



DR. LEIA WASBOTTEN

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WORK EXPERIENCE

AUG 2022 -
PRESENT

Artistic Director of Music Theatre Department | Mesa Community College

· Vocal Music Director and Stage Director of musical theatre productions, professor of voice including teaching private voice lessons, Class Voice, Vocal Pedagogy, Broadway Solos, and Audition Techniques. Responsible for administrative tasks such as hiring guest artists, setting up masterclasses with professional organizations, preparing students for Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and Open Jar Institute as well as other professional and educational auditions and opportunities. Other duties include organization of voice department (voice studios, accompanist and teacher schedules, voice recitals, juries), outreach and recruitment for music theatre program, and providing students with audition opportunities outside of MCC.

AUG 2019 -
PRESENT

Adjunct Faculty | Mesa Community College

· Teacher of Voice including teaching Class Voice, Pedagogy, select choirs, as well as private students and voice studio which entails public coaching of specific students in front of the rest of the department. Responsible for lesson planning, grading, use of Canvas, choosing repertoire, and classroom management and communication skills. Help to guide students through success at regional and national auditions, competitions, and musical theater casting.

JULY 2021 -
DEC 2021

Director of Vocal Studies | Arizona Christian University

· Oversee voice department and teach 20-25 private students, musical theater courses, choir classes, and worship music/self-accompaniment classes. Responsible for administrative tasks such as scheduling classes and lessons, accompanying students, helping students schedule and plan junior and senior recitals, administering juries, holding voice studios weekly, hiring guest clinicians for masterclasses and workshops, guest conducting for musical theater and choir performances, working in tandem with other music faculty for performances and other collaborative events.

JAN 2020 -
PRESENT

Professional Singer | Canto Vivo Chorale

· Alto singer in semi-professional vocal ensemble ranging from 25-45 singers. Responsible for preparing all notes, rhythms, text, and musicality of repertoire for each rehearsal. One rehearsal per week, two performances per semester. Tour of Austria, Germany, and Prague summer 2022.

AUG 2021 -
PRESENT

Graduate Artist | Arizona State University - Gospel Choir

· Work in tandem with Professor Nathan De'Shon Myers to coordinate musical and artistic aspects of Gospel Choir including repertoire selections, soloist placements, running rehearsals, leading the choir in warmups, knowing notes and rhythms for all voice parts and singing in rehearsals or concerts, coordinating concert attire and concert set up, creating learning materials for the choir like playlists of repertoire, lyric sheets, and rehearsal tracks.

JAN 2014 -
PRESENT

Private Voice Instructor | Leia's Voice Studio

· Specialize in teaching vocal health and techniques in genres ranging from classical, musical theater, pop, gospel, country, and jazz. Prepare students for college auditions, Regional and All-State Choruses, community and professional musical theater auditions, Disney auditions, and Honors Performance Series both in Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House. Responsible for the organization of my own schedule, finances, as well as 25+ students and their individual needs. NATS-certified.



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WORK EXPERIENCE CONT.

- MAR 2021 - PRESENT **Worship Leader | St. Thomas More**
 - Lead soloist and occasional alto on praise team at this Catholic Church. All contemporary music with full band. Responsible for preparing 6-8 songs each week, singing at two masses and attending two rehearsals. Also the in-house worship and vocal health clinician, while assisting Young Adult Groups with their worship nights every first friday of each month.

- NOV 2015 - PRESENT **Professional Singer | Phoenix Chorale**
 - Responsible for preparing all notes, rhythms, text, and musicality of 15-20 pieces prior to first rehearsals and updating music as needed outside of rehearsal times. Occasional soloist. Four concert series a year with six rehearsals per series, plus a pro-bono concert, Songfest, where the women of the Chorale participate in outreach with other female choruses around Arizona.

- JUNE 2019 - AUG 2019 **Music Director | The Phoenix Theatre Company - Summer Camp**
 - Responsible for choosing and teaching appropriate repertoire for groups of 20-30 children ages 4 to 9. Rehearsal and performance pianist, voice instructor for general camp population and assistant to campers on the spectrum. Work hand-in-hand with camps' Teaching Artists to construct showcase for students to perform at the end of each week.

- JAN 2016 - OCT 2019 **Choir Director | Desert Foothills United Methodist Church**
 - In charge of teaching, planning, choosing repertoire and musically directing a group ranging from 15-20 singers, while working closely with the Pastor and church administrative team to coordinate musical choices with the structure of each individual service.

- JAN 2018 - MAY 2019 **Faculty Associate | Arizona State University - Gospel Choir**
 - Responsible for administrative duties for the course, taught by Dr. Jason Thompson, such as attendance and grading as well as leading rehearsals, teaching and choosing repertoire for a group of over 135 singers.

- AUG 2014 - MAY 2015 **Music Director | State College Area High School - A Cappella Group**
 - In charge of teaching, planning, and musically directing the group of 8-15 high school students. Helped prepare group for ICCA Competitions and coordinate various concerts and recitals within the school and the community.

