
Scott Willis

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

D.M.A. University of Alabama, Vocal Performance, Tuscaloosa, AL, 2019

- GPA: 4.0, Graduate Teaching Assistantship in voice; recipient of UA Opera Theatre Scholarship; Stakley Family Opera Scholarship; and Paul Houghtaling Voice Scholarship; Vocal studies with Dr. Paul Houghtaling; comprehensive opera theatre curriculum (stage craft, role preparations, improvisation, movement, acting, stage makeup); Dissertation Title: Taming the Tension: Addressing Upper Body Issues for the Singer

M.M. East Carolina University, Vocal Performance, Greenville, NC, 2013

- GPA: 3.84, Graduate Assistantship in vocal studies with Professor John Kramar; Studies on opera and art song history; extensive research on German Lieder; thesis research on Gerald Finzi's *Earth and Air and Rain*.

B.M. Middle Tennessee State University, Vocal Performance, Murfreesboro, TN, 2011

- GPA: 3.7, Cum Laude; vocal music scholarship; vocal studies with Dr. Christine Isley-Farmer; four-year study in Opera Workshop under Dr. Raphael Bundage; The National Society of Collegiate Scholars award recipient.

Teaching/Conducting Experience

Berry College

Rome, GA

Artist Affiliate in Voice/Director of Opera Workshop (August 2019 – Present)

- Instructor of applied voice lessons for both music majors and non-majors with emphasis on classical and musical theatre styles; Director/Conductor of Opera Workshop; Instructor of Class Voice; Music Director/Conductor for Berry College Theatre musical productions. Oversees opera budget, organization of performance venues/schedules.

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Chattanooga, TN

Adjunct Professor of Voice (August 2023 – Present)

- Instructor of applied voice lessons for both music majors and non-majors; Assist voice majors and minors with repertoire assignments, diction, and preparation for voice juries.

Northside Presbyterian Church

Chattanooga, TN

Music Director (May 2018 – Present)

- Responsibilities include directing the chancel choir in weekly rehearsals and services, training the choir in classical choral techniques, providing instrumental music for weekly services and additional holiday services, organizing special musical guests to enhance worship services, creating a yearly music budget, and executing responsibilities within the set budget.

Chattanooga Girls Choir

Chattanooga, TN

Summer Camp Theatre Instructor (Summer 2022/2023)

- Led students through an engaging exploration of acting, stagecraft, and performance; Taught fundamental theatre skills, and fostered creative and confidence with middle and high school students.

Southern Adventist University

Chattanooga, TN

Adjunct Professor of Voice (January 2019 – December 2021)

- Instructor of applied voice lessons for both music majors and non-majors; Assist voice majors and minors with repertoire assignments, diction, and preparation for voice juries.

Motlow State Community College

Smyrna, TN

Adjunct Professor of Music Appreciation (August 2015 – May 2019)

- Instructor of online and on-campus Music Appreciation courses for non-music majors.

Alabama Graduate Teaching Assistant

Tuscaloosa, AL

Graduate Teaching Assistant (August 2017 – May 2019)

- Instructor of Class Voice for non-music majors as well as voice instructor for both music majors and non-majors; Guest/Substitute Instructor for undergraduate diction course; Lectures and presentations on Latin, German, and French diction (2018-2019).

Tennessee State University

Nashville, TN

Adjunct Professor of Voice (August 2014 – May 2017)

- Taught applied voice lessons and Survey of Diction to voice majors and minors; Instructor of Music Appreciation courses for non-music majors; Assisted voice majors and minors with repertoire assignments; studio classes; diction and preparation for voice juries; Organized and assisted in preparation of guest masterclasses.

Oak Hill Day Camp

Nashville, TN

Theatre Director (May 2014 – August 2014 & May 2015 – August 2015)

- Facilitated and directed stage productions for each session involving 150 students from ages 2-13; Instructed students on the fundamentals of theatre and music terminology enabling them to develop their own small play and engage in self-expression through art; Planned curriculum appropriate for students of all ages and backgrounds.

East Carolina University, Graduate Assistant

Greenville, NC

Voice Instructor/Teacher Assistant (August 2011 – May 2013)

- Worked with a studio of beginning and intermediate voice students; Organized lesson plans and repertoire for students; Conducted studio classes providing feedback for each individual student; Assisted in teaching Italian diction courses; Served as assistant for classes such as History of Rock-n-Roll and Class Voice; Operated as a recording technician.

