

Kirsten Chambers

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EDUCATION

Master of Music - Vocal Performance, *magna cum laude*

Moore School of Music at the University of Houston

Student of Katherine Ciesinski

Intensive German Language Study, AIMS in Graz, Austria

Bachelor of Music – Vocal Performance, *magna cum laude*

Illinois Wesleyan University

Student of Dr. Sam Scifres

Piano Minor

OPERA PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Leonore	<i>Fidelio</i>	St. Petersburg Opera	2023
Marchesa	<i>Un Giorno di Regno</i>	Opera Orlando	2022
Donna Anna	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Indianapolis Opera	2021
Marie _c	<i>Wozzeck</i>	Metropolitan Opera	2019-20
Loreley _x	<i>Loreley</i>	Teatro Grattacielo	2019
Helena	<i>Die Ägyptische Helena</i>	Odyssey Opera	2019
Helmwige _c	<i>Die Walküre</i>	Metropolitan Opera	2019
Mother/Prosecutor	<i>Dreamer</i>	White Snake Projects	2019
Salome	<i>Salome</i>	Florida Grand Opera	2018
Sentax	<i>Der fliegende Holländer</i>	International Opera Festival	2018
Freydis	<i>Far Travelers</i>	Guild Hall	2018
Frau	<i>Erwartung</i>	The Orchestra NOW	2017
The Angel	<i>Angels in America</i>	New York City Opera	2017
Infantin Klara	<i>Der Zwerg</i>	Odyssey Opera	2017
Mrs. Gobineau	<i>The Medium</i>	First Coast Opera	2017
Salome	<i>Salome</i>	Metropolitan Opera	2016
Maria	<i>Friedenstag</i>	American Symphony	2016
Isolde _c	<i>Tristan und Isolde</i>	Metropolitan Opera	2016
Leonore	<i>Fidelio</i>	New Amsterdam Opera	2016
Foreign Princess	<i>Rusalka</i>	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	2015
Elsa	<i>Lohengrin</i>	Opéra de Rennes	2015
Salome	<i>Salome</i>	Opera Hong Kong	2014
Elsa	<i>Lohengrin</i>	Hong Kong Arts Festival	2014
Isoldex	<i>Tristan und Isolde</i>	Hong Kong Philharmonic	2014
Elsax	<i>Lohengrin</i>	Mikhailovsky Theater	2013
Brünnhilde _x	<i>Die Walküre</i>	Orchestra Kentucky	2013
Elsa	<i>Lohengrin</i>	Savonlinna Opera Festival	2013

Elsa	<i>Lohengrin</i>	Oulu Philharmonic	2013
Tosca	<i>Tosca</i>	Martha Cardona Opera	2012
Santuzza	<i>Cavalleria rusticana</i>	Martha Cardona Opera	2012
Nora	<i>Nora</i>	American Opera Projects	2011
Tosca	<i>Tosca</i>	Opera Saratoga	2011
Turandot _c	<i>Turandot</i>	Arizona Opera	2011
Ariadne _c	<i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i>	Toledo Opera	2010
Cio-Cio-San _x	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Opera New Jersey	2010
Eleonora	<i>Prima la musica</i>	Lake George Opera	2009
Drawing Teacher	<i>Paul's Case</i>	American Opera Projects	2009
Mrs. Clayton	<i>Séance on a Wet Afternoon</i>	The Chelsea Symphony	2009
Nedda	<i>I Pagliacci</i>	Bronx Opera	2008
Norma _x	<i>Norma</i>	Opera New Jersey	2008
Ivona	<i>The Hunger Art</i>	Center City Opera Theater	2008

c Denotes Cover

x Denotes Partial Role

REVIEWS

SALOME, METROPOLITAN OPERA

"The performance ended with a standing ovation. Much of it went to debut of Kirsten Chambers, who took over the lead role at the last minute and who offered one of the best and most complete interpretations in decades in the Metropolitan Opera of the impetuous teenager. The soprano, of brilliant timbre, gave life to Salome with naturalness from her first appearance, making the role something fascinating. And she did so in the stylized production of Jürgen Flimm, which since its premiere in 2004 had not had such a convincing Salome."

