

BENJAMIN AARON SMITH

LYRIC TENOR

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EDUCATION

Doctorate of Music in Voice Performance **2014-Present**
Indiana University Jacobs School of Music - Bloomington, IN **Anticipated 2018**

- Minor Field - Music History
- Minor Field - Arts Administration
- Applied Instructor - Prof. Patricia Havranek

Master of Music in Voice Performance **2012-2014**
Indiana University Jacobs School of Music - Bloomington, IN

- Outside Area - Opera
- Applied Instructor - Dr. Brian Horne

Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance **2008-2012**
Indiana University Jacobs School of Music - Bloomington, IN

- Herbert Presidential Scholar
 - Applied Instructor - Dr. Brian Horne
 - Outside Areas of Focus - Conducting, Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Part-Time Instructor of Music **2017-Present**
DePauw University - Greencastle, IN

- Develop course objectives and curriculum
- Develop assignments and course readings for courses taught
- Provide classroom instruction for "State of the Art" course
- Work with 21st Century Musician program to align educational and career development objectives
- Participate in faculty development activities and student recruitment

Adjunct Instructor of Music **2017-Present**
University of Evansville - Evansville, IN

- Provide applied voice instruction for music school students
- Develop instruction plans for each student

- Plan repertoire for end of year juries and music theater showcase
- Participate in faculty development activities and student recruitment

Music Director

2014-Present

Bloomington Playwrights Project - Bloomington, IN

- Privately coach singers in preparation for the season's musicals
- Rehearse ensemble and chorus for the season's musicals
- Collaborate with composers and playwrights throughout the rehearsal process
- Hire musicians and rehearse the pit band
- Conduct during rehearsals and performances
- Engage in development and audience development programs and performances

Private Voice Teacher - Bloomington, IN

2012-Present

- Teach private voice lessons to students ages 11- 55, from beginners to advanced amateurs
- Prepare students for auditions for school performances, community theater auditions, and post-secondary auditions

Music Director

2016-2017

Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center - Bloomington, IN

- Developed infrastructure and best practices for the company's first music theater production
- Privately coach singers in preparation for the season's musicals
- Rehearse ensemble and chorus for the season's musicals
- Hire musicians and rehearse the orchestra
- Conduct during rehearsals and performances
- Engage in development and audience development programs and performances

Director, Youth Music Theatre Ensemble

2015-2016

Bloomington Playwrights Project - Bloomington, IN

- Oversaw and coordinated day to day operations of the entire camp (~30 students)
- Facilitated the creation of a student written musical theatre piece over the duration of the camp
- Taught aspects of playwriting, acting, and improv comedy skills
- Coached music for the production
- Coordinated all technical and aesthetic aspects of the final production
- Staged and directed the final production
- Designed lighting for the final production

Scenes Director

2012-2013

Jacobs School Undergraduate Opera Workshop - Bloomington, IN

- Directed scenes from *Peter Grimes*, *Carousel*, *Into the Woods*, and *Sweeney Todd*
- Coached singers in acting, diction, and vocal techniques for theatrical musical performances
- Designed lighting for the final production

Percussion Instructor
Evansville North High School, Evansville, IN

2008-2010

- Taught percussion fundamentals and advanced techniques to percussion section
- Taught marching and drill technique to the band
- Acted as counselor for camps and rehearsals

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Office of Entrepreneurship and Career Development (OECD)
Indiana University Jacobs School of Music - Bloomington, IN

Special Projects Assistant **2017-Present**

- Perform an audit of peer institutions and their entrepreneurship training and career development efforts for the OECD and Jacobs School of Music administration.
- Develop advancement strategies and priorities for the office
 - Pursue development and advancement opportunities in the form of grants and corporate and foundation relationships
- Help coordinate and implement the annual Innovation Competition
- Mentor and engage with student organizations and ensembles

New Voices Opera - Bloomington, IN

NewVoices Opera (NVO) is a student-run opera company in Bloomington, IN whose mission is to commission and produce new student composed opera and encourage the production of new vocal works. Each spring, NVO fully produces a double-bill of these new works along with several other projects and initiatives throughout the year.

