

KAREN KNESS • Soprano

Representation: **Leota Arts Management**

Leota Bauman

993 W. Briarcliff Road • Bolingbrook, IL 60440-5218 • 630-410-2443

BIOGRAPHY

Known for her spinning legato, immaculate vocal line and strong connection to text, **soprano Karen Kness** has performed throughout the United States as a recitalist and concert soloist. Her repertoire includes Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*, Mozart's *Great Mass in C Minor*, Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and *St. Johannes Passion*, Vaughn Williams' *Hodie*, Haydn's *Creation*, Faure's *Requiem*, John Rutter's *Magnificat*, Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* and Handel's *Solomon*.

At home on both operatic and concert stages, Dr. Kness' opera roles include: Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Monica in *The Medium*, Lucy Honeychurch in the Midwest premier of *A Room with a View*, Madame Herz in *Der Schauspieldirektor*, and Miss Titmouse in Edwin Penhorwood's *Too Many Sopranos*. She has been a soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra, Lincoln Symphony, the Mozart Festival Orchestra in Indianapolis, the Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra, Kalamazoo Symphony, and the Bethany Messiah Festival Orchestra the Opera Maya Festival Orchestra and the Symphonic Orchestra of Quintana Roo in Mexico.

She also served for two years as the featured soloist for the Bach chamber ensemble Collegium Musicum Concordia, and has placed in numerous vocal competitions including NATS, the Soli Deo Gloria Cantorum Vocal Competition in Omaha, and the Vera Scammon Vocal Competition in Denver.

Currently an assistant professor of voice at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, she also served on the faculties at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and at Doane College. She is also a member of the voice faculty of the Opera Maya Summer Festival in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, and Opera Oasis Young Artist Program in Sarasota, Florida. She holds a doctoral degree in vocal performance and literature from Indiana University, and bachelor and master of music degrees from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

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RESUME

ORATORIO AND CONCERT PERFORMANCES:

Guest Artist in Recital: Parish of St. Peter, Nottingham, United Kingdom, August 31, 2017

Guest Artist in Recital: Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Lincoln, NE, June 25th, 2017

The Milwood Series: Psalms, Hymns, Spirituals--WMU Faculty Concert, Kalamazoo,
Sept 25, 2016

Guest artist in recital, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, 2016

Soprano soloist, Opera Oasis: *An Evening of Favorites from Opera, Operetta, and Musical Theater*, Sarasota, Florida, 2015 (three performance dates)

Guest artist in recital, Universidad de Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica, 2015

Guest artist in recital, NFMC—National Federation of Music Clubs, St. Joseph,
MI, 2015

Soprano soloist, Vaughn Williams *Serenade to Music*, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra,
conducted by Raymond Harvey, 2014

Soprano soloist, Opera Gála, Opera Maya Festival Symphonic Orchestra, conducted by Sigurd
Hannemann, Playa del Carmen and Tulum, Mexico, 2014

Guest artist in recital, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, 2013

Soprano soloist, Cena Romántica, Opera Maya Festival Symphonic Orchestra, conducted by
Sigurd Hennemann, Tulum and Cancun, Mexico, 2013

Guest Artist in Recital, Madison Performing Arts Foundation, Madison,
Indiana, 2014

Soprano soloist, Handel's *Messiah*, Kalamazoo Oratorio Society, Kalamazoo,
Michigan, 2012

Soprano Soloist, Vaughn Williams: *Hodie*, Omaha Symphony, conducted by Craig Jessop,
(former music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir), 2011

Soprano Soloist, *Bethany College Oratorio Society*, Handel: *Messiah*, Bach: *St. Matthew Passion*, and Soloists in Recital, Lindsborg, KS, 2012

Soprano Soloist, Opera Maya, Opera Gála, Symphonic Orchestra of Quintana Roo: Playa de
Carmen, Cancun, and Chetumal, Mexcio, 2011

Soprano Soloist, Fauré: *Requiem*, Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Dr.
Matthew Harden, Omaha, NE, 2011

Soprano Soloist, Charpentier: *Te Deum*, Cathedral Arts Project Chorus and Orchestra,
conducted by Marie Rubis Bauer, Omaha, NE, 2011

Soprano Soloist, Bruckner: *Te Deum*, Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Barry
Ford, Omaha, NE, 2010

