

# Melanie Walker

[www.melaniewalkersoprano.com](http://www.melaniewalkersoprano.com)

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517-898-7250

## EDUCATION

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Doctor of Musical Arts - Voice Performance Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI, USA	May 2024
Master of Music - Voice Performance The Peabody Conservatory - Baltimore, MD, USA	May 2019
Bachelor of Music - Voice Performance Western Michigan University - Kalamazoo, MI, USA	December 2016

### **Instructors (Voice):**

Professor Jane Bunnell  
Elizabeth Futral  
Dr. Karen Kness  
Dr. Carl Ratner

### **Coaches and Mentors:**

Dr. Elden Little  
Dr. Robert Muckenfuss  
Dr. Patrick O'Donnell  
Gunta Laukmane

## COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Adjunct Instructor of Voice – Alma College Private voice instruction given to undergraduate students of various degrees at Alma College <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Both 30 &amp; 60 min units taught yearly</li></ul>	2023-Present
Graduate Teaching Assistant – The Peabody Conservatory <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Teaching Assistant – <i>BUILD: The Foundations of Citizen Artistry</i></li><li>Responsible for grading student work, giving constructive feedback to students, submitting grades, communicating and meeting with students, and improving the overall quality of the Breakthrough Curriculum as created by The Department of Professional Studies<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mandatory for all undergraduate and graduate students</li></ul></li></ul>	2018-2019
Voice Instructor (Private Lessons) – Western Michigan University Private voice lessons given to four students at Western Michigan University Three collegiate and one high school student	2015-2016

## **RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE**

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- Supervisor (Ticket Agent) – The Wharton Center for the Performing Arts 2023-Present  
Student manager in ticket office; interfacing with patrons both in person and over the phone, seating and checking during subscription season, exchanges, re-prints, issuing refunds, answering questions, and managing student employees during Broadway touring company shows and Michigan State University concerts. (Promoted to Supervisor within seven months of employment)
- Board Member – Capital City Music Collective (CCMC) 2023-Present  
Inaugural member on the Board for the Capital City Music Collective, under the leadership of L.B. Harrison Brown. Participated in weekly board meetings, completed tasks as assigned, and soprano in organizations flagship ensemble, Riverbend Voices
- Associate – Insignia Artists Management Summer 2021  
Edited various professional, artist documents (resumes, CV's, etc.), updated website information, updated various databases, other duties as assigned
- Opera Outreach Coordinator – The Peabody Conservatory 2018-2019  
Contacted venues and organizations for performances, booked performances, created and distributed contracts and invoices, handled financials within Opera Department, configured logistics, created and distributed promotional and educational materials, transported casts to performances within community, led pre and post-performances talks/Q&A sessions with casts and audiences, updated website with season information, updated databases, and various record keeping
- Assistant Director – The Peabody Conservatory Spring 2018  
Assistant Director for Jules Massenet's *Chérubin*; worked closely with casts and stage management  
Director: Dr. Samuel Mungo | Conductor: Laurent Pillot
- Assistant Soprano Section Leader – Western Michigan University Chorale 2015-2016  
Led soprano section in the performance of various repertoire within The University Chorale directed by Dr. Kimberly Dunn Adams, ran soprano sectionals, and assisted section and director as needed
- Soprano/Women's Sectional Leader and Assistant – Western Michigan University 2014-2016  
Soprano section leader and assistant for the Collegium Musicum Early Music Ensemble at Western Michigan University, directed by Dr. Matthew Steel and various choral conducting graduate students

## **PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

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### **Opera Roles**

Arminda; <i>La Finta Giardiniera</i> (Mozart)	Michigan State University	Fall 2022
*Miss Wordsworth; <i>Albert Herring</i> (Britten)	Michigan State University	Spring 2022
Soprano Soloist; <i>Serenade to Music</i> (Vaughan-Williams)	Michigan State University	Fall 2021
Infermiera; <i>Suor Angelica</i> (Puccini)	Peabody Conservatory	Spring 2018
Girl 2/Actor 2; <i>ANON</i> (Wallen)	Peabody Conservatory	2017/ 2018
Laurentia; <i>The Beautiful Bridegroom</i> (Shore)	Western Michigan University	Spring 2015
Jaffette; <i>Noyes Flude</i> (Britten)	Portage Central Methodist	Spring 2015
Soprano 1; <i>Ever Since Eden</i> (Trinkley)	Western Michigan University	Fall 2014
Mother; <i>Ahmal and the Night Visitors</i> (Menotti)	St. Paul's Episcopal Church	Spring 2012

