

Laura Beth Couch

Mezzo-soprano

EDUCATION

Shenandoah University- Winchester, VA
Master of Music- Voice Performance
Private Instructor: Nancy Gustafson

Expected Graduation: May 2020
GPA 3.98/4.0

Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts- New Brunswick, NJ
Bachelor of Music- Music Education, Voice (182 credit hours completed)

2014- 2018
GPA 3.7/4.0

CERTIFICATIONS

New Jersey Music Teacher Certification, Comprehensive, K-12
Recording Arts Certificate

Issued Aug 2018
Issued May 2018

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Mostly Modern Festival- Saratoga Springs, NY
Vocalist and Student

2019

SongFest at The Colburn School- Los Angeles, CA
Studio Artist/ Young Artist

2016, 2017

University of Miami Frost School of Music at Salzburg Program- Salzburg, Austria
Vocalist and Student

2017

WORK EXPERIENCE

Songs by Heart- Washington, D.C.
Singer

2018-Present

- Performs for Alzheimer's and dementia residents in an interactive music therapy program designed to stimulate long term memory and joy of music.
- Engages residents on intellectual, social, physical, emotional and spiritual levels.
- Fosters confidence, joy and connection with residents with varying degrees of illness.
- Utilizes therapeutic techniques such as mirroring, providing verbal and physical cues, direct eye contact and holding hands with residents throughout the session.

Oak Crest Day Camp- Somerset, NJ
Drama Specialist

2018-2019

- Directed, choreographed and helped write a fully staged musical over a six-week intensive period.
- Supported and facilitated artistic and emotional growth in students ranging from three years old to eleven years old.
- Engaged over 400 students per week in interactive, thought provoking lessons focused on team building and exploration of one's creativity.
- Led the creation of a trusting and respectful learning environment for students and staff, thus promoting positive student development.

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church- Bound Brook, NJ

2015-2018

Lead Cantor

- Inspired and moved the church community with my genuine nature and lyrical singing voice.
- Learned new music weekly while displaying the critical skills of flexibility and ability to think on my feet.
- Created, advertised and performed three hour- long vocal recitals of arias, art songs and musical theater songs.

Shawnee High School- Medford, NJ

2018

Student Teacher

- Encouraged student growth as vocalists and artists, promoting proper vocal technique, musicianship and ensemble skills.
- Designed and taught music lessons which challenged students at an appropriate zone of proximal development.
- Exemplified confidence and expertise while teaching full classes of chorus, piano lab, music technology and music theory.
- Cultivated a safe and supportive environment for all students to learn effectively and feel confident in their abilities for success.
- Completed professional development focused on teaching music as a language and explored effective teaching methods of rote to note.

Music Forever - Edison, NJ

2015-2018

Voice and Beginning Piano Teacher

- Facilitated a love of music in students of all ages, helping them to grow creatively and emotionally.
- Created a safe and supportive environment for students to be confident in their abilities and not be afraid to take risks.
- Helped organize and oversee multiple student recitals.

Waldorf School of Princeton- Princeton, NJ

2014-2016

Camp Counselor

- Wrote and directed a one Act play: *Cinderella Reimagined*, helping campers to work together and express themselves through theater.
- Led campers and counselors in training to help make the camp experience as productive, exciting, and educational as possible.
- Taught and encouraged ESL/ELL campers, helping them feel comfortable and accepted in the learning environment.

The Turning Point: A Broadway Musical Revue Charity Event- Montgomery, NJ

2014

Director and Producer

- Raised \$2000 for Senior Class Scholarships
- Crafted a revue of musical theater songs that portrayed a climactic moment or “turning point” of a character. This gave each actor a dynamic and challenging song to study, prepare and perform.
- Organized all auditions, repertoire, advertising, approvals, and performers, thus showing leadership and successful determination.