Soprano Soloist, Villa Lobos: *Bachianas Brasileiras, No. 5*, Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra,
conducted by Barry Ford, Omaha, NE, 2010

Soprano Soloist, Vivaldi: *Gloria*, Cathedral Arts Project, conducted by Marie Rubis Bauer,
Omaha, NE, 2009

Soprano Soloist, Handel: *Solomon*, Omaha Chamber Symphony and Omaha Symphonic
Chorus, Omaha NE, 2009

Soprano Soloist, Haydn: *Creation*, Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Dr.
Matthew Harden, Omaha, NE, 2009

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Soprano Soloist, John Rutter: *Magnificat*, Omaha Chamber Symphony and Omaha Symphonic Chorus, conducted by Greg Zielke, Omaha NE, 2008

Soprano Soloist, Fauré: *Requiem*, Saint Alban's Episcopal Church Choir, conducted by Tom Dearchs, Indianapolis, IN, 2004

Soprano Soloist, Mozart: *Great Mass in C Minor*, Indianapolis Pro Musica and Mozart Festival Orchestra, conducted by Michael Messina, Indianapolis IN, 2003

Soprano Soloist, Mozart: *Great Mass in C Minor*, Indiana University Singers and University Chorale with the University Orchestra, conducted by Marcello Urias, Bloomington IN, 2003

Soprano Soloist, Brahms: *Ein Deutches Requiem*, Lincoln Symphony, Lincoln, NE, 2003

Soprano Soloist, JS Bach & Friends, (Bach aria chamber ensemble), Topeka KS, Seward NE, Minden NE, Omaha NE, 2002

Soprano Soloist, Handel's *Messiah*, Axtell Oratorio Society, conducted by J. Rodney Wendell, Kearney NE, 2001 and 2002

Soprano Soloist, James Syler: Symphony No. 1 "*Blue*" (Midwest Premier), University of Nebraska Wind Ensemble and University Singers, conducted by Jay Kloecker, 2000

Soprano Soloist, Lincoln Symphony Holiday Pops Concert, conducted by Lee Musiker, Lincoln NE, 1999

Recital Series, Hugo Wolf: *Mörke Lieder*, pianist Lionel Friend, 1999

1. Northwest Missouri State University, Marysville MO
2. Iowa State University, Ames IA
3. Presbyterian Church of the Cross, Omaha NE
4. University of Nebraska, Lincoln NE

Guest Artist in Recital for the Geneva Arts Council, Geneva NE, 1997

Soprano Soloist, JS Bach: *Saint Johannes Passion*, Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, Conducted by Elmer Thomas, 1996

Soprano soloist, Byrd: *An Elegy on the Death of Thomas Tallis*, Indiana Early Music Concentus Ensemble, conducted by Wendy Gillespie, 1994

Soprano Soloist, Orff: *Carmina Burana*, University of Nebraska Orchestra, conducted by James Hejduk, 1991

OPERA ROLES:

Miss Titmouse, *Too Many Sopranos*, Indiana University Opera Theatre, 2007

Queen of the Night, *The Magic Flute*, Indiana University Opera Theatre, 2005

Madame Herz, *The Impresario*, Bloomington Opera Works – Bloomington, IN, 2004

Donna Anna, *Don Giovanni*, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, 1997

Monica, *The Medium*, UNL, 1996

Lucy, *A Room With A View* (Midwest Premier), UNL, 1996

Queen of the Night, *The Magic Flute*, (concert performance), UNL, 1992

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TRAINING / EDUCATION:

Voice:

Mary Ann Hart, Indiana University, 2003 - 2007

Donna Harler-Smith: Lincoln NE – 1998 – 2003

Paul Elliott: IU – 1993-1994

Dr. Margaret Kennedy: UNL – 1992- 1997

Judy Cole: UNL – 1989 – 1992

Coaching:

Lia Jensen-Abbott, Albion, MI, 2014 - present

Gunta Laukmane, Kalamazoo, MI 2012-2014

David Lyons, IU, 2005-07

Edwin Penhorwood, IU, 2007

Bill Averil, IU, 2005

Kazuha Nakahara, IU, 2004-05

Lionel Friend, 1999

Michael Cotton: UNL – 1992 - 1997

Thomas Binkley: IU – 1993 – 1994

Opera / Dramatic Coaching:

Vincent Liotta: IU, 2005-2007

William Shomos: UNL, 1995 - 1997

David Bartholomew: UNL, 1989 - 1993

Dance:

