

# MARY JOHNSTON LETELLIER, M.M.

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## EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### **DOCTORATE OF MUSICAL ARTS**, Vocal Performance with a Minor in Musicology / **New England Conservatory**

- Teaching Fellowship: Voice for Non-Majors

Anticipated graduation: May 2025

### **MASTER OF MUSIC**, Opera Performance / **Boston Conservatory** 2011

- *Master Oral Thesis Topic*: Bridging the Gap between *The Mikado* and *La Rondine*
- Graduated *summa cum laude*
- Teaching Assistantships: Music History; Vocal Pedagogy
- Major Coursework: Vocal Pedagogy; Alexander Technique; Linklater Voice Method; Diction

### **BACHELOR OF MUSIC**, Vocal Performance (Emphasis: Opera) / **Boston Conservatory** 2009

- Graduated *summa cum laude*

**Current and past voice teachers include:** Bradley Williams, Dana Lynne Varga, Alexandra Dietrich, Lori L'Italien, Ellen Chickering, Chadley Ballantyne, Dr. Rebecca Folsom, Judith James, Leda Scarce.

### Academic Awards / Scholarships / Honors

New England Conservatory Presidential Distinction Award Scholarship	2022-
National NATS Artist Award Semi-Finalist and Winner of Anne Marie Gerts Award	2022
New England Regional NATS Artist Award Winner	2021
Boston Conservatory Merit Scholarship (graduate)	2009-2011
Boston Conservatory Merit Scholarship (undergraduate)	2005-2009
Arthur P. Whitney Medal for Highest Academic Achievement	2009
Pi Kappa Lambda Membership Nomination	2007
Ann Mason-Osann Memorial Scholarship	2005
Edith Lowell Award	2005
Gorham High School Theater Scholarship for Undergraduate Education	2005
Class Valedictorian / Gorham High School	2005
Ralph T. Gould Award / Rossini Club	2004

**Professional Development**

Westminster Conservatory of Music Vocal Pedagogy Institute <i>Five day intensive workshop with Joshua Glassner, Norman Spivey and Mary Saunders Barton focusing on teacher-training for singers, voice teachers, coaches, and other professional voice users.</i>	2023
Complete Vocal Institute Masterclass <i>Three day masterclass series focusing on a technique useable by classical, jazz, musical theater, and all commercial contemporary styles with Dr. Mattias Aaen.</i>	2023
Gender Theory Basics, Student-Centered Teaching Practices, and More in the Voice Studio <i>Masterclass with The Voice Lab instructors Liz Jackson Hearn and Ariel Zetina exploring trans and non-binary vocal pedagogy.</i>	2022
Bel Canto Bootcamp Intermezzo: From treatise to technology <i>Online masterclass series with Kenneth Bozeman and Dr. Dana Zenobi connecting historic and modern acoustic pedagogy.</i>	2021
Trans* Voices Masterclass / Opera Programs Berlin <i>2-day online masterclass with Dr. Stephanie Weiss to address topics of teaching trans* singers and inclusivity in the industry.</i>	2021
Entrepreneurship 102 / The Empowered Musician <i>Online series focused on practical and entrepreneurial skills for modern artists.</i>	2021
Vocal Pedagogy Professional Workshop / Boston Conservatory <i>Unique classes in both musical theater and classical voice pedagogy for collegiate and private voice instructors.</i>	2021
Acoustic Vocal Pedagogy Online Course / New England Conservatory <i>Online seminar series that explores vocal acoustics and tools/software with renowned pedagogue Ian Howell and Kenneth Bozeman.</i>	2020-2021
Alexander Technique for the Audition Brain / The Empowered Musician <i>Interactive courses utilizing Alexander Technique methods to improve performance.</i>	2020
The History, Origins, & Application of the Belt Voice <i>A webinar with Jeanie Lovetri exploring belt voice for professional singers and pedagogues.</i>	2020
Audition Package Workshop / Opera Program Berlin <i>Online workshop to polish professional audition packages for the global market.</i>	2020
Bel Canto Bootcamp: The Vaccai Project <i>Interactive series discovering bel canto technique according to famous 19<sup>th</sup>-century Italian composer Nicola Vaccai.</i>	2020-present

**PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH AND EXPERIENCE**

- Passionate about inclusive learning for students of all backgrounds, genders and abilities/disabilities.
- Balances the science and art of singing to form cohesive, healthy and beautiful voices.

- Offers instruction in classical, music theater, contemporary commercial music (CCM) and jazz styles.
- Selects appropriate repertoire and coaches musicality, diction, and presentation.
- Provides a monthly, online studio class/“open mic night” for all students.