- Eduardo Brandenburger, Ópera Actual.com

"Kirsten Chambers threw herself entirely into this impulsive character...her singing was marked by a fiery timbre and high notes that had both steely focus and shimmery luster...her confrontational duet with Jochanaan and the destructive final scene -- she offered a psychologically detailed approach. 'Dance of the Seven Veils' was handled with nuance and oozed sexuality, making hearts race."

- Christopher Browner, Classical Source Magazine

SALOME, FLORIDA GRAND OPERA

"Pennsylvania soprano Kirsten Chambers is tall, svelte, and drop-dead movie star gorgeous. More to the point, she has training as a dancer, extraordinary musicianship and a voluminous penetrating voice that can ride the mammoth orchestral sound and sound as fresh at the end as in her first lines. It's no surprise that she was hired as a cover (understudy) for Isolde at the Met in 2016, as well as for Salome. And when the scheduled singer became ill, Chambers made her unexpected debut on less than a half-day's notice. Salome is a killer role, but this splendid artist was vocally and physically fearless. She dominated the proceedings, and performed the dance with agility and allure – along with the now-obligatory flash of full frontal at the end. In her central confrontation with the tangibly imposing, sonically stentorian Jochanaan of Mark Delavan, Chambers was up close and personal, hardly wincing at the prophet's vicious rejections. Her voice rang out in the upper range, projected reasonably well in the middle, then took on an appropriately sinister timbre in the very low excursions that pepper her maniacal final scene solo with the severed head.

In Salome's final excruciatingly high vocal line, a point where many singers weaken and rush through, this imperturbable soprano looked straight at the conductor as together they drew out the top notes with seemingly endless stamina and exultation."
- Robert Croan, Palm Beach Arts Paper

"From her first entrance Chambers proved a Salome to be reckoned with. She brought movie-star glamour and a sense of cunning to the princess's every move. Chambers is a terrific singing actress, and even when she stood perfectly still on stage, she commanded attention. She was lively and vivacious at her first entrance. This Salome was downright flirtatious toward Jochanaan when he emerged from the cistern and seemed bewildered by his rejection and denouncement, reaching out to him as he returned to his prison. She became a tigress as she intoned the phrase "Give me the head of Jochanaan" to Herod with ever more rage. Chambers' vocal range easily encompassed the role's demands, and her bright sound carried easily over Strauss's orchestra at full force with high notes that ring like steel. She reveled in the long phrases, bringing finely varied dynamics and vocal coloring to her exchanges with Herod. Chambers made the psychodrama of the final scene compelling as Salome embraces the severed head of the prophet in this solo tour de force."
- Lawrence Budmen, South Florida Classical Review

ERWARTUNG, THE ORCHESTRA NOW

"Ms. Chambers's bright lyric soprano lent fragile innocence to her portrayal of the desperate Woman."
- Anthony Tommasini, New York Times

"Ms. Chambers tackled this complex and difficult role with total commitment, spending the voice freely and rising up to some bright, sustained high notes. In the more conversational passages, she found appropriate word colours, and everything she sang had an intense quality that gave her singing a sense of urgency. I should like to hear her as Marie in WOZZECK and also as Cassandra in LES TROYENS."
- Oberon's Grove

"Ms. Chambers, besides essaying the so taxing role, beautifully enunciated and phrased, gave totally of her hands, her body, her eyes. Her voice, utterly beautiful...gave the part the vulnerability so essential to the role. Plus, she gave, in other words, all the drama necessary for the piece to have its ultimate strength."
- Harry Rolnick, ConcertoNet.com

ANGELS IN AMERICA - NEW YORK CITY OPERA

"The most distinctive scenes are those involving the titular Angel (Kirsten Chambers)....these passages are heralding and cataclysmic. Chambers drove home the celestial import with her arresting, gleaming soprano, also adding an insouciant touch of self-mocking at her own vocal pyrotechnics."
- Joshua Rosenblum, Opera News

"Kirsten Chambers was compelling in the Angel's Straussian dramatic soprano explosions, and she looked like Karita Mattila in a flowing white trouser suit by Kaye Voyce."
- Heidi Waleson, The Wall Street Journal

"Kirsten Chambers flung out the high-lying declamation of the Angel with easy aplomb, and, in one of the production's few moments of wit, does a striking visual

imitation of the young Karita Mattila. (Man, could we have used a diva with that kind of pizzazz back in the dark days of 1985!)"