Jerry Bevington: Ballet, Modern, and Jazz, UNL, 1986 - 1990

DEGREES AND STUDY:

DM: Indiana University – Bloomington, 2012

MM: University of Nebraska – Lincoln School of Fine and Performing Arts, 1997

Graduate Study at Indiana University Early Music Institute – Bloomington, 1993-94

BM: University of Nebraska – Lincoln School of Fine and Performing Arts, 1993

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Professor, Western Michigan University, 2012 - present

Graduate Lecturer, University of Nebraska – Omaha, 2007 – 2012

Private voice studio, 1992 - 2012

Associate Voice Instructor, Indiana University, 2004 - 2006

Voice faculty, Doane College, 2000 – 2003

Graduate Instructor, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, 1995-97

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REVIEWS

...the undoubted queen of the show was the Queen of the Night herself, played by Karen Kness. Though she only had two arias, they are among the most difficult in opera repertoire and she executed them with almost superhuman skill.

Adam Sedia, Indiana Daily Student
Magic Flute - Mozart

The incandescent “Amen” at the close made one’s flesh tingle. Karen Kness stood out for her incredible note accuracy and clarity of tone. Her “Rejoice Greatly” and “I Know My Redeemer Liveth” were breathtaking.

C.J. Gianakaris, Kalamazoo Gazette
Messiah - Handel

Her vocal production and communication abilities are warm and personal, yet were strong enough Sunday to balance with the 250-voice chorus for the “You now are sorrowful” section.

John Cutler, Lincoln Journal Star
A German Requiem - Brahms

Just as astounding were the voices of Donna Anna and Zerlina., played respectively by Karen Kness and Tamara Ashley. Kness has a broad, warm voice with a well controlled vibrato, showing good experience...

John Cutler, Lincoln Journal Star
Don Giovanni - Mozart

Karen Kness as Lucy Honeychurch becomes a strong lead through her reserve an restraint. Her vocal qualities were well matched to botyh Steve Kohtz in the role of prim-and-proper Cecil Vyse, Lucy’s fiancé and Kenneth Floyd as George Emerson, her ultimate lover.

John Cutler, Lincoln Journal Star
Room with a View - Nelson

Kness brought an appealing purity nd intensity to her singing, particularly in her spellbinding take on “To and Aeolian Harp.”

Kyle Macmillan, Omaha World-Herald
Hugo Wolf Symposium

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CURRICULUM VITAE

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Professor: Western Michigan University, Fall 2012-present

Applied Voice Studio

Voice studio of 17-18 undergraduate and graduate performance, education and music therapy voice majors

Curriculum based on art song and opera

Vocal Techniques for Music Educators and Music Therapists

Curriculum based on vocal pedagogy for students with minimal vocal background who may work with choirs or singing in music therapy in their musical careers

Vocal Pedagogy

Undergraduate and graduate voice majors. Academic class covering anatomy, physiology and function of the vocal mechanism and its relationship to teaching vocal technique

Graduate Faculty of Voice: University of Nebraska – Omaha, School of Music, 2007-2012.

Vocal Area Coordinator

Various administrative duties including but not limited to: assigning voice studios, organizing juries and student recitals, chairing recital committees, and various other administrative functions

Applied Voice Studio

Voice studio of twenty to twenty-three undergraduate and graduate performance and education voice majors

Curriculum based on art song, opera and music theatre

Vocal Literature

Undergraduate and graduate voice majors. Academic class covering the style and history of art song from the Baroque period through the twentieth century

Vocal Pedagogy

Undergraduate and graduate voice majors. Academic class covering anatomy, physiology and function of the vocal mechanism and its relationship to teaching vocal technique

Class voice

Undergraduate instrumental music majors. Instrumentalists are taught the basic functionality of the singing voice and introduced to art song and the “classical” style of singing

Opera Workshop Faculty:

Opera Maya, Playa del Carmen and Tulum Mexico, June 2011, June 2013, and June 2014

Opera Oasis, Sarasota, Florida, July 2015

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Western Michigan University “Seminar”: Voice faculty, July 2012; voice area coordinator and voice faculty, July 2013

Associate Instructor: Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, 2004-2006
Studio of approximately ten secondary voice students

Instructor of Applied Voice: Doane College, Crete, NE, 2000 – 2003
Studio of approximately 12-14 undergraduate voice majors, minors and secondary voice students

