

# **Dawn Wells Neely**

**Associate Professor of Voice and  
Director of Opera Workshop, University of West Georgia  
Stage Director and Soprano  
B.M., M.A., D.M.A.  
Email: dneely@westga.edu**

## **Curriculum Vitae**

### **Teaching Experience**

*University of West Georgia*

2012-present

\* Associate Professor of Voice for music majors in performance, music education, and music minors

\* Director of UWG Opera Workshop: Music and Stage Director

\* **Classes Taught:**

- \* Applied voice: undergraduate and graduate students
- \* Principles of Diction
- \* Vocal Pedagogy/Song Literature
- \* Opera Workshop
- \* Vocal Tech & Materials
- \* Music Appreciation

\* **Publications:**

- Peer-Reviewed Article: International Journal of Yoga Therapy, No. 31, 2021  
*Perspectives of the Benefits of Classroom Yoga and the Need for Innovation and Adaptation.*
- Peer-Reviewed Article: Journal of Singing, November/December 2020,  
*Recovery for the Postpartum Singer: Yoga and Yoga-Inspired Exercises for Regaining Abdominal Strength*
- Peer-Reviewed Article: Journal of Singing, November/December 2016, *Body Consciousness and Singers: Do Voice Teachers Use Mind-Body Methods with Students and in their Own Practice?*
- Article in a Book (Invited): *The Voice Teacher's Cookbook*, Brian Winnie, ed. Meredith Music Resource, April 2018.

**\*Presentations (peer-reviewed):**

- National Opera Association Conference: Phoenix, AZ. *The Development of Soft Skills: How Opera Theatre can Advocate for the Arts in Today's Academic Climate*. January 2024.
- National Opera Association Conference: Cleveland, Co-presentation with Drs. Ryu-Kyung and David Sievers 2020: *Too Many Sopranos: Breaking Rules for Creative Solutions for Small Opera Programs*.
- National Opera Association Conference: *Cultivating Success: Strategies for Developing Opera Programs*, New Orleans, 2018. (Co-led Panel Discussion)
- Innovations in Pedagogy Conference Co-presented with Dr. Lisa Gezon and Dr. Tobin Hart, 2016: *Mindfulness in the Classroom*.
- Innovations in Pedagogy, University of West Georgia, Co-presented with Dr. Lisa Gezon. Invited to submit a second time due to positive feedback, 2017.
- American Harp Society Conference: *Yoga for Harpists*, 2 sessions, for the American Harp Society Conference, peer-reviewed, Atlanta, 2016.

**\* Grants:**

- \* Community Foundation of West Georgia, \$4,300 for Opera School Tour to area underserved schools, delayed due to COVID-19, 2020. (For other Grants see Arts Administration)
- \* Teaching Enrichment Grant supported by the Georgia Chapter of NATS: funding to attend virtual class over the summer of 2023.

**\* Continuing Education:**

- Contemporary Commercial Music Vocal Pedagogy Institute, Shenandoah University  
Sessions I, II, and Musical Theater 2019
- Innovations in Pedagogy, University of West Georgia 2020
- CCM Vocal Pedagogy Institute, Shenandoah University, 2023
- Virtual class: Teaching Pop and Rock

***University of Alabama* 2009-2012**

- \*Graduate Teaching Assistant for the voice area (2010-2012)
  - \* Class Voice for Non-Music Majors
  - \* Private lessons for Non-Music Majors
  - \*Assistant teaching for Professor: Dr. Jennifer G. Cowgill
- \*Graduate Assistant for the Opera Workshop and Opera Production (2009-2010)
  - Assisted with Opera Workshop classes
  - Assisted with Fall Opera Scenes: stage managing, props, set building
  - Assisted with full Opera production in the Spring and Musical Theatre Night: stage managing, props, set building

***Guest Clinician for Acting*** 2010-2011

\* University of Alabama Opera Workshop: Teaching acting classes for singers focusing on improvisation and stage movement

\* Druid City Opera Workshop Training Program (Tuscaloosa, AL) Teaching acting classes for singers focusing on improvisation, scene work and movement  
<http://music.ua.edu/departments/opera/druid-city-opera-workshop/>

***University of Alabama at Huntsville*** 2006- 2009

\*Part-time voice faculty

\*Public Relations contact for Department of Music

***Alabama A&M University*** 2007-2009

\*Part-time voice faculty

***Ars Nova Incorporated, Huntsville, AL*** 2005-2008

\*Voice Instructor, Public Relations Administrator, Grant Writer

\*Musical Director for Children's Musical *Really Rosie*, 2006

***University of Alabama Community Music School*** 2009-2011

\*Voice Instructor: individual work with students of all ages

## **Directing Experience**

***University of West Georgia Large-Scale Operas (all shows in English)***

\**24, or The Cure for Love*, Tony Boulté, Fall 2022, world premier of opera with piano.