Special Advisor **2017-Present**

- Provide continuity and transitional support for the administration
- Provide long-term planning
- Serve on the Community Advisory Board
- Participate in fundraising and development efforts

Executive Director **2014-2017**

- Provide long-term planning
- Develop and execute yearly and project budgets (~\$20,000-\$30,000 annually)
- Oversee all aspects of artistic direction for productions and projects
- Oversee all aspects of development, including:
 - Corporate sponsorships
 - Local, regional, and national grants
 - Individual donations and contributions
- Oversee all aspects marketing and audience development, including:
 - Local advertisements in print and digital media (radio, newspaper, online)
 - Email marketing campaigns
 - Community outreach and audience development outreach initiatives
- Oversee all social media and web presences

- Act as liaison with regional and national figures and organizations on behalf of NVO

Business Manager

2013-2014

- Maintained organization's ledgers and accounting
- Developed and executed yearly and project budgets
- Coordinated initial branding and marketing for the beginning of the organization
- Long-term planning and organizational structure development at organization start-up
- Oversaw major revisions to organization by-laws
- Aided in major development initiatives

Office of Admissions and Financial Aid

Indiana University Jacobs School of Music - Bloomington, IN

Graduate Assistant

2012-2017

- Process approx. 2,500-3,500 applications a year
- Maintain organized filing and retrieval systems for applications and financial aid documents
- Help coordinate school audition weekends and oversee volunteer student ambassadors
- Give tours to prospective students and families as well as special guests
- Aid in the creation of the annual Enrollment Report for Jacobs
- Answer phone calls and emails for the office

Student National Association of Teachers of Singing - Bloomington, IN

President

2015-2016

- Planned lecture series for the chapter
- Planned professional workshops and events
- Coordinated staff for the chapter events
- Oversaw outreach, marketing, and recruitment initiatives throughout the year
- Aided Vice-President in planning of the New Voice Educators Symposium
- Provided long-term planning

Vice-President

2014-2015

- Aided President in planning of lecture series and workshops
- Planned and coordinated the New Voice Educators Symposium
- Aided with outreach and recruitment initiatives

Treasurer

2013-2014

- Maintained chapter ledgers
- Aided fundraising and outreach initiatives
- Developed and maintained chapter budget

Residence Halls Association

Read Residence Hall - Indiana University - Bloomington, IN

Vice President of Internal Affairs

2011-2012

- Responsible for the Board of Senators for the residence hall
- Oversaw the appropriation of \$12,000 of Student Activity Fees
- Aided in event programming and budgeting
- Maintained proper documentation of funded initiatives and events

AWARDS AND HONORS

Performance Honors

- Music Teacher National Association Young Artist Competition** 2012-2013
Los Angeles, CA
- National Finalist
- National Association of Teachers of Singing State Competitions**
- Indiana*
- Third Place, Advanced Women and Men Division 2012
 - Second Place, Fourth Year College Men Division 2011
 - First Place, Third Year College Men Division 2010
 - First Place, First Year College Men Division 2008

Public Presentation

- New Voice Educators Symposium, Indiana University** 2016
- Selected Presenter (Bridging the Gap: What is the Purpose of Today's Music Degree?)
- Inside Community Arts Organizations, Indiana University** 2016
- Guest Lecturer for the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (New Voices Opera: Founding and Development)
- Undergraduate Vocal Pedagogy, Indiana University** 2016
- Guest Lecturer with Julia Rademacher for the Jacobs School of Music (A Personal Testimony in Vocal Health)
- Entrepreneurship and Project Management in the Arts, Indiana University** 2015
- Guest Lecturer for the Jacobs School of Music (New Voices Opera: Founding and Development)
- Interview with Jake Heggie, Indiana University** 2015
- Interviewer for a conversation with Composer Jake Heggie for New Voices Opera and Project Jumpstart at Indiana University
- Undergraduate Vocal Pedagogy, Indiana University** 2015
- Guest Lecturer with Julia Rademacher for the Jacobs School of Music (A Personal Testimony in Vocal Health)