Graduate Assistant Instructor: University of Nebraska – Lincoln, 1995 – 1997
Studio of approximately 8 voice minors and secondary voice students

Private voice studio: 1992 – 2007
Studio of approximately 5-10 students

Master class instructor:

Mattawan Schools-Michigan Tour, Western Michigan University, November-2015

Opera Oasis, Sarasota, Florida, July-2015

Universidad de Costa Rica, San Jose, March-2015

Wayne State University, October-2013

Opera Maya: Playa del Carmen and Tulum, Mexico

June-2011, June-2013, and June-2014

University of Nebraska - Omaha, voice department master class, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 (both fall and spring semesters for each year)

BOCH Festival Workshop, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Vocal Master Class 2009, 2010, 2011

EDUCATION:

Doctor of Music from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, 2012

Lecture recital and document: *An Analytical Comparison of the Art Song Style of Poldowski with the Styles of Debussy and Fauré*

Minor field: Music History

Voice teacher: Mary Ann Hart

Coaches: Marcello Urias, William Averill, Shuichi Umeyama,

Christiaan Crans, Kazuha Nakahara, Eliot Jhang, Adam

Burnette, David Lyons

Opera Directors: Vincent Liotta, Sarah Daughtrey

Conductors: Uri Segal, Marcello Urias, Kevin Noe

Master of Music from University of Nebraska School of Fine and Performing Arts, 1997

Voice teacher: Margaret Kennedy-Dygas

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Opera Director: William Shomos

Coaches: Michael Cotton, David Cole, Donna Harler – Smith

Conductors: James Hayduk, Tyler White

Graduate Study at Indiana University Early Music Institute, Bloomington, 1993-94

Voice teacher: Paul Elliott

Coaches: Thomas Binkley, Wendy Gillespie, Stanley Ritchie, Marc Bellasai

Bachelor of Music from University of Nebraska – Lincoln, 1993

Voice teachers: Margaret Kennedy, Judy Cole

Opera director: David Bartholomew

Coaches: Emmy Bobst, Michael Cotton

Middlebury College, Middlebury VT: Deutsche für Sänger, German Immersion Language Program, 2005

Targhee Early Music Workshop with Drew Minter and Ellen Hargis, 1992

ADJUDICATION:

MSVMA—State Solo & Ensemble Festival, West Portage Central High School, Portage, MI, 2016

MSVMA—Solo & Ensemble Festival, District 10, Grand Valley University, Allendale, MI, 2016

MSVMA—Solo & Ensemble Festival, District 8, Parma West High School, Parma, MI, 2016

Opera Grand Rapids Collegiate Competition, Grand Rapids, MI, 2015

Michigan State NATS, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, 2015

Great Lakes Regional NATS, Anderson, Indiana, Fall-2015

MMTA—Michigan Music Teachers Association, St. Joseph, MI, 2015

Michigan State NATS, Michigan State University, 2014

Great Lakes Regional NATS, Western Michigan University, 2013

Michigan State NATS, Eastern Michigan University, 2013

MMTA—Michigan Music Teachers Association, Western Michigan University, 2013

Michigan State NATS, Grand Valley University, 2012

Honors Recital Competition, University of Nebraska-Omaha, 2010, 2011

Nebraska District NATS Auditions; 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

West Central Regional NATS Auditions: 2008

Dana Festival Vocal Competition: 2008, 2009

Doane Festival Vocal Competition; 2002, 2003

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PRESENTATIONS:

The Alexander Technique, ACDA (American Choral Directors Association), Western Michigan University Chapter, November-2015

Training for the World of Opera and Classical Singing, FFMC—National Federation of Music Clubs, St. Joseph, Michigan, April-2015

The Right Stuff: Choosing appropriate repertoire for young singers—Michigan Music Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, January-2015 (joint presentation with Ken Prewitt)

Vocal Health, Western Michigan University, Nov-2012 and Nov-2013

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Secretary---Voice Department, Western Michigan University, Fall 2012-present

Vocal Area Coordinator, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Fall semester 2011

Associate Instructor Coordinator, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music,

2005-2006 (Responsible for administration of approximately

150-180 secondary voice students and 20 graduate associate instructors.) *Committees:*