\**Meanwhile Back at Cinderella's*, Dennis Arlan, Spring 2022

\**Speed Dating Tonight!* Michale Ching, Spring 2021, limited audience due to COVID restrictions, but professionally filmed and sound engineered

\* *Cendrillon (Cinderella)* (English) Viardot, Scheduled for April 2019, Canceled due to COVID-19

\* *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Menotti, a collaboration with Carrollton Center for the Arts, November 2019

\* *Die Fledermaus* (English), J. Strauss II, 2019

\* Double-bill: *The Songstress* (Haydn)/*An Embarrassing Position* (Dan Shore) 2018

\* *Patience*, Gilbert and Sullivan, 2017

\* *The Marriage of Figaro*, W.A. Mozart, 2016

\* *Ruddigore*, Gilbert and Sullivan, 2015

\* *Orpheus in the Underworld*, Jacques Offenbach, 2014

\* Double-bill: *Talk Opera* (Milton Granger) /*The Chatterboxes* (Offenbach), 2013

### ***University of West Georgia Fall Scenes and other shows***

- \* *Facade*, Scenes from Opera and Musical Theatre, Fall 2023
- \* *Episodes*, Scenes of Love, a collaboration with the UWG Theatre Program, Spring 2023, Musical Director
- \* Fairy Tales, Fables, and Curses, Fall 2021 Opera Scenes, October 2021
- \* Music Theatre Showcase, February 2021: filmed due to COVID-19 pandemic
- \* Fall Opera Scenes, 2020: filmed due to COVID-19 pandemic
- \* Musical Theatre Showcase, February 2020
- \* A Collaboration, Opera Scenes, 2019
- \* Literature Out Loud, Opera Scenes 2018
- \* Something Old, Something New, 2017
- \* I have a Song to Sing, 2016
- \* Mostly Mozart, 2015
- \* Love Opera Style, 2014
- \* A Toast to Opera, 2013
- \* Fall Opera Scenes, 2012

***Druid City Opera Workshop:*** Scenes Director and Acting Instructor, 2011, 2017-2021. Canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19, virtual workshop in 2021.

***Pittsburgh Festival Opera*** (formerly Pittsburgh Opera Theater Summerfest): Assistant Director and Directing Intern, 2015.

***Harrower Opera Workshop:*** Assistant Director and Intern, 2013 and 2014, Scenes Director 2013

***Atlanta Opera: 24-Hour Opera:*** Invited Director. Audience Favorite Winner 2013.

***Richard Crittenden Opera Workshop:*** Directing Seminar, 2012.

***University of Alabama Opera Theatre (UAOT):*** Graduate Student: Directed Scenes and one-act opera., 2010-2011 *In a Garden*, Kupferman, Full One-Act Opera for Spring Opera One-Acts production, March 2011.

## **Recitals and Exhibitions**

### ***Invited Recitals/Lectures:***

- \* Shelton State Community College, Terrific Tuesday Series, Solo recital, Tuscaloosa, AL, works by James Grant, Gwyneth Walker, and Bernstein, January 2023.
- \* UWG School of the Arts: Opera is Dead, Love Live Opera, April 2022

- \* Northern Michigan University, Solo Recital, Marquette, MI, Winter 2020. Works by Dvorak, Messiaen, Rachmanioff, Grieg, Poldowski, Rodrigo, James Grant, and Bernstein.
- \*Douglasville First United Methodist, Lent Concert Series. Recital with Harpist, Sarah K. Crocker. Winter 2020. Works by Fauré, Barnwell, Gounod, Malotte
- \* Mars Hill University, Solo Recital, Mars Hill, NC, Fall 2018.
- \* Mississippi State University, Solo Recital, Starkville, MS, Spring 2018. Works by Grieg, Poldowski, Barber, Rodrigo, Griffes, Carter, James Grant, and Bernstein
- \*Mid-Day Concert Series, Douglasville First United Methodist Church, Douglasville, 2017. Works by Fauré, Malotte, Carter, and Bach
- \* Tabor College: Guest Recital as part of the Voice Festival, Hillsboro, KS, Fall 2017. Works by Grieg, Poldowski, Barber, Rodrigo, Griffes, Carter, Gershwin, Weill, Sondheim and Bernstein
- \* Reindhart University, Solo Recital, Fall 2017, GA. Works by Grieg, Poldowski, Barber, Rodrigo, Griffes, Carter, Gershwin, Weill, Sondheim and Bernstein

