

MARY JOHNSTON LETELLIER, M.M.

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EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

DOCTORATE OF MUSICAL ARTS, Vocal Performance / New England Conservatory

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

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

Bel Canto Bootcamp Intermezzo: From treatise to technology	2021
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Online masterclass series with Kenneth Bozeman and Dr. Dana Zenobi connecting historic and modern acoustic pedagogy.

Trans* Voices Masterclass / Opera Programs Berlin 2021

2-day online masterclass with Dr. Stephanie Weiss to address topics of teaching trans singers and inclusivity in the industry.*

Entrepreneurship 102 / The Empowered Musician 2021

Online series focused on practical and entrepreneurial skills for modern artists.

Professional Development Continued

Vocal Pedagogy Professional Workshop / Boston Conservatory 2021

Unique classes in both musical theater and classical voice pedagogy for collegiate and private voice instructors.

Acoustic Vocal Pedagogy Online Course / New England Conservatory 2020-2021

Online seminar series that explores vocal acoustics and tools/software with renowned pedagogue Ian Howell and Kenneth Bozeman..

Alexander Technique for the Audition Brain / The Empowered Musician 2020

Interactive courses utilizing Alexander Technique methods to improve performance.

The History, Origins, & Application of the Belt Voice 2020

A webinar with Jeanie Lovetri exploring belt voice for professional singers and pedagogues.

Audition Package Workshop / Opera Program Berlin 2020

Online workshop to polish professional audition packages for the global market.

Bel Canto Bootcamp: The Vaccai Project 2020-present

Interactive series discovering bel canto technique according to famous 19th-century Italian composer Nicola Vaccai.

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

Opera Workshop
Voice for Instrumentalists
Opera History Ind. Study

Audition Techniques
Musicianship
Listen Up (Inclusive Teaching)

Positions / Appointments

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 10+ 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.

Positions / Appointments Continued**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 – Present****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

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

New England NATS Competitions	Finalist, 2 nd Place Upper High School MT
2022 Finalist, 3 rd Place, Upper College TBB	Finalist, 2 nd Place Upper High School Classical
Finalist, Upper College Treble	2019 Finalist, 2 nd Place Lower High School MT
Maine NATS Competitions	Other Awards
2022 Finalist, 2 nd Place Graduate Classical	2022 Winner, Jean and Harvey Picker Senior Prize, Young Stars of Maine
Finalist, 2 nd Place Upper College Classical	Winner, Chickering Award
Finalist, 3 rd Place Upper College Classical	3 rd Place, Schmidt Vocal Competition
Finalist, 3 rd Place Upper High School Classical	2021 Highest soprano score, All-State
Finalist, 2 nd Place Middle School Classical	Highest soprano score, District 1
2021 Finalist, 2 nd Place Graduate MT	Highest alto score, District 1
Winner, 1 st Place Upper College MT	Winner, Underrepresented Composer Award Musical Theater NATS
Winner, 1 st Place Upper High School MT	Encouragement Award Schmidt Vocal Competition
Finalist, 2 nd Place Middle School MT	2020 Winner, Nordica Award
Finalist, 3 rd Place, Junior MT	Winner, Best French Art Song NATS
Winner, 1 st Place Lower High School Classical	
Finalist, 2 nd Place Lower College Classical	
Finalist, 3 rd Place Upper High School Classical	
Finalist, 3 rd Place Lower High School Classical	
2020 Winner, 1 st Place, Lower High School MT	
Winner, 1 st Place Upper HS Classical	
Winner, 1 st Place Upper College Classical	

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

LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Maine Chapter President (2021- Present) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instituted the Ellen Chickering Award• Instituted the Underrepresented Composer Award• Classical Masterclass Series, including Lisa Saffer and Rebecca Folsom• Musical Theater Masterclass Series, including Megan McGinnis and Chadley Ballantyne Maine Chapter Vice President (2019 – 2021) USM Faculty Advisor (2019 – Present)	2018 – Present
Opera on Tap / Maine Chapter Founder and Co-Manager	2020 – Present
The Portland Rossini Club Media Liaison	2011 – Present
The Society of Pi Kappa Lambda Member (nominated into American honor society for music)	2007 – Present

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**

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

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>Der Fliegende Holländer</i>		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**

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

Boston Classical NATS / 1 st place	2007
Boston Classical NATS / 3 rd 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, Nanda Schellen, Greg Smucker, Sally Stunkel, Linda Sturdivant, Dona D. Vaughn

- **Conductors:** Beatrice Afron, Nell Britton, Darko Butorac, Bruce Hangen, Keith Howard, Roberto Kalb, Dan Ryan, Tim Verville, Jan Schweiger, Sara Sturdivant

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 (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 (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 (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 (December 2019)

FEATURE / Why Music?

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

– Will Wohler, 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 (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)