### **Scenes Work**

Opera Workshop Scenes (Various)	Alma College	Spring 2022
Fiordaligi; <i>Così fan tutte</i> (Mozart)	Michigan State University	Sum/Fall 2022
Dorabella; <i>Così fan tutte</i> (Mozart)	Michigan State University	Fall 2022
Yum-Yum; <i>The Mikado</i> (Gilbert & Sullivan)	Western Michigan University	Fall 2014
Despina; <i>Così fan tutte</i> (Mozart)	Western Michigan University	Fall 2014
Opera Workshop Scenes (Various)	Western Michigan University	Spring 2013
Susanna; <i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i> (Mozart)	Western Michigan University	Spring 2013
Zerlina; <i>Don Giovanni</i> (Mozart)	Western Michigan University	Fall 2012

### **Chorus Work: Opera, Orchestral & Choral**

MASS; Street Singer (Bernstein)	Fountain Street Church	Spring 2024
<i>Mass in B Minor</i> (Johann Sebastian Bach)	Michigan State University	Spring 2023
<i>Daphnis et Chloé</i> (Ravel)	Michigan State University	Spring 2023
<i>Missa brevis K. 192</i> (Mozart)	Michigan State University	Spring 2023
<i>Requiem</i> (Brahms)	Michigan State University	Spring 2023
<i>Symphony No. 9</i> (Beethoven)	Detroit Symphony Orchestra	Spring 2022
<i>In Hopes of Finding the Sun</i> (Lash)	Detroit Symphony Orchestra	Spring 2022
<i>Messa da Requiem</i> (Verdi)	Michigan State University	Spring 2022
<i>Oratorio de Noël</i> (Saint-Saëns)	Michigan State University	Fall 2022
<i>Christmas Oratorio</i> (Bach)	Michigan State University	Fall 2022
<i>The Messiah</i> (Handel)	Michigan State University	Fall 2021
MASS; Ecclesiastical Chorus (Bernstein)	Peabody Conservatory	Fall 2018
<i>Romeo et Juliette</i> (Gounod)	Opera Grand Rapids	Fall 2016
<i>Carmina Burana</i> (Orff)	Western Michigan University	Spring 2013
<i>American Requiem</i> (Danielpour)	Western Michigan University	Fall 2013
<i>The Messiah</i> (Handel)	Western Michigan University	Fall 2012
<i>Die Fledermauss; Act II</i> (Strauss)	Western Michigan University	Fall 2012

### **World Premieres, Oratorio & Concert Work**

<i>Requiem</i> (Mozart)	The People's Church	Spring 2024
<i>Requiem</i> (Durufié)	Alma College	Spring 2024
<i>Lord Nelson Mass</i> (Haydn)	The People's Church	Spring 2023
<i>Dixit Dominus</i> (Haydn)	Michigan State University	Fall 2022
<i>Gloria</i> (Vivaldi)	The People's Church	Spring 2022
+ <i>Standing at the Bean</i> – Choral Work	Michigan State University	Spring 2022
<i>Kleine Orgelmesse</i> (Haydn)	The People's Church	Fall 2022
<i>A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice</i> (Gala)	Michigan State University	2022/2023
<i>Fantastic Music Tales: A Night at the Opera</i>	The Wharton Center	Fall 2021
+ <i>Rekindle</i> (Christopher Kaminski)	The Peoples Church	Fall 2021
+ <i>Les Roses de Saadi</i> (Philip Lasser)	Peabody Conservatory	Spring 2019
<i>Laudate Dominum</i> (Mozart)	Western Michigan University	Spring 2017
<i>Requiem</i> (Faure)	Western Michigan University	Summer 2016
<i>Requiem</i> (Mozart)	Western Michigan University	Summer 2016
<i>BWV 112: Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt</i> (Bach)	Western Michigan University	Fall 2016
<i>Elegy</i> – North American Premiere	Western Michigan University	Fall 2016
+ <i>I wanna fly</i> (Duncan Peterson-Jones)	Michigan State University	Fall 2016
<i>Gloria</i> (Vivaldi)	Western Michigan University	Fall 2016
+ <i>Songs for Lada</i> – Choral Work	Detroit Symphony Orchestra	2007
+ <i>Voices of a Vanished World</i> – Choral Work	Lansing Symphony Orchestra	2006
+ <i>Angels Voices</i> – Choral Work	Lansing Symphony Orchestra	2005