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCES

- 2023 **9 to 5 | Judy | Mesa Encore Theatre**
 - AriZoni nomination - Best Actress in Leading Role**Backup Singer | Michael Bublé**

- 2022 **Godspell | Disciple - Learn Your Lessons Well | Arizona State University**

- 2021 **Doctoral Recital at Arizona State University**
 - Hour and a half of solo pop, jazz, country, and music theater repertoire, accompanied by Nathan Arch and Dominic Smith**Doctoral Recital at Arizona State University**
 - Hour and a half of solo classical and music theater repertoire, accompanied by Nathan Arch**Jewish Free Loan Annual Gratitude Gathering | Featured Musician**
La Casa De Cristo Lutheran Church | Soloist/Section Leader
 - Directed by Jennifer Sheldon



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PERFORMANCES CONT.

- 2021 cont. **Arts at Nativity: Christmas Eve Concert | Episcopal Church of the Nativity | Soloist**
Collaboration with Juliana Witt and Grand Canyon University's Critical Mass
Love of Christ Lutheran Church Christmas Cantata | Soloist
Directed by Jung Csuy
- 2020 **Chanukah-Christmas Celebration | Scottsdale Bible Church | Soloist**
Collaboration with Linda Bennett
Arts at Nativity: MLK Concert | Episcopal Church of the Nativity | Soloist
Collaboration with Juliana Witt and Grand Canyon University's Critical Mass
- 2019 **Arts at Nativity: Christmas Eve Concert | Episcopal Church of the Nativity | Soloist**
Collaboration with Juliana Witt, ECN Choir, and other professional musicians
Distant Worlds: Music From Final Fantasy | Performer With Solis Camerata
Solis Directed by Dr. Kira Rugen, Performance Directed by Arnie Roth, with The Phoenix Symphony
Love Of Christ Lutheran Church Christmas Cantata | Soloist
Directed by Jung Csuy
The Phoenix Theatre Company's New Works Festival | Composer/Lyricist Cabaret Performer
Music by Janie Mcguire And Arri Lawton Simon, Directed by Dr. Jeff Kennedy
Benjamin Britten's Rejoice In The Lamb | Soprano Soloist | Arizona State University's Chamber Singers
Directed by Dr. David Schildkret
Nathan Carter's If I Can Help Somebody | Soloist With ASU Gospel Choir
Directed by Dr. Jason Thompson
- 2018 **Masters Voice Recital | Arizona State University**
Hour-long recital featuring classical and musical theater repertoire, accompanied by Nathan Arch
Bernstein's Mass | Soprano Soloist/Street Chorus | ASU
Directed by David Lefkovich
Game Of Thrones Live Concert Experience | Performer With Solis Camerata
Solis Directed by Dr. Kira Rugen, Performance Directed by Ramin Djawadi, with The Phoenix Symphony
Handel's And The Children Of Israel Sighed | Alto Soloist With Phoenix Chorale
Directed by Dr. Jenny Wong
The King's Carolers | Professional Christmas Caroler
Directed by Jeffrey Strand
Phoenix Bach Society | Alto
Directed by Scott Youngs
- 2016 **Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert Series | Soprano Soloist With Phoenix Chorale**
Directed by Charles Bruffy
- 2015 **The Rolling Stones Zip Code Tour | Choir Member 'You Can't Always Get What You Want'**
Concert by Mick Jagger, Preparation Directed by Dr. Christopher Kiver
Senior Voice Recital | Penn State University
Hour-long performance of classical, musical theater, pop, a cappella, and gospel styles



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PERFORMANCES CONT.

- 2014 **Glenn Burleigh's Born To Die: A Christmas Cantata, Op. 25 | Soloist With Penn State's Essence Of Joy**
Directed by Dr. Anthony Leach
- 2013 **Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert Series | Soprano Solist With PSU's Essence Of Joy**
Directed by Dr. Anthony Leach
- 2012 **Puccini's La Boheme | Ensemble | Penn State University**
Directed by Ted Christopher
Mark Adamo's Little Women | Soprano | PSU
Directed by Ted Christopher
Bernstein's Mass | Robed Chorus | PSU
Directed by Gerardo Edelstein

MUSIC AND STAGE DIRECTION

- 2023 **Anything Goes | Mesa Community College | Assistant Vocal Music Director**
Responsible for conducting and leading occasional rehearsals, vocal coaching leads and ensemble, and checking balance and sound quality from house prior to opening.
An Evening with Kinosian and Blair | Mesa Community College | Director and Music Director
Created a cabaret-style show featuring songs from a new composing duo, Joe Kinosian and Kellen Blair. Directed, staged, and wrote dialogue, transitions, and harmony parts for songs.
Something Rotten | Mesa Community College | Vocal Music Director
Responsible for teaching parts to ensemble, lead roles, and conducting occasional rehearsals.
AriZoni-nominated for Best Music Direction.
- 2022 **Addam's Family | Mesa Community College | Assistant Music Director**
Responsible for teaching parts to ensemble, lead roles, and conducting occasional rehearsals.
Bright Star | Arizona State University | Vocal Music Director
Taught country twang to all singers in cast, as well as helped ensemble and leads prepare music.
AriZoni-nominated for Best Music Direction.

