

Chelsea Zak

Teaching Resume

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EDUCATION

Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Master of Fine Arts: Musical Theater Vocal Pedagogy

Boston, MA

Expected 2027

Webster University

Bachelor of Music: Music Direction for Musical Theatre

GPA: 3.87 / 4.0 - Magna Cum Laude

St. Louis, MO

May 2025

Vassar College

Bachelor of Arts: Music and Drama with Creative Writing Correlate

GPA: 3.84 / 4.0

Poughkeepsie, NY

May 2023

SELECT TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Full Work Resume Available On Request)

Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts

Music Director (Lead Teacher, Theater Department)

Wheatley Heights, NY

June 2022 – present

- Music directs one or more musical theatre productions each summer featuring students ages 8 – 17
- Teaches music to students in preparation for the production, while also providing individual coaching
- Acts as a rehearsal pianist and accompanies performances
- Current Department Chair: James Crichton; directors worked with include Marie Danvers Gallagher, Carolyn Popadin, Christina Pawl

Boston City Singers

Graduate Teaching Fellow

Boston, MA

September 2025 – June 2026

- Taught remote voice lessons to choral students ages 8-17
- Coached students on choral repertoire as well as solo musical theatre, classical or popular repertoire

Webster University

Collaborative Pianist

St. Louis, MO

August 2023 – May 2024

- Served as a piano accompanist for individual voice lessons and juries
- Accompanied musical theatre, popular music and classical repertoire
- Gave feedback to students on technique and musicianship as needed

Vassar College

Drama Music Specialist

Poughkeepsie, NY

October 2021- September 2022

- Provided piano accompaniment for student auditions; guided students toward appropriate audition repertoire for department productions; and fielded questions about the audition process
- Served as piano accompanist and sound operator for rehearsals and final showcase of a comedy class taught by Prof. Shona Tucker

Studio Theater of Long Island**Lindenhurst, NY***Music Director*

August 2021

- Music directed a production of *High School Musical: On Stage!* for a three week summer musical theater intensive for children ages 10-14
- Acted as rehearsal pianist; taught music to the cast; and provided individual coaching to students

Children's Acting Academy**New York, NY***Music Director*

July 2021

- Music directed a musical theatre showcase of solo repertoire for a weeklong musical theatre intensive for students ages 8 – 17; supervised by Mimi Stuart
- Acted as a counselor; supervising students and leading them in theatre games
- Accompanied showcase and rehearsals on piano, teaching students the music and providing individual coaching

Smithtown Center for the Performing Arts**Smithtown, NY***Music Intern (Summer)*

July 2020 – August 2020

- Took notes for rehearsals and led select rehearsals for a monthlong musical theatre intensive for students ages 8-17
- Provided individual coaching for students and accompanied individual coachings on piano
- Program supervised by Marie Danvers Gallagher, collaborators included Tommy Raneri (director) and Matthew Castello (Music Director)
- Created instrumental tracks on Logic Pro X for the final showcase

Children's Acting Academy**New York, NY***Music Direction Intern/Guitarist (Contract)*

March 2017 – May 2017

- Played guitar in the pit of the Children's Acting Academy production of *Godspell* directed by Mimi Stuart
- Acted as an intern to music director Mitch Raftery; observing and assisted in leading music rehearsals for students ages 11 – 14

AWARDS AND HONORS (Selected)

Nominee for Best Music Direction of a Musical**March 2025**

For music direction of *Anything Goes* t Kirkwood Theatre Guild
Issued by Arts for Life St. Louis

Molly Thatcher Kazan Memorial Prize**May 2023**

for music direction of *Pippin: The Musical*
Issued by Vassar College Drama Department

Wendy Rae Breslau Award**April 2021**

For service to the college and community
Issued by Vassar College

AREAS OF INTEREST

Vocal Performance and Pedagogy (Musical Theatre, Popular Music, Classical Music, Choral Music); Music Direction for Musical Theatre; Collaborative Piano; Musical Theatre Audition Technique; Acting; Musicianship, Music Composition