*Curriculum/workshops taught include:*

Private Voice Lessons  
Diction/IPA  
Vocal Pedagogy  
Advanced Vocal Pedagogy  
Trans Vocal Pedagogy

Opera Workshop  
Voice for Instrumentalists  
Opera History Ind. Study  
Audition Techniques  
Musicianship

African American Spirituals  
Listen Up (Inclusive Teaching)

### Positions / Appointments

**DMA TEACHING FELLOW** **2022 – Present**

[New England Conservatory](#) / Massachusetts

*Teaches and organizes Voice for Non-Majors; introduces non-voice majors of undergraduate and graduate level to basic vocal pedagogy; supports vocal pedagogy graduate students as first-time teachers.*

**VOICE INSTRUCTOR** **2013 – Present**

[MJL Voice Studio](#) / Maine

*Founded and grew an active studio of 50+ private students of varying ages and levels. Empowers students with tools for technique, musicality and performance in opera, jazz and musical theater styles.*

**ARTIST FACULTY, VOICE** **2019 – Present**

[University of Southern Maine](#) / Gorham, ME

*Active voice studio of 15+ undergraduate students; instructs Lyric Diction, Vocal Technique for Non-singers, Graduate and Undergraduate Vocal Pedagogy and acts as faculty advisor for independent study students in Opera History.*

**VOICE FACULTY & OPERA WORKSHOP DIRECTOR** **2018 – Present**

[Portland Conservatory of Music](#) / Portland, ME

*Teaches private voice lessons and directs opera workshop for nonprofit, all-ages community music school.*

**TEACHING ARTIST** **2018 – Present**

[317 Main Community Music Center](#) / Yarmouth, ME

*Offers private voice lessons for expansive community program; students range in all abilities and from ages 9-82. Offers masterclasses every trimester covering a range of topics—see list of Workshops/Masterclasses for details.*

### Other Relevant Experience

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, FACULTY** **2020 – Present**

[The Complete Voice](#) / Online

*Co-founded and produce online summer workshop series for aspiring professionals and motivated amateurs in both classical and musical theater performance.*

**DIRECTOR, VOCAL PROGRAM****2018 – 2020****York County Regional Fine Arts Program / Biddeford, Maine***Directs musical theater scenes for ongoing cross-county program with a select group of gifted high school students; currently on hold due to COVID-19.***GUEST INSTRUCTOR****2019 – Present**[Atlantic Dance Arts, LLC](#) / Gorham, ME*Leads monthly group class teaching fundamentals of singing for musical theater dancers.***Workshops / Masterclasses / Conferences**

Observing Voices Treated With Exogenous Testosterone/ NE NATS Summer Conference	2023
Summer Scenes and Audition Workshop/ 317 Main and The Complete Voice	2023
Singing Performance Workshop/ Chocolate Church Arts and The Complete Voice	2022
Acting for Singers / 317 Main	2022
Reading Music for Singers / 317 Main	2022
Vocal Music History Appreciation / 317 Main	2022
Vocal Pedagogy/ Audition Masterclass / Ensign Darling Bushnell Theater	2022
English and Italian Diction Masterclass / Ensign Darling Bushnell Theater	2022
Listen Up (workshop for developmental disabilities) / 317 Main	2021
Opera Workshop / Portland Conservatory	2019, 2021
Technology for Singing / The Complete Voice	2020
Singers: Transition to Zoom as a Musician / 317 Main	2020
Diction for Singers / The Complete Voice	2020
Singers: How to build confidence / 317 Main	2019
Singers: How to Audition / 317 Main	2018

**Invited Adjudication**

NATS Competition, New England (Musical Theater and Classical)	2021
NATS Competition, Maine (Musical Theater and Classical)	2018
Northeast Educational Theater Festival Competition	2018

**Recent Student Successes and Further Education**

<b>New England NATS Competitions</b>	2023	Winner, 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Avocational Classical
2022 Finalist, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place, Upper College TBB		Finalist, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Avocational Classical
Finalist, Upper College Treble		Finalist, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Graduate Classical
<b>Maine NATS Competitions</b>		Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Upper College Classical
2024 Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Upper College MT		Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Lower College Classical
Finalist, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Graduate MT		Winner, 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Upper High School Classical
Finalist, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Avocational MT	2022	Winner, 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Avocational MT
Finalist, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Lower College Classical		Winner, 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Graduate MT
Finalist, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Graduate Classical		Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate MT

