

Regina Zona, D.M.A.

Educator / Soprano / Director / Artistic Administrator

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QUALIFICATION SUMMARY

- International operatic and concert career
- 22 years applied voice teaching experience with a wide range of ages and levels – from beginning to most advanced – including eight years at the university level
- Dynamic classroom teacher at the university level teaching a variety of subjects including opera role preparation, opera and musical theatre literature, music history, and diction for singers
- Extensive and varied experience as a director for fully staged operas, opera scenes, fully staged musicals and show choirs
- In demand clinician in University programs and community organizations for master classes and lectures

EDUCATION

- **Manhattan School of Music**, New York, New York
Doctor of Musical Arts, 2007
Thesis: *The Music, the Voice and the Theatre: A Comparison, Appreciation and History of Opera and Musical Theatre*
- **Academy of Vocal Arts**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Artist Diploma in Opera (accredited masters equivalent), 1997
- **Northwestern University**, Evanston, Illinois
Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, 1992
Graduated with Distinction

Major Teachers: Mignon Dunn, Bill Schuman, Dodi Protero, Marcia Baldwin, Kathleen Kaun

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- *Opera Program Director/Assistant Professor of Music*
University of Minnesota Duluth, Duluth, MN, 2008-present
Taught a full studio of graduate and undergraduate voice majors – vocal performance/opera, music education and musical theatre – healthy vocal technique, English, Italian, German, and French Diction, and stylistic and performance techniques in a variety of literature from opera to musical theatre. Adjudicated vocal juries. Directed *Hansel and Gretel*, *Così fan tutte*, *Falstaff*, *Suor Angelica* and *Pagliacci* as well as Opera Scenes programs. Developed a new curriculum and taught Graduate Vocal Pedagogy. Served on other various college committees including the Music/Theatre, Scholarship, Website committees and the Executive Committee of the Campus Assembly. Guest lecturer in Music Appreciation and Vocal Techniques classes. Served on graduate and undergraduate recital and oral exam committees. Planned and coordinated undergraduate and graduate recitals. Served on Graduate Thesis committees. Started and realized a New Music Vocal Recital Series. Advised students. Arranged for UMD to be a First Round school for the Classical Singer Magazine University Competition. Conducted several opera outreach performances for regional high schools. Performed several faculty recitals. Gave lectures on opera appreciation, music education and vocal music to community organizations. Represented UMD at the Opera America Singer Training Forum.
- *Artistic Director/Stage Director*
Sieur Du Luth Opera Training Program, Duluth, MN 2008-2010
Created an educational and performance based curriculum for the new Opera Training Program that commenced in the summer of 2010. Obtained internationally recognized guest artists to teach/lecture. Conducted auditions in Minneapolis, New York, Chicago and Duluth. Organized audition/class/rehearsal schedules – classes include acting, audition techniques, the business of singing, yoga for singers, stage combat and Alexander technique. Planned the performance season which includes a full production of *Don Giovanni*, aria gala with orchestra, a scenes program, song recital and weekly repertoire recitals and master classes. Will serve as the stage director for *Don Giovanni* and teach acting classes.
- *Assistant Professor of Music*
Shorter College, Rome, GA, 2006-2008
Taught a full studio of undergraduate voice majors – vocal performance/opera, music education, church music and musical theatre – healthy vocal technique, English, Italian, German, and French Diction, and stylistic and performance techniques in a variety of literature from opera to musical theatre. Adjudicated vocal juries. Directed Opera Scenes programs. Created and taught two opera career-oriented courses – Opera Role Preparation and Opera Aria Audition Workshop. Taught Musical Theatre Literature, Voice Class for non-majors and Freshman Seminar. Created Opera Outreach program. Proposed curriculum changes to the Vocal Performance degree. Taught voice lessons in the Summer Arts Institute program for high school students. Created and chaired the School of the Arts Recruiting committee and served on other various college committees. Advised students. Performed in faculty recitals and galas.
- *Private Voice Instructor*
Private Teaching Studio, 1988-present
Taught students vocal technique, English, Italian, German, and French Diction, sight-reading and stylistic and performance techniques in a variety of literature from opera to musical theatre. Coordinated solo and ensemble recitals.

