

Justin P. Cowan

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Education

D.M.A. in Music Performance – Conducting (Choral and Instrumental) *Exp: May 2018*

Cognate/Secondary Studies - Directing (Theatre)

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

- Choral Conducting: Dr. Carole Ott, Dr. Welborn Young
- Instrumental Conducting: Dr. Kevin Gerald
- Directing: Preston Lane, MFA, John Gulley, MFA
- Dissertation: *Musicianship for Musical Theatre – A Practical Guide for the Actor, Singer, Dancer.*

M.M. in Music Performance – Choral Conducting *May, 2016*

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

- Choral Conducting: Dr. Carole Ott, Dr. Welborn Young

B.A. in Music – Voice *May, 2014*

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

- Voice: Dr. Carla LeFevre, Dr. Robert Bracey

University Teaching

University of North Carolina – Greensboro

Development of American Musical Theatre (THR 305) *2017 - Present*

-Instructor of Record

Students analyze the developmental history of the indigenous American art form of musical theatre. Topics range from German Singspiel and Viennese Operetta to Minstrelsy and Vaudeville, to Burlesque and *The Black Crook*, to Tin Pan Alley, *Showboat*, Movie Musicals, and *Oklahoma!*.

Musicianship for Musical Theatre (VPA 320) *2015 - Present*

-Instructor of Record

Students develop musicianship skills to be used specifically for the musical theatre genre, including but not limited to: reading music, sight singing, and ear training. By the completion of this course, students will be able to identify and notate pitches, intervals, scales, key signatures, chords, and rhythms. Students also utilize counting and solfege systems to sight-sing melodies in both major and minor modes.

Workshop in Musical Theatre (VPA 340)

2015 - Present

-Primary Instructor in Residence

Prepares students for a professional rehearsal process through the mounting of a staged-reading or concert production of a musical. Students develop professional rehearsal skills through table-work, dramaturgy, score-study, music and staging rehearsals, and performance skills through the final capstone presentation. In addition, students will gain a greater understanding of the business of musical theatre. This is an audition-only course for undergraduate and graduate students.

- Served as the course's 'Primary Instructor in Residence' in preparation for Dominick Amendum's campus visits.
 - Dominick Amendum is the Music Supervisor of Broadway's *Wicked* and serves as a Visiting Professor for the University.
- Capstone projects have included:
 - *Into the Woods* in Concert
 - *Melancholy Play: a chamber musical*
 - *Broadway Choruses by the Decade*
 - *A New Brain*

Musical Theatre Audition Techniques I, II (VPA 350-351)

2014 - Present

-Primary Instructor in Residence

Prepares students for professional musical theatre auditions by creating an audition book encompassing multiple styles of musical theatre repertoire. Each student's audition book will include but not be limited to: Golden Age Musical Theatre, Contemporary Musical Theatre, Rock/Pop/Top 40, Country/Folk/Singer-Songwriter, and Gospel/R&B. Students will grasp the concepts of appropriate song choice, audition techniques, musical interpretation, acting through song, and vocal technique through weekly coachings. In addition, students gain a greater understanding of the business of musical theatre by learning how to market themselves. This is a dual-semester audition-only course admitting 12 undergraduate or graduate students per year.

- Served as the course's 'Primary Instructor in Residence' in preparation for Dominick Amendum's campus visits.
 - Dominick Amendum is the Music Supervisor of Broadway's *Wicked* and serves as a Visiting Professor for the University.

Producing Artistic Director

North Carolina Summer Rep – a program of UNCG

2016 - Present

North Carolina Summer Rep is the newest addition to the recently formed College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) at UNCG. North Carolina Summer Rep is a non-curricular theatre opportunity for current students, recent graduates, alumni, industry professionals, and the community at large. This program was created to provide a professional stepping-stone for current students, alumni, and community members into the professional world. North Carolina Summer Rep believes strongly in the value of providing professional connections and opportunities for UNCG students, and will strive to bring professionals in the larger theatre industry to work alongside our students both on and off the stage. As the Producing Artistic Director, duties include:

- Creating the initial proposal for this program complete with a vision statement and an annual budget for approval by the Dean.
- Regular communication with the Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts to collaboratively cultivate this new program.
- Hiring, supervising, and evaluating all creative and production staff. Including the hiring of professional regional directors in an effort to expand our student's networks.
- Casting all productions with a combination of UNCG students, UNCG alumni, community members, and members of the Broadway community.
- Overseeing all aspects of production and developing and maintaining an annual budget.
- Implementing and overseeing the artistic vision and focus of the program.
- Cultivating relationships with other professional venues, and serving as the public face of the program.

