

Shooka Afshar, Soprano, Composer

Vocal Coach, Voice, Flute, Piano & Ensemble Instructor

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www.shookaafshar.com

OBJECTIVES

- My motivation, joy, and passion for being a musician, teacher, and a composer was shaped from early childhood in a foreign country that prevented women's access to performance opportunities. Regardless of my circumstances, my inner commitment led me to the professional musician and music instructor I am today. I wish to be a role model for my students so they find their inner strength and develop their imagination as artists, regardless of where and which country they are from.
- I would like to continue creating mixed media projects and compose operas, and to tour them worldwide, as a means to communicate with different cultures all around the world, and to engage my students to learn ensemble and team work skills as musicians and artists.
- I would like to teach private voice, piano, and flute lessons, and to give vocal pedagogy and Dalcroze Eurhythmics training in classroom settings at the college and university levels.
- I would like to hold performances worldwide as a singer and composer.

EDUCATION

Longy School of Music of Bard College, Cambridge, MA

- M.M. in Classical Vocal Performance, May 2014
- Teaching Artist Certificate, May 2014
- Dalcroze Eurhythmics Studies, May 2014
- Undergraduate Studies in Classical Vocal Performance, May 2012

La Scuola Pietro Della Valle, Italy Embassy, Tehran, Iran

- Diploma in Italian Language, May 2010

I. Azad University, Science and Research Branch, Tehran, Iran

- B.S in Applied Condensed Matter Physics, Aug 2007

PRIVATE STUDIES

- **Voice Therapy & Vocal Pedagogy**, at Boston Medical Center, Sept 2016 - Present
- **Voice & Vocal Pedagogy**, with Mary McKlimeck, Sept 2016 – Aug 2017
- **Opera**, with Armineh Dermegederchian, Sept 2007- Dec 2010
- **Piano**, with Tamarah Dolidze, Sept. 2004- Dec 2010
- **Flute**, with Majid Sinaki, Sept. 1997- Dec 2009

QUALIFICATIONS

- Harvard Music Award Winner, Sept 2022
- City Of Boston Certified Artist since 2017
- Mixed Media Projects, Opera Composer, Director, and Women's Rights Advocate since 2018
- Music performer at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, for the Persian Nowrooz Festivals since 2016
- M.M in Classical Vocal Performance, Longy School Of Music of Bard College, 2014
- Voice, Piano and Flute Instructor at the Chestnut Hill School since 2014
- Trained in Vocal Pedagogy and Buteyko Breathing Method at the Boston Medical Center
- Specialized in Dalcroze Eurhythmics Method of teaching
- Specialized in Early Childhood Music Education
- 20 years professional performer as a flutist and 13 years as a singer
- 12+ years professional music teaching career

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Voice, Piano Instructor, Nov 2022- Present

Irvine Arts & Music, Irvine, CA

Musical Theater and Piano Instructor, Nov 2022- Present

Irvine Hebrew Day School, Santa Ana, CA

Voice, Piano and Flute Instructor, Sept 2014- Present

Chestnut Hill School of Music, Chestnut Hill, MA

Group Music Teacher and Head of the Music Department, Jan 2020- Present

Bagche Farsi School, Brookline, MA

Voice, Piano, Flute and Toddler Music Instructor, May 2018- Present

Conservatory at Highlands, Newton, MA

Substitute & Assistant Teacher, Sept 2016- June 2019

Chestnut Hill School of Music, Chestnut Hill, MA

Summer Group Piano Instructor, June 2018- Aug 2019

Chestnut Hill School of Music, Chestnut Hill, MA

Substitute Musical Theater Vocal Coach, Sept 2017- Jan 2018

Solomon Schechter Day School, Newton, MA

Voice and Piano Instructor, Jan 2016- May 2018

Note-Worthy Experiences Studios, Sudbury, MA

Voice, Piano and Flute Instructor, Oct 2014- Aug 2016

Allegro Music School, Natick, MA

Summer Camp Musical Theater Teacher, June 2014- Aug 2016

Arlington Center for the Arts, Arlington, MA

Voice and Piano Instructor, Oct 2013- June 2015

Ivy Music Academy, Norfolk, MA

Voice and Piano Instructor, Oct 2013- Aug 2015

Music & Arts, Milford, MA.

Toddler Music Teacher, Feb 2013- May 2014

Smile Pre-School, CMCB, Boston, MA

Private Voice, Piano, Flute and Group Music Instructor, Nov 2010- Present

Greater Boston Area, MA.

Flute Instructor, Sept 2007- Aug 2010

Malek Institute of Arts, Tehran, Iran.

VOLUNTARY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Aug 1995-Aug 2008: General subjects teacher for underprivileged homeless children and juvenile who live below the poverty line, Mehr Vista NGO, Tehran Iran.

