

SHANELLE VALERIE WOODS

Soprano/Mezzo Zwischenfach

New York, NY

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332.203.2077



EDUCATION

Advanced Certificate, Vocal Pedagogy and Performance, *expected completion 2023
New York University, New York, NY

Master of Arts, Vocal Performance, 2012
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Artist Certificate, Vocal Performance, 2010
Charleston Southern University, North Charleston, SC

Bachelor of Arts, Vocal Performance (Communication & Theater Minor), 2009
Charleston Southern University, North Charleston, SC

RELATED COURSEWORK

Master of Arts, Teaching (Elementary Education), 2013
Oakland University, Rochester Hills, MI
Completed 18 Credit Hours, GPA: 3.6

ARTISTIC AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY New York, NY
*Adjunct Instructor of Voice, *commencing January 2022*

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS OF NEW YORK CITY New York, NY
Education Coordinator, August 2019 – Present

- Manage YPC's College Bound program - which provides academic support to the 500+ choristers registered for the core performance after-school program
 - Facilitation of educational workshops for grades 3-12
 - Managing of tutoring and academic support services
 - Directly support YPC seniors as they prepare to transition to higher education by:
 - coordinating SAT/ACT tutoring
 - developing and scheduling college prep workshops and guest speakers
 - application support (including essay writing and pre-screening recording sessions)
- Collaborate with partner organizations and consultants to develop and maintain evaluations of all YPC programming, especially regarding effectiveness in Social Emotional Learning initiatives
- Voice Teacher to a studio of 5-6 students through the YPC Vocal Studio/Matisse Fellows program
- Train and supervise volunteers as necessary for YPC-produced concerts and events

FAME PERFORMING ARTS, Mt. Pleasant, SC
Voice Teacher, August 2014 – Present

- Offer private voice lessons in a variety of vocal styles including classical, music theater, and contemporary/popular music to elementary –high school age and adults

- Organize/teach monthly master class series focused on different aspects of stage performance
- Organize and accompany monthly coffee house performances and other community building/engagement performance opportunities

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY Orangeburg, SC

Adjunct Instructor of Voice, August 2017 – December 2018

- Private voice instructor to freshman and sophomore music majors
- Organized music department-wide masterclass

CARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL Mt. Pleasant, SC

Vocal Coach – Drama Department, August 2016 – June 2017

- Prepared students for principal roles in school musicals and for individual competition
- Led ensemble musical rehearsals
- Provide master class style vocal and acting feedback

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY North Charleston, SC

Adjunct Instructor, January 2016 – December 2018

- Private voice instructor to major (Music Ed/Voice Performance/Music and Worship Leadership) and non-major students
- Teach Music Appreciation as needed
- Helped to organize CSU's first voice-area wide Black History Month recital, featuring music of African American composers

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH Charleston, SC

Assistant Children's Choir Director, September 2014 – June 2016

- Cherub Choir – 3K/4K: Singing, listening, and moving to music.
- St. Nicholas Choir – 5K/1st Grade: Continuation of music training begun in Cherub Choir.
- Canterbury Choir - Grades 4 – 12: treble voices
- St. David Choir - Grades 7 – 12: mixed voices

NEW PARADIGM GLAZER ACADEMY Detroit, Michigan

Kindergarten Teacher, August 2013 – June 2014

- Increased proficiency in core subject areas: ELA from 35% in to 81% avg., Math from 77% to 96% avg. (from Q2 to Q3, respectively)
- Initiated a home-reading incentive program as a member of the Parent and Family Involvement committee, by which the percentage of students reading at home increased across grade levels over a 5-month span:
 - 2nd Grade: 16% to 68%
 - 3rd grade: 27% to 77%
 - 4th grade: 36.5% to 78%
 - 6th grade: 27.5% to 83%
- Drafted and helped implement a school reform/redesign plan in accordance with Michigan requirements for priority schools

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH Gainesville, Florida

Music Teacher, August 2011 – May 2013

- Taught introductory music skills including ear training, music literacy, and beginning keyboard instruction to Pre-K – 3rd Grade students

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

F4P TRAINING AND NUTRITION Anderson, SC

Operations Manager, June 2020 – January 2021

- Social Media Marketing, including various ad campaigns and accompanying graphics
- Gym Management: coordinating schedules of various independent training contractors and maintaining the master calendar of all trainings and group classes

- Website design and maintenance, including online commerce
- Merchandising and branding initiatives

VETFRIENDS.COM Mt. Pleasant, SC

Digital Marketing/PR + Brand Development, August 2014 – August 2016

- Created and scheduled daily membership emails and drafted press releases for online distribution
- Collaborated with graphic design team regarding new advertisements, products, and website initiatives
- Coordinated the manufacturing of new items with overseas vendors (provided images and specifications, reviewed design proofs, etc.)
- Created online docu-series to correlate with release of Desert Storm specific store items