New Voice Educators Symposium, Indiana University 2014
- Selected Presenter (Nasality in Speech and Singing)

Evansville North High School 2012
- Breath Management Workshop for the Concert Choir

Professional Honors

Eastman Leadership Conference 2017
- 2017 Yamaha Graduate Fellow

Kelley School of Business Clapp IDEA Competition 2015
- Winner (Proposal for national expansion of New Voices Opera)

Project Jumpstart Innovation Competition 2015
- Finalist (Proposal for national expansion of New Voices Opera)

Project Jumpstart Entrepreneur of the Month 2015
- Recognized for work with New Voices Opera

Grants Awarded

Indiana University Funding Board 2017
- New Voices Opera 2017 Double Bill

Bloomington Urban Enterprise Area Zone Arts Grant 2016
- New Voices Opera 2017 Double Bill

Bloomington Arts Commission Grant 2016
- New Voices Opera 2017 Double Bill

Indiana University Funding Board 2016
- New Voices Opera 2016 Double Bill

Bloomington Urban Enterprise Area Zone Arts Grant 2016
- New Voices Opera 2016 Double Bill

Indiana University Funding Board 2015
- New Voices Opera 2015 Double Bill
- SNATS Eleventh Annual New Voice Educators Symposium

Indiana University Funding Board 2014
- New Voices Opera 2014 Double Bill
- SNATS Tenth Annual New Voice Educators Symposium

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Opera Roles

Ralph Rackstraw	<i>H.M.S. Pinafore</i> , Sullivan	IU Opera Theater	2014
Indian Scientist	<i>The Last Savage</i> , Menotti	IU Opera Theater	2014
President Taft	<i>Intoxication</i> , Kingsland	New Voices Opera	2013
Kromow	<i>Die Lustige Witwe</i> , Lehár	IU Opera Theater	2012
Charles Edward	<i>Candide</i> , Bernstein	IU Opera Theater	2012
Gherardo	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i> , Puccini	Bay View Music Festival	2011
Gherardo	<i>Buoso's Ghost</i> , Ching	Bay View Music Festival	2011

Opera Scenes

Ernesto	<i>Don Pasquale</i> , Donizetti	IU Opera Workshop	2014
Don Ottavio	<i>Don Giovanni</i> , Mozart	IU Opera Workshop	2013
Bénédict	<i>Béatrice et Bénédict</i> , Berlioz	IU Opera Workshop	2011

Opera Ensembles

<i>La traviata</i> , Verdi	IU Opera Theater	2014
<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i> , Mozart	IU Opera Theater	2013
<i>La bohème</i> , Puccini	IU Opera Theater	2011
<i>Così fan tutte</i> , Mozart	IU Opera Theater	2011
<i>Faust</i> , Gounod	IU Opera Theater	2011
<i>Die Zauberflöte</i> , Mozart	IU Opera Theater	2009
<i>Die lustigen Witwe von Windsor</i> , Nicolai	IU Opera Theater	2008

Music Theater

Narrator/ Bandleader	<i>Calling All Kates</i>	Bloomington Playwrights Project	2017
James Wilson	<i>1776</i>	Cardinal Stage Company	2014
Combferre	<i>Les Misérables</i>	Cardinal Stage Company	2014

Concerts As Soloist

Tenor Soloist, Mozart Requiem <i>Matthew Latta, Conductor; Red Skelton Performing Arts Center, Vincennes, IN</i>	2015
Tenor Soloist, Trialogue: Nature Aligns (World Premiere) <i>Maxwell Ramage, Conductor; Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Bloomington, IN</i>	2015
Tenor Soloist, NVO Takes on Broadway <i>NewVoices Opera, Bloomington, IN & Columbus, IN</i>	2015
Tenor Soloist, Bach Cantata No. 131 <i>Livia Gho, Conductor; Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Bloomington, IN</i>	2014