EDUCATION

Doctor Of Musical Arts | December 2022 | Arizona State University

- Major: Vocal Performance
- Recipient Of Special Talent Scholarship And Choral Scholarship
- Dissertation and research on *Classical to Contemporary: The Evolution of Classically-Driven Vocal Pedagogy in a Contemporary Studio*
- GPA: 4.0

Master Of Music | May 2019 | Arizona State University

- Major: Vocal Performance And Pedagogy
- Related Coursework: Acting, Musical Theatre, Opera
- Recipient Of Multiple Scholarships: Choral Excellence Scholarship, Special Talent Scholarship, Choral Scholarship
- GPA: 4.0

Bachelor Of Arts | May 2015 | The Pennsylvania State University

- Major: Music, Emphasis In Vocal Performance
- Related Coursework: Rehabilitation & Human Services, Psychology, Sociology, Human Development & Family Studies · Dean's List Spring, 2015



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TRAINING

Vocal Lessons: Christy Welty (Phoenix, AZ), Carole Fitzpatrick (Phoenix, AZ), Jennifer Nagy (Phoenix, AZ), Claudia Kennedy (Phoenix, AZ), Norman Spivey (State College, PA)

Vocal Coaching: Russell Ryan (Arizona State University), Anthony Leach (Penn State University)

Master Class Participation: Kristin Chenoweth - Arizona State University 2022, Gilbert Kalish - Arizona State University 2017, Stephanie Weiss - Cal-Western Nats 2017, Craig Bohmler - Nats Valley Of The Sun 2016

Acting: Robert Kolby Harper (Phoenix Theatre Company/Arizona State University), Toby Yatso (Arizona State University)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- 2023
Vice President, Programming | Valley of the Sun NATS
Adjudicator | Valley of the Sun NATS Auditions
Adjudicator | Valley of the Sun NATS Auditions - CM 'Summer Heat'
- 2022
Vice President, Programming | Valley of the Sun NATS
Adjudicator | Valley of the Sun NATS Auditions - CM 'Summer Heat'
- 2021
Advisory Board Member | Valley of the Sun NATS
Adjudicator | Valley of the Sun NATS Auditions
Adjudicator | Valley of the Sun NATS Auditions - CM 'Summer Heat'
- 2020
Adjudicator | Valley of the Sun NATS Auditions
- 2019
Adjudicator | Valley of the Sun NATS Auditions
- 2012-2014
Music Director | Penn State University's A Cappella Group, Shades of Blue

MASTERCLASSES / WORKSHOPS

- 2023
Clinician | Arizona American Choral Directors Association | *Vocal Health in the Choral Classroom*
Vocal Pedagogy Clinician | Horizon High School | Allison Kluch
Guest Artist/Clinician | Shepherd Junior High School | Taryn Tidwell
- 2022
Vocal Music Director | Bright Star | Arizona State University
Guest Artist/Clinician | Contemporary Vocal Styles | Katherine Rosenfeld Studio
Guest Artist/Clinician | Contemporary Vocal Styles | Andrea Squires Studio
- 2021
Guest Artist/Clinician | Worship/Musical Theater Vocal Concentration | Arizona Christian University
Guest Artist/Clinician | Choir - Gospel | Arizona Christian University
Guest Artist/Clinician | Contemporary Vocal Styles | Jennifer Nagy Voice Studio



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| 2020 | Adjudicator North Central Region High School Choir Auditions |
| 2019 | Adjudicator North Central Region High School Choir Auditions
Vocal Coaching Gilbert Classical Academy
Masterclass Instructor Haverford High School
Guest Artist Christ's Greenfield Lutheran School |
| 2018 | Vocal Coaching Gilbert Classical Academy |
| 2017 | Masterclass Instructor/Guest Artist Grand Canyon University
Vocal Health Choral Workshop Women's And Men's Choirs At Heritage Academy
Vocal Health Choral Workshop Concert Choir At Greenway High School |

AWARDS

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| 2022 | Evelyn Eberhard Graduate Fellowship Arizona State University |
| 2021 | Second Place Winner NATS Calwestern Region Auditions Advanced Music Theater |
| 2020 | First Place Winner NATS Valley of the Sun Auditions Adult CCM Category
Second Place Winner NATS Valley of the Sun Auditions Adult Music Theater |
| 2018 | Third Place Winner ASU's Got Talent Tempe, AZ |
| 2017 | Honorable Mention NATS Cal-Western Auditions Advanced College/Independent Studio Women (Classical) Category |
| 2015 | Grand Prize Winner Centre Sings State College, PA |
| 2014 | Grand Prize Winner Happy Valley's Got Talent State College, PA |

SKILLS

Management | Personal Integrity | Communication | Leadership | Organization | Team Projects

- Intermediate to advanced capabilities in Canvas, Microsoft Office, JD Edwards Software, Blackboard, Cougar Mountain
- Typing: 86+ WPM
- 21+ years classical piano - advanced sight-reading abilities
- Beginner to intermediate guitar skills (self-taught)