New York State Summer School of the Arts

Fredonia, NY

Music Counselor (Summer 2012/2013)

- Assisted students in daily performance preparations and served as assistant to faculty members throughout daily rehearsals; Organized special events for students throughout the summer; Directly supervised students in dormitories and during scheduled group activities; holding informational meetings with students as needed; enforcement of rules and regulations as established by State Education Department and Assistant Director for Administration.

Tennessee Governor School for the Arts

Murfreesboro, TN

Music Counselor (June – July 2009)

- Worked with hundreds of students alongside faculty and staff; Assisted students with musical rehearsals and preparation; Supervised students in the dormitory; helped with student adjustment and discipline; and organized daily school operations and productions; Communicated effectively with faculty and students in a timely manner; made an absolute commitment to enforce school rules and regulations which were designed to create healthy, safe, and positive learning and living environments for gifted and talented youth.

Music Directing Experience

Responsibilities for the following productions included role preparation, coaching for principal characters, chorus master, and orchestra conductor.

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder
Berry College, April 2024

9 to 5
University of Tennessee Chattanooga, March 2024

Amahl and the Night Visitors
Berry College, December 2023

Into the Woods
University of Tennessee Chattanooga, March 2023

Die Fledermaus
Berry College, January 2023

Bright Star
Berry College, October 2022

Chicago
Berry College, April 2022

Godspell
Heritage High School, March 2022

Trial by Jury
Berry College, January 2022

Matilda: The Musical
Heritage High School, December 2021

Footloose
Riverdale High School, March 2017

Oklahoma!
Springhouse Theatre, September 2016

Beauty and the Beast
Riverdale High School, March 2016

Bring It On: The Musical
Arts Center of Cannon County, June 2015

My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra
Arts Center of Cannon County, December 2013

Stage Directing Experience

Responsibilities for the following productions included stage direction, character development and analysis, producing, and stage managing.

Sweeney Todd

Berry College, January 2025

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder

Berry College, March 2024

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Berry College, December 2023

Suor Angelica

Opera Tennessee, July 2023

Die Fledermaus

Berry College, January 2023

Trial by Jury

Berry College, January 2022

Opera Through the Centuries: A Scenes Program

Berry College, November 2019

Don Giovanni

Opera Tennessee, October 2019

Scenic Adventures

University of Alabama Opera Workshop, April 2018

'Omelette Quartet' from Bizet's *Le docteur Miracle*

High School Musical 2

Arts Center of Cannon County, July 2011

Administrative Experience

Chattanooga Music Academy

Chattanooga, TN

Founder and Executive Director (November 2020 – Present)

- Serves as chief administrative officer to realize CMA's vision, fulfill its mission, and achieve its goals for success. Oversees major aspects of CMA's operations including development, financial management, public relations, and supervision of employees.

Chattanooga Girls Choir

Board Member (August 2023 – Present)

Chattanooga, TN

- Provide strategic direction, oversee financial and operational performance, and ensure the organization fulfills its mission and objectives.

Tennessee Chamber Chorus

Cleveland, TN

Executive Director (August 2015 – December 2017)

- Develop, coordinate, and execute a comprehensive strategy of financial development; Maintain an ongoing relationship with arts peers in the community; cultivating both the audience and community; Oversee short and long-range planning, engaging board and staff during board meetings; Oversee marketing by publicizing on social media and chorus website the activities and latest news of the organization.

Training Programs

University of Alabama Opera Workshop	2017	Tuscaloosa, AL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Improvisation, Dance/Movement classes, Stage combat, stage makeup, yoga, and music business classes		
Harrower Opera Workshop	2017	Atlanta, GA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Movement classes, stage combat, masterclass with Jennifer Larmore		
Druid City Opera Workshop	2016	Tuscaloosa, AL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dance classes, stage combat, audition techniques, the business of singing, acting classes, yoga,		
Northwest Opera in Schools, Etc.	2015	Seattle, WA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Role preparation, stage makeup, scenic/set work		
Vancouver Coaching Experience	2014	Vancouver, B.C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Role preparation		