Western Michigan University—School of Music Policy Committee, 2015

Western Michigan University—Curriculum committee: 2013-present

Western Michigan University—PR-2: WMU 2012-13

Western Michigan University--Music theatre position search committee (chair), Fall 2012

OPERA ROLES:

Miss Titmouse, *Too Many Sopranos*, composed by Edwin Penhorwood, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, 2007

Queen of the Night, *The Magic Flute*, IU, 2005

Madame Herz, *The Impresario*, Bloomington Opera Works, Bloomington, IN, 2004

Donna Anna, *Don Giovanni*, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, 1997

Monica, *The Medium*, UNL, 1996

Lucy, *A Room with A View* (Midwest premier), UNL, 1996

Queen of the Night, *The Magic Flute*, UNL (concert version), 1992

PARTIAL ROLES (scenes): fully staged productions

Leonora, *La Favorita*, 1996

Zerbinetta, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, 1995

Constanza, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, 1993

Frasquita, *Carmen*, 1993

Yum – Yum, *The Mikado*, 1992

Mimi, *La Bohème*, 1991

First Lady, *Die Zauberflöte*, 1991

Alice, *Falstaff*, 1990

ORATORIO AND CONCERT PERFORMANCES:

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- Guest artist in recital, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, June-2016
- Soprano soloist, Sean Corbitt—Trumpet recital, Western Michigan University, April-2016
- Guest artist in recital, New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, New Orleans, LA, March-2016
- Soprano soloist, *The Vocal Mélange*, Voice Faculty Recital, Western Michigan University, January-2016
- Soprano soloist, Opera Oasis: *An Evening of Favorites from Opera, Operetta, and Musical Theater*, Sarasota, Florida, July-2015 (three performance dates)
- Guest artist in recital, Universidad de Costa Rica, San Jose, March-2015
- Guest artist in recital, NFMC—National Federation of Music Clubs, St. Joseph, MI, April-2015
- Guest artist in recital, Albion College, Albion, MI, May-2015
- Soprano soloist, BPI Concert: *A Singing Sampler*, Western Michigan University, Jan-2015
- Soprano soloist, Vaughn Williams *Serenade to Music*, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Raymond Harvey, October-2014
- Soprano soloist, Opera Gála, Opera Maya Festival Symphonic Orchestra, conducted by Sigurd Hennemann, Playa del Carmen and Tulum, Mexico, June-2014
- Soprano soloist, BPI Concert: *Around the World in Song*, Western Michigan University, Jan-2014
- Guest artist in recital, Wayne State University, October-2013
- Soprano/baritone duet, Centennial Festival: Faculty Chamber Music Concert, Tchaikovsky, *Evening*, op. 46, no. 1, baritone-Carl Ratner, piano Lori Simms, 2013
- Soprano soloist, Cena Romántica, Opera Maya Festival Symphonic Orchestra, conducted by Sigurd Hennemann, Gran Bahia Principe, Coba, Tulum Mexico, June-2013
- Soprano soloist, Cena Romántica, Opera Maya Festival Symphonic Orchestra, conducted by Sigurd Hennemann, Hotel Dreams, Tulum Mexico, June-2013
- Soprano soloist, Opera Gála, Opera Maya Festival Symphonic Orchestra, conducted by Sigurd Hennemann, Papaya Playa Project, Tulum, Mexico, June-2013
- Soprano soloist, Opera Gála, Opera Maya Festival Symphonic Orchestra, conducted by Sigurd Hennemann, Gran Bahia Principe, Coba, Tulum Mexico, June-2013
- Soprano soloist, Opera Gála, Opera Maya Festival Symphonic Orchestra, conducted by Sigurd Hennemann, Moon Palace, Cancun, Mexico, June-2013
- Guest Artist in Recital, Madison Performing Arts Foundation, Madison, Indiana, April-2013
- Faculty recital, Western Michigan University, April-2013
- Guest artist in recital, Albion College, Albion, Michigan, April-2013
- Soprano soloist, Handel's *Messiah*, Kalamazoo Oratorio Society, Kalamazoo, Michigan, December-2012
- Soprano soloist, Handel's *Messiah*, Western Michigan University Orchestra and Grand Chorus, December-2012
- Soprano--sextet from *Lucia di Lammermoor*, WMUSIC Showcase Spectacular, Western Michigan University, October-2012
- Soprano Soloist, Vaughn Williams: *Hodie*, Omaha Symphony, conducted by Craig Jessop, former music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, December- 2011

