



**The Druid City Opera Workshop  
at The University of Alabama  
School of Music, Moody Music Building  
and Bryant-Jordan Hall**

**Sponsored by the UA Opera Theatre, Paul Houghtaling, director**

**May 22-30, 2019**

**2019 Faculty Artists**

Prof. Stacy Alley – choreographer and dance instructor (UA Dept. of Theatre & Dance)

Dr. Taylor Burkhardt – collaborative pianist intern (DMA, University of Minnesota)

Dr. Kevin T. Chance – pianist and vocal coach (UA)

Dr. Alexis Davis-Hazell – mezzo-soprano, mezzo class (UA)

Ms. Marisa De Silva – stage directing intern (Loyola Marymount University; DMA Candidate,  
University of Southern California)

Mr. José Israel García – stage directing intern (BM, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)

Ms. Katie Hahn – stage directing intern (MFA, Texas Tech University)

Dr. Paul Houghtaling – bass-baritone, producer, master class, business of opera (UA)

Prof. Amanda Johnston – pianist and vocal coach, master class in German diction  
(University of Mississippi)

Dr. Christy Lee – coach/conductor, audition panelist (Mississippi State University)

Dr. Linda Lister – soprano, stage director, Yoga for Singers (University of Nevada Las Vegas)

Mr. Andrew Livingston – improvisation specialist; stage combat assistant (UA Alum; Second City  
Improv Program, Chicago)

Dr. Richard Masters – pianist and vocal coach (Virginia Tech)

Ms. Ann Marie Meeker – assistant choreographer and dance instructor  
(UA Dept. of Theatre & Dance)

Dr. Dawn Neely – soprano, stage director, acting for singers (University of West Georgia)

Prof. David Ronis – tenor, stage director, acting for singers, tenor class  
(University of Wisconsin, Madison)

Dr. David Tayloe – tenor, audition panelist, tenor class (UA)

Mr. Matthew von Redlich – stage combat instructor, Society for American Fight Directors (SAFD)

Dr. Susan Williams – soprano, master class, soprano class (UA)

Ms. Esme Wong – collaborative pianist intern (MM, University of North Texas)

## **2019 Administrative Assistants**

Dr. Garrett Torbert, Druid City Alum, 2016, DMA, UA

Mr. Christopher Withrow, Druid City Alum, 2016, DMA candidate, UA

## **2019 Participating Young Artists**

### **SOPRANOS**

Alexandra Backfisch, Mercer University, Georgia

Shannon Bean, West Virginia University

Yuliia Billa, Tchaikovsky National Music Academy of Ukraine, Kiev

Stella Broussard, University of Alabama in Huntsville

Hannah Jackson, Utah State University

Madeline Jolley, University of Mississippi

Julie Knight, Murray State University, Kentucky

Emily Lavelle, College of the Ozarks, Missouri

Taylor Lee, Northwest University, Washington

Madeline Mazzotta, Binghamton University

Mikayla Trenhaile, University of South Dakota

### **MEZZO SOPRANOS**

Jada Foster, University of Alabama

Vanessa Moya, Stetson University, Florida

Angel Sneed, University of West Georgia

### **TENORS**

Tyler Cook, Augusta University, Georgia

Quaine Hogan, Arkansas State University

Brian Ingalsbe, Kansas State University

Thai Johnson, Columbus State University, Georgia

### **BARITONES/BASS-BARITONES**

Kyle Chastulik, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Evan Fleming, Montclair State University

Casey Robichaux, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

Matthew Tyree, Troy University, Alabama

Ontario Williams, August University, Georgia

## **CLASS, WORKSHOP, AND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

Some room locations are still TBA. The exact rehearsal schedule (which scenes are called when, music or staging, etc.) will be posted daily. Most classes are in the Choral Opera Room of the Moody Music Building, but a few are in other locations, as noted.

