

ILAH RALEIGH

QUALIFICATIONS PROFILE

Passionate and talented arts educator, administrator, and trained performer with demonstrated commitment to accessible arts education. Accomplished at inspiring and developing artistic achievement with music and theater students. Respected vocal instructor and coach of pre-professional and professional artists in musical theatre, Contemporary Commercial Music, and Classical music. Outstanding record of preparing students for successful auditions to college-level conservatory programs. Enthusiastic mentor and instructor of students of color. Experienced in managing an array of educational and performance events and complex projects such as recitals, concerts, chamber operas, musicals, competitions, fundraising events, and tours. Background enhanced by a Master of Music in Vocal Performance and an undergraduate degree in Italian Studies. Areas of expertise:

- Charismatic, engaging leader who leads through inspiration, creating a positive, productive work culture, fostering teamwork, building consensus and energizing others to high levels of performance
- Cultivates excellent relationships with prospective and existing participants, staff, and donors
- Creative and resourceful with public relations and marketing
- Adept at finances, budget management, and fundraising
- Generator of an endless supply of innovative, out-of-the-box ideas who excels at designing win-win solutions
- Knowledgeable about financial performance and efficient operation of educational institutions and performing arts organizations
- Exceptional verbal, written, and organizational skills
- Highly motivated and effective in challenging environments
- Multi-lingual: fluent in Italian, intermediate in Spanish and French, basic ability in German

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Perpich Arts High School, Golden Valley, MN

Music Instructor (2018 - Present)

- Instruct student-artists in Music History, Piano, Song Literature, Music Theory, Musicianship, Studio Classes, Lyric Diction, Vocal Pedagogy, Songwriting, Scene Studio, and Ensembles.
- Participate in new equity initiatives addressing disproportionate outcomes in access, achievement, attendance, and behavior for students of color at Perpich Arts High School. Integrates and applies monthly training sessions with consultant Tamika Fuller of Education Reform Enterprises.
- Serve as Performing Arts Faculty Representative at bi-weekly meetings of the Instructional Leadership Team. Discuss decisions that affect the entire community and communicate team decisions and questions to performing arts faculty
- Serve as Music Director for *Sleepy Hollow*, a Spring 2019 student-created musical work based on John Heimbuch and Jon Fergusson's 2009 play the Legend of Sleepy Hollow.
- Served as Music Director for *Gig: the Musical*, a Fall 2018 student-created work based on *Gig: Americans Talk About Their Jobs (2001)* edited by John Bowe, et al.
- Recruit and advise students about "Dare to Be Real" racial equity group, which works to eliminate racism on campus and in their community. Research and help coordinate community service projects and on-campus events, mentor students and foster their exploration of racial identity, leadership, and community activism.
- Plan, design and implement music theory curriculum to meet the needs and learning goals of new students.
- Music directing student-created work such as songs, chamber music, and musicals.
- Coach solo performers and rehearse ensembles in preparation for school and community events.
- Cultivate relationships with arts organizations and recruit local artists and arts educators to speak at student events, present masterclasses, and coach student artists in classroom settings.
- Engage with current and prospective students and parents at Information Sessions and Music Department events.
- Coordinate student performance opportunities in the larger Twin Cities community.
- Mentor students in exploring, applying, and auditioning for post-secondary educational opportunities.
- Coordinate the audition and nomination process for Peabody Conservatory Blue Ribbon Scholarship Awards.
- Redesigned and launched the Perpich Music Department Website and created online appointment scheduling tool for music students.
- Meet weekly with Professional Learning Community of arts and academic faculty to examine and improve our teaching practice using data-driven methods.
- Coordinate, supervise and chaperone masterclasses and arts field trips.
- Collaborate with performing arts and visual arts faculty to create new programs and initiatives.