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- Soprano Soloist, *Bethany College Oratorio Society*, Handel's *Messiah*, Lindsborg, KS, April-2012
- Soprano Soloist, *Bethany College Oratorio Society*, J.S. Bach, *St. Matthew Passion*, Lindsborg, KS, April-2012
- Soprano Soloist, *Bethany College Oratorio Society*, Guest artists in recital, Lindsborg, KS, April-2012
- Soprano Soloist, Opera Maya, aria and scenes performance, Symphonic Orchestra of Quintana Roo. Performances in Playa de Carmen, Cancun, and Chetumal, Mexico, June-2011
- Soprano Soloist, Fauré: *Requiem*, Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Matthew Harden, Omaha, NE, April-2011
- Soprano Soloist, Fauré: *Requiem*, University of Nebraska-Omaha Chamber Choir and Central Community College Spectrum Choir, conducted by Jeffrey Kitson, Columbus, NE, April-2011
- Soprano Soloist, Charpentier: *Te Deum*, Cathedral Arts Project Chorus and Orchestra, conducted by Marie Rubis Bauer, Omaha, NE, February-2011
- Soprano Soloist, Bruckner: *Te Deum*, Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Barry Ford, Omaha, NE, April-2010
- Soprano Soloist, Villa Lobos: *Bachianas Brasileiras, No. 5*, Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Barry Ford, Omaha, NE, April-2010
- Soprano Soloist, Vivaldi: *Gloria*, Cathedral Arts Project, conducted by Marie Rubis Bauer, Omaha, NE, February-2009
- Soprano Soloist, Handel: *Solomon*, Omaha Chamber Symphony and Omaha Symphonic Chorus, Omaha NE, April-2009
- Soprano Soloist, Haydn: *Creation*, Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Matthew Harden, Omaha, NE, April-2009
- Soprano Soloist, John Rutter: *Magnificat*, Omaha Chamber Symphony and Omaha Symphonic Chorus, conducted by Greg Zielke, Omaha NE, April-2008
- Soprano Soloist, Deutsch für Sänger Konzerts, Middlebury College, Middlebury VT, July-2005
- Soprano Soloist, Fauré: *Requiem*, Saint Alban's Episcopal Church Choir, conducted by Tom Dearchs, Indianapolis, IN, April-2004
- Soprano Soloist, Mozart: *Great Mass in C Minor*, Indianapolis Pro Musica and Mozart Festival Orchestra, conducted by Michael Messina, Indianapolis IN, November-2003
- Soprano Soloist, Mozart: *Great Mass in C Minor*, Indiana University Singers and University Chorale with the University Orchestra, conducted by Marcello Urias, Bloomington IN, October-2003
- Soprano Soloist, Brahms: *Ein Deutes Requiem*, Lincoln Symphony with University of Nebraska-Lincoln combined choirs, April-2003
- Soprano Soloist, JS Bach & Friends, (Bach aria chamber ensemble), Topeka KS, Seward NE, Minden NE, Omaha NE, 2002

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Nebraska Arts Council Showcase, Bach and Friends, Lincoln NE, 2001

Soprano Soloist, Handel's *Messiah*, Axtell Oratorio Society, conducted by J. Rodney Wendell, Kearney NE, 2001 and 2002

Soprano Soloist, Soli Deo Gloria Cantorum Concert series, Vocal Competition Winners, April-2000

Faculty Recital, Doane College, April-2000 and April-2001

Soprano Soloist, James Syler: Symphony No. 1 "*Blue*" (Midwest Premier), University of Nebraska Wind Ensemble and University Singers, conducted by Jay Kloecker, 2000

Soprano Soloist, Lincoln Symphony Holiday Pops Concert, conducted by Lee Musiker, Lincoln NE, December-1999

Recital Series, Hugo Wolf: *Mörke Lieder*, pianist Lionel Friend, April-1999

1. Northwest Missouri State University, Marysville MO
2. Iowa State University, Ames IA
3. Presbyterian Church of the Cross, Omaha NE
4. University of Nebraska, Lincoln NE

Guest Artist in Recital for the Geneva Arts Council, Geneva NE, April-1997

Soprano Soloist, JS Bach: *Saint Johannes Passion*, Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, Conducted by Elmer Thomas, April-2007

Soprano soloist, Byrd: *An Elegy on the Death of Thomas Tallis*, Indiana Early Music Concentus Ensemble, conducted by Wendy Gillespie, April-1994