PRODUCTIONS:

- *Sunday in the Park with George* in Concert – 2017
- *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* in Concert – 2017
- *Into the Woods* in Concert – 2016

Producing Artistic Director (cont.)**BIG ARTS – Herb Strauss Theatre - Sanibel Island, Florida**

2010 - 2012

The Barrier Island Group for the Arts (BIG ARTS) is a non-profit arts organization serving the islands of Sanibel and Captiva in Southwest Florida. BIG ARTS houses a wide range of offerings from visual art, to film, to community arts collaboratives, to educational arts programs, to performing arts through music, theatre, and dance. In 2010, BIG ARTS acquired the theatre formerly known as the Pirate Playhouse and then the Herb Strauss Theatre. In their new venue, BIG ARTS set out to produce its own season of plays and musicals throughout the year. As the Artistic Director and senior creative employee responsible for the merging of these two formerly separate organizations, duties included:

- Implementing and overseeing the artistic vision and focus of the theatre.
- Sitting on many committees working very closely with staff and board members to plan seasons, brainstorm ways to generate unearned revenue, and set long term goals for the success of the theatre.
- Hiring, supervising, and evaluating all creative and production staff.
- Casting all productions with professional actors, including a yearly NYC open call.
- Overseeing all aspects of production along with developing and maintaining an annual budget.
- Cultivating relationships with other regional theatres, professional venues, and serving as the public face of the theatre.

PRODUCTIONS:

- *Over the Tavern* – Spring, 2012
- *Das Barbecü* – Spring, 2012
- *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** – Spring, 2012
- *The Winter Wonderettes* – Winter, 2011
- *Ain't Misbehavin'* – Spring, 2011
- *It Runs In The Family* – Spring, 2011
- *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* – Spring, 2011
- *The Sunshine Boys* – Fall, 2010
- *Songs for a New World* – Fall, 2010

AWARDS:

- “Best New Use of Old Space” – Florida Weekly’s Best-of 2012
- *“Best Musical” – Naples Daily News, SW Florida Theatre Awards 2012

Freelance/University Directing

- *A New Brain* by William Finn and James Lapine – University of NC at Greensboro – Spring 2018 (Upcoming)
- *The Price* by Arthur Miller – Triad Stage – Fall, 2017 (Asst. Director)
- *Melancholy Play: a chamber musical* by Sarah Ruhl and Todd Almond – University of NC at Greensboro – Winter, 2016
- *An Evening of Musical Theatre* (Showcase) - University of NC at Greensboro - Spring, 2017
- *The Santaland Diaries* by David Sedaris – Paper Lantern Theatre Company – Winter 2014
- *The Piano Lesson* (Scenes) by August Wilson – University of NC at Greensboro – Spring 2014

University Music Directing/Conducting

North Carolina Summer Rep – a program of UNCG

- *Sweeney Todd*** - Summer, 2017
- *Sunday in the Park with George*** – Summer, 2017

University of North Carolina - Greensboro

- *Heathers: The Musical** – Spring, 2018 (Upcoming)
- *Caroline, or Change** – Fall, 2016
- *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play** – Spring, 2016
- *Hairspray** – Fall, 2015
- *Pippi Longstocking** – Fall, 2015
- *Cabaret*** – Spring, 2015
- *Dani Girl** - Spring, 2015
- *A Year with Frog and Toad** - Spring, 2014
- *Monty Python's Spamalot*** - Fall, 2013

Professional Music Directing/Conducting

29-Hour Reading/Workshop – New York, NY

- *Secondhand Lions* w/Tom Wopat & James Naughton – Summer, 2016 (Assistant MD)

Ocean State Theatre Company/Theatre By The Sea – Warwick/Matunuck, RI

- *Avenue Q** - Summer, 2016
- *Damn Yankees** – Summer, 2016
- *Gypsy** – Summer, 2015
- *Guys and Dolls** – Summer, 2014
- *Legally Blonde** – Summer, 2013
- *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying** – Summer, 2012

Florida Repertory Theatre – Fort Myers, FL

- *The Fantasticks** – Spring, 2013
- *[Title of Show]** – Spring, 2012

Triad Stage – Greensboro, NC

- *South Pacific** - Fall, 2017
- *Dirty Blonde** – Spring, 2015
- *Pump Boys and Dinettes* – Spring, 2014
- *A Christmas Carol* – Winter, 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016

Park Playhouse – Albany, NY

- *Cabaret*** – Summer, 2012
- *Hairspray** – Summer, 2012
- *The Producers*** – Summer, 2011
- *Annie Get Your Gun*** – Summer, 2010
- *West Side Story*** – Summer, 2008

BIG ARTS Herb Strauss Theater – Sanibel, FL

- *Das Barbecü** – Spring, 2012
- *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** – Spring, 2012
- *Winter Wonderettes** – Winter, 2011
- *Ain't Misbehavin'** – Spring, 2011
- *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** – Spring, 2011
- *Songs for a New World** – Fall, 2010
- *Little Shop of Horrors** – Spring, 2009

Broadway Palm Dinner Theater – Fort Myers, FL

- *The Andrews Brothers** – Fall, 2010
- *Are We There Yet?** – Spring, 2010
- *Church Basement Ladies** – Spring, 2009

* - Piano Conducted ** - Stick Conducted

Research/Scholarly Writing

University of North Carolina – Greensboro

Exp: May, 2018

Dissertation: Musicianship for Musical Theatre – A Practical Guide for the Actor, Singer, Dancer

Arising from personal frustrations regarding professional actors who have limited to no musicianship skills in spite of completing a four-year degree program in Musical Theatre, the idea for this project was born. This textbook ventures to approach theory from a purely practical viewpoint. All musical examples are gathered from the Musical Theatre canon, with the global objective of training musically intelligent actors who are proficient in sight-singing skills, keyboard skills, and aural skills. This book seeks to set a national standard for music education within Musical Theatre programs across the country.