St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, St. Paul, MN

Dean Counselor (2017- 2018)

- Delivered academic advising to 260 sophomores and seniors at performing arts high school; mentored students, supported their achievement, and guided them in making positive choices related to attendance, behavior, and graduation requirements.
- Advocated for students with teachers and administrators, especially students of color, English Language Learners, students confronting mental and physical health concerns, and students struggling with insecure housing and food.
- Met with parents and students to address questions, crises and concerns, and coordinate school services.
- Reviewed student attendance and grades daily. Monitor students for truancy and risk of academic failure. Communicated and collaborated with students and parents. Filed truancy referrals with the counties where students reside and connected students to community resources.
- Intervened in and investigated concerns about student behavior and implement interventions. Filed mandated reports with child protection services.
- Provided 10-15 group presentations per quarter to staff, students, and parents. Topics included school mission and values, changes to school policies, announcements about community crises, academic advising, and student conduct.
- Mentored teachers struggling with classroom management and relationship building.
- Mediated student-student and student-teacher conflicts. Provided guidance on repairing relationships after conflict.
- Coordinated services for students admitted to inpatient mental health and medical treatment programs. Acted as the point of contact for hospitals, medical professionals, families, the school leadership team, faculty, and staff.
- Participated in weekly administrative team meeting, bi-weekly staff and academic leadership meetings, and weekly Professional Learning Community meetings.
- Served a three-year term as a faculty member of the SPCPA School Board (2016 – present), which includes school board training by the University of St. Thomas. The role of the board includes: oversight of SPCPA school budget of \$7.5 million, charter school building company, decisions about enrollment and facilities management; supervision of the Director of School/Superintendent; approving faculty contracts; listening to and integrating student, faculty and family concerns; and discussion and contributions to creating new school policies. Serve on the long-term planning committee. Serve on interview committees for new board members. Help with recruiting new community and parent board members.

Vocal Arts Department Chair/Lead Teacher (Fall 2018-present) (2014-2017)

- Ensured the department achieved the SPCPA mission, vision and values.
- Restructured the Vocal Arts Department curriculum. Developed new music history curriculum to address the achievement gap of our students of color and better serve the majority female student body. Created Vocal Performance and Singer-Songwriter specializations to address student's educational needs and vocational aspirations.
- Developed a strategic plan to increase enrollment and improve students' college conservatory acceptance rate. Implemented steps include providing individual vocal instruction to 60+ students, creating monthly performance opportunities and developing courses in college preparation and music business. For the first time in the department's history, 2017 graduating seniors were accepted and awarded scholarships to the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Berklee College of Music and Lawrence Conservatory of Music. 2018 seniors have been offered acceptance to the music programs of Howard University, Fisk University, Dillard University, Lawrence Conservatory, and to the Institute of Production and Recording.
- Recruited, hired, and supervised seven departmental instructors, a group of accompanists, and five teenage high school teacher assistants. Created a master schedule of course offerings each year and assigned instructors to courses. Created an annual master accompanist schedule based on the course and events needs of the department.
- Created and submitted an annual department budget and operated the department within budget parameters. Through two successful Donors Choose campaign, secured additional funding for new technology, songbooks and textbooks. Identified and cultivated patrons and donors who support the school's mission, vision and values. Managed the Vocal Arts department annual budget and operated within budget.
- Taught courses in Music History, Piano, Opera & Song Literature, Music Theory, Musicianship, Studio Classes, Lyric Diction, Vocal Pedagogy, Songwriting, Scene Studio, and Ensembles.
- Identified, contacted and cultivated outside artists and institutions for partnering relationships. Coordinated on-campus Masterclasses with Denyce Graves, Craig Irwin, Brian Frutiger, and Jennifer Parker. Began partnering in 2016 with the Peabody Institute on the roll out of their new Blue Ribbon Scholarship for high school students. Began developing partnership with Minnesota Opera's Education Department in 2017.
- Prepared appropriate and engaging solo and ensemble repertoire for classes, student performances and J-Term projects. Conducted J-Term auditions and cast all Vocal Arts students in appropriate J-Term assignments.

