

# Berit Johnson

berit.johnson07@gmail.com

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## EDUCATION/CERTIFICATIONS

2021 Estill Voice Training Levels 1 & 2

2020 Master of Music in Vocal Performance from University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

2018 Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Theatre Art from Concordia College Moorhead, MN

## EMPLOYMENT

**Krowne Vocal School NYC (New York, NY)**

**Summer 2022 - Present**

### Private Voice Staff

- Evaluates students' abilities based on instrument, skills, and experience
- Assigns appropriate repertoire and technical exercises
- Coaches beginner and professional New York-based adult singers and performers on repertoire and material for stage work and recordings
- Instructs group courses for beginner singers on vocal pedagogy, technique, performance, storytelling, and passion for singing

### Pop Choir Co-Director/Rehearsal Accompanist

- Supplies full accompaniment for large ensemble of adults in weekly rehearsals
- Teaches individual voice parts of choral arrangements of pop songs to all voice types
- Leads vocal warm-ups to efficiently warm up choir for intense and enjoyable singing session
- Solely directs ensemble when boss/lead vocal instructor is absent

### Singing Technique Course Instructor

- Teaches healthy and essential voice techniques and tools to 4-8 singers, from amateur to experienced
- Implements my own vocal tools and techniques from my unique crossover training while following instructions and class outline from boss/owner of school

**Acting Out! Premiere Acting Studio (Brooklyn, NY/Westfield, NJ)**

### Studio Voice Teacher

**Fall 2021 - Fall 2023**

- Assigned repertoire appropriate for students' ages and abilities
- Collaborated with directors of program and administrative directors to prepare students for New York City performing arts high school auditions and professional/amateur auditions with challenging repertoire and vigorous yet appropriate expectations for students
- Developed vocal abilities and technique, acting abilities, audition etiquette, and repertoire packages of students aged 10-18
- Prepared high school seniors for BFA college auditions across the country by assigning audition cuts appropriate for ability and skill/age level

### Acting Classes Instructor

- Collaborated with co-instructor to create weekly lesson plans for acting games and final showcase preparation for children aged 7-11
- Coached children on monologues for final showcase with age-appropriate yet specific guidelines to enrich their love for performing and curiosity of the collaborative performing arts

**Self-Employed Voice and Piano Studio**

**Fall 2019 - Present**

- Recruits students aged elementary school to senior citizens (mostly young adults aged 13-20) for weekly private voice and piano lessons
- Assigns versatile repertoire appropriate for voices and abilities while exercising students out of their comfort zones

- Emphasizes vocal health and freedom of sound while developing fundamental technique with students; includes breath work, alignment, and consistency in technique while establishing a safe and comfortable environment

## **Class Act Champaign, Illinois**

### **Teaching Artist**

**June 2020 - June 2021**

- Created fully online, socially-distanced theatre camps for elementary school-aged children with Zoom-friendly improv and theatre games during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Enriched children's summer theatre camp experience with productive and beneficial theatre games emphasizing movement, teamwork, artistry, imagination, problem-solving, and artistry, in an online environment
- Provided free weekly workshops for children in collaboration with creative director throughout the summer; provided children with Zoom-friendly theatre and improv games encouraging movement, teamwork, artistry, imagination, problem-solving, and artistry

## **Southwest High School Theatre**

### **Vocal Music Director**

**September - October 2020**

#### ***Songs for a New World***

- Collaborated with director to create fully distanced, virtual rehearsal calendar
- Hired professional pit orchestra and assisted in organizing payment and contracts
- Effectively coached high school aged-soloists on challenging score in a fully online setting for a successful memorized filmed performance
- Recorded rehearsal tracks for all students in challenging ensemble numbers, taught all vocal music to singers via Zoom rehearsals

## **University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign**

### **Lyric Theatre @ Illinois Graduate Teaching Assistant**

**Fall 2018 - Spring 2020**

#### **Musical Theatre Voice Studio Teacher**

- Taught regular weekly musical theatre voice lessons to multiple undergraduate non-music majors
- Empowered students with confidence in having consistent and versatile performing skills
- Developed fundamental techniques with students; breath work, alignment, freedom and flexibility of sound, and overall vocal health
- Assigned versatile repertoire appropriate for each individual student while exercising them out of their comfort zones
- Coached students for auditions and outside performances, including theatre majors for professional employment
- Accompanied students in voice lessons for a rich, foundational lesson experience
- Created and arranged programs for end-of-semester studio recitals

#### **Instructor for MUS222 "Singing in Musical Theatre" College Course**

- Led students in choosing golden age and contemporary musical theatre repertoire appropriate for their voice types while exercising them out of their comfort zones
- Created course syllabus and semester schedule, including mock auditions and final performances for students
- Led discussions in critical thinking in the history of musical theatre practices from the early 20th century until today
- Developed fundamental techniques with individual students; breath work, alignment, freedom and flexibility of sound, and overall vocal health in context of pre-1965 and contemporary musical theatre
- Led a wide variety of improv and vocal exercises at the beginning of each class
- Provided students with honest and productive feedback for mock auditions and in-class performances
- Coached students on repertoire for healthy vocalizing and character study purposes