Chamber Ensemble Member, Giovanni Flori, *A Mass for Pentecost*, Indiana Early Music Pro Arte Singers, conducted by Thomas Binkley, April-1993

Soprano Soloist, Handel: *Ode for Saint Cecilia's Day*, University of Nebraska Orchestra, conducted by James Hejduk, April-1992

Soprano Soloist, Rossini: *Petite Messe Solennelle*, University of Nebraska Orchestra, conducted by Robert Emile, November-1992

Soprano Soloist, JS Bach: Cantata No. 140, *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, Lincoln Lutheran Orchestra, Lincoln NE, Conducted by Cassandra McMahon, December-1992

Soprano Soloist, Orff: *Carmina Burana*, University of Nebraska Orchestra, conducted by James Hejduk, April-1991

AWARDS AND HONORS:

Winner of Crystal Award, Vera Scammon International Vocal Competition, Denver CO, 2002

Finalist, Vera Scammon International Vocal Competition, Denver CO, 2001

Winner of Soli Deo Gloria Cantorum Vocal Competition, 1st place, Post-graduate category, Omaha NE, 2000

Winner of Graduate Soloist Competition, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, 1997

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Member of Pi Kappa Lambda, Beta Chapter, Music Honor Society,
1993 – present

Member of Golden Key Honor Society, 1988 – 1997

First Place, Nebraska State Competition for National Association for Teachers of Singing (NATS), 14th division, Hastings NE, 1995

Winner of Westbrook Music Competition, University of NE – Lincoln, 1992

Third Place, NATS Regional Competition, 14th division, Wichita KS, 1992

First Place, State NATS Regional Competition, 14th division, Hayes KS, 1990

RECORDINGS:

Ensemble Member, Indiana Early Music Pro Arte Singers, *Missa Ecce Ancilla*

Domini by Julian Dufay, conducted by Thomas Binkley, Focus Recordings, Recording No. 941, 1993

OPERA CHORUSES: *fully staged productions with orchestra*

The Tender Land, 1995

Le Nozze di Figaro, 1993

Don Giovanni, 1992

Don Pasquale, 1991

Die Fledermaus, 1990

CHORAL:

Omaha Symphonic Chorus, Omaha, NE, conductor: Gregory Zielke, 2008-09

University Singers, UNL 1990 – 1993; 1995 – 1997, conductor: James Hejduk

University Chorale, Indiana University 1994, conductor: William Gray

Pro Arte Singers, Indiana University 1993 – 1994, conductor: Thomas Binkley

Collegium Musicum, UNL 1992 – 1993, conductor: Dr. Pamela Starr

Oratorio Chorus, UNL 1989 – 1990, conductor: James Hejduk

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MASTER CLASS PERFORMANCES:

Julie Kauffman, 2005

Michael Pinkerton, 2005

Donald Sulzen, 2005

Roger Vignoles, 2005

Marlena Malas, 1996 and 1993

Phyllis Curtin, 1995

Thomas Binkley, 1994

Katherine Ciesinski, 1991

Kitt Foss, 1991

PROFESSIONAL ENSEMBLE AND CHORAL POSITIONS:

Soprano section leader, Omaha Symphonic Chorus, conducted by Gregory Zielke, Omaha, NE
2008-09

Soprano section leader, First Trinity Episcopal Church, conducted by Dr. Marilyn Keiser,
Bloomington, IN, 2005 – 2007

Soprano soloist, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Bloomington, IN, 2004 –2005

Soprano soloist, Collegium Musicum Concordia (Bach aria chamber
ensemble), 2000 - 2003

Soprano soloist, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Lincoln NE, 1998-2003

Omaha Chamber Singers, conducted by David Batter, Omaha NE, 1999

Professional choir member, Fourth Presbyterian Church, conducted by Dr. John Sherer, Chicago IL,
1997

Soprano section leader, St. Paul Methodist Church, Lincoln, NE, 1992

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) 2007-present

Michigan State NATS 2012-present

Nebraska State NATS 2008-2011

College Music Society 2008-2013

MSVMA (Michigan Schools of Vocal Music Association) 2014-present

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS:

Current and former students perform throughout the region at Opera MODO in Detroit, Opera Grand Rapids, Manhattan Opera Studio in NY, Arbor Opera Theater in Ann Arbor, and the Comic Opera Guild. Graduating performance majors have gone on to prestigious graduate programs, for example at Boston University, Wichita State University, and Rice University.