	Finalist, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place, Upper College MT		Ipanema: Honoring the Legacy of Astrud
	Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place, Upper High School MT		Gilberto Through Song at Osher School of
	Winner, 1 <sup>st</sup> Place, Lower High School MT		Music at the University of Southern Maine
	Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place, Lower High School MT		Winner, Best Underrepresented Composer
2022	Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate Classical		Award, Classical Maine NATS
	Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Upper College Classical		Winner, Best English Art Song, Classical
	Finalist, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Upper College Classical		Maine NATS
	Finalist, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Upper High School Classical		Honors Recital Recipient, Musical Theater at
	Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Middle School Classical		the University of Southern Maine
2021	Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate MT		Honors Recital Recipient, Jazz at the
	Winner, 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Upper College MT		University of Southern Maine
	Winner, 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Upper High School MT	2022	Fellow, Undergraduate Research
	Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Middle School MT		Opportunity Grant: A Comparison of
	Finalist, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place, Junior MT		Children's Opera in America vs. Germany at
	Winner, 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Lower High School Classical		Osher School of Music at the University of
	Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Lower College Classical		Southern Maine
	Finalist, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Upper High School Classical		Winner, Jean and Harvey Picker Senior Prize,
	Finalist, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Lower High School Classical		Young Stars of Maine
2020	Winner, 1 <sup>st</sup> Place, Lower High School MT		Winner, Chickering Award
	Winner, 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Upper High School Classical		3 <sup>rd</sup> Place, Schmidt Vocal Competition
	Winner, 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Upper College Classical	2021	Highest soprano score, All-State
	Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Upper High School MT		Highest soprano score, District 1
	Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Upper High School Classical		Highest alto score, District 1
2019	Finalist, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Lower High School MT		Winner, Underrepresented Composer Award
			Musical Theater NATS
			Encouragement Award Schmidt Vocal
			Competition
		2020	Winner, Nordica Award
			Winner, Best French Art Song, Classical
			Maine NATS

**Other Awards**

2024	Winner, Nordica Award
	Honors Recital Recipient, Musical Theater at
	the University of Southern Maine
	Honors Recital Recipient, Musical Theater at
	the University of Southern Maine
	Honors Recital Recipient, Jazz at the
	University of Southern Maine
2023	Fellow, Undergraduate Research
	Opportunity Grant: The Girl from

*Students have gone on to study at prestigious institutions including The Boston Conservatory at Berklee, St. Lawrence University, Western Connecticut State University, Harvard University, Roberts Wesleyan, Lawrence Conservatory for Music, Shenendoah Conservatory, and Taylor University, as well as performances at Opera Maine, MassOpera, Good Theater, Snowlion Repertory, Maine State Music Theater, Tanglewood Festival, Schmidt Vocal Institute, Boston Conservatory Musical Theater Intensives, and Boston Conservatory Choral/ Vocal Intensive.*

**LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

**National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS)**

**2018 – Present**

Maine Chapter **President** (2021- Present)

- Instituted the Ellen Chickering Award
- Instituted the Underrepresented Composer Award

- Instituted the Classical Masterclass Series, including Lisa Saffer and Rebecca Folsom
- Musical Theater Masterclass Series, including Megan McGinnis and Chadley Ballantyne
- Instituted the Alexander Technique Masterclasses by Matt Cahill and Katie Beckvold
- Chair of New England Region Nominating Committee for Governor Election (2024)

Maine Chapter **Vice President** (2019 – 2021)

USM **Faculty Advisor** (2019 – Present)

**Opera on Tap / Maine Chapter**

**2020 – Present**

Founder and Co-Manager

**The Portland Rossini Club**

**2011 – 2019**

Media Liaison

**The Society of Pi Kappa Lambda**

**2007 – Present**

Member (nominated into American honor society for music)

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**SKILLS AND LANGUAGES**

- Advanced **Diction training** in French, Italian, German, Spanish, Latin and English
- **Stage direction** / Opera and Musical Theatre scenes
- Dance training in **Tap** and **Ballet**
- Advanced Training in **Alexander Technique**

**OTHER INTERESTS AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY**

- Volunteer at Hearts and Horses / Equine Therapy for individuals with developmental disabilities (2018 – Present; currently on hold due to COVID-19)
- Horseback Riding (Dressage)
- Baking + Blog: <http://www.watershipdownkitchen.com/>
- MJL Voice Studio Blog <https://www.maryjohnstonletellier.com/blog>