### **Assistant Director**

#### ***H.M.S. Pinafore***

- Assisted director in taking notes on blocking, choreography, sight lines, and character work
- Provided cast members with clear and concise individual and ensemble notes to benefit performance

### **Minneapolis Community Education**

#### **Vocal Music Director**

##### ***Songs of Resistance and Resolve: A Virtual Cabaret***

**June - August 2020**

- Collaborated with production team to create a virtual cabaret experience for young adults and adults during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Assigned solos to singers based on their individual instruments and capabilities
- Arranged safe, socially-distanced coachings via Zoom for individual singers prior to recordings and assisted them in improving their selections from a vocal health and vocally expressive standpoint

##### ***Addams Family: The Musical***

**May - August 2019**

- Collaborated with director and production team to create an efficient and productive rehearsal calendar while discussing stylistic values of the show from a vocal standpoint
- Led vocal rehearsals for ensemble, supporting roles, and leads; taught notes and rhythms while emphasizing artistry, technique, and phrasing within the context of the show
- Coached leads and supporting roles individually on healthy vocal practices under specific stylistic guidelines

### **Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

#### **Musical Theatre Audition Workshop Instructor**

**July 2020**

- Instructed young performers aged 9-13 in preparing for musical theatre auditions; assisted them in preparing audition packages with multiple monologues and musical theatre song cuts
- Assigned repertoire that is age-appropriate and unique to each performer
- Choreographed and taught a 2-minute long musical theatre dance combination to students
- Led discussions about proper audition etiquette with appropriate language and terminology for young performers

#### **Summer Musical Theatre Camp Music Director**

**June 2012 - August 2016, August 2019**

- Efficiently taught children aged 5-13 multiple musical theatre and pop songs for final showcase in two-week period
- Empowered campers to feel confident in singing skills and to have fun with music in a creative setting
- Collaborated with camp director to successfully organize camp and final performance event
- Created a positive and fun learning environment while enthusiastically instructing music classes to K-8 aged children

### **Southwest Summer Theatre, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

#### **Vocal Music Director**

**May - July 2017**

##### ***Urinetown: The Musical***

- Collaborated with production team to create efficient and productive rehearsal calendar while discussing stylistic values of the show from a vocal standpoint
- Led vocal rehearsals for ensemble, supporting roles, and leads; taught notes and rhythms while emphasizing artistry, technique, and phrasing within the context of the show
- Coached leads and supporting roles individually on healthy vocal practices under specific stylistic guidelines

**Music Office Student Administrative Assistant**

- Managed office duties such as answering phone calls, picking up mail, contacting prospective students, answering general questions, managing the front desk, and other miscellaneous tasks required of the music department

**Recital Recorder/Stage Manager/Usher**

- Adapted to using technology correctly and efficiently to video/audio record multiple student and faculty recitals and concerts for the college's live stream, DVDs & CDs
- Administered programs to concert goers in an efficient and friendly manner while ushering
- Managed a variety of stage set-ups for voice and instrumental recitals/concerts based on needs and wishes of the performers

**INTERNSHIPS**

**Music Direction Intern at The Jungle Theatre, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

May - June 2017

***Fly By Night: A New Musical***

**Sarah Rasmussen, dir.; Mark Christine, music dir.**

- Assisted the music director in taking notes on musical logistics during blocking and tech rehearsals
- Provided the music director with feedback regarding the process and artistic and technical integrity of the show
- Evaluated acoustics and sound levels in performance space during tech rehearsals

**HONORS/AWARDS**

Illinois Opera Theatre Enthusiasts Award for Excellence	Illinois Opera Theatre Enthusiasts	2020
Graduate Teaching Assistantship	University of Illinois Urbana Champaign	2018
Featured Soloist for Long Prairie Chamber Orchestra	Long Prairie, Minnesota	2017
NATS Vocal Competition Semi-Finalist	National Association of Teachers of Singing	2016, 2017
Concordia Choir Scholar	Concordia College	2017
Irene Ryan Acting Competition Semi-Finalist	Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival	2017
Village Scholars Arts Scholar	Minneapolis Foundation	2014
Concordia College Music Scholar	Concordia College	2014
Spotlight Outstanding Award in a Leading Role for <i>Les Miserables</i>	Hennepin Theatre Trust	2014