Research/Creative Activity

University of North Carolina - Greensboro

Development and Implementation of Musical Theatre Minor

2014 - Present

- Served on a special task force at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) comprised of members of faculty from the Schools of Music, Theatre, and Dance in order to explore interest and student need for supplemental training in Musical Theatre.
- Researched Musical Theatre curricula at other major universities along with current curricula within UNCG's Schools of Music, Theatre, and Dance.
- Developed a Plan of Study for a Minor in Musical Theatre through identifying courses already in existence within the College of Visual and Performing Arts, as well as identifying new courses to be developed.
- Developed the curriculum for five new courses to be offered at UNCG for students interested in pursuing a Minor in Musical Theatre
 - Musicianship for Musical Theatre
 - Development of American Musical Theatre
 - Audition Techniques for Musical Theatre (Co-Developed with Dominick Amendum)
 - Workshop in Musical Theatre (Co-Developed with Dominick Amendum)
 - Dance for Musical Theatre (Co-Developed with Lauren Trollinger)
- Developed extensive marketing materials (print and digital) for this new program with the goal of recruitment and retention.
- Currently oversee close to 60 students who have declared a Minor in Musical Theatre at UNCG.

Development and Proposal of Musical Theatre Major

Spring, 2017

- Researched Musical Theatre curricula at other major universities along with the current curriculum within UNCG's Schools of Music, Theatre, and Dance.
- Developed a Plan of Study for a Musical Theatre Major through identifying courses already in existence within the College of Visual and Performing Arts, as well as identifying new courses to be developed.

- Drafted a new program proposal with the Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts to be presented to the University Provost for consideration.

University Service

University of North Carolina - Greensboro

- Recruitment Workshops/Events
 - Fall, 2017 – NCTC College Discovery Day
 - Fall, 2017 – MT Audition Techniques Workshop (40 Perspective Students)
 - Fall, 2016 – NCTC College Discovery Day
- Audition Prep Workshops for Student Professional Placement
 - NCTC, SETC, UPTA, FPTA, StrawHats
- Audition Accompanist
 - 2017-2018 School of Theatre Season
 - 2016-2017 School of Theatre Season
 - 2015-2016 School of Theatre Season
 - 2014-2015 School of Theatre Season
 - 2013-2014 School of Theatre Season
- NYC Industry Showcase Musical Director/Director/Accompanist
 - Spring, 2018 – Upcoming (Alvin Ailey Theatre)
 - Spring, 2017 (54 Below, Westside Theatre)
 - Spring, 2016 (Alvin Ailey Theatre, The Barrow Group Theatre)

Student Success

- Off Broadway: *Finian's Rainbow*
- NYC Reading/Workshop of Stephen Schwartz's *Prince of Egypt*
- *Freedom Riders* at NYMPH
- National Tours of *Book of Mormon*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *All Hands on Deck*
- Principal Tracks on Norwegian Cruise Lines
- Principal Roles at Regional Theatres like *Florida Repertory Theatre*, *Ocean State Theatre Company*, *Serenbe Playhouse*, *Cape Fear Regional Theatre*, *Charleston Light Opera Guild*, and *Prather Entertainment Group*.

Awards/Honors

- 2017 Winner: Outstanding Year-Long Theatre Work ('16-'17 Academic Year)
 - University of North Carolina at Greensboro – School of Theatre
- 2016 Winner: Best Musical (Broadway World, RI)
 - *Avenue Q* – Ocean State Theatre Company
- 2016 Nominee: Best Musical Direction (Broadway World, RI)
 - *Avenue Q* – Ocean State Theatre Company
- 2015 Nominee: Best Musical Direction (Broadway World, RI)
 - *Gypsy* – Ocean State Theatre Company
- 2015 Nominee: Outstanding Teaching Award ('14-'15 Academic Year)
 - University of North Carolina at Greensboro – School of Music, Theatre, Dance
- 2013 Winner: Best Musical (Broadway World SW Florida)
 - *The Fantasticks* – Florida Repertory Theatre
- 2013 Winner: Best Musical Direction (Broadway World SW Florida)
 - *The Fantasticks* – Florida Repertory Theatre
- 2012 Winner: Best Musical (SW Florida Theatre Awards)
 - *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* – BIG ARTS Herb Strauss Theatre
- 2012 Winner: Best New Use of Old Space (Florida Weekly)
 - Producing Artistic Director – BIG ARTS Herb Strauss Theatre