***Druid City Ensemble (professional Chamber Ensemble):***

- \* American Harp Society Conference, Invited recital, Winston-Salem, NC, Summer 2019
- \* Exhibition: Southeastern Composers League Form, Campbell University, SC, 2016
- \*Birmingham Art Music Alliance (BAMA) commissioned new works for the Druid City Ensemble for 2 full concerts: Southside Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL and the University of Montevallo, AL, Fall 2015.
- \* Lincoln Memorial University, Full Recital and Masterclass, TN, 2014.
- \* Mid-South Flute Convention, performance exhibition, Murfreesboro, TN, 2014.
- \* University of Middle Tennessee State, Murfreesboro, TN, Full Recital, 2014.
- \* University of North Alabama, Full Recital, Florence, AL 2014.
- \* Friends of the Window Concert Series, Full Recital, Chicago, IL, 2013.

***University of West Georgia Recitals:***

- \* Solo recital, Fall 2017. Works by Grieg, Poldowski, Barber, Rodrigo, Griffes, Carter, Gershwin, Weill, Sondheim and Bernstein
- \* An Evening of Arias (special recital): with special guests, including Dr. Christy Lee, vocal coach and collaborative pianist. Spring 2016
- \* Solo recital, Fall 2015. Works by Mozart, Schubert, Debussy, Szulc, Bachelet, Strauss, Wolf, Hoiby and Bernstein
- \* Druid City Ensemble (professional ensemble member) recital, Fall 2014. Works by Ravel, Saint-Saëns, Corigliano, Stokes, Caplet, Tournier, Crumb and Bishop
- \* Solo recital, Fall 2013. Works by Handel, Debussy, Rodrigo, Strauss, Wolf and Mozart

\* Musical Magic: special recital featuring faculty and students, Fall 2013

## **Master Class Clinician**

- \* Northern Michigan University: master class with voice students, 2020
- \* Mars Hill University, NC: class with voice students, 2018
- \* Mississippi State University: class with voice students, 2018
- \* Tabor College: Master class: class with voice students, 2017
- \* Lincoln Memorial University: Master class with voice students, 2014

## **Workshops/Other Clinicians**

- \* Collegium Vocale: Clinician for Soprano section, October 2023
- \* University of Alabama Opera Theatre, Clinician for Singing Improvisation Workshop, November, 2022
- \* Guest speaker for Houston Chamber Choir, “Education Spotlight” podcast, 2021
- \* Yoga for Singers: Carrollton High School. Two sessions with chorus, 2019
- \* LGPE Clinician: Clinician for LGPE rehearsal (Villa Rica High School and Bay View Middle School, Spring 2019
- \* Tabor College, 2017
  - Yoga Workshop: This class was designed for singers and theater students.
  - Voice Clinician: During the Tabor Voice Festival, I led 3 mini-master classes for high school and college students in the voice Competition.
- \* Clear Rivers Chorus, Voice Clinician: This workshop involved working on vocal technique and choral sound, 2015.
- \* Nashville Harp Society: Session on Yoga for Musicians, Nashville, TN, 2015.
- \* University of Alabama Opera Theatre: Acting Clinician. This workshop involved improvisation exercises focused on helping singing actors (opera students) improve their acting skills through improvisation, 2013.

## **Professional Affiliations**

- \* NOA – National Opera Association: **Vice-President for Regions (2018-2024) -Overseeing Regional Conferences in multiple regions and promoting membership**
  - Southeastern Regional Governor (2014-2017): organizing a Regional Conference in

2017 and a local workshop in 2015.

-Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition Committee Chair (2017-present)

\* NATS- National Association of Teachers of Singing: member 2012-present

\* Georgia NATS Board member: Auditions Chair, April 2022-present

\* Yoga Alliance- Received 200 Level Teaching Certificate, 2015, Member 2015-2019

## **University Committees**

*Faculty Senate	2016-2020
-Chair for Student Affairs committee	2018-2020
* Faculty Advisory Committee	2016-2018
* School of the Arts (SOTA) Committee	2014-present
* Department Committees various since 2012	