## **COLLABORATIVE PIANIST INTERN SCHEDULE**

Ms. Wong and Dr. Burkhardt

Dr. Chance, Prof. Johnston, Dr. Masters

Starting on **Thursday, May 23 and through Tuesday, May 28**, (excluding Sunday) a daily schedule of collaborative coachings and meetings/informal discussions will occur from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Collaborative pianist interns will coach their assigned repertoire with one or more of the three principal coaches and are welcome and encouraged to sit in on any additional rehearsals to which they are not directly assigned, time permitting. Pianist interns are also welcome to sit in on, or participate in, all classes for the singers as well, and are encouraged to attend the master classes in which they do not have playing duties.

## **STAGE DIRECTING INTERN SCHEDULE**

Ms. De Silva, Mr. García, Ms. Hahn

Dr. Lister, Dr. Neely, and Prof. Ronis

In addition to the dedicated sessions listed below, stage directing interns will have opportunities for more informal discussions and gatherings with each of the directors, perhaps over lunch or between rehearsals.

Stage directing interns will attend the four acting classes taught by Prof. Ronis and Dr. Neely, as either observers or participants, depending on the class needs, and are welcome to participate in other classes for the singers as well, time permitting.

Stage directing interns should plan to attend the lunch sessions in which Social Media is discussed, but are welcome to sit in on any other lunch session if not required to be with a director or in preparation. The information and topics discussed in the lunch sessions are pertinent to those pursuing a teaching career which will involve the training of young singers as well.

## **COACHING SCHEDULE FOR SINGERS**

Singers will be scheduled for two private coachings with a member of the coaching faculty during the course of the Druid City program based around the class and rehearsal schedule. That schedule will be compiled and posted daily once the daily rehearsal schedule is in place.

**WEDNESDAY, May 22 –**

- Various times      Arrival, airport and bus pickups, dorm check-ins.  
Welcome to Tuscaloosa!
- 7:30                      Reception and opening Meet-and-Greet for all young artists and  
faculty who are in town (some faculty arrive later); tour of facilities,  
orientation. There will be food and drink, so no need for a big  
dinner before.

**THURSDAY, May 23 –**

9:00-10:15	<i>Dance Technique I: Jazz</i>	Prof. Alley and Ms. Meeker
	This will be a class focusing on jazz technique emphasizing work in correct body alignment, improvisation, flexibility, and strengthening exercises.	
10:25-11:25	<i>Stage Combat I: It's Time for Fussing and Fighting My Friend</i>	Mr. von Redlich
	Introduction to Stage Combat techniques including proper warm-ups, slaps, punches, kicks, and falls—the most common combat skills every actor needs.	
10:20-11:20	<i>Stage Directing Interns I: The Process of the Director</i>	Dr. Neely Room 176
	How does the director begin? The “P” word for a director ... preparation! What type of director are YOU? What's your directing <i>style</i> ? What will you bring to the process?	
	Ms. De Silva, Mr. García, Ms. Hahn	
11:35-12:50	<i>Acting for Singers I: Michael Chekhov Technique for Singers – Part 1</i>	Prof. Ronis
	This session will introduce Michael Chekhov's psycho-physical acting technique using exercises that develop the actor's concentration, imagination, and mind/heart/body connection.	
12:55-2:00	LUNCH – provided for singers and interns!	Dr. Houghtaling Room 176
	During lunch periods, discussions will take place on <i>The Business of Singing</i> – résumés, headshots, websites, recordings, networking ... singing is our BUSINESS !!!	
2:15-3:45	Rehearsals and coachings TBA Musical rehearsals for assigned scenes	All coach/pianists (stage directors welcome)
	Precise schedules of rehearsals and coachings will be posted daily.	

4:00-5:30

*Class-Lecture Presentation – Master Class*  
*From the Top: Practice Makes Perfect*

Dr. Masters

In this session, Dr. Masters will walk you through every step of successfully preparing your music, from purchasing a score to taking full advantage of your private coachings/lessons. With these tips, you will feel more confident in tackling new music from Bellini to Boulez.

5:30-7:00

DINNER BREAK – Dinner on your own

7:00-10:00

Rehearsals and coachings TBA  
Musical rehearsals for assigned scenes

All coach/pianists  
(stage directors welcome)

Precise schedules of rehearsals and coachings will be posted daily.

