

Lynda DeFuria

Arts Educator

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Experience

CURRENT POSITIONS

Artist lady and wearer of many hats; 2006-Present

A versatile vocalist, award-winning songwriter, and actress. Work catalogue includes: performing original pop/rock music with band from 2 self-produced full-length releases (*Ticking Clocks* and *Alive EP*) and singles, Netflix sync placement ("Something To Do With Love"), performing musical theatre on national tours, off-Broadway, and regionally; session singer, wedding/corporate party cover band vocalist, Dickens' Christmas caroling quartets, children's birthday party entertainment, and more. **Full Performance Resume upon request.**

Private Voice Teacher at Home Studio; New York, NY – Sept. 2011-Present

Teaching students of varied experience, ages, and goals, I teach overall healthy vocal technique that will allow for longevity for artistic expression. Focus Points: Vocal exercises, versatile genre work (musical theatre, rock, pop, jazz, legit), and finding each students' true, unique voice through stylization. Students range from beginners to Broadway and Met Opera performers.

Chair of Songwriting and Voice Teacher at Lux Performing Arts, Jersey City— Sept. 2019 - present

Students ages 5 to 18. Private voice lessons and group singing classes including Pop Star and Pop Star Music Video. Program writer and teacher of group songwriting classes including Songwriting 101 and Songwriter's Circle. Taught all classes virtually from March 2020 thru July 2021

PREVIOUS RESIDENCIES

Musical Theatre and Songwriting Instructor at PS-3; Greenwich Village, NY— Feb. 2016 - Jul. 2021

Subbed 2014-2016 for previous instructor then took on a permanent position as a music and music theatre teacher. With grades 2-5 in the PS3 'til 6 after-school program, I focused on scene study, improvisation, vocal technique, theatre history, character building, and team work. Final project is a 20 minute version of a musical with scenes and songs. From September 2020 to July 2021, our virtual class wrote and performed 3 original plays with music and an original sketch variety show.

Choral Director/Private Voice at Greenwich House School of Music; NY, NY – Mar. 2017- Dec. 2018

Directed outreach after-school choruses at PS41 and PS89 that focused on group sound, repertoire expansion, and music theory. I wrote the curriculum for and taught a pilot collaborative program with PS3 for a songwriting chorus. This program was funded for expansion and continues today with other educators. Additionally, taught private voice students of all ages at Greenwich House where the mission is to not only aid in creating stellar musicians, but to encourage a joy for music that continues throughout life.

Teaching Artist at Waterwell; New York, NY — Nov. 2015 - Jun. 2018

Working mainly with 6th-8th graders, I taught Songwriting at The Professional Performing Arts School (PPAS), Lower Manhattan Community School (LMC), and Choir at LAB Middle School. Additionally, I wrote and music directed 4 original musicals and numbers cabarets at LMC, PPAS, and Waterwell/Manhattan Youth's Summer Theatre Lab. *Videos of full musicals upon request

Teaching Artist at UrbanArts Partnership; New York, NY – Apr. 2017- Jun. 2018

Vocal and songwriting instructor for an after-school middle school chorus at IS528 in Washington Heights. Focus on vocal technique, music appreciation, songwriting, creating original art for activism and social awareness.

Faculty Voice/Chorus Instructor at PPAS; New York, NY – Feb. 2018- Jun. 2018

Interim Vocal Instructor and Chorus Director for 6th and 8th grade students (99 students total) at the Professional Performing Arts School managed by Waterwell for the Spring 2018 semester. Taught 90 minute chorus classes with vocal technique, music theory, audition technique, solo song preparation, and final concert preparation and accompaniment/conducting.

Private Voice/Piano and *Little Wings* at School of Rock; Brooklyn, NY – Aug. 2015 - Mar. 2016

Teaching students of varied experience, ages, and goals on both voice and piano on their technique, style, and rehearsal practices. I also taught a weekly group beginners music program, *Little Wings*, for kids ages 2-5 that focused on sound recognition, instrument exploration, team building, and social interaction.

Music Instructor at Kidville – Nov. 2012 - Aug. 2017

Co-Leader, Vocalist, and Puppeteer for 4 piece band for the “**Rockin’ Railroad**” program at Kidville. Over a 16 week semester, we explored a new genre of music, instrument, rhythm, song story, and letter every week. Building a love of music, incorporating play, and development of gross motor skills, and bonding with caretaker for children ages newborn to 5 years old.

Education

Berklee College of Music; Boston, MA , Class of 2011

Bachelor of Music in Professional Music with Emphasis in Vocal Performance and Songwriting
Dean’s List, Magna Cum Laude, Student Ambassador, President of Musical Theatre Club (’10-’11), Vice-President of Musical Theatre Club (’09-’10)

Awards & Recognition

Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts; Las Vegas, NV — Honors Diploma, 2008

1st Place - BMI’s John Lennon Songwriting Scholarship (2011); Berklee College of Music’s Songwriter Award (2011); Berklee College of Music’s Vocal Department Award (2011); Fusion Magazine Songwriting Award - Best Song (2012)

Related Skills

Intermediate piano (10+ years experience), advanced sight reading, choral conducting, arranging, songwriting, healthy belting, riff technique, home recording studio, recording experience, great with kids, experienced nanny/babysitter, CPR certified, valid driver’s license & passport; Microsoft and iWorks efficient, Garageband, Logic Pro, Finale proficient; 85-90 WPM

References

Molly Dunn - *Founder of Lux Performing Arts*

molly@luxperformingarts.com

Cynthia Wright - *Executive Director of Fox Riverside Theater Foundation*

cwright@riversideca.gov

Maria Leao - *Program Director of PS3 Til’ 6*

ps3til6@gmail.com

Allison Talis - *Educator, Theatre Director, Trauma Specialist*

sisonkeart08@gmail.com

Corrine Byrne, D.M.A. - *Chair of Vocal Studies at Long School of Music of Bard College*

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