- James Jorden, New York Observer

"The most naturally operatic character in the play is the eccentric angel who appears to Prior, and Kirsten Chambers digs into her swooping, penetrating pronouncements."

- Zachary Woolfe, The New York Times

"Kirsten Chambers, all in white, sings brightly, even exquisitely, with a perfect fusion of purity and passion."

- Martin Bernheimer, Financial Times

LOHENGRIN, OPÉRA DE RENNES

"Kirsten Chambers is a delicious Elsa, with an ecstatic smile; the legato is beautiful with radiant high notes."

- Jean-Marc Proust, Opéra Magazine

"Kirsten Chambers possesses the assets needed to incarnate the ideal Elsa. She is young and beautiful with a power behind her voice she knows when to use and a great sense of stagecraft....the emotion her passionate interpretation generates. We accompany her in her suffering and her doubts all along the performance. She experiences an authentic moment of glory whilst trying out the wedding dress. It is a true scene of apotheosis in which the entire audience experiences a moment of vocal ecstasy."

-Thierry Martin, Unidivers.Fr

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Private Teaching:

School of Music, West Texas A&M University

Fall 2020

Guest Voice Teacher

- Instructed a studio of 18 applied voice, undergraduate and graduate level courses for Vocal Performance, Music Theater, Music Education, and Music Therapy majors and minors; weekly private voice instruction on healthy vocal production and appropriate application to vocal repertoire
- Equipped singers to perform repertoire for juries, recitals, NATS, and opera/musical theater auditions
- Developed breath control, support, and correct muscular interaction of the vocal registers, to produce free vocal function that projects clear text

International Summer Opera Festival

Summers 2018-2023

Morelia, Mexico

Voice Teacher / Masterclass Technician

- Instructed private lessons to 15 young artists and 50 opera studio members in a safe and challenging environment
- Equipped singers to perform in fully staged opera productions with orchestra
- Coached artists on style, musicianship, and diction while promoting healthy vocal habits to perform in semi-weekly area venues and gala concert with full orchestra
- Taught weekly masterclasses

Vienna Summer Music Festival

Summers 2021-2023

Vienna, Austria and St. Petersburg, Florida

- Instructed 60 private lessons to university aged singers and young artists
- Equipped singers to perform in fully staged opera productions with orchestra
- Taught weekly masterclasses
- Led classes on the Business of Singing

Monterrey Summer Opera Academy

Summer 2023

Monterrey, Mexico

- Teaching 20 hours of private lessons to university aged singers and young artists
- Presenting 1 public masterclass
- Adjudication a mock audition with Dolora Zajick
- Performing as guest soloist in an aria concert with orchestra

Voice Teacher - Self Employed

2003-present

- Arm students with knowledge of vocal technique, musicianship, and performance
- Employ a systematic approach to vocal technique which communicates concrete concepts to produce free vocal function
- Provide a safe haven for vocal exploration, growth, and expression
- Promote healthy vocal habits and practices
- Maintain a studio of 65 voice students
- Hold yearly voice recitals

Graduate Teaching Associate - University of Illinois - Champaign, IL 1997-1998

- Assisted in teaching group voice class of 25 undergraduate non-music majors
- Taught 10 selected undergraduate non-music major students private voice
- Organized recitals for students in both class and private voice

Classroom Teaching:**School of Music, West Texas A&M University**

Fall 2020

Stagecraft Course - Guest Professor

- Presented Stagecraft to 10 singers in an undergraduate level course; lecturing on topics related to focus, gesture, and footwork as applied to operatic performance and practical application of these concepts

School of Music, West Texas A&M University

Fall 2020

Studio Class - Guest Voice Teacher

- Taught weekly studio class to all 18 members of voice studio, in which students perform individual repertoire for the class and discuss performance strategies, vocal technique, diction, interpretation

Opera New Jersey – Princeton, NJ

2007-2009

Opera Education Teacher/Young Artist

- Taught music and stage direction for interactive opera performance
- Nurtured confidence, concentration, and stage presence