## **Ensemble & Choral Work**

Riverbend Voices – East Lansing, MI	Fall/Spring 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conductor: L. Harrison Brown</li><li>• Inaugural soprano of ensemble; solo work as assigned</li></ul>	
Mosaic: Women’s Ensemble – Michigan State University	2022-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conductor: Dr. Sandra Snow</li><li>• Performed various SSAA repertoire in concert; solo work as assigned</li></ul>	
University Chorale – Michigan State University	2021-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conductors: Dr. David Rayl &amp; Dr. Sandra Snow</li><li>• Performed various SATB repertoire; solo work as assigned</li></ul>	
Chamber Choir (MM & DMA Recital Choir) – Michigan State University	2021-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conductors: Dalan Guthrie, Ryan Fellman, Katy Green, Colleen Chester, Jack Bertrand, Benjamin Kambs, Saleel Menon, Rachael Schrobilgen</li><li>• Member of soprano section; solo work as assigned</li></ul>	
Practicum Choir (Conducting Masterclass Ensemble) – Michigan State University	2021-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Choral Conducting Graduate Students (Various)</li></ul>	
Chorosynthesis Singers – Seattle, WA	2020-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conductors: Dr. Wendy Moy &amp; Dr. Jeremiah Selvey</li><li>• Roster singer (soprano)</li></ul>	
The Celebris Ensemble – Kalamazoo, MI	2018-2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conductor: Joel Snyder</li><li>• Founding Member &amp; Soprano</li></ul>	
The Lange Ensemble – East Lansing, MI	16-17/19-22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conductor: Dr. Stephen Lange</li><li>• Member of soprano section; solo work as assigned</li></ul>	
University Chorale – Western Michigan University	2013-2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conductor: Dr. Kimberly Dunn Adams</li><li>• Member of soprano section</li></ul>	
Collegium Musicum: Early Music Ensemble /MM & DMA Recital Choir	2013-2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conductor: Dr. Matthew Steel</li><li>• Member of soprano section; solo work as assigned</li></ul>	
Grand Chorus (Masterworks)	2013-2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conductor: Dr. Kimberly Dunn Adams</li><li>• Member of soprano section</li></ul>	
Collegiate Singers	2012-2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conductor: Various</li><li>• Member of soprano section</li></ul>	
Michigan State University Children’s Choir (MSUCC)	2003-2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conductor: Mary Alice Stollak</li></ul>	

## **Albums & Recording Projects**

Paul Lansky: Contemplating Weather (Bridge Records) – Western Michigan University	2015
Ex Corde: From the Heart (Bridge Records) – Western Michigan University	2016
Songs for Lada (Naxos) – Orchestra Hall, Max M. Fisher Music Center, Detroit, MI	2007
This Joy (Blue Griffin Recording) – First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI	2007
Voices of a Vanished World (Delta Records) – Central Michigan University	2006
Songs from the Heart – Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, East Lansing, MI	2003

### **Worship Leadership Positions**

The People's Church – East Lansing, MI	2021-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soprano Section Leader &amp; Soloist</li><li>• Director: Dr. Jonathan Reed</li></ul>	
First Congregational Church - Battle Creek, MI	2015-17/19-20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soprano Section Leader &amp; Soloist</li><li>• Conductor: Lucy Lower</li></ul>	
Emmanuel Episcopal Church – Baltimore, MD	2019-2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soprano/ Alto Chorister</li><li>• Conductor: John Repulski</li></ul>	
Govan's Presbyterian Church – Baltimore MD	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soprano Section Leader</li><li>• Conductor: Jordan Smith</li></ul>	
St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Kalamazoo, MI	2012-2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Choral Scholar (Soprano)</li><li>• Director: Lucky Middaugh</li></ul>	
St. Paul's Episcopal Church – East Lansing, MI	1998-2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soprano Chorister &amp; Soloist</li><li>• Director: Dr. Stephen Lange</li></ul>	

### **Masterclasses, Professional Coachings, Workshops & Summer Programs**

Storytellers: Choral Workshop; featuring <i>Mirabai</i> – Denver, CO	2024
Coaching: Rachele Jonck - Michigan State University, East Lansing MI	2021/2022
Coaching: Steven Mosteller - Michigan State University, East Lansing MI	2021
Coaching: Mary Dibbern - Michigan State University, East Lansing MI	2020
Masterclass: Allen Perriello - Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore MD	2019
Musical Theater Workshop - Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore MD	2018
Voces8 Masterclass: Collegium Musicum Quartet - Kalamazoo, MI	2016
Masterclass: George Shirley - Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI	2016
Coaching: Linda Watson - Graz, Austria	2015
Program: American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) - Graz, Austria	2015
Masterclass: Patricia Craig - Graz, Austria	2015
Program: Opera Maya - Playa del Carmen, Mexico	2014
Masterclass: Ellen Hargis - Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI	2014