Tenor Soloist, Haydn Missa Sancti Gabrilelis, MH 17 2013
Jack Templeton, Conductor; Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Bloomington, IN

Tenor Soloist, Bay View Music Theatre Revue 2011
Bay View Music Festival, Petoskey, MI

Festivals

Bay View Music Festival - Petoskey, MI 2011
Bay View Women's Association Scholarship Recipient

In Recital

Doctoral Recital - Bloomington, IN 2017
- Repertoire by R. Schumann (*Dichterliebe*), and Brahms

Doctoral Recital - Bloomington, IN 2016
- Repertoire by Handel, Chausson, Finzi, Wolf, and Tosti

Masters Recital - Bloomington, IN 2013
- Repertoire by Handel, Copland, Donizetti, Schubert, and Hahn

Arts in August Concert Series - Evansville, IN 2013
- Repertoire including music theatre classics from Sondheim to Jason Robert Brown

Arts in August Concert Series - Evansville, IN 2012
- Repertoire by Mozart, Brahms, Britten, Verdi, and Paladilhe

Senior Recital - Bloomington, IN 2012
- Repertoire by Mozart, Brahms, Britten, and Paladilhe

Junior Recital - Bloomington, IN 2011
- Repertoire by Bach, Fauré, Vaughan Williams, Duke, and Schumann

Four Tenors in Concert "A Celebration of the Tenor Voice" - Evansville, IN 2009
- Repertoire including various music theatre pieces, operatic solos, and ensemble pieces

Coaches

Ferris Allen

Gary Arvin

Kimberly Carballo

Heidi Grant-Murphy

Sylvia McNair

Jeffrey Picón

Directors

Ned Canty

George Cedarquist

Candace Evans

Vincent Liotta

Michael Shell

Randy White

Tomer Zvulun

Conductors

David Effron

Constantine Kitsopoulos

Arthur Fagen

Kevin Noe

Dale Rieling

Choreographers

Diane Buzell

Greg Graham

Michael Vernon

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Conducting and Music Directing

<i>Calling All Kates</i>, by Emily Goodson and Jeremy Schonfield	2017
Bloomington Playwrights Project, Bloomington IN	
<i>Sweeney Todd</i> by Stephen Sondheim	2016
Ivy Tech Community College - John Waldron Arts Center, Bloomington, IN	
<i>Toast</i> by Sam Carter and Derek Gregor	2016
Bloomington Playwrights Project, Bloomington IN	
<i>And You Shall be a Blessing</i> by Deborah Yarchun	2016
Independent Workshop, Bloomington IN	
<i>Make Me Bad</i> by Alex Brightman and Drew Gasparini	2015
Bloomington Playwrights Project, Bloomington IN	

Professional Chorister

Evangelical Community Church - Bloomington, IN	2009-2017
Tenor Section Leader	
Apollo's Voice - Indianapolis, IN	2014-2015
Raymond Leppard, Conductor	

Adjudicating

State NATS Competition - Anderson, IN	2017
Jerry Hoover Awards - Evansville, IN	2016
Great Lakes Regional NATS Competition - Anderson, IN	2015
Jerry Hoover Awards - Evansville, IN	2013

Other Skills and Training

- Percussionist (15 years)
- Software Training
 - Microsoft Excel, Word, Powerpoint, Access, Publisher
 - Adobe Photoshop, Acrobat, Illustrator, and InDesign
 - Finale and Sibelius composition softwares
 - Apple Pages, Keynote, Numbers, Aperture, GarageBand, iMovie

REFERENCES

Dr. Mark Rabideau, Director, 21st Century Musician Initiative

DePauw University, Greencastle, IN
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Dr. Alain Barker, Director, Office of Entrepreneurship and Career Development

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Dr. Gregory Rike, Assistant Professor of Music (Voice)

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Dr. Brian Horne, Associate Professor of Music (Voice)

President, NATS Foundation
Governor, Great Lakes Region of NATS
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