- *Studio Voice & Piano Teacher/Affiliate Professor/ Show Choir Director/Accompanist*
Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT, 2000-2004
Maintained a thriving voice studio in which enrollment increased 100% in the second year. Taught private piano lessons to both beginners and advanced students. Taught a variety of music history and theory courses. Co-created and directed the CenterStage Show Choir and Opera Scenes Program. Accompanied university choirs
- *Stage Director/Show Choir Director/Clinician/Accompanist*
Sweet Home High School and Community, Amherst, NY, 1992-2000
Directed three mainstage musicals. Created and oversaw a Director's Apprentice Program. Co-created and directed the Show Choir. Accompanied choirs and solo competitions. Conducted workshops on vocal techniques, performance practice and opera appreciation.
- *Vocal Masterclass and Opera Outreach Clinician*
Various universities, high schools and middle schools in Western New York State and Philadelphia, PA, 1988-2000
Conducted vocal solo masterclasses for students preparing for performances and solo competition focusing on healthy vocal production and interpretation. Conducted workshops on vocal techniques, performance practice and opera appreciation for choirs and honors groups. Created curricula and performed in opera outreach performances for schools in low income districts of Philadelphia to prepare them for student performances of opera at the Academy of Vocal Arts.
- *Private Piano Teacher*
Community Music School, Buffalo, NY, 1991-1993
Taught all ages from elementary school age to adults at all levels. Taught students basic piano techniques and music theory. Adjudicated in-school competitions. Coordinated studio recitals.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- *Vocal Competition Adjudicator*
Minnesota NATS, 2008-present
Georgia State NATS, 2006-2008
Southeast Regional NATS, 2006-2008
Classical Singer Magazine High School Competition, 2007
Concerto Competition, Kennesaw State University, 2008
Classical Singer Magazine University Competition, 2010
- *English Diction Coach/Teacher*
Juilliard School, 2005 (substitute teacher)
- *All State/Solo Competition Adjudicator*
Connecticut Music Educators Association, 2004-2006
- *Professional Coach/Accompanist*
Private Teaching/Accompanying Studio, 1988-present

PERFORMANCE HISTORY (selected)

- Recital Tour, Cape Town, South Africa, Music of Mozart, Strauss, Barber, Heggie
- Soprano Soloist, *Carmina Burana* (Orff), Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra
- Elena (cover), *Marino Faliero* (Donizetti), Opera Orchestra of New York
- Marguerite de Valois, *Les Huguenots* (Meyerbeer), Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de Mexico
- Queen of the Night, *The Magic Flute* (Mozart), Opera Theatre of St. Louis
- Donna Anna, *Don Giovanni* (Mozart), Hawaii Opera Theatre
- Musetta, *La Bohème* (Puccini), Sarasota Opera
- Soprano Soloist, *Ninth Symphony* (Beethoven), Buffalo Philharmonic
- Soprano Soloist, *Requiem* (Mozart), Lincoln Center
- Guest Soloist, Scenes from *Der Rosenkavalier* (Strauss), Tokyo Symphony
- Magna Peccatrix, *Eighth Symphony* (Mahler), Buffalo Philharmonic

Complete Performance Resume available upon request

AWARDS/HONORS

- Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, *New England Regional Finalist*, 2003
- Neue Stimmen International Vocal Competition, Gütersloh, Germany, *Förderpreis*, 1997
- Liederkranz Competition, New York, NY, *Winner*, 1997
- Giargiari and Arturo Bel Canto Competition, Philadelphia, PA, *First Place*, 1993
- Mario Lanza Competition, Philadelphia, PA, *First Place*, 1993