### **Presentations**

Lecture Recital – Michigan State University	Spring 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Topic: <i>The Vocal Works of David Lang</i></li></ul>	
Lecture Recital – Michigan State University	Fall 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Topic: <i>Duality in Lili Boulanger's Clairières dans le ciel: Song cycle for high voice and piano (1914)</i></li></ul>	

### **Recitals (University)**

Doctor of Musical Arts: Recital 4 – Michigan State University	Spring 2023
Doctor of Musical Arts: Recital 3 (Chamber) – Michigan State University	Fall 2023
Doctor of Musical Arts: Recital 2 – Michigan State University	Spring 2022
Doctor of Musical Arts: Recital 1 – Michigan State University	Spring 2021
Master of Music Recital – Peabody Conservatory	Spring 2019
Bachelor of Music: Senior Recital – Western Michigan University	Spring 2016
Bachelor of Music: Junior Recital – Western Michigan University	Fall 2014

### **Community Theater & Vocal Programs**

Turning Heavenward: A Tribute to Stephen R. Lange	Summer 2023
Lansing Matinee Musicale presents <i>Melanie Walker, Soprano</i>	Spring 2023
To Peabody and Beyond: An Evening Recital – Battle Creek, MI	Fall 2018
Evangeline Harcourt/Soprano Soloist; <i>Anything Goes</i> – Okemos High School	Spring 2012
Page/Soprano Soloist; <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> – Okemos High School	Spring 2012
Actor D; <i>The Triangle Factory Fire Project</i> – Okemos High School	Fall 2011
Chorus; <i>Curtains</i> – Okemos High School	Spring 2011
Chorus; <i>The Wedding Singer</i> – Okemos High School	Spring 2010
Betty; <i>The Crucible</i> – Okemos High School	Fall 2009
Chorus; <i>Seussical: The Musical</i> - Okemos High School	Spring 2009
Little Red Riding Hood; <i>Into the Woods</i> (Sondheim) – Riverwalk Theater	Summer 2009
Joann; <i>Godspell</i> (Schwartz) – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church	Summer 2009
Dagmar; <i>I Remember Mama</i> (Van Druten) – Riverwalk Theater	Fall 2003
Marta; <i>The Sound of Music</i> (Rodgers/Hammerstein) – Riverwalk Theater	Fall 2003

### **Honors & Awards**

Elizabeth R Stanaway Nordlund Endowed Fund Scholarship – Award Recipient	2021-2023
Graduate Choral Scholarship – Award Recipient	202-2023
National Teachers of Singing Competition – Third Place Winner	2015
National Teachers of Singing Competition – Third Place Winner	2014
National Teachers of Singing Competition – Second Place Winner	2013
Audrey Davidson Scholar – Award Recipient	2012-2016
Frank K. Dewald Choral Award – Award Recipient	2012
Holly Tarr Award – Award Recipient	2012
Michigan School Vocal Music Association: Top Twelve Singers in the State of Michigan	2012
Barney Awards: Supporting Actress & Howard Lancour Award (Into the Woods)	2009
Thespie Award (The Sound of Music)	2003

### **Relevant Skills & Training**

#### **Movement & Dance**

Extensive training and study in the dance styles of ballet (9 years), tap (13 years), and jazz (13 years)

#### **Stage Combat**

Specialty: Fencing & Swords

#### **Languages**

Extensive study in French, German, English, Italian, and Russian language; minimal study of Japanese

#### **Hair, Make-up & Costume Experience**

Extensive background in hair, make-up, and costume experience

#### **Opera Surtitles: Training & Performance Experience**

### **Teachers**

Jane Bunnell  
Elizabeth Futral  
Dr. Carl Ratner  
Dr. Karen Kness  
Molly Fillmore  
Stephanie Weiss

### **Coaches**

Elden Little  
Robert Muckenfuss  
Vera Danchenko-Stern  
JoAnn Kulesza  
Christina Haan  
Piotr Wisniewski

### **Directors**

Melanie Helton  
Garnett Bruce  
Samuel Mungo  
Catrin Davis  
Carl Ratner

### **Conductors**

Katherine Kilburn  
Octavio Más-Arocas  
Marin Alsop  
Kimberly Dunn Adams  
Jader Bignamini  
Leonard Slatkin  
John Adams

\*Designates cover / +Designates world premiere