

IAN AXNESS

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As a music director and collaborative pianist, my creative process is one of balanced expression and response. Guiding musical development from practice toward performance calls for clear and supportive instruction as well as creative inspiration and experimentation, just as a singer's accompaniment should be sometimes steady and sometimes flexible. I lead rehearsals with optimism and efficiency, I facilitate conversation between performing artists, and I aim to explore and celebrate the many unique applications of music.

CURRENT POSITIONS

Playwrights Horizons Theater School (NYU Tisch Drama) - New York, NY
Instructor and Collaborative Pianist, January 2012-present

The Juilliard School - Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts - New York, NY
Guest Music Director and Coach, March 2017-present

EDUCATION

Oberlin College - Oberlin, OH

B.A. - Major: Music History and Theory. Minor: Theater.
John F. Oberlin Scholarship, 2005-2009

PUBLICATIONS & PRIZES

Musical Theater Today: The Anthology of Contemporary Musical Theater New York, NY
Contributing Editor 2017-present
: Contributed *On Bothness* (essay/editorial, Volume 2)
: Conducted, transcribed, and edited conversations with composers, performers, and music directors

Kleban Prize in Musical Theatre New York, NY
Reader 2013-2015
: Reviewed and rated submissions for Most Promising Musical Theater Lyricist

COLLABORATIVE ARTS (ACADEMIC)

Vocal Arts Cabaret - The Juilliard School New York, NY
Music Director; Piano, Arrangements 2017-present
: Coached and accompanied thematic programs of wide-ranging American song repertoire
: Created original arrangements for mixed vocal ensemble and cello

The Performing Arts Project Winston-Salem, NC
Music Director 2017-present
: Facilitated R&D in extended vocal technique, structured ensemble improvisation, and repertoire exploration
: Accompanied for classes led by Krysta Rodriguez, Susan Blackwell, Erika Henningsen, Nick Blaemire, et al.

The RealAD Show - NYU Abu Dhabi Abu Dhabi, UAE
Music Director; Piano 2014-2016
: Co-composed, rehearsed, and accompanied topic-driven musical theater production for new students
: Developed material and group dynamics through ensemble writing process created by Elizabeth Swados

- Bridge Arts Ensemble** New York, NY
Teaching Artist, Piano 2015-present
: Performed in-school concerts; conducted workshops and lessons for students K-12
- Playwrights Horizons Theater School** New York, NY
Instructor, Collaborative Pianist 2012-present
: Accompanied second-year Music Performance, taught by Theresa McCarthy and Salty Brine
: Designed and taught first-year Rehearsal Process, exploring links between song performance and improvisation
: Co-developed and accompanied devised student cabaret *Strangers Like Us* (2013) with director Salty Brine
- The Landing (Greg Pierce & John Kander) - Oberlin College** Oberlin, OH
Music Director; Piano 2015
: Directed and accompanied vocal rehearsals; supervised and conducted chamber ensemble orchestrations
- Stella Adler Studio of Acting** New York, NY
Collaborative Pianist - Acting A Song, taught by Betsy Parrish 2015
- National Theater Institute** Waterford, CT
Collaborative Pianist - Song Performance, taught by Anne Tofflemire 2014
- Where It All Began (Creative Ensemble Musical) - CAP 21** New York, NY
Music Director; Piano 2013
: Co-composed and accompanied original production with second-year conservatory students
: Developed material and group dynamics through ensemble devising process with director Tomi Tsunoda
- Miss Julie (August Strindberg) - Brooklyn College** Brooklyn, NY
Music Director; Piano, Coachman 2013
: Rehearsed and supervised original music by student composer Hyunsung Nam
: Developed and accompanied pre-show piano/vocal repertoire & incidental music with director Kristy Dodson
- New York City Opera** New York, NY
Teaching Artist, Piano, Composer 2012-2013
: Directed and accompanied education programs for *Mosè in Egitto* (Rossini) and *Treemonisha* (Joplin)
: Composed songs based on *Where the Wild Things Are* by Oliver Knussen
- Flora the Red Menace (Tommy Thompson, John Kander & Fred Ebb) - Oberlin College** Oberlin, OH
Music Director; Piano, Orchestrations 2011
: Directed vocal rehearsals; supervised arrangements and score changes from composer John Kander
: Created original orchestrations for flexible ensemble of actors and musicians
- NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study** New York, NY
Collaborative Pianist - Acting Through Song, taught by Ben Steinfeld and Jessie Austrian 2010-2012
- Broadway Workshop** New York, NY
Music Director; Collaborative Pianist 2010-2017
: Rehearsed and conducted youth productions; accompanied master classes and audition workshops
- Camp Pemigewassett** Wentworth, NH
Head of Music, Collaborative Pianist 2008-2013
: Programmed and coordinated diverse weekly music courses for boys age 8-15
: Rehearsed and accompanied Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Iolanthe*, and *The Mikado*
: Organized arts events including literary readings, symphony outings, variety shows, and Sunday lectures

COLLABORATIVE ARTS (PROFESSIONAL)

- Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (Sondheim/Wheeler) - Barrow Street Theater** New York, NY
 Music Director; Piano (sub), Rehearsal Pianist 2018
 : Music Director - Matt Aument
- Zaubernacht (Kurt Weill) - Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra** New York, NY
 Piano 2018
 : Music Director - Gary Fagin
- Beardo (Jason Craig & Dave Malloy) - Pipeline Theatre** Brooklyn, NY
 Music Director, Chorus Preparation 2017
 : Director - Ellie Heyman
- A Ride on the Irish Cream (Erin Markey, Emily Bate, & Kenny Mellman) - Abrons Arts Center** New York, NY
 Piano 2016
 : Director - Jordan Fein
 : 2017 tour to Chicago, Philadelphia, and Cambridge, MA
- Pericles (Shakespeare, adapted by Rinde Eckert & David Schweizer) - Two River Theater** Red Bank, NJ
 Music Director; Keyboard, Accordion, Percussion 2016
 : Director - David Schweizer
 : Developed vocal and band arrangements with composer Rinde Eckert and music supervisor Wayne Barker
- Andréa Lloyd Webber & Yon Yonson - Ars Nova, Come On Everybody, Dixon Place** New York, NY
 Yon Yonson, Piano 2016-present
 : Virtuoso, ridiculous, genre-hopping couples-resort cabaret; co-created & performed with Jeanna Phillips
- Salty Brine's Living Record Collection Cabaret - The Red Room** New York, NY
 Music Director; Piano, Accordion 2015
 : Arranged and accompanied complete performances of The Beatles' *Abbey Road* and Joni Mitchell's *Blue*
 : Directors - Annie Tippe (*Abbey Straße*) and Jaki Bradley (*I've Been To Sea Before*)
- Spring Street Social Society** New York, NY
 Composer; Piano, Accordion 2015-2018
 : Co-composed, arranged, and performed songs and incidental music for pop-up music-theater events
- Inner Voices: The Other Room (Mark Campbell & Marisa Michelson) - Premieres** New York, NY
 Music Director; Piano 2014
 : Director - Ethan Heard
- The Threepenny Opera (Brecht/Weill) - Atlantic Theater** New York, NY
 Music Director; Piano, Harmonium (sub) 2014
 : Music Director - Gary Fagin
- Clown Bar (by Adam Szymkowitz, songs by Adam Overett) - Pipeline Theatre** New York, NY
 Music Director; Piano, Additional Music 2013-2014
 : Director - Andrew Neisler
- Carousel (Rodgers/Hammerstein) - New York Philharmonic** New York, NY
 Rehearsal Pianist 2013
 : Music Director - Rob Fisher

- Lyrics and Lyricists: W.S. Gilbert and the Broadway He Inspired - 92nd Street Y** New York, NY
 Piano II 2013
 : Music Director/Piano I - Rob Fisher
- Political Subversities - Ars Nova, The People's Improv Theater (P.I.T.)** New York, NY
 Music Director; Piano 2012-2017
 : Co-composed and accompanied original, rotating musical theater sketch performances
- As You Like It - Shakespeare in the Park/Public Theater** New York, NY
 Assistant Music Supervisor 2012
 : Supported music supervisor Greg Pliska in arranging and rehearsing music by Steve Martin
- Sam Carner & Derek Gregor** New York, NY
 Collaborative Pianist, Music Assistant 2016-present
 : Supervised piano/vocal sheet music, prepared band parts, and accompanied new musical theater
- Erin Markey - Joe's Pub, The Duplex, Greenwich House Music School** New York, NY
 Collaborative Pianist 2015-present
 : All-purpose accompanist and co-conspirator for devised queer alt-cabaret
- Rob Fisher** New York, NY
 Music Assistant, Rehearsal Pianist 2009-present
 : All-purpose assistant and musical support for concerts at Carnegie Hall, 92nd Street Y, et al.

COLLABORATIVE ARTS (DEVELOPMENTAL)

- Persephone (book & lyrics by Marcus Stevens, music by Oran Eldor)** New York, NY
 Music Director; Piano 2016-2017
 : Rehearsed and accompanied developmental workshop and performances at NAMT Festival 2017
- Real Time Maneuvers - Bowery Poetry** New York, NY
 Creator; Music Director; Piano 2016-2017
 : Devised, scored, and accompanied structured spontaneous performance with four guest performers
 : Programmed wide-ranging material from *My Fair Lady* to Nabokov to Radiohead to YA fiction to Celine Dion
- Legendale (book & lyrics by Jeff Bienstock, music by Andrea Daly)** New York, NY
 Music Director; Piano 2014
 : Rehearsed and accompanied developmental workshop
- Lempicka (book & lyrics by Carson Kreitzer, music by Matt Gould)** New York, NY & New Haven, CT
 Music Director; Piano, Music Preparation 2011-2013
 : Rehearsed and accompanied workshops at New Dramatists and Yale Repertory Theater
 : Created piano/vocal arrangements and band charts with composer Matt Gould
- The People v. Beethoven - Bowery Poetry, The Tank** New York, NY
 Creator; Speaking Pianist 2010-2015
 : Explored and studied the 32 Beethoven piano sonatas; developed accompanying narrative & themes
 : Rehearsed, produced, and performed two experimental recitals in 2014 (*Opus 13*) and 2015 (*Opus 14, no. 1*)
- One Thousand Nights and One Day (book & lyrics by Jason Grote, music by Marisa Michelson)** New York, NY
 Music Director; Piano 2010-2016
 : Rehearsed and accompanied workshops at New Dramatists, York Theatre, and Prospect Theater

SKILLS

- : Advanced classical piano background, strong sight-reader
- : Expert in musical analysis and notation software (Finale)
- : Extensive creative team experience

- : Responsible, meticulous, friendly and perceptive
- : Conscientious and sensitive communication skills
- : Improv-theater background and Soundpainting training
- : Wide-ranging interest in cultural history, literature, and creative forms

- : Amateur poet
- : Sense of humor
- : Cautious and experienced driver (automatic only)

PERFORMANCE RESEARCH and TEACHING INTERESTS

Music theory and musicianship in practice
Poetry & American musical theater
Narrative in Beethoven's piano sonatas
Alternative cabaret

Song interpretation and exploration
Chamber ensemble dynamics
Systems for spontaneous performance
Experimental short-form play

REPERTOIRE available upon request

REFERENCES available upon request