

LAURA ZAHN

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EXPERIENCE

UPTOWN KNAUER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

03/2025 – present

West Chester, PA // *Voice Teacher*

- Successfully prepare students for auditions
- Work with students to finesse music for upcoming roles and concerts
- Train students primarily pursuing musical theater in classical vocal technique, expanding vocal range and breath support
- Help students understand how to effectively use different vocal registrations and placements available to achieve the sound and color appropriate for the song/character
- Teach a belt that is rooted in healthy chest voice and a mix that comes from a comfortable head voice
- Help students choose repertoire that best shows their unique vocal timbre and capabilities
- Schedule and track payments for all 10+ students

PRIVATE STUDIO

09/2012 – present

Various (currently West Chester, PA) // *Voice and Beginning Violin Teacher*

- Consistently maintain a studio of 5-10 voice and beginning violin students
- Work with the students' unique interests to help them achieve their goals (students have successfully auditioned for District and Regional Choirs, principal roles in professional companies, College Music Programs and international touring choirs)
- Draw upon my experience as a classically trained singer who has applied that technique to different genres of singing to help each student improve in their chosen style.
- Train violin students through Suzuki Book 2 using a modified method that combines the ear training benefits of the Suzuki Method with early music theory
- Promote studio on social media, in local Facebook groups and nearby schools to procure new students
- Work with parents to develop a schedule that best fits all students' availability
- Collect and track all payments.

OPERA ORLANDO

01/2022 – 05/2022

Orlando, FL // *Educational Outreach/Mezzo-Soprano*

- Toured local High Schools as part of Resident Artist contract
- Sang a demonstration for each group of students
- Answered questions about singing and the opera business
- Worked with select students in performing arts schools in a masterclass format to help them improve their technique in and approach to a song

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

08/2017 – 05/2019

West Chester, PA // *Teacher's Aide*

- Assisted teachers with extra help in the classroom
- Worked one-on-one with special needs children to assist them in learning new concepts
- Kept students on task throughout the day, led them to activities, and disciplined if necessary
- Helped students meet goals listed in personal IEP

THE NELLY BERMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

08/2010 – 08/2012

Haverford, PA // *Voice and Musikgarten Teacher*

- Taught vocal technique grounded in classical training
- Introduced students to new repertoire suitable for their vocal ability and goals.
- Prepared students for performance opportunities, including the annual school concert
- Students successfully auditioned for universities, recorded various projects, and performed lead roles in productions at the Kimmel Center, Media Theater, and Bristol Riverside Theatre
- Performed in faculty recitals and outreach programs
- Completed course to become certified Musikgarten teacher
- Developed the Musikgarten curriculum for the year
- Ran two Musikgarten group classes weekly
- Taught children ages 2-6 foundational music concepts through song, stories, and movement.

THE NELLY BERMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

08/2010 – 08/2012

Haverford, PA // *Executive Administrator*

- Scheduled 300 students with the school's 35 teachers each semester
- Worked personally with all 300 students and their families on all scheduling issues, accounts receivable, special events, and competitions
- Auditioned new students and placed with appropriate teachers
- Procured new teachers for the school as needed
- Increased the visibility of the school within the community
 - Created promotional materials for all special school events, including competitions, auctions, and concerts
 - Placed radio and news advertisements
 - Wrote and published all school materials, including a monthly newsletter
 - Updated school website with new calendar information and relevant articles using Wordpress
 - Organized fundraisers to benefit the school's nonprofit organization, the NBS Classical Music Institute, Inc.

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Role Highlights

- Maddalena / *Rigoletto* / Indianapolis Opera / 2025
- Carmen / *Carmen* / New West Symphony / 2025
- Dalila (cvr) / *Samson et Dalila* / St. Pete Opera / 2024
- Zita / Gianni Schicchi / Bel Cantanti Opera / 2024
- Santuzza / *Cavalleria Rusticana* / Seton Hall Classical Concert Series / 2023
- Secretary / *The Consul* / Angels Vocal Arts / 2023
- Siebel-Marthe Schwerlein / *Faust* / Opera Baltimore / 2023
- Mamma Lucia / *Cavalleria Rusticana* / Festival of the Atlantic / 2023
- Romeo *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* / Bel Cantanti Opera / 2022
- Marguerite / *La dame blanche* / New Amsterdam Opera / 2022
- Giulietta di Kelbar / *Un giorno di regno* / Opera Orlando / 2022
- Eboli / *Don Carlo* / Festival of the Aegean / 2021 (*production canceled*)
- La Frugola / *Il tabarro* / Angels Vocal Art / 2019
- Dorabella / *Così fan tutte* / Light Opera of New Jersey / 2019
- The Mother / *Amahl and the Night Visitors* / Shakespeare Opera Theater / 2018
- Flora Bervoix / *La traviata* / Pacific Opera Project / 2018

Concert Highlights

- Alto Soloist / Beethoven's 9th / Emory Symphony / 2025
- Mezzo-Soprano Soloist / Sea Pictures / Adelphi Orchestra / 2025
- Alto Soloist / Honegger's King David / Ocean Grove CMA / 2025
- Alto Soloist / Dvorak Stabat Mater / Putnam Chorale / 2025
- Alto Soloist / Handel's Messiah / SMCM Chamber Singers / 2024
- Mezzo-Soprano Soloist / Verdi's Requiem / Emory Symphony / 2024

Competitions and Awards

- Olga Forrai Foundation Role Study Grant / Grantee / 2024
- John Alexander National Vocal Competition - Opera Mississippi / Finalist / 2021
- Premiere Opera Foundation & NYIOP International Vocal Competition / Semi-Finalist / 2020
- Mildred Miller International Voice Competition / Semi-Finalist / 2017

Non-classical Performance Experience

- Studio musician in Los Angeles, CA / 2016-2018
 - Recorded a series of string and classical voice pads that producers could purchase for their productions
 - Provided background vocals and additional instrumentals to indie artist tracks (including Akon, The Symphony, Soul Veggies, Merlot Embargo, Mega Ran)
- Studio musician in Philadelphia, PA / 2011-2014
 - Recorded various background vocals and string parts for local indie projects (including Philadelphia Slick, O'hene, Ronnie Spector's Christmas album)
- Vocalist and violinist for the band Mechanical Minds in Philadelphia, PA / 2010-2013
 - Replaced the band's original vocalist and provided live violin when the production called for it
 - Performed in two tours across the Eastern seaboard
 - Performed in SXSW in 2012 with the artist Mega Ran

EDUCATION

THE BOSTON CONSERVATORY

Masters of Music in Voice Performance

2014 – 2016

INDIANA UNIVERSITY JSOM

Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance

2005 – 2010

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of the Arts in International Studies

2005 – 2010

IES ABROAD/VIENNA CONSERVATORY

BM Voice Performance Study Abroad

2008 – 2008

A Fall semester study abroad program conducted through IES Abroad in partnership with the Vienna Conservatory