



Sonya Knussen

MUSIC EDUCATOR • SINGER • COMPOSER

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RELEVANT SKILLS

- 20+ years of music teaching experience in private lessons, schools, workshops and education projects.
- Music Education - creation and development of innovative education programs, teaching and curriculum design
- Arts Administration - concert and project curating and programming, marketing, social media content curation
- Life-long knowledge of chamber, orchestral, and vocal music, living composers and ensembles

MUSIC EDUCATION

Founder/Artistic Director – Go Compose North America

2020-Present

- Go Compose North America offers online composition workshops and further musical development opportunities to participants of all abilities, aged 11-18.
- Booking & scheduling professional composers and performers as faculty for workshops, promoting Go Compose North America's activity through website and social media production.
- Recruiting, selecting and teaching young composers of any ability.
- Budgeting and Financial planning

Freelance Vocal Animateur

2006-Present

- Vocal education projects for adults and children for various organizations including Miami Choral Academy, ENO Baylis, BBC Proms, Old St. Paul's, Baltimore

Voice Instructor - Performing & Vocal Arts Magnet Program, Anne Arundel County Schools, MD

2017-2021

- Teaching High School students
- Worked with faculty to collectively create innovative vocal experiences for high school vocalists including performance classes and masterclasses, projects and performance opportunities.
- Tailored lessons to individuals; incorporate physical and vocal warm up, technical exercises, general musicianship skills and repertoire with technical aspects appropriate to individual student development.

Voice Instructor - Severn School, Severna Park, MD

2012-2021

- Teaching Middle School and High School students
- Tailor lessons to individuals; incorporate physical and vocal warm up, technical exercises, general musicianship skills and repertoire with technical aspects appropriate to individual student development.

Music Teacher/Choral Director - St. Martin's in-the-field Episcopal School, Severna Park, MD

2015-2018

- Created and implemented curriculum (Nursery to 8th Grade); organized and curated all concerts and music for school events
- Director of Middle School Chorus & Elementary Summer Musical; Music Director of Middle School Musical; Co-Director of School Talent/Variety Show & Summer-in-the-Field Music Camp
- Cantor & Music Coordinator for two weekly school chapel services (Nursery to Grade 2; Grades 3 to 8)

Teaching Artist/Conductor - Children's Chorus of Washington, DC

2012-2017

- Taught/Conducted, developed & expanded the newly established SING DC choral outreach program
- Led the first ever Prep Choir Class in two classes: Prep Kids for ages 6-7 and Prep Junior for ages 8-9
- Doubled class enrollment during tenure

Head Teacher of Music - St. Margaret's School, Hampstead, England

2003-2007

- Sole music teacher; created & implemented curriculum (ages 4 to 16); organized all concerts & music for school events
- Founded two choirs: Junior (7-11) and Senior (11-16) and instrumental ensemble (7-14)
- Launched a spring recital to provide a performance platform for individuals and groups
- Assisted in hiring & scheduling visiting music teachers, oversaw enrichment field trips to London performance venues

ARTS ADMINISTRATION

- Founder/Artistic Director – hexaCollective** 2011-Present
- hexaCollective is an ad hoc ensemble of innovative classical singers presenting performances representing solo and ensemble repertoire from Monteverdi's Vespers to three short operas by Joanna Lee.
 - Curating innovative music programs
 - Booking & scheduling musicians
 - Promoting collective's activity and performances (currently paused due to Covid-19)

- Course Support – Britten Pears Composition and Performance Course (Intermittent Seasons)** 2003-Present
- Liaison between course directors, tutors, staff & students
 - Score & part preparation for rehearsals when needed
 - Aided course directors and staff with administrative tasks
 - Created daily schedules in conjunction with staff and faculty
 - Program information collation; Program creation
 - Stage management

- Tanglewood Music Center (Intermittent Summers)** 2000-2015
- TMC Festival Assistant & Office Coordinator** 2014, '15
- Surtitles Assistant – Various Opera Productions, TMC & Boston Symphony Orchestra** 2000, '01, '10
- Score-reader/Camera Cues, Elliott Carter Centenary Festival** 2008
- Assistant Orchestra Manager & Guide** 2000, '01
- Production, Festival of Contemporary Music** 2000, '10

- Liaised with composers in preparation for TMC 75th Anniversary commissioning project
- Guided cameras through orchestral and chamber works by Elliott Carter in three live concerts for tanglewoodwebtv.org
- Coordinated program publications, prepared music for rehearsals, distributed schedules, proctored auditions
- Responsible for day-to-day operations & rehearsals of student orchestra, co-ordinated surtitles for opera performances
- Handled queries and concerns, communicated with departments & musicians
- Customer service, informed patrons of relevant information (policies, programs, directions, history of venue)

- Freelance Concerts Management** 2000-2009
- Concerts and Stage Management for projects and organizations including London Sinfonietta, Series Z, The Knack Singers

- Artistic Associate - Da Camera of Houston** 2000-2001
- Communicated with performing artists, artist management, program annotators
 - Worked with Executive & Artistic Directors, Production, Marketing & Publicity, & Business Managers
 - Managed rehearsal schedules, compiled program pages for print, created & maintained artist database & Artistic Director's press packs; acted as score-reader & page turner for concerts; compiled & edited promotional CDs

AUDIO AND VIDEO MEDIA PRODUCTION

- Video Production Collaboration with Royal Academy of Music - Celebrating Olly** 2018
- Musical Assistant (Recording) - Augusta Read Thomas – Carillon Sky, Chicago Symphony Orchestra** 2006
- Producer (Recording) - Elliott Carter – Boston Concerto and Cello Concerto, Bridge/BBCSO** 2004
- Assistant to Director (Television Production) - Sounds from the big white house, Director's Cut/BBC4** 2002
- Musical Assistant (Recording) - Henze – Ondine; Knussen – Where the wild things are/Higglety Pigglety Pop! 1995, '99**
- Deutsche Grammophon/London Sinfonietta**
- Score Reader (Television Production) - Leaving Home, LWT Productions/ CBSO/Simon Rattle** 1995

EDUCATION

- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff, Wales - MA in Music** 2015
- Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore, MD - GPD in Voice plus further study** 2012
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff, Wales - PGDip - Vocal/Opera Pathway** 2009
- Trinity College of Music, London, UK - PGDip, Vocal Performance passed with Distinction** 2007
- The Knack at ENO Baylis, London, UK - Acting, Movement/Dance and Music performance training** 2005–2006
- Boston University, School for the Arts, Boston, MA - BMus, Cello Performance** 2002
- The Purcell School, London, UK - Cello and Composition specialization** 1988–1995