Visited & promoted the outreach of music to other chapters in North Carolina

## **Papers**

### **The Tongue of Godspell, Vocal Technique for the Musical Theater Singer**

Georgia Theater Conference, University of West Georgia, 2017

- A focus on tongue position and vocal exercises that I use with vocalists
- Differentiating between chest and head voice, and how to mix the two in the middle
- Additional discussion on theories of vibrato and how to cure the wobble
- Commentary on the flapping jaw

### **Sex, Organs, & Rock n' Roll: Cameron Carpenter's Revolutionary Etude**

Classical Music in Contemporary America, University of Iowa

- A study on Cameron Carpenter, organist
- Commentary on how he takes the organ & transforms it for a wider audience
- Additional discussion on his personal life & his virtuosity
- A presentation of this can be seen at <http://prezi.com/user/maestrojwill/>
- More materials upon request

### **Jewish, Gentile, or Christian: An Ecumenical Approach to Mendelssohn's St. Paul**

Schenker Analysis, University of Iowa, 2014

- An observation of how Mendelssohn (with his Jewish background) changed oratorio
- Used Schenker Analysis techniques to explain rise & fall of character's internal struggle
- A presentation of this can be seen at <http://prezi.com/user/maestrojwill/>
- More materials upon request

### **Ornaments in Count Almaviva's Final Cabaletta from Rossini's *il Barbiere di Siviglia***

Performance in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, University of Iowa, 2012

- A study on 19<sup>th</sup> Century singers' ornamentation
- Culminated with my performance, presentation, & paper of my ornaments
- A presentation of this can be seen at <http://prezi.com/user/maestrojwill/>
- More materials upon request

### **National Schools of Singing,**

Vocal Pedagogy Seminar, Peabody Institute, 2011

- A study on how the four major schools of singing view phonation, breathing, & vowel modification & placement
- Culminated with my presentation & paper
- A presentation of this can be seen at <http://prezi.com/user/maestrojwill/>
- More materials upon request

## **Future Projects**

**Gospel at Colonus, the musical, Fall 2019**

music director, University of West Georgia.

**Fall Opera Scenes, Fall 2019:**

music director, University of West Georgia.

**Amahl and the Night Visitors, the opera, Fall 2019:**

music director, University of West Georgia and Carrollton Center for the Arts

**A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, the musical, Spring 2020**

music director, Carrollton Center for the Arts