## **Adjudication Experience**

National Opera Association Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition Finals, Phoenix, AZ	Judge 2024
Literary Competitions: Carrollton, GA Public and Private	Judge, 2019- 2021
National Opera Association Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition Finals, Santa Barbara, CA	Judge 2017
Tabor College Voice Festival, Fall 2017, Hillsboro, KS.	Judge 2017
Bella Voce Youth Vocal Competition, Atlanta, GA	Judge 2017
Regional Literary Competition, Carrollton, GA	Judge 2017
Regional Literary Competition, Bremen, GA	Judge 2015
Kiwanis Art and Music Showcase, Carrollton	Judge 2014
National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), Alabama	Judge 2007- present
Chattanooga Symphony and Opera Competition	Judge 2008

## **Music Program Coordinator**

University of West Georgia 2020-2022

-80 majors, generating approximately 1,000 credit hours/semester; serves the core by teaching 1000 level MUSC courses in Areas B & C

-Go-to person for three BM degree programs, and one minors

\*Develops extremely complicated course offerings for accredited BM and MM students. Involves studio, applied, ensemble, recital, and jury courses that are worth 0-3 credit hours each

\*Involves coordinating and determining when level change exams need to take place for each student

- \*Involves clock hour to credit hour conversion to ensure workload equivalencies
- Oversees program committees on assessment, curriculum, graduate studies, promotion and tenure, among others
- Coordinates 8 full-time and 14 part-time Music faculty
- Approves all student curriculum petitions, transient credit, etc.
- Calls regular program meetings and set the agenda for each
- Liaison between program faculty and EFLPA department chair
- Guides annual program learning outcomes assessment
- Coordinates program recruitment activities each semester
- Coordinates approximately 10 ensemble concerts each semester
- Coordinates around 10 or more student recitals each semester: coordinating location of recital, location of hearings 2 weeks prior to recital (Fall 21, 18 student recitals)
- Coordinates work that the student assistants do in the Music office to promote all events, social media, recruitment, producing programs and other marketing material
- Coordinates undergraduate and graduate scholarships with committee
- Coordinates several donor/scholarship events
- Working with professional advisors to make sure students register for the correct classes and sequences.
- Assign Music Faculty mentors to work directly with students during advising/registration
- Contact for Humanities Building Renovation: moving logistics and work with design team for needs in renovated building 2021-2022

## **Arts Administration Experience**

### ***North Avenue Presbyterian Church***

May 2012-August 2012

\*Administrative Assistant to the Director of Music & The Arts. Carried out marketing and public relations duties for the programs supported by the church's Music & The Arts department. Assisted with daily duties of the music department. Developed a monthly Music & The Arts Newsletter and presence on Facebook to promote musical programs and the music ensembles associated with the church.

### ***Ars Nova School of the Arts***

2005-2008

\*Public Relations and Grant Writer. Carried out marketing and public relations duties for both the school and its opera and musical theatre productions. **Submitted and awarded for a number of grants from Alabama State Council on the Arts (operational and administrative grants), Boeing, and Target.**

### ***Birmingham Music Cooperative***

Summer/Fall 2005

\*Interim Director of Marketing and Public Relations. Carried out marketing and public relations duties for the Birmingham Art Music Alliance, Birmingham Chamber Music Society, Birmingham Music Club, and Opera Birmingham.



***Florida State Opera (FSU)***

2004-2005

\*Internship: Grant writing and research for productions and opera outreach. Opera outreach administrator: contacted Leon County public and private school music teachers to schedule outreach performances. Created weekly coaching schedules for students cast in FSU Opera productions. Created flyers to announce/market special events: workshops, speakers, etc.

***Opera Birmingham***

Summer 2004

\*Internship: Assisting with production details and costume/prop inventory, opera outreach, fundraising events, and annual vocal competition. Worked on season campaign and direct mail marketing to subscribers and potential patrons. Database entry for subscriptions and ticket sales.

***Florida State University Opera Outreach***

Spring 2004

\*Worked with Tallahassee elementary teachers to help integrate opera program into curriculum, gave opera discussions/lessons to classes before scenes programs to help students better understand the art of opera.

## **Education**

***University of Alabama***

Tuscaloosa, AL

\*DMA in Vocal Performance

2008-December 2012

\*Dr. Jennifer Griffith Cowgill: Voice Professor

\*Graduate Assistant/Teaching Assistant

\*Document (December 2012): *Body Conscious: A Comparative Study of Body Awareness and Alignment Methods for Singers and If Teachers Integrate them into their Teaching*

\*Lecture topic: *Sprechstimme* in *Pierrot lunaire*: Influences and Performance Practice

***Florida State University***

Tallahassee, FL

2003-2005

\* MA in Arts Administration

***University of Alabama***

1998-2002

\*BM in Vocal Performance 4.0 GPA

\*Karen White: Voice Professor

\*Music Scholarship for School of Music

\*Academic Scholarships