



Assistant Professor of Voice
BYU School of Music
August 2021

Faculty Development Plan

Self-Assessment

This year will mark my 16th year teaching in higher education, and in that time I have developed attributes that make me a unique professor. As a professor of classical voice I am privileged to create meaningful and lasting relationships with my students. My role allows me to meet with students weekly in a one-on-one atmosphere for their entire collegiate career. This relationship provides for ways for me to mentor students along a path where they will find success beyond their educational institution. I believe that excellence as an artist and compassion for others can be attained in our artistic endeavors. That belief has led to many of my students finding successful paths in vocal compositions, jobs with nationally recognized vocal ensembles, graduate programs, university positions, and meaningful artistic employment.

One of the most effective ways that I can help to inspire my students is to maintain my own performance career. My career has given me the opportunity to sing all over the country in major opera houses and with distinguished orchestras. The experiences that I have with these institutions has afforded me insight into the business aspect of our job. This information is not readily available and has been such an asset to share with students who are just starting out on their journey.

Going forward, I am developing opportunities to perform and teach nationally and internationally. As I expand my reach, I want to develop clear ways for students to perform and serve both here and abroad. I have a vision to develop ways to inspire students to use their talents to bless the lives of others.

Goals



Citizenship

Since arriving at BYU in the fall of 2020, I have served as a member of the Curriculum Committee for the School of Music. I was also asked to be on an exploratory committee that is looking to make revisions to our entire curriculum here in the School of Music. This will be a multi-year project, and it has been exciting to think and dream of what we need to teach our students so that they can face new challenges in the world of classical music. I am excited to be serving on both of these committees again and look forward to the work before us.

For the vocal area, I served as the coordinator for the undergraduate vocal performance auditions, and served as the vocal representative for the Music Education and Music Composition auditions. I also serve as the faculty sponsor for the student organization SNATS, whose purpose is to provide students with lectures and special guests that can assist them in becoming voice teachers. Both of these assignments have given me the chance to stand as a representative of the vocal area within the School of Music.

For the fall of 2021, I have been assigned to serve as the graduate coordinator for the voice area where I will oversee the graduate TAs and their teaching assignments and assist the graduate students as they prepare for graduate oral exams, final recitals, and culminating research papers. I have passion for pedagogy and I am excited to serve as a mentor to our graduate students.

This year I want to explore ways that I can serve outside of BYU. In the area of classical voice we have several national organizations where I intend to be more of a presence. The National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) is the largest national organization in our field of research. I intend to serve as a judge for their regional auditions. Classical Singer is a national publication that is an industry staple. They have a large national conference that includes a vocal competition. I have volunteered to adjudicate their national competition. These are a few of the ways that I intended to stretch my citizenship outside BYU.

Teaching

This is the area where I feel I can make the most progress this year. My student ratings showed my ability to care for students and help them to become excited for the topic at hand, but they also showed that I could improve on the effectiveness of my teaching and grading practices. After attending the New Faculty Spring Seminar and the Effective Teaching Workshop, I feel that I have been given wonderful tools to improve this area. One place for



improvement is the design of the courses that I teach. I will be working to unify the materials that I teach with the BYU mission statement. I will be taking advantage of resources from the Center for Teaching and Learning. I will be utilizing the opportunity for mid-semester course evaluations from my students, and inviting a member of the SCOT team to observe my teaching and get feedback. I am also going to seek out help to improve the design of my exams to align with my learning outcomes for the classes that I teach. I have been inspired by the workshops that I have taken in preparation for this fall and I can't wait to apply them in my classes. I welcome the opportunity for growth in this area.

Scholarship

I have been an active performer for the last 12 years and I have several goals to expand on this aspect of my research. The pandemic halted all forms of public performance and I am excited to have my research and singing opportunities slowly return. I have invitations from across the United States for performing and teaching opportunities, but the pandemic has forced me to create new paths of performance opportunities. I am focusing this year on creating international performing opportunities. I am also going to pursue funding for a recording project. This will take more than a year, but I am working with my faculty mentor on avenues for funding.

The project that I am the most excited about is developing workshops for nationally recognized composers to work with my students on world premieres. Before a composer premieres a new piece it is essential to workshop their composition. It allows a composer to hear how the work will fit for performers and allows the composer to make changes before it is premiered to the world. Our students' musical abilities are sharp and their capabilities set them apart from other undergraduate institutions. These talents have been recognized around the country and because of their talents they are being sought after for these workshops. I will be working to facilitate these workshops. It will help our students understand the work that goes into a new composition and allow them to work closely with some of our top composers in classical music.

Summary

I am deeply grateful for the care and love that has been shown to me by BYU in this first year of teaching. I have worked at multiple universities in the past and never has an institution devoted so much time towards my early success. I know the areas where I can improve, but



BYU has given me the resources to achieve these goals. I have never felt more valued by a university and for that I am so thankful.

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