Responsibilities:

- Taught basic subjects such as math, writing, painting, and music
- Invented creative fun games for very young children with extreme health issues
- Wrote productive curriculum and lessons plans for children with ADD and ADHD
- Helped process and expand writing and conversational competence for children with underdeveloped skills
- Recognized and addressed the effects of family violence and trauma through art therapy from daily drawing and painting assignments

KEY TASKS & EXPERIENCE

- Led an Artist in Residency near Milan for a team of 8 musicians and visual artists in Italy in July 2022 and toured our performance in Northern Italy for a month.
- Directed teams of 5 -15 professional musicians and artists for staged performances
- Collaborated with visual artists, videographers, and sound engineers
- Communicated with venues and booked and organized concerts
- Choreographed dance and opera scenes
- Directed and performed operas
- Vocal coached musical theater
- Directed and taught children and adult choruses
- Taught and managed classrooms of 15 to 30 students
- Wrote and developed semester curriculum and lesson plans
- Developed personalized and goal-oriented rehearsal practice plans for semester end recitals
- Directed and organized student recitals
- Reported semester-end student evaluations

SELECTED PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Music Award Winner, Soloist and Honorary Invitee

Harvard Iranian Gala, Harvard, Boston, Sept 2022

Guest Speaker: The President of the Carnegie Mellon University

Director of an Artist in Residency, Composer, Soloist, Choreographer

The Manipulation Project Mixed Media Opera, Biella Province near Milan, Italy, 2022

Soloist & Composer

Iranian American Women Foundation, Harvard, Boston, Sept 2019

Soloist

Iranian American Women Foundation, NYC, Nov 2018

Soloist and Honorary Invitee

Harvard Iranian Gala, Harvard, Boston, Sept 2019

Guest Speaker: CNN Speaker Christian Amanpour

Director, Composer, Soloist, Choreographer & Dancer

Women / Immigration / Fight or Flight Opera, El Nido Art Space, N Hollywood, CA, 2022
Women / Immigration / Fight or Flight Opera, MFA Boston, MA, 2021
Nowrooz Stayed Untouched Song Cycle Mixed Media Performance, MFA Boston, MA, 2019
Childhood Song Cycle Mixed Media Performance, MFA Boston, MA, 2018

Composer & Soloist

Nowrooz Stayed Untouched, Farhang Foundation, LA, CA, 2021
Seeking, Iranian American Woman Foundation, Harvard Club of Boston, Boston, MA, 2019
A Night Of Persian Folk Tunes, Clubhouse 7, Laguna Woods, CA, 2019
The Extent, MMAC Theater, Lincoln Center, NY, 2017
Experimental Music, Longy Laboratory, Longy School of Music, Cambridge, MA, 2015 – 2019
Yalda, Fenway Center, Boston, MA, 2012

Soloist

Online Concerts

Disney & Musical Theater Concert, 2021
Christmas Surprise Concert, 2020
Voice & Piano Duo, 2020
Persian Summer Concert Series, Lakeview Center, Irvine, CA, 2019
Turn me into A Mannequin, Iranian American Woman Foundation, NYU, NY, 2018
The Coded Birth, Institute of Contemporary Arts, Boston, MA, 2018
Persian Songs, Glimpse Of Persian Culture 27th Annual Conference, Schaumburg, IL, 2017
Boston Calling, Harvard Athletic Complex, Cambridge, MA, 2017
Persian New Year Festival, Harvard, Cambridge, MA, 2017
Persian Folk Tunes, Harvard Gala with CNN Guest Speaker Christiane Amanpour, Cambridge, MA, 2017
A DMA Dissertation Recital (Composed for me), Boston University, Boston, MA, 2014
Musical Collage (Dancer and Choreographer), Longy School of Music, Cambridge, MA, 2014

Western Classical Opera and Orchestral

Pasticcio!, Calliope Ensemble, First Unitarian Church Boston, Boston, MA, 2016
Finding A Home, Calliope Ensemble, First Unitarian Church Boston, Boston, MA, 2015
Antonio and Amadeus, Calliope Ensemble, First Unitarian Church Boston, Boston, MA, 2015
Princess in The Cunning Peasant Opera US Premier, Calliope Ensemble, First Unitarian Church Boston, Boston, MA, 2014
Memorial for Boston Marathon 2013: Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Empire State Sinfonia, Cathedral of The Holly Cross Boston, Boston, MA, 2014
Images of Fate, Calliope Ensemble, First Unitarian Church Boston, Boston, MA, 2014
A Kingdom, Calliope Ensemble, First Unitarian Church Boston, Boston, MA, 2013

FLUENT LANGUAGES

Farsi, English, Italian

TEACHERS

Mary McDonald Klimek
Anna Gabrieli
Karyl Ryczek
Armineh Dermegecherchian

COACHES

Wolfgang Brendel
Vanessa Schukis
Libor Dudas
Brian Moll
Daniel Wyneken
Janice Giampa

MASTER CLASSES

Renee Fleming
Wolfgang Brendel
Martin Katz
Lisa Parker

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Harvard Music Award**, Boston 2022
- **Music Dedication Award** (choir director), Iranian Association of Boston, 2014.
- **Dalcroze Summer Institute** full scholarship, Longy School of Music, summers of 2012 & 2013.
- **“18th May 2004(FAONS) Honor”** winner for flute performance, Iran’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2004