Shreveport Opera – Shreveport, LA

2006-2007

Opera Education Teacher/Young Artist

- Educated students about different jobs in producing opera and music vocabulary
- Led students in exploring opera through theater games and improvisation
- Taught music and stage direction for interactive opera performance

Class Voice Teacher – Moore After-School Program - Moore, OK 2005-2006

- Teach basic vocal technique and musicianship skills for students grades 4-5
- Assign age-appropriate songs
- Nurture confidence, concentration, and stage presence
- Provide recital at the end of every semester

Adjunct Professor – Oklahoma City Community College 2005-2006

- Teach Music Appreciation, a college course, to students at the NE Academy
- Emphasize vocabulary necessary to communicate about different elements in music
- Identify composers and major compositions related to art periods in Western classical music
- Develop aural comprehension related to elements of music
- Encourage a student's sensitivity to particular kinds of music

Teacher - Southampton School - Houston, TX 2003 summer

- Organized Montessori work centers and schedules
- Assisted lead morning teacher with daily summer theme related lesson plans in all subject areas
- Provided afternoon music lesson plans for grades 4-5
- Led students in composing lyrics and music for rock opera performances

Program Director - Naperville Area YMCA - Naperville, IL 1998-1999

- Supervised grades K-5 in before & after school and summer programs
- Provided music lessons plans for grades K-5
- Created schedule, lesson plans, and activity instructions for Site Directors
- Managed Site Directors and Assistant Counselor responsibilities

Class Voice Teacher - University of Illinois - Champaign, IL 1997-1998

- Assisted in teaching group voice class of undergraduate non-music majors
- Taught selected undergraduate non-music major students private voice
- Organized recitals for students in both class and private voice

Music Counselor - Pittsburgh Center for the Arts - Pittsburgh, PA 1993-1997

- Supervised grades Pre-K-5 in summer arts programs
- Directed morning sing-a-longs for ages 4-5
- Assisted in opera workshop classes and performances

Masterclass Teaching:

Baldwin Wallace University

French Diction Masterclass

TBA

Queens College – Queens, NY

Vocal Techniques Masterclass

TBA

Ensemble NYC – Online Joint Masterclass - Audition Tips for Pianists and Vocalists	TBA
University of Maryland – College Park, MD Private Lessons & Masterclass	2023
Weber State University – Ogden, Utah Masterclass with Ta’u Pupu’a, Tenor	2022
Vincerò – Online Role Study with International Opera Stars Private Lessons & Masterclasses	2021-2022
Julliard – Evening Division Composers Joint Masterclass - from the technical to conductor's perspective	2021
Atelier d’Excellence – Online International Career Consultant Verismo Masterclasses German Repertory Joint Masterclass -	2020
Butler University – Indianapolis, IN Vocal Techniques Masterclass	2020
Indianapolis Opera – Indianapolis, IN Vocal Techniques Masterclasses	2020
International Summer Opera Festival of Morelia, Mexico Vocal Techniques Masterclasses	2018-2020
University of Toledo – Toledo, OH Vocal Techniques Masterclass	2018
Northwestern State University – Natchitoches, LA Recital & Music Business Masterclass	2009, 2015
University of Central Oklahoma – Edmond, OK Opera Acting Masterclass	2006

Adjudicating Experience:

- **Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition – NY, NY** 2019 & 2022-23
- **Vienna Summer Music Festival Competition –** 2017, 2019, 2022-23
- **Monterrey Summer Opera Academy – International Online** 2022
- **Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition – NY, NY** 2019 & 2022-23
- **Classical Singer Competition – Chicago, IL** Cancelled due to Covid
- **Competition “Prix Atelier d’Excellence” – International Online** 2020
- **SOX Idol – Shreveport Opera Shreveport, LA** 2007

Podcasts and Webinars

- **“Mindful Singing”** 2020
Radford University with Denise Ritter
- **“Dramatic Voice Webinar”** 2020
Atelier d’Excellence with Maria Zoi
- **“Opera Biz Podcast”** 2018
Opera Biz Podcast with Daniel Welch
- **“5 Pros Tips for a Great Audition Video”** 2017
The Beard and Lens with Daniel Welch
- **“The Inner Experience of the Artist”** 2017
Sexi Soprano Webinar