**PERFORMING EXPERIENCE****Opera Roles**

Harpy	<i>Sarah in the Theater</i>	New England Conservatory	2023
Musetta	<i>Bar Crawl Bobème</i>	Opera in the Pines	2023
Königin der Nacht	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	New England Conservatory	2023
Violetta	<i>La Traviata</i>	MassOpera	2021
First Fairy	<i>The Fairy Queen</i>	Portland Bach Experience	2021
First Lady (cover)	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Opera Maine	2019
Norina *	<i>Don Pasquale</i>	Portland Conservatory	2018
Mrs. Ford *	<i>Merry Wives</i>	Portland Conservatory	2018
Violetta	<i>La Traviata</i>	Flagstaff in Fidenza	2013
Peep-Bo	<i>The Mikado</i>	The Boston Conservatory	2011
Mrs. Pinkerton	<i>The Old Maid and the Thief</i>	The Boston Conservatory	2011
The Sandman	<i>Hansel and Gretel</i>	The Boston Conservatory	2011
Magda	<i>La Rondine</i>	The Boston Conservatory	2011
Cunegonde	<i>Candide</i>	The Boston Conservatory	2010
Romilda (cover)	<i>Serse</i>	The Boston Conservatory	2009
Abigail Williams *	<i>The Crucible</i>	The Boston Conservatory	2008
Belinda	<i>Dido and Aeneas</i>	The Boston Conservatory	2008
Tisiphone / Charito	<i>Lysistrata</i>	Seagle Music Colony	2007

**Musical Theater Roles**

Grace	<i>The Christmas Bride in Concert</i>	Snowlion Repertory	2023
Conrad/Conradine	<i>The Secret Princess</i> (premiere)	Snowlion Repertory	2022
Julie, Carrie, Nettie, Louise	<i>Carousel</i>	Tophat Toy Theater	2019
Franca Naccarelli	<i>The Light in the Piazza</i>	City Theater	2019
Narrator and various roles	<i>Mesmerized</i> (premiere)	Snowlion Repertory	2019
The Ghost of Christmas Past	<i>A Christmas Carol: The Musical</i>	City Theater	2018

**Professional Ensemble/Opera Chorus**

<i>Aida</i> (soprano section leader/ chorus vocal coach)		Opera Maine	2024
<i>Der Fliegende Holländer</i> (soprano section leader)		Opera Maine	2022
<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>		Opera Maine	2019

**Young Artist Training**

Flagstaff in Fidenza Opera Program / Young Artist	<i>Fidenza, Italy</i>	2013
Seagle Music Colony / Emerging Artist	<i>Schroon Lake, NY</i>	2006

° *Postponed/Canceled (COVID-19)*      \* *Partial Role*

**PERFORMING EXPERIENCE CONT.****Recent Concert Work**

Recital Series	Opera Maine/ Bowdoin College	2024
Deep Magic from the Earth and Songs to the Moon	University of Maine Southern Maine/ New England Conservatory	2024
Handel's Messiah	Messiah Community Chorus	2023
Le Petit Prince: A Musical Journey	New England Conservatory	2023
Love Bomb: Domestic Abuse Awareness Concert	Solutionary Arts New England	2023
Music on the Patio: Summer Concert Series	Sanford Opera	2023
Vaughan Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem	Assabet Valley Mastersingers	2022
Faculty Concert	University of Southern Maine	2022
Haydn's The Seasons	Assabet Valley Mastersingers	2022
Sing For Their Supper	Milton Community Concerts	2022
Try Me, Good King	Opera on Tap Maine	2021
MisCast 2021 Soloist	Biddeford City Theater	2021
Still Dreaming: A Tribute to MLK	Milton Community Concerts	2021
Blue's Annual Winter Wonderland	Port City Blue	2021
317 Main Songs of the Season	317 Main Community Music Center	2020
City Theater Home for the Holidays	Biddeford City Theater	2020
Opera Maine Ocean View Recital	Opera Maine	2020
City Theater Highlights Concert	Biddeford City Theater	2020
BLM: Faculty Concert	University of Southern Maine	2020
A Vocal Smorgasbord	University of Southern Maine	2019
Broadway at Good Theater	Good Theater	2019- Present
Governor's Conference on Tourism	Opera Maine	2019
SAGE lecture series	Opera Maine	2019
Lyric's Greatest Show Fundraiser	Lyric Music Theater	2019
Opera on Tap Maine	Opera on Tap Maine	2019-Present
Marston-Kotzschmar Club	Marston-Kotzschmar Club	2019-Present