Student Awards and Honors

Schmidt Vocal Arts Competition	2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Second place award (High School vocal division)	
Chattanooga Music Club Scholarship Competition	2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- First place award (High School vocal division)	
Georgia High School Association Literary Competition	2024 & 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- First place award in Boys Solo Division (State)- First place award in Girls Trio (Regional)	

National Association of Teachers of Singing (Georgia Chapter) 2024
- First place awards in Classical Division (college level), second place award in Classical Division (H.S. level), and second place awards in Musical Theatre Division (college level)

National Association of Teachers of Singing (Georgia Chapter) 2023
- First place awards in Classical Division and Musical Theatre Division (college and high school levels)

Professional Affiliations

National Association of Teachers of Singing
College Music Society
National Opera Association
The National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Additional Skills and Experience

Basic Piano Proficiency

- Vocalize private voice students; perform basic repertoire for lessons; teach choral parts to ensembles

Basic Choreography Skills

- Demonstrate basic movement techniques; teach ensemble choreography in the style of musical theatre

Scott Willis, baritone

Roles Performed

Modern Major General	<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Rome Symphony Orchestra	2025
Sweeney Todd	<i>Sweeney Todd</i>	Berry College Opera	2025
Reverend Howell	<i>Give Me Room!</i> (Premiere)	Opera Tennessee	2020
Alfio	<i>Cavalleria rusticana</i>	Opera Tennessee	2019
Riff	<i>West Side Story</i>	University of Alabama Opera Theatre	2018
Somnus	<i>Semele</i>	University of Alabama Opera Theatre	2018
David	<i>A Hand of Bridge</i>	University of Alabama Opera Theatre	2017
John Sorel	<i>The Consul</i>	Opera Tennessee	2017
Marquis de la Force	<i>Dialogues des Carmélites</i>	Harrower Opera Workshop	2017
President Melrose	<i>Unjust Judge</i> (Premiere)	Lipscomb University	2017
Marcello	<i>La Bohème</i>	Capitol City Opera	2016
Caractacus Potts	<i>Chitty Chitty Bang Bang</i>	Arts Center of Cannon County	2016
Sergeant Sulpice	<i>The Daughter of the Regiment</i>	Northwest Opera in Schools, Etc.	2015
Bert	<i>Mary Poppins</i>	Arts Center of Cannon County	2015
Dr. Neville Craven	<i>Secret Garden</i>	Arts Center of Cannon County	2014
Vater	<i>Hänsel und Gretel</i>	Vancouver Summer Opera Workshop	2014
Tim	<i>Insectaphobia</i> (Premiere)	East Carolina Opera Theatre	2013
Jason MacFarlane	<i>Lizzie Borden</i>	East Carolina Opera Theatre	2012
Guglielmo	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	East Carolina Opera Theatre	2012
Mr. Gobineau	<i>The Medium</i>	East Carolina Opera Theatre	2011
Count Almaviva	<i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>	MTSU Opera Theatre	2010
Tateh	<i>Ragtime</i>	MTSU Opera Theatre	2009

Concert Engagements

Soloist	Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	Southern Adventist University	2023
Soloist	Mozart's <i>Coronation Mass</i>	Chattanooga Girls Choir	2022
Soloist	<i>Eight Poems of Emily Dickson</i>	Chattanooga Symphony & Opera	2021
Soloist	Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	Collegedale Academy	2021
Soloist	Brahm's <i>Ein Deutsches Requiem</i>	East Tennessee Symphony Orchestra	2019
Soloist	<i>Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend</i>	Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra	2019
Soloist	Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	First Christian Church (Chattanooga)	2017
Soloist	Bach's <i>B Minor Mass</i>	Nashville Symphony	2017

Teachers

Paul Houghtaling
Corey McKern
John Kramar
Christine Isley-Farmer

Coaches

Laurie Rogers
Christie Lee
Amy-Tate Williams
Luke Housner
John Keene

Directors

Dwight Coleman
Linda Lister
John Hoomes
John Kramar
Raphael Bundage

Conductors

Laurie Rogers
Rolando Salazar
Caleb Harris
William Boggs
Cameron Labarr

Education and Training Programs

Harrower Opera Workshop	2017
Druid City Opera Workshop	2015
Northwest Opera in Schools, Etc.	2015

D.M.A., Vocal Performance, University of Alabama, 2019

M.M., Vocal Performance, East Carolina University, 2013

B.A., Vocal Performance, Middle Tennessee State University, 2011