**PERFORMING EXPERIENCE**

**Musical Theatre**

<i>Dreaming of Thunder Road</i>	Lead Vocalist	Rachel Murdy Productions NYC	Rachel Murdy, dir.
<i>Gershwin Odyssey</i>	Lead Vocalist	Rachel Murdy Productions NYC	Rachel Murdy, dir.
<i>Matilda: The Musical</i>	Miss Honey	Lees-McRae Summer Theatre	Janet Barton Speer, dir.
<i>The Denim King</i>	Bertha Cone	Well-Spring Theatre	Janet Barton Speer, dir.
<i>America's Artist: The Norman Rockwell Story</i> (Premiere)	Mary Rockwell	Lees-McRae Summer Theatre	Janet Barton Speer, dir.
<i>Songs for a New World</i>	Woman 2	Lyric Theatre at Illinois	Dawn Harris, dir.
<i>Crazy for You</i>	Patricia Fodor	Lyric Theatre at Illinois	Sarah Wigley, dir.
<i>Take Flight</i> (29-Hr. Reading)	Amelia Earhart	Lyric Theatre at Illinois	Richard Maltby, Jr., dir.
<i>Sweeney Todd</i>	Featured Soloist, Ensemble	College Light Opera Company	Jacob Allen, dir.
<i>Pippin</i>	Player	College Light Opera Company	Alison Morooney, dir.
<i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i>	Dorothy Parker, Ensemble	College Light Opera Company	Alison Morooney, dir.
<i>Wonderful Town</i>	Ensemble	College Light Opera Company	Rob Schneider, dir.
<i>Company</i>	Kathy	Concordia Theatre	Sally Story, dir.
<i>Les Miserables</i>	Featured Soloist, Ensemble	Concordia Theatre	Sally Story, dir.
<i>The Rocky Horror Picture Show</i>	Janet Weiss	Southwest Summer Theatre	John Lynn, dir.

## Opera

<i>The Cunning Little Vixen</i>	Fox	Lyric Theatre at Illinois	Sarah Wigley, dir.
<i>The Rape of Lucretia</i>	Lucia	Lyric Theatre at Illinois	Kirsten Pullen, dir.
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Isabel	Lyric Theatre at Illinois	Dawn Harris, dir.
<i>Iolanthe</i>	Celia	College Light Opera Company	David Ward, dir.
<i>La Perichole</i>	Chorus	College Light Opera Company	Jacob Allen, dir.
<i>The Pierpoint Lobster Race</i> (Premiere)	Lobsterette	College Light Opera Company	Mark Pearson, dir.
<i>Sister - Show Me Eternity</i> (Premiere Tour)	Mabel	Concordia College	Anne Jennifer Nash, dir.
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Chorus	Fargo/Moorhead Opera	Eric Gibson, dir.
<i>Amahl and the Night Visitors</i>	Chorus	Fargo/Moorhead Opera	Steven Sulich, dir.

## Straight Theatre

<i>Dr. Kev: Licensed Loveologist</i> (Premiere)	Lauren	Minnesota Fringe Festival	Ed Day, dir.
<i>The Odd Couple: Female Version</i>	Florence	Concordia Theatre	Josh Palmquist, dir.
<i>Proof</i>	Claire	Concordia Theatre	David Wintersteen, dir.
<i>Dead Man's Cell Phone</i>	Hermia	Concordia Theatre	Jon Wells, dir.
<i>Sylvia</i>	Sylvia	Concordia Theatre	Anna Larranaga, dir.
<i>The Metal Children</i>	Vera Dundee	Concordia Theatre	David Wintersteen, dir.

## Concert/Recital Work

Songs of Strength and Persistence (Solo Vocal Recital)	Soloist	Church of the Transfiguration NYC	2024
Schoenberg's <i>Gurrelieder</i>	Soprano 1 Chorus	Bard Festival Chorale (Carnegie Hall)	2024
Goodall's <i>Eternal Light: A Requiem</i>	Soprano Soloist	Church of the Transfiguration NYC	2023
M. Praetorius' <i>Puer Natus in Bethlehem</i>	Soprano Soloist	Church of the Transfiguration NYC	2021
J. Haydn's <i>Missa Sancti Hieronymi</i>	Soprano Soloist	Champaign/Urbana Oratorio Society	2018
Earth Tones - LPCO Spring Concert	Soprano Soloist	Long Prairie Chamber Orchestra	2017
The Concordia Choir Tours	Soprano Soloist	The Concordia Choir	2017-2018

## Choral Experience

Church of the Transfiguration NYC	Alto & Sop. Singer/Soloist	Claudia Dumschat, dir.	2021-present
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (Minneapolis, MN)	Frequent Soloist/Cantor	Ralph Johnson, dir.	2012-2021
First Presbyterian Church of Urbana (IL)	Sop. Section Leader	Lee Sinhaeng, dir.	2019-2020
Emmanuel Memorial Episcopalian Church (IL)	Sop. Section Leader	Geoffrey Williams, dir.	2018-2019
U of IL Chamber Singers	Soprano	Andrew McGill, dir.	2018-2019
The Concordia Choir (Moorhead, MN)	Soprano, Soloist	René Clausen, dir.	2015-2018