**FRIDAY, May 24 –**

- 9:00-10:15                      *Yoga for Singers I:  
Asanas for Alignment and Enlivenment*                      Dr. Lister
- Stage director and soprano Dr. Linda Lister offers the first of two yoga classes designed especially with singers in mind. Those new to yoga will fall in love with what it can do for your mind and body, your breathing and your nerves, and your comfort on stage. These classes are based on Dr. Lister's acclaimed book *Yoga for Singers: Freeing Your Voice and Spirit Through Yoga*
- 10:25-11:30                      *Stage Combat II:  
Weapons 101: Sharpen Your Skills*                      Mr. von Redlich
- This session is an introduction to effective sword work including foot work, defense, and attacks. Skills from Session I will also be reviewed. Rehearsals begin for combat scenes.
- 10:20-11:20                      *Stage Directing Interns II:  
Communication and the Director*                      Dr. Lister  
Room 176
- The Director is the great communicator. In this session we will discuss best (or different) ways to communicate with Conductors, Designers, Performers, Producers ... helping you get your vision on the stage.
- Ms. De Silva, Mr. García, Ms. Hahn
- 11:40-12:50                      *Acting for Singers II:  
Improvisation to free the body and speaking voice*                      Dr. Neely
- Improvisation is not just about games. It's about freeing up the mind to allow for more creative choices and instincts. In this session, we'll explore improvisational exercises that focus on the body and then speaking/dialogue. Remember the answer is "yes and...!"
- 1:00-2:00                      LUNCH – provided for singers and interns!                      Dr. Houghtaling  
Room 176
- More Business of Singing*  
Headshots and bios

2:10-3:45	Rehearsals and coachings TBA Musical rehearsals for assigned scenes	All coach/pianists (stage directors welcome)
	Precise schedules of rehearsals and coachings will be posted daily.	
4:00-5:30	<i>Master Class: Diction – The Importance Of Language</i>	Prof. Johnston Pianist: Dr. Burkhardt
	Prof. Johnston, a highly regarded collaborative pianist and vocal coach, will present a master class focusing on lyric diction in a variety of languages. There will be a special luncheon presentation later in the week based on Prof. Johnson’s acclaimed book <i>English and German Diction: A Comparative Approach.</i>	
5:30-7:00	DINNER BREAK – Dinner on you own	
7:00-10:00	Rehearsals and coachings TBA Musical rehearsals	All coach/pianists (stage directors welcome)
	Precise schedules of rehearsals and coachings will be posted daily.	

**SATURDAY, May 25 –**

9:00-10:15	<i>Dance Technique II: Language</i>	Prof. Alley and Ms. Meeker
	In this session, young artists will continue the exploration of the fundamentals of dance language and the execution of fundamental dance techniques necessary for performance and success in the fields of opera and musical theatre. Warm-up, stretching, jumps, turns, and across-the-floor exercises will be practiced.	
10:25-11:45	<i>Acting for Singers III: Michael Chekhov Technique for Singers – Part 2</i>	Prof. Ronis
	This session will continue the work with the Chekhov technique, focusing on <i>Physiological Gesture</i> and its application to sung texts.	
11:55-1:15	LUNCH – provided for singers and interns!	Dr. Houghtaling Room 176
	<i>More Business of Singing</i> Networking and the power of social media: general DO's and DON'Ts and insights into digital potential; business ethics and demeanor.	
1:30-3:45	Rehearsals and coachings TBA Staging rehearsals begin for most scenes	All coach/pianists and stage directors
	Precise schedules of rehearsals and coachings will be posted daily.	
4:00-5:30	<i>Joint Master Class: Bring Your Arias to Life: The Audition as a Complete Performance I</i>	Dr. Houghtaling with Ms. Hahn Pianist: Ms. Wong
	Singers have to make an audition a total performance if they are going to make an impression. This session will help you synthesize your work in the acting and movement classes and will focus on how to clarify your character's objective, obstacles, actions, and subtext.	

5:30-7:00	DINNER BREAK – Dinner on you own	
7:00-10:00	Rehearsals and coachings TBA Music rehearsals continue and staging begins for most scenes.	All coach/pianists and stage directors

Precise schedules of rehearsals and coachings will be posted daily.