- Served as point of contact between SPCPA stakeholders: students, parents, Vocal Arts faculty, administration, community and board members. Coordinated, attended and led all department events including parent nights, performances, field trips, masterclasses, juries, scholarship auditions, parent/guardian conferences and meetings and monthly faculty meetings.
- Initiated a semi-annual departmental newsletter for parents/guardians and students. Contributed to the school's marketing materials.
- Served as a leader within the wider school community. Participated on hiring committees for Academic Director and Dean Counselors. Represented the school at meetings with local entrepreneurs and philanthropists. Selected to serve as the arts faculty school board member.
- Screened new students during "Placement Days" for course enrollment. Directed activities during new student orientations.
- Stage directed Pauline Viardot's *Cendrillon* in 2017. Directed music and coached *Pirates of Penzance* and numerous recitals and concerts.

Classical Vocalist - Self Managed (2000 to present)

- Performed lead roles with Opera Theater of Northern Virginia, Ignoti dei Opera, and Baltimore Municipal Opera Company.
- Resident Artist at Orlando Opera during 2006-2007 season. Performed in mainstage productions and three touring productions. Performed at donor, community and education events. Involved in PR and marketing campaigns.
- Performed in opera ensembles with Washington National Opera, Wolf Trap Opera Theater and Minnesota Opera.
- Performed lead roles in mainstage and opera outreach productions while a student at the Peabody Institute.
- Featured performer in recitals, concerts and scholarship fundraising benefits in Maryland, Florida and Minnesota.
- Negotiated contracts, maintained billing and accounts.
- Coordinated rehearsals, travel and performance schedules and itineraries for auditions and performances.
- Crafted and positioned personal image and brand.
- Designed promotional materials, including website and organized online and real world marketing.

Volare Music Studio - Independent Music Educator and Owner (2000 to 2017)

- Previous contracts include MacPhail Center for Music, Mount Calvary Academy of Music and Schmitt Music in Minneapolis, Minnesota; City of Maitland Parks and Recreation Department, Allegro Music, and Amadeus Music, and St. James Catholic Church in Orlando, Florida; and Traveling Teachers in Washington, D.C. Metro Area.
- Offered high quality, private piano and voice instruction to children and adults in students' homes and a home studio in locations including Baltimore, Washington D.C., Orlando, Fort Lauderdale and the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metro areas.
- Served as the Voice Faculty representative on the MacPhail Faculty Staff Council in 2013-2014.
- Coached students for professional and amateur performances, competitions, tours and college auditions.
- Maintained studio billing and accounts.
- Produced and edited contracts with private Volare Music Studio students. Negotiated contracts with community music schools.
- Designed and launched studio website and created an online presence through advertising and teacher directories.

Peabody Opera Department, Baltimore, Maryland - Opera Outreach Coordinator (2003 – 2005)

- Marketed three student productions that traveled to elementary, junior, and senior high schools, community centers and senior citizen centers in the Baltimore/Washington DC and Greater Maryland area. Completed annual mailings to 800 Maryland and Washington DC schools. Booked more than 20 performances per year which resulted in additional income for the Opera Department.
- Supervised cast and crew on performance tours.
- Served as point of contact between multiple stakeholders: Peabody Institute administrators and faculty, student casts and crew, venue representatives and service vendors. Generated correspondence with booking and venue sites including contracts, cover letters and post-performance thank you letters. Coordinated cast schedules, itineraries and transportation.
- Designed and generated marketing and publicity materials including introductory letter, posters, flyers, and event programs. Revised the teacher training packets and distributed them to booked venues.
- Revised Training Packets for cast, crew and incoming graduate assistants. Conducted bi-annual training of double casts.
- Organized multiple dress rehearsal performances for Baltimore community schools.