INVITED TALKS/MASTERCLASSES

BLACK WOMEN IN OPERA FEST 2021

Panelist: Education in Opera, November 20, 2021

“BWIO Fest 2021 focuses on bringing educational resources and encouraging content to Black opera singers. Our goal for BWIO Fest 2021 is to support Black opera singers as they create a strong sense of self that promotes stronger careers, stronger voices, and stronger community. Through this virtual one-day conference, we equip singers with the knowledge that propels them forward in an artform that does not normally reflect their experiences or images. BWIO Fest 2021 seeks to change the rules so Black opera singers can show up as their full selves in every space.”

BLACK WOMEN IN OPERA FEST 2020

Panelist: Education in Opera, October 3, 2020

“BWIO Fest brought together the opera community to discuss the special needs of marginalized opera singers. This event created a community filled with joy, information, and hope for opera during these uncertain times. As audition season approaches, BWIO Fest gave young and established opera singers the tools necessary to feel more confident in their abilities and their dreams. BWIO Fest provided a space for classical artists to explore their talents, plan for their career, and develop a strong sense of self. With 2020’s theme of Reclaiming, we reclaimed and continue to reclaim the true narrative of Black opera history. This conference equipped opera’s future with the artists and administrators that will continue a strong legacy and love for opera.”

“APPRECIATION VS APPROPRIATION”

Guest Panelist: Sing for Your Lives, May 2021

Panel discussion featuring Lori Laitman, Grace Tin-Yen Christus, and Shanelle Woods, hosted by Drs. Graham and Stefani Anduri, Founders of Sing for Your Lives.

“REFRAMING STUDIO INSTRUCTION TO AVOID BIAS”

Teacher Training: FAME Performing Arts, March 2021

Teacher training focused on recognizing personal biases in the lesson room and empowering teachers to talk with students about repertoire in a non-appropriative way. Provided tactics to reframe teaching languages and practices and shared resources for finding repertoire from underrepresented composers and works.

EPISODE 2, INFINITE COLORS: EXPLORING INFINITY PODCAST

Guest Panelist, February 2021

Part 2: The conversation continues with a discussion of the “physics and functionality of breath support, vocal cord vibration, and the challenge of listening for vocal function over vocal aesthetic.”

EPISODE 1, INFINITE VOICES, EXPLORING INFINITY PODCAST

Guest Panelist, January 15, 2021

Part 1: Regarding the infinite possibilities of the human voice, guest panelists discuss “the basics of vocal mechanics, how different styles of vocals inform each other, how to maintain vocal freedom even within the

context of a specified vocal style, the process of finding and embracing our own unique voice, and much more.”

MASTERCLASS: FAME PERFORMING ARTS

Lead Masterclass Technician, 2016 – 2019

MASTERCLASS: CHARLESTON YOUTH COMPANY

Guest Vocal Clinician, January 2016

PRIVATE VOICE INSTRUCTION

Private voice students have been accepted for collegiate study internationally at Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, British and Irish Modern Music Institute, The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance (London, UK), and domestic institutions, including but not limited to: Brown University, Cornell University, the Eastman School of Music, New England Conservatory, Temple University, Howard University, University of Maryland, the University of Michigan, Belmont University, Gettysburg College, Ithaca College, Winthrop University, Charleston Southern University, and Claflin University.

Shanelle's students have also been accepted to summer vocal programs at Torggler Summer Vocal Institute (Christopher Newport University), Summer Performing Arts with Juilliard, Interlochen Arts Camp, Boston Conservatory at Berklee Vocal/Choral Intensive, and the NYU Classical Voice Intensive. Students adjudicated in the South Carolina National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions advanced to regional levels in musical theater and classical categories, in addition to placing first in their respective categories.

Private secondary school students have been accepted to New York City's Professional Performing Arts School, Sinatra School of the Arts, and LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts. Students local to Charleston, SC were admitted to the Charleston County School of the Arts and the SC Governors School for Arts and Humanities.

MUSIC DIRECTION

“PRESUMPTION OF GUILT” Community Remembrance Project with Glow Lyric Theater
Music Supervisor, March 2021

A community education event hosted by the Community Remembrance Project, in collaboration with Glow Lyric Theater. Musical dramatization of “the contemporary true stories of people represented by The Innocence Project, who have been unjustly accused of crimes.”

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Association of Teachers of Singing
Opera America

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

UJIMA SESSIONS

July 2020 – present

The *Ujima Sessions* (taken from the Kwanzaa principle meaning “collective work and responsibility”), are a free-tuition program offering zero-cost voice lessons to students of color, thereby removing barriers of entry to equitable arts education.

REFERENCES