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Ballad Singer/Jenny+	<i>The Threepenny Opera</i>	Hawaii Performing Arts Festival	In production
Hannah after	<i>As One</i>	Shenandoah Conservatory	In production
Veronique	<i>Doctor Miracle</i>	Shenandoah Conservatory	In production
Orlofsky*	<i>Die Fledermaus</i>	Shenandoah Conservatory	2019
Tisbe*	<i>La Cenerentola</i>	Shenandoah Conservatory	2019
Cherubino*	<i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i>	Shenandoah Conservatory	2019
Dorabella	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Shenandoah Conservatory	2019
Opera Chorus	<i>Paris, À Nous Deux!</i>	Shenandoah Conservatory	2018
Opera Chorus	<i>Der Mond</i>	Hub City Opera and Dance Company	2018
Throw Rug	<i>Planet Mool Comes to Visit</i>	Rutgers University World Premiere	2017
Sister Antoine	<i>Dialogues des Carmélites</i>	Rutgers University Opera	2017
La Chatte	<i>L'Enfant et les Sortilèges</i>	Rutgers University Opera	2016
Opera Chorus	<i>Trial by Jury</i>	Rutgers University Opera	2016
Opera Chorus	<i>Lakmé</i>	Rutgers University Opera	2015
Kate Monster	<i>Avenue Q</i>	Allegra Performing Arts	2014
Officer Barrel	<i>Urinetown</i>	Allegra Performing Arts	2013
Sister Margaretta	<i>The Sound of Music</i>	Montgomery Performing Arts	2013
Jo March	<i>Little Women: the musical</i>	Allegra Performing Arts	2012

selected scenes cover+*

TEACHERS

Nancy Gustafson
Yvonne Douthat
Frances Bennett
Danielle Sinclair
Katherine Gornick
Tracey Chebra

COACHES

Susan Quittmeyer
Pamela Gilmore
Blythe Gaissert
Richard Leech
Jennifer Tung

CONDUCTORS

Jan Wagner
Kynan Johns
Patrick Gardner
Steven White

DIRECTORS

Michael Ehrman
Edwin Cahill
Nicky Singer

DANCE

Audrey Luna (Alexander)
Jessica Featherson (Modern)
Sherry Alban (Ballet)
Thiago C. Silva (Ballet)
Cynthia Sabovick (Jazz)
Tom McKie (Hip-Hop/Funk)

RECITALS

Aria kidding me?	Joint Aria Recital at Shenandoah Conservatory	2019
Master's Recital	Solo Recital at Shenandoah Conservatory	2019
Fundraiser Recital	Solo Recital at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church	2018
Senior Recital	Solo Recital at Rutgers University	2017
Licht und Dunkelheit	Solo Recital at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church	2017
Junior Recital: "Schumann to Now"	Solo Recital at Rutgers University	2017
Songs of Love and Longing	Solo Recital at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church	2016

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sayreville War Memorial High School- Parlin, NJ 2017

Field Placement, 13 hours of experience

- Observed and assisted in a high school Choir Class and Music Business Class
- Served as a vocal model for students and aided with choir rehearsals

Indian Fields and Cambridge Elementary Schools- South Brunswick, NJ 2016

Field Placement, 14 hours of experience

- Observed and assisted in elementary General Music Classes
- Taught several General Music Lessons

Highland Park High School- Highland Park, NJ 2016

Field Placement, 12 hours of experience

- Observed and assisted in a high school Choir Class and Music Theory Class
- Collaborated with cooperating teacher to conduct and rehearse the choir

EXECUTIVE BOARDS

The Rutgers Chapter of the American Choral Director's Association

2014-2017

Public Relations Manager (2016)

- Advertised for ACDA using graphic design and public speaking skills resulting in some of the most highly attended Rutgers ACDA meetings in years.
- Attended and designed meetings once a month concerning the current methodologies and practices of music education, conducting and vocal technique.

Mason Gross Student Government

2015-16

Music Representative

- Attended weekly meetings that helped plan and execute a variety of enriching events for Mason Gross students.
- Advocated for the needs of Mason Gross Music students to deans and administrators.

HONORS

3rd Place- Virginia NATS, Classical Voice

2019

Rutgers University Dean's List

Seven Semesters

National Collegiate Scholar

2014-Present

1st Place- MAMTG Festival, Virtuoso Voice

2014

Recipient of Douglass Residential College Scholarship Awards

2015-2017

Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient

2014

References available upon request