PRODUCTION CREDITS

- *Così fan tutte*, (2011) Stage/Musical Director, University of Minnesota Duluth Opera
- *Hansel and Gretel*, (2011) Stage/Musical Director, University of Minnesota Duluth Opera
- *Don Giovanni*, (2010) Stage/Musical Director, Sieur Du Luth Opera Training Program
- *Pagliacci*, (2010) Stage/Musical Director, University of Minnesota Duluth Opera
- *Suor Angelica*, (2010) Stage/Musical Director, University of Minnesota Duluth Opera
- *Falstaff*, (2009) Stage/Musical Director, University of Minnesota Duluth Opera
- *Seussical*, (2008) Musical Director, University of Minnesota Duluth Theatre
- *An Extraordinary Evening of Opera Scenes*, (2008-2011), Stage/Musical Director, University of Minnesota Duluth
- *Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi*, (2008) Musical Coach, Shorter College
- *An Extraordinary Evening of Opera Scenes*, (2006-2008) Stage/Musical Director, Shorter College
- *Sam's Velvet Lounge: A Musical Revue*, (2004) Co-Conceiver/Stage Director/Choreographer, Sacred Heart University
- *Fosse: Celebration of a Man*, (2003) Co-Conceiver/Stage Director/Choreographer, Sacred Heart University
- *Cinemania: A Musical Movie Revue*, (2002) Co-Conceiver/Stage Director/Choreographer, Sacred Heart University
- *The Best of Broadway*, (2001) Co-Conceiver/Stage Director/Choreographer, Sacred Heart University
- *42nd Street*, (1999) Stage Director, Sweet Home Musical Theatre, Amherst, NY
- *West Side Story*, (1998) Stage Director, Sweet Home Musical Theatre, Amherst, NY
- *City of Angels*, (1997) Stage Director, Sweet Home Musical Theatre, Amherst, NY
- *Carousel*, (1996) Assistant Stage Director, Sweet Home Musical Theatre, Amherst, NY

LECTURES

- “Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* and the *dramma giocoso*” – Sieur Du Luth Opera Training Program, pre-performance lecture
- “Italian Art Song” – Women’s Auxillary of the Italian/American Club, Duluth
- “Opera 101” – Emeritus College at St. Scholastica, St. Scholastica
- “Working with the High School Singer” – Music Education Symposium, UMD, Weber Hall
- “Musical Theatre Belt” – UMD, Vocal Techniques Class
- “Richard Strauss and Song” – UMD, Music Appreciation Class
- “Verdi’s Falstaff” – University for Seniors, UMD
- “Verismo: The Truth about Opera” – University for Seniors, UMD and Proctor Community Center
- “Preparing for College Vocal Auditions” – Georgia Music Educator’s Conference, Savannah, GA

GRANTS

- **University of Minnesota Humanities Imagine Fund (2011)** – a grant that funded a second recital tour in South Africa which featured the music of Mozart, Strauss, Barber and Heggie – master classes were given to South African voice students At Rhodes University in Grahamstown
- **University of Minnesota Humanities Imagine Fund (2010)** – a grant that funded a recital tour in South Africa celebrating the Samuel Barber centenary – an all-American art song program was performed at four venues in Cape Town and Durban, including the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University
- **University of Minnesota Humanities Imagine Fund (2009)** – a grant that funded research on “The Art of Opera Direction” – a compilation of interviews with working national opera directors of their process and collaboration
- **UMD Chancellor’s Small Grant (2009)** - a grant that funded a trip to the Opera America Conference in Houston, TX
- **UMD Chancellor’s Small Grant (2008)** - a grant that funded a music department small ensemble tour (Opera, Chamber Singers and Vocal Jazz) to Minnesota and Wisconsin high schools

COURSES TAUGHT/ABLE TO TEACH

- Opera Role Preparation
- Opera Aria/Audition Workshop
- Opera Workshop/Scenes
- Vocal Pedagogy – graduate and undergraduate
- Musical Theatre Literature
- Musical Theatre Workshop/Scenes
- Voice Class for non-majors
- Vocal/Opera Literature
- Italian, German, French and English Diction
- Music in the Performing Arts (in class and online) – Opera and Musical Theatre History and Appreciation
- From Bach to Beethoven (in class and online) – General Music History
- From Brahms to Bernstein (in class and online) – General Music History
- Musicianship I – Basic Music Theory
- Musicianship II – Intermediate Music Theory
- Accompanying Vocalists

Course descriptions available upon request

LANGUAGES

- English – native language
- German and Italian – speak, read and write with basic competence

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Guild of Musical Artists
- Opera America
- National Opera Association
- National Association for Teachers of Singing
- Music Educators National Conference
- College Music Society