



# 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 -  
AUG 2022

### **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 -  
MAY 2022

### **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	<b>Worship Leader   St. Thomas More</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
NOV 2015 - PRESENT	<b>Professional Singer   Phoenix Chorale</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
JUNE 2019 - AUG 2019	<b>Music Director   The Phoenix Theatre Company - Summer Camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
JAN 2016 - OCT 2019	<b>Choir Director   Desert Foothills United Methodist Church</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
JAN 2018 - MAY 2019	<b>Faculty Associate   Arizona State University - Gospel Choir</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
AUG 2014 - MAY 2015	<b>Music Director   State College Area High School - A Cappella Group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>

## PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCES

2023	<b>9 to 5   Judy   Mesa Encore Theatre</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>AriZoni nomination - Best Actress in Leading Role</li></ul> <b>Backup Singer   Michael Bublé</b>
2022	<b>Godspell   Disciple - Learn Your Lessons Well   Arizona State University</b>
2021	<b>Doctoral Recital at Arizona State University</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hour and a half of solo pop, jazz, country, and music theater repertoire, accompanied by Nathan Arch and Dominic Smith</li></ul> <b>Doctoral Recital at Arizona State University</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hour and a half of solo classical and music theater repertoire, accompanied by Nathan Arch</li></ul> <b>Jewish Free Loan Annual Gratitude Gathering   Featured Musician</b> <b>La Casa De Cristo Lutheran Church   Soloist/Section Leader</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Directed by Jennifer Sheldon</li></ul>



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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   <i>Vocal Health in the Choral Classroom</i> Vocal Pedagogy Clinician   Horizon High School   Allison Kluch Guest Artist/Clinician   Shepherd Junior High School   Taryn Tidwell
2022	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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## CONT.

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

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)