**SUNDAY, May 26 –**

Morning	Church on your own, for those interested. Warm up on your own. Late morning lunch on your own.
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Noon-3:45	Rehearsals and coachings TBA Staging rehearsals continue for all scenes	All coach/pianists and stage directors
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Precise schedules of rehearsals and coachings will be posted daily.

4:00-5:30	<i>Joint Master Class: Bring Your Arias to Life: The Audition as a Complete Performance II</i>	Dr. Williams with Ms. De Silva Pianist: Dr. Burkhardt
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Singers have to make an audition a total performance if they are going to make an impression. This session will help you synthesize your work in the acting and movement classes and will focus on how to clarify your character's objective, obstacles, actions, and subtext.

5:30-7:10	DINNER BREAK – Dinner on you own	
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7:00-10:00	Rehearsals and coachings TBA Staging rehearsals continue for all scenes	All coach/pianists and stage directors
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Precise schedules of rehearsals and coachings will be posted daily.

**MONDAY, May 27 –**

9:00-10:15	<i>Musical Theatre Performance I: Execution</i>	Ms. Meeker
	<p>This class will introduce musical theatre dance language and the execution of musical theatre choreography. Students will be taught a dance combination in classical musical theatre dance style to enhance technical skills and prepare them for professional work.</p>	
10:25-11:25	<i>Improvisation: Listening and Responding</i>	Mr. Livingston
	<p>This session will include an introduction to the importance of improvisation and move on to games and exercise Mr. Livingston is working with at the Second City Improv Program in Chicago.</p>	
11:35-12:50	<i>Acting for Singers IV: More Improvisation ... More Freedom!</i>	Dr. Neely
	<p>This session continues our work with improvised speaking and spoken scenes. Then, we'll delve into improvisational singing as well as improvised operatic scenes. The answer is still "yes and..." but now that includes the music!</p>	
1:00-2:05	LUNCH – provided for singers and interns!	Prof. Johnston Room 176
	<i>Presentation: An Innovative Comparative Approach to English and German Diction</i>	
	<p>This multimedia lecture presentation will cover common phonemes in both languages, illustrating how the study of one greatly benefits the other.</p>	
2:15-3:45	Rehearsals and coachings TBA Staging rehearsals continue for all scenes	All coach/pianists and stage directors
	<p>Precise schedules of rehearsals and coachings will be posted daily.</p>	

4:00-5:30

*Joint Master Class: Bring Your Arias to Life:  
The Audition as a Complete Performance III*

Dr. Lister  
with Mr. García  
Pianist: Ms. Wong

This session will continue our work  
on how to enliven your best audition piece  
so you can both sing and act your aria  
with ease and authenticity... and win the job!

5:30-7:00

DINNER BREAK – Dinner on your own

7:00-10:00

Rehearsals and coachings TBA  
Staging rehearsals continue for all scenes

All coach/pianists  
and stage directors

Precise schedules of rehearsals and  
coachings will be posted daily.

**TUESDAY, May 28 –**

9:00-10:15	<i>Yoga for Singers II: Fighting Stage Fright and Finding Focus</i>	Dr. Lister
	Stage fright is very real. This session will offer ways to help yourself relax through yoga in your dressing room, back stage, or even as you're about to walk on stage.	
10:25-11:45	<i>Stage Combat III: Is the Fight Ready for the Audience?</i>	Mr. von Redlich
	This will be a review of the combat skills studied through a polishing of the final scenes. The session will conclude with a performance of the final combat scenes for an invited audience.	
10:30-11:30	<i>Stage Directing Interns III: Storytelling and Dramaturgy</i>	Prof. Ronis Room 176
	This session will address the importance of clear storytelling. Which stories are we telling and why? And the all-important How? We'll address time and place – rethinking/resetting your show, or leaving it in a traditional setting.	
	Ms. De Silva, Mr. García, Ms. Hahn	
11:50-12:45	LUNCH for Singers – casual lunch provided; time to warm up and change into audition attire for 1:00 Master Classes	167 Choral Opera Room
11:50-12:45	LUNCH for Directors - Round Table Discussion	Room 176
	Dr. Houghtaling will lead a discussion for directors on the issues facing professional singers who turn to directing and the unique challenges of directing as a second career.	Dr. Lister Dr. Neely Prof. Ronis Dr. Houghtaling Dr. Williams
	Ms. De Silva, Mr. García, Ms. Hahn	