TEACHING EXPERTISE

- Vocal Lessons and/or Class Voice to beginning through advanced students
- Piano Lessons and/or Class Piano to beginning through intermediate students
- Vocal Pedagogy (Classical Technique and Contemporary Commercial Technique for Popular Vocal Genres)
- Music Appreciation
- Musicianship
- Music Theory (Classical & Contemporary Commercial Music)
- Basic Composition & Beginning Songwriting
- Lyric Diction: French, Spanish, German, and Italian

- Music History: Opera Literature, History of American Song (studying the influence of Latin, African and European roots music on Contemporary Commercial 20th and 21st century genres), Renegade and Misfits: Women Composers in Western European Art Music, 800 AD-Present.
- Repertoire Courses: English, American and African American songs; French mélodies, Spanish and Latin American canciones, Italian canzoni and arie antiche, African and African American influences on American popular song genres, German Lieder, Operatic Repertoire
- Music Business

LANGUAGES

General Skill Level

Italian: Fluent

French: Proficient

Spanish: Proficient

German: Basic Speaking/Reading

Pronunciation and Lyric Diction

Excellent; Extensive study with native speakers

Excellent; Extensive study with native speakers

Excellent; Extensive study with native speakers

Proficient; Extensive study with native speakers

EDUCATION

University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, MN

Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Learning Program (2018 – present)

- Awarded an Education Leadership Department scholarship, Fall 2018.
- Completed courses in Education Leaders and Learners, Latin American Music, Scholars and Researchers, Foundations in Education, and Visual Methods and Pedagogy.
- Selected to present a poster session 2019 Ethnographic & Qualitative Research Conference. Presentation topic: “I Do Want to Know”: Case Studies of Effective Teachers of Students of Color.

University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, MN

Administrative Degree and K-12 Principal Licensure Program (2017 – present)

- Completed courses: Leadership & Organization Theory, Field Experience I & II: Elementary and High School Internships, Research Design and Analysis.
- Completed fieldwork hours at Glacier Hills Elementary (Eagan, MN), South View Middle School (Edina, MN), and Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists (St. Paul, MN).

Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA

Contemporary Commercial Music Vocal Pedagogy Institute (Summer 2017)

- Completed courses: Session 1: Respiration and Phonation for CCM Singers, Session 2: Resonance and Articulation for CCM Singers

University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, MN

Charter School Board Training (Spring 2016)

- Courses in Oversight of Financial Matters, Board Governance and Oversight of Employment Matters

Credits towards Teaching Licensure, K-12 Vocal Music, 2015

Augsburg University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

- Dean’s List, Fall 2015
- Augsburg University Fall Scholarship, Fall 2015

Master of Music, Vocal Performance

Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

- Awarded the George Castle Memorial Award, 2005
- Opera Outreach Coordinator Graduate Assistantship, 2003-2005

Bachelor of Arts, Italian Studies

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

- Inducted as Member, Phi Beta Kappa Society, Alpha Chapter of Minnesota
- Inducted as Member, Mu Phi Epsilon, Twin Cities Alumni Chapter

Credits toward Bachelor of Arts, Music

Saint Catherine University, Saint Paul, Minnesota

- Awarded an Alexandria Merit Scholarship for Excellence in Academics and the Arts
- Awarded a Maurice Jones Scholarship
- Private Study for two years with Giulietta Simionato in Milan, Italy

SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY TRAINING

White Privilege Conference

The Privilege Institute
Cedar Rapids, IA, March 2019

Equity Training - Monthly Sessions

Education Reform Enterprises, Tamika Fuller
Golden Valley, MN, November 2018-present

Racial Equity Advocate Training

Minnesota Educator Academy: Facing Inequities and Racism in Education
Education Minnesota
St. Paul, MN, 2018-2019

Innocent Classroom: Building Relationships to Close the Achievement Gap

Innocent Technologies
St. Paul, MN, 2015-2016

Governor's Scholar (social change and activism training program)

College of St. Benedict
Collegeville, MN, 1995-1996

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Education Minnesota, Since 2018

National Association of Teachers of Singing, Since 2017

Phi Beta Kappa, Since 2002

Mu Phi Epsilon, Since 2002