KAREN KNESS • Soprano

Representation: **Leota Arts Management**

Leota Bauman

993 W. Briarcliff Road • Bolingbrook, IL 60440-5218 • 630-410-2443

Competitions

Bach Festival of Kalamazoo Young Vocalists Competition, March-2016

3rd place: Hayley Girard

Honorable Mentions, Cara Gross and Caitlin Borke

Opera Grand Rapids Collegiate Competition, December-2015

1st place—Caitlin Borke, Division II

Michigan State NATS, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, November-2015

2nd place—Savannah Gonsoulin, Division 11-A

3rd place—Hayley Girard, Division 7 B-2

2nd place—Alexandra Galla, Division 7 B-1

3rd place—Merrin Bethel, Division 7 B-1

3rd place—Cara Gross, Division 7 B-1

3rd place—Melanie Walker, Division 11

Honorable Mention—Holli Slamka, Division 7-A

Bach Festival of Kalamazoo, Young Vocalists Competition, March-2015

1st place—Bridget Cappel

Great Lakes Regional NATS, Anderson University, March-2015

1st place—Bridget Cappel—Division 10-a

3rd place—Marlyre Thompson—Division 10-a

Nicholas Loren Vocal Competition, Giles Simmer—semi-finalist, 2014

Orpheus national Music Competition, Giles Simmer—semi-finalist, 2014

William C. Byrd Competition, Giles Simmer—semi-finalist, 2014

Western Michigan University: Giles Simmer—Graduate Award for Excellence in Teaching, honorable mention, 2014

Michigan State NATS, Michigan State University, Nov 1, 2014

3rd place—Hayley Girard—Division 2-1

3rd place—Melanie Walker—Division 8-1

3rd place—Bridget Cappel—Division 10-2

Great Lakes Regional NATS, Western Michigan University, March 2, 2014

1st place--Bridget Cappel, Division 4b

2nd place--Danae Picklo, Division 8

3rd place--Renee Macdonald, Division 8

1st place--Chelsea Helm, Division 10

2nd place--Giles Simmer, Division 13

Michigan State NATS, Eastern Michigan University, November 2, 2013

3rd place--Karina Stribley, Division 2-2

2nd place--Garrett Gagnon, Division 3

2nd place--Melanie Walker, Division 4-2

2nd place--Bridget Cappel, Division 8-2

3rd place--Renee Macdonald, Division 10

1st place--Giles Simmer, Division 13

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WMU Concerto Competition, March 2013

Winner, Giles Simmer

Grand Rapids Collegiate Opera Competition, April 14, 2013

Chelsea helm, First Place Winner, Division 1

Opera Maya--Papaya Playa Project Competition, June 20, 2013

3rd place: Giles Simmer Summer programs

Harold Haugh Light Opera Competition-2012, semi-finalist, Giles Simmer

Michigan NATS, Grand Valley University, November 3, 2012

2nd place--Tailor Bowen, Division 2-1 First Year College Women

1st place--Danae Picklo, Division 4-2 Second Year College Women

1st place--Bridget Cappel, Division 4-2 Second Year College women

2nd place--Renee Macdonald, Division 8 Third Year College Women

1st place--Chelsea Helm, Division 10 Fourth Year College Women

Nebraska state NATS competition, October, 2011

1st place: Tyler Hughes (junior men)

1st place: Kymber Brockbank (Non-traditional graduate students)

West Central Regional NATS competition, November, 2010

1st place: Schuyler Arnold (freshmen men)

2nd place: Andrew Pratt (sophomore men)

Summer programs:

AIMS—American Institute of Musical Studies, Graz, Austria-2016

Savannah Gonsoulin

AIMS—American Institute of Musical Studies, Graz, Austria-2015

Bridget Cappel

Melanie Walker

Opera Maya Opera Workshop—Playa del Carmen, Mexico, 2014

Danae Picklo

Melanie Walker

Opera Maya Opera Workshop—Tulum, Mexico, 2013

Giles Simmer

Victoria Evans

AIMS--American Institute of Musical Studies, Graz, Austria, 2013

Renee Macdonald

Giles Simmer

AIMS--American Institute of Musical Studies, Graz, Austria, 2014

Bridget Cappel