Recital Experience

<i>Guest Artist</i> Opera Recital	University of Maryland	2023
<i>Guest Artist</i> Bel Canto Concert	St. Petersburg Opera	2023
<i>Guest Artist</i> Opera Recital	Chaminade Music Club	2022
<i>Guest Artist</i> Opera Orchestra Concert	Ogden Orchestra	2022
<i>Guest Artist</i> Bel Canto Concert	Maestra Eve Queler	2022
<i>Guest Artist</i> Verismo Concert	St Petersburg Opera	2022
<i>Guest Artist</i> Brünnhilde’s Immolation Scene	University of Houston	2022
<i>Guest Artist</i> “A Life Made in Music”	Permian Basin Opera	2021
<i>Guest Artist</i> Verismo Concert	Opera at Florham	2021
<i>Guest Artist</i> Verdi Concert	Opera Orlando	2021
<i>Guest Artist</i> At the Players	New Amsterdam Opera	2021

<i>Guest Artist</i>	Songs by Women Composers	2019
Selections from Silver, Strozzi, Wallach		
<i>Guest Artist</i>	Carnegie Hall – WorldKrystal	2019
Selections from Leiser, Silver, Sosa		
<i>Concierto de Gala</i>	International Summer Opera Festival	2018
Selections from Wagner’s Der Fliegende Holländer, Die Walküre		
<i>Guest Artist</i>	Bluegrass Opera & Music Theatre	2018
Selections from Puccini, Wagner		
<i>Guest Artist</i>	New York Opera Alliance	2018
Selections from Leoncavallo’s Pagliacci		
<i>A Night of Opera</i>	Patron Concert	2018
Selections from Previn, Puccini’s Turandot, Strauss		
<i>Great Performances</i>	Toledo Museum of Art - GlasSalon	2018
Selections from Dvoraák, Previn, Puccini, Schönberg, Strauss		
<i>Most Haunting Melodies</i>	First Coast Opera	2017
Selections from Donizetti, Gounod, Offenbach, Puccini		
<i>Comfort Ye</i>	Concert to Benefit NYC Homeless	2017
Selections for Wagner’s “Tristan und Isolde”		
<i>Come into the Leit</i>	New Amsterdam Opera	2017
Selections from Wagner’s “Tristan und Isolde”		
<i>Comfort Ye</i>	Concert to Benefit NYC Homeless	2016
Selections for Wagner’s “Tristan und Isolde”		
<i>Opera Gala</i>	New Amsterdam Opera	2016
Selections from Strauss’ “Der Rosenkavalier”		
<i>First Night Saratoga</i>	Opera Saratoga	2012
Music of Loewe, Mozart, Puccini, Rodgers, Wagner		
<i>Opera at Ten Broeck Mansion</i>	Opera Saratoga	2012
Music of Puccini, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Sondheim, Wagner		
<i>An Autumn Romance</i>	Resonanz Foundation	2012
Selections from Verdi’s “Macbeth” and “Otello”		
<i>The Otello Salon</i>	Martha Cardona Opera	2011
Music of Puccini, Strauss, Wagner		
<i>Opera in the Gardens</i>	Opera New Jersey	2010
Music of Bernstein, Loesser, Puccini, Rodgers & Hammerstein		

Guest Artist Recital **Northwestern State University** 2009
Music of Bizet, Floyd, Leoncavallo, Loesser, Rodgers, J. Strauss, R. Strauss, Verdi

Much Ado About Mozart **Opera Saratoga** 2009
Concert Aria K. 369, Selections from Don Giovanni, The Impresario

Young Artist Recitals **Opera New Jersey** 2009
Music of Lerner & Loewe, Loesser, Offenbach, Puccini, Rodgers & Hammerstein,
Verdi

Church Choir & Conducting Experience:

Staff Singer (Sub) – Madison Avenue Baptist Church – NYC 2018-2020

- One soloist on a part
- Must have excellent ability to sight read

Guest Ensemble – American Lyric Theater – NYC 2009

- Sight read new operas as part of a composer librettist development program

Staff Singer – First Presbyterian Church - Norman, OK 2005-2006

- Help lead the soprano section for the choir
- Serve as soprano soloist

Staff Singer - West University Baptist Church - Houston, TX 2004-2005

- Served as an offertory, concert, and oratorio soloist
- Led the soprano section for the choir
- Sang second soprano for advanced resident vocal ensemble, *Brothers and Sisters in Christ*
- Assisted with Kinder Choir rehearsals

Kinder Choir Director - First Presbyterian Church - Houston, TX 2003-2004

- Planned one-hour lesson plan for weekly rehearsals & holiday programs
- Rehearsal schedule began with vocal warm-ups prior to musical rehearsal of traditional hymns and praise songs, musical games taught emphasized music theory fundamentals, sight singing, listening, and movement
- Conducted when choir sang, once every other month at offertory service
- Supervised after hour play for choir children ages 4-10

Staff Singer - St. Mark's United Methodist Church - Houston, TX 2001-2003

- Served as an offertory, concert, and oratorio soloist
- Led the soprano section for the choir
- Performed liturgical and non-liturgical themed recitals
- Conducted soprano sectionals and warm-ups during rehearsals

Asst. Choir Director - Wesley United Methodist – Naperville, IL 1999-2000

- Assisted adult and youth choir director with warm-ups and rehearsals
- Conducted Youth Choir during all choir sings
- Conducted both adult and youth choir with orchestra for special service
- Accompanied youth musicals on keyboard
- Gave private voice lessons to youth

- Choir Director** - Evangelical United Methodist – Bloomington, IL 1995-1997
- Planned all aspects of music for the worship services including: leading and choosing hymns and special music
 - Led weekly rehearsals
 - Conducted the choir during Sunday worship service and for special events
 - Arranged music for performance in worship

Music Administrative Experience:

- Graduate Music Office TA** - University of Houston - Houston, TX 2001-2003
- Managed administrative duties
 - Advised students on degree plans
 - Recruited new students and assisted with coordination of auditions and events
 - Interviewed prospective undergraduate and graduate students
 - Conducted intensive research for Dean on curriculum revision and student statistics
 - Graded papers for non-music major education classes
 - Trained new advisor

- Music Office TA** - Piano Preparatory Dept. - Bloomington, IL 1994-1997
- Handled all administrative duties
 - Maintained large parent database
 - Supervised group piano classes
 - Recruited and trained new staff

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Languages Sung: Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish

Languages Spoken: English, German

Languages Studied: French, German, Italian

Private Music Theory Tutor (University of Houston, University of Illinois)

Acting Classes (Carnegie Mellon, Illinois Wesleyan University)

Dance: Ballet, Ballroom, Flamenco, Irish Step, Jazz, Modern Dance, Musical Theatre, and Tap

HONORS & AWARDS

- Moores School of Music Awards: Tuition Waiver with Teaching Assistant Fellowship
- University of Illinois Music Awards: Tuition Waiver with Voice TA Stipend
- Sigma Alpha Iota Awards: College of Honor Award, Sword of Honor, Scholastic Certificate, Patroness Scholarship
- Illinois Wesleyan School of Music Awards: David T. Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund, Harriet Rust Scholarship Recipient, Music Talent Award

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- AGMA: American Guild of Musical Artists
- Alpha Lambda Delta: National Scholastic Honor Society
- American Choral Directors Association, *Chapter President*: National Society for Choral Directors
- DictionBuddy: Ambassador

- EGAS: Scholastic Service Organization
- Phi Kappa Phi: National Scholastic Honor and Character Society
- Resonance: Featured Singer & Voice Teacher
- Sigma Alpha Iota, *Rush Chair*: National Professional Music Fraternity for Women

REFERENCES

Vincent Connor – Artistic Director
Vienna Summer Music Festival
Relationship: Employer
(407) 383-8445
vincenzoconnor@gmail.com

Juan del Bosco – Founder
International Summer Opera Festival of Morelia, Mexico
Relationship: Employer
(347) 791-7704
Juandelbosco.tenor@gmail.com

Mary Pinto – Vocal Coach
Montclair State University
Relationship: Colleague
(201) 321-0468
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