Portland Rossini Club

Portland Rossini Club

2011-Present

### Competition Awards

National NATS Artist Award Semi-Finalist and Winner of Anne Marie Gerts Award	2022
New England Regional NATS Artist Award Winner	2021
Boston Classical NATS / 1 <sup>st</sup> place	2007
Boston Classical NATS / 3 <sup>rd</sup> place	2006

- **Coaches:** Jean Anderson Collier, Michelle Alexander, Libor Dudas, Rachelle Jonck, Brian Moll, James Myers, Kathleen Scott, Timothy Steele, Michael Strauss, Scott Wheatley
- **Directors:** Brian Allen, Al D'Andrea, Kirsten Z. Cairns, Ben Evett, Katy Early, David Gately, Joshua Major, Nanda Schellen, Greg Smucker, Sally Stunkel, Linda Sturdivant, Dona D. Vaughn
- **Conductors:** Beatrice Afron, Nell Britton, Darko Butorac, Bruce Hangen, Robert Eaton, Keith Howard, Roberto Kalb, Dan Ryan, Tim Verville, Jan Schweiger, Sara Sturdivant, Bob Tweten

## **SELECTED FEATURES AND REVIEWS**

### **REVIEW / “Theater review: Mark Twain meets Monty Python in new musical ‘The Secret Princess’ / The Secret Princess / Freeport, ME**

*“To gain power in a male dominated world, the “prince” Conrad, played with wide-eyed wonderment by Mary Johnston Letellier, must fend off her own doubts, not to mention the advances of her cousin Constance and the pleadings of her mother, Margareta, and legal advisor and potential lover, Maximilian... On opening night, the leather-clad Letellier (costume design by Brittney Cacace-Shortill) revealed a fine soprano voice, well suited to the show’s strong musical theater compositions. Her performances of “To Be Me” and “Let Me Fly,” both addressing her character’s physically and emotionally imposed identity, vied for the status of showstopper.”*

– Steve Feeney, [pressherald.com](http://pressherald.com) (May 2022)

### **REVIEW / “The Fairy Queen” Delights Hundreds in East Bayside Produced by PBE/ Portland Bach Experience / Portland, ME**

*“Putting the deluxe topping on the production was the stunning voice of soprano coloratura Mary Letellier. “*

– Carol McCracken, [munjoyhillnews.net](http://munjoyhillnews.net) (June 2021)

### **REVIEW / Broadway at Good Theater / Good Theater / Portland, ME**

*“Aaron Engebretth and Mary Johnston Letellier use their operatically trained instruments to haunting effect in a SECRET GARDEN duet.... and Colin Whiteman and Mary Johnston Letellier find harmony in their duet from RAGTIME.”*

– Carla Maria Verdino-Süllwold, [Broadwayworld.com](http://Broadwayworld.com) (March 2021)

### **REVIEW / Broadway at Good Theater / Good Theater / Portland, ME**

*“And several newcomers impress this season, especially Mary Johnston Letellier, whose operatic soprano is used to fine effect in selections from BRIGADOON and SONG OF NORWAY...”*

– Carla Maria Verdino-Süllwold, [Broadwayworld.com](http://Broadwayworld.com) (December 2019)

### **FEATURE / Why Music?**

*“A true artist of her craft and an amazing singer”*

– Will Wohler, [Why Music?](http://Why Music?) Series (December 2019)

### **REVIEW / The Light in the Piazza / Biddeford City Theater / Biddeford, ME**

*“...Mary Letellier delivering some powerful moments as his tempestuous wife, Franca, whose solo, ‘The Joy You Feel’ is one of the show’s highlights.”*

– Carla Maria Verdino-Süllwold, [Broadwayworld.com](http://Broadwayworld.com) (March 2019)

**REVIEW / *A Christmas Carol: The Musical* / Biddeford City Theater**

*“Mary Johnston Letellier as Christmas Past, Sara Sturdivant as Christmas Present and Cecilia Guerra as Christmas Future are solid and stellar—individually and collectively—and provide a surprisingly refreshing attitude...upbeat, a bit of comic relief but unrelenting in purpose. The three are fabulous singers, righteous for this operetta.”*

– Louis Phillipe, [Reindeer PRX](http://ReindeerPRX) (December 2018)

**REVIEW / *La Rondine* / Boston Conservatory / Boston, MA**

*“Mary Johnston... gave the stand-out performance of the night... Her voice soared in her upper register and was clear and declamatory in the tessitura. Johnston was the only vocalist who had the ability to stay with and, at times, rise above the dramatic orchestral swells.”*

– C.A. Gentry, [The Boston Musical Intelligencer](http://TheBostonMusicalIntelligencer) (February 2010)