

CJ Greer – Bio

CJ Greer has recently joined the Music and Music Theatre faculty at UNR (University of Nevada, Reno) implementing a new Musical Theatre degree program and creating Crossover Vocal training tracks. CJ found her passion in vocal performance and instruction. She carries an MFA and MM in Musical Theatre and Classical Performance & Pedagogy from Penn State University and a BME from the University of Illinois/Champaign-Urbana. CJ has performed around the world from theme park to Broadway to Carnegie Hall. She is a singer, actor, teacher, and conductor with an undying love for storytelling through music. She has received national acclaim for her a cappella musical arrangements, has arranged and developed revue shows for cruise ships, cabaret shows, and is currently developing her own one-woman show with music from John Kander.

CJ frequently **PRESENTS** at regional, national and international conferences, and gives masterclasses on musical theatre vocal technique around the country. She is on the faculty of ‘Bel Canto Can Belto’ – an experiential weekend workshop introducing musical theatre vocal pedagogy to classical voice teachers and singers. In Summer of 2022, her team will bring ‘Bel Canto Can Belto’ to the west coast, premiering in Reno, NV. She serves as a mentor for teachers learning the differences of musical theatre vs. classical pedagogy, and teaches many workshops for high school, collegiate, and pre-professional programs on auditioning, performing, and industry business. She has been an invited guest performer and instructor at Boston Conservatory, Clarke University, The University of Utah, Winthrop University, and Sul Ross State performing and leading masterclasses for musical theatre majors, and was an invited vocalist for the “Otolaryngology Performer’s Voice” conference in Salt Lake City (April ’19). CJ previously served as vocal coach for the Heartland Ballet Company in Dubuque, Iowa and is currently the vocal instructor for The Broadway Artist Intensive – a three-week summer training program held in Florida for pre-professional musical theatre performers.

She is involved in several ongoing **RESEARCH** projects. As an expert of musical theatre vocal technique training, she is teaming up with other experts of related interdisciplinary areas (SLP, physical therapy, neuroscience/imaging, cardiac/pulmonary medicine) exploring where science and singing can heal. Research projects in early stages include ‘Singing in the MRI’ identifying imaging differences of Music Theatre vocal qualities, and working with post-intubation patients on vocal rehabilitation. CJ has previously worked with manual laryngeal therapist Christine Schneider exploring Singers-Self-Care tension releasing practices and their effect on the four primary musical theatre vocal qualities. She is also working with Voice/Speech/Movement instructor Adi Cabral to create a visual representation of the acoustic structure present in multiple styles of singing by recording vowel formants in various singing qualities on a scatter plot mimicking the vowel quadrilateral. In areas of performance, she strives to re-define vocal performance expectations by passionately teaching singers awareness of their body and breath in order to more fully connect with material in auditions and on the stage. As an instructor, CJ offers private lessons and workshops in various topics relating to vocal technique & performance, audition technique, and industry business. She is working towards her certification in Open Source Forms, a dance-based movement technique embracing imagery and neuroscience to support freedom in movement and singing. She premiered a new workshop at Boston Conservatory and with CAP 21/NYC students on *Embodying Performance* - a performance lab experience fusing speech, movement, acting, and singing techniques in performance preparation.

CJ was recently published in VASTA's Voice and Speech Journal with her article "Finding Grace – A Singing Teachers Journey with Her First Transgender Student." She was also invited as a guest interview as an expert of vocal cross-training for careers in musical theatre for the nationally recognized podcast, *The Visceral Voice*, with Christine Schneider and Kimberly Doreen discussing training vocal qualities of Musical Theatre singers, and again as a panelist for Broadway singers and teachers with vocal injuries. She has been highlighted in Classical Singer magazine several times, including two recent articles from Christy Turnbow's "Crossover Corner" – "Acting for the Singer: Opera vs. Musical Theatre, Volume 1 – Before Rehearsals Begin" (Sept 2021), and "Volume 2 – Rehearsals and Performances" (Nov 2021) comparing Musical Theatre and Operatic performance and preparation requirements (2021), and as the featured artist in the article *From Mamma Mia! To Mozart* (May, '19 issue) as a flourishing cross-training performer. In addition to developing the music theatre program, she is currently exploring a pilot vocal cross-training MM performance degree at UNR.

In performance, she has been described as "warm, lovely, powerful, emotional" and "her beautiful voice makes her big numbers...worth the ticket price alone." She performs regularly with the Bonita Springs Concert Band in Naples, FL and made her recent Holiday Pops debut with the Shoals Symphony Orchestra. Internationally, she spent a year in Japan performing in both English and Japanese, and closing Walt Disney's longest running revue show "The Diamond Horseshoe Revue." CJ has received multiple Helen Hayes Award* nominations for her performances. Opera: *La Bohème* (Mimi), *Il barbiere di sivilgia* (Rosina), *Die Zauberflöte* (First Lady); Broadway/National Tour credits include *Sister Act*, *Les Misérables*, *The Producers*, *Ragtime*, *I Love A Piano*, *The Buddy Holly Story*; Regional Credits: *Mamma Mia* (Donna/Casa Mañana), *Annie** (Grace Farrell/Olney), *Chess* (Florence/NC Raleigh), *Camelot** (Nimue/Olney), *Grease* (Rizzo/Casa Mañana), *The Happy Time** (Laurie Manon/Signature Theatre), *Saving Aimee / Scandalous* (Signature Theatre), *Crazy For You* (Arvada), *She Loves Me* (Ilona Ritter), *The Addams Family* (Morticia), *Into the Woods* (Witch, Baker's Wife), *Guys and Dolls* (Sarah Brown), *West Side Story* (Maria), *Man of La Mancha* (Aldonza), *The Secret Garden* (Lily, Martha), and more.

Website – cj-greer.com

UNR page - <https://www.unr.edu/music/faculty/cj-greer>