

Shooka Afshar, Soprano, Composer

Vocal Coach, Voice, Flute, Piano & Ensemble Instructor

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OBJECTIVES

- My passion for music, teaching, composition, and performance was shaped from early childhood while growing up in a country where women were not permitted equal access to artistic performance opportunities. Regardless of those limitations, my dedication and perseverance led me to become the professional musician, composer, and educator I am today. I strive to be a role model for my students by helping them discover their inner strength, artistic voice, and creative imagination regardless of their cultural or personal background.
- I aim to continue creating interdisciplinary and mixed-media projects, operas, and collaborative performances that connect different cultures through music, theater, movement, and visual arts. Through these projects, I hope to cultivate ensemble collaboration, creativity, communication, and teamwork skills in students and fellow artists.
- I seek opportunities to teach voice, piano, flute, vocal pedagogy, musicianship, composition, and movement-based music instruction inspired by Dalcroze Eurhythmics in college, university, conservatory, and professional training environments while supporting students' technical, artistic, and personal development.
- I aim to continue performing internationally as a singer, composer, interdisciplinary artist, and collaborative performer while contributing to meaningful artistic and educational communities worldwide.

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
- Associate Degree in Classical Vocal Performance, May 2012

La Scuola Pietro Della Valle, Italian 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 Coaching**, with Wolfgang Brendal, May 2013
- **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 and Flute Instructor**, Sept 2014- Present
Chestnut Hill School of Music, Chestnut Hill, MA
- Voice, Piano Instructor**, Nov 2021- Jan 2025
Irvine Arts & Music, Irvine, CA
- Vocal Coach**, Jan 2023- June 2024
Natick High School, Natick, MA
- Vocal Coach**, Jan 2021- Aug 2023
Performers Academy, Lake Forest, CA
- Head of the Music Department / Group Music Teacher**, Jan 2020- Aug 2023
Bagche Farsi School, Brookline, MA
- Musical Theater and Piano Instructor**, Nov 2021- Aug 2022
Irvine Hebrew Day School, Santa Ana, CA
- Voice, Piano, Flute and Toddler Music Instructor**, May 2018- June 2025
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- June 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
- Adult Choir Director**, Sept 2011- Aug 2014
Iranian Association of Boston, 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.
- Italian Instructor**, Sept 2010- Present,
Online and in person.

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 Residency near Milan, Italy, directing a team of 8 musicians, dancers, actors, and visual artists in the development and touring of a multidisciplinary performance project throughout Northern Italy in July 2022.
- Directed teams of 5–15 professional musicians and artists for staged musical and interdisciplinary performances.
- Collaborated with visual artists, videographers, dancers, and sound engineers on mixed-media and live performance projects.
- Communicated with venues and organized concerts, rehearsals, productions, and performance logistics.
- Choreographed movement, dance, and operatic stage scenes for theatrical and musical productions.
- Directed and performed in operatic and interdisciplinary stage productions.
- Vocal coached musical theater performers and singers across multiple genres and performance settings.
- Directed and taught children's and adult choruses and ensemble groups.
- Taught and managed classrooms of 15–30 students across various age groups and skill levels.
- Wrote and developed semester curriculum, lesson plans, and educational music activities.
- Developed individualized and goal-oriented rehearsal and practice plans for semester-end recitals and performances.
- Directed, organized, and produced student recitals and ensemble performances.
- Prepared and reported semester-end student evaluations and progress assessments.

SELECTED PERFORMANCE & COMPOSITION EXPERIENCE

Film Scoring of a Short Independent Movie “Without Fear”

For a Los Angeles based producer on Domestic Violence towards women, Feb 2026

Soloist

Villa Cimbrone, Ravello, Amalfi Coast, Italy, June 2025

Santuario di San Giovanni, Andorno, Italy, July 2025

Soloist

Piedicavallo Festival, Piedi Cavallo, Italy, Aug 2024

Music Award Winner, Soloist and Honorary Invitee

Harvard Iranian Gala, Harvard, Boston, Sept 2022

Guest Speaker: President of 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

Seeking, Iranian American Women Foundation, Harvard, Boston, Sept 2019

Soloist

Turn Me Into a Mannequin, 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, North 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 Holy 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 Dermegegerchian

COACHES

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

MASTER CLASSES

Renee Fleming
Wolfgang Brendel
Martin Katz
Lisa Parker

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Vocal Pedagogy & Voice Therapy
- Classical Vocal Performance
- Contemporary, Pop & Musical Theater Vocal Performance
- Interdisciplinary & Mixed-Media Composition
- Opera Coaching & Stage Direction
- Dalcroze-Inspired Movement-Based Music Instruction
- Persian Folk & Cross-Cultural Music Performance
- Musical Theater Vocal Coaching
- Ensemble Direction & Collaborative Performance
- Film Scoring
- Early Childhood & Group Music Instruction

CERTIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Teaching Artist Certificate — Longy School of Music of Bard College, 2014
- Buteyko Breathing Technique Certificate — Boston Medical Center, 2017
- Vocal Pedagogy, Voice Therapy & Laryngeal Massage Training — Boston Medical Center, 2016–Present
- Dalcroze Eurhythmics Studies — Longy School of Music of Bard College
- Diploma in Italian Language — La Scuola Pietro Della Valle, Italian Embassy, Tehran, 2010

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.
- **Recipient of the “18th May 2004 (FAONS) Honor” for Flute Performance** — Iran Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2004
- **Austrian Cultural Forum Flute Master Class Certificate**, Tehran, Iran, 2002
- **Austrian Cultural Forum Voice Master Class Certificate**, Tehran, Iran, 2002