1:00-2:30                    *Putting it all together!!*  
*Win the Job With Your Audition*  
*FIVE simultaneous master classes*  
*on Audition Techniques*

Dr. Neely  
Dr. Lister/Ms. Hahn  
Prof. Ronis/Mr. García  
Dr. Williams  
Dr. Houghtaling/Ms. De Silva

Exact rooms TBA  
Meet first in Choral/Opera Room

Pianists  
Dr. Burkhardt  
Ms. Wong  
Dr. Masters  
Prof. Johnston  
Dr. Chance

Four to five singers per room. You will perform an aria of your choosing, perhaps one which you've been working on during the week, or it could be another aria you regularly audition with. The entire audition package will be evaluated and discussed, including attire, walking into the room, introducing yourself and your selection, and overall presentation.

2:30                            BREAK – prepare for performance!

3:00                            Call at Bryant-Jordan Hall (five minute ride from music building; Easy directions will be distributed and car pools arranged)

3:15-5:45                    *The Audition:*

Performance of arias for mock audition panel. All singers audition with the aria or musical theatre selection which was worked on earlier in the day in the 1:00 *Win the Job* class.

**AUDITION PANELISTS:**

Mr. Keith Wolfe – General Director, Opera Birmingham

Dr. David Tayloe – Tenor, UA

Dr. Alexis Davis-Hazell – Mezzo-Soprano, UA

5:45-7:15                    DINNER BREAK – Dinner on you own

7:15-10:15                    Rehearsals and coachings TBA

All coach/pianists  
and stage directors

Staging rehearsals; musical and dramatic polishing. Final “room runs” of each scene before dress rehearsal.

**WEDNESDAY, May 29 –**

9:00-10:15

*Musical Theatre Performance II:  
Communication*

Ms. Meeker

This class will be used to clarify and clean choreography previously taught with an emphasis on performance and the communication of a story.

10:25-11:30

“Soprano Class” with Dr. Williams  
“Mezzo Class” with Dr. Davis-Hazell  
“Tenor Class” with Dr. Tayloe  
“Baritone and Bass Class” with Dr. Houghtaling

These unique sessions are your chance to explore issues and ask questions unique to your voice part. Everyone will sing their hardest phrase – their scariest note. Just a phrase, or even a measure, not a complete aria. Or it may be just conversation and sharing of ideas. The session will include honest discussions of things only a [soprano/mezzo/tenor/baritone/bass] can understand! LOCATIONS TBD

11:45-1:00

LUNCH – for everybody!!!!  
Faculty and all!!!

Dr. Houghtaling  
and all are welcome  
CHORAL OPERA ROOM

A final roundtable discussion, a great big question and answer session. The tables are desks, actually, but here is a chance to have open and honest discussions about anything and everything – our business, the state of opera today, shared concerns, mutual curiosities, summer programs, graduate school, all of that!! You’ll hear good advice and many varying opinions.

1:30-5:00

TECH and DRESS rehearsal  
for final performance at  
Bryant-Jordan Hall.

All coach/pianists  
and stage directors

5:30

EVENING FREE

## **THURSDAY, May 30 –**

Performance day. Sleep in a little bit.

11:00-12:30	Group warm up	Dr. Houghtaling Dr. Lister
	Stretching, moving, dancing to PH's favorite dance tune, getting focused together.	
	A chance to talk the day through ... what do singers do on performance days? Start some new habits!!	
12:30	Final opportunity to polish anything needed –  A scene, the dance segment, or the stage combat segment.	Stand by – TBA
Afternoon	Free – prepare for final performance.	
5:30	Call – Bryant-Jordan Hall	
7:00	THE 2019 DRUID CITY OPERA WORKSHOP Final Performance!!	Tutti
	Closing reception and good-byes!!!	

## **FRIDAY, May 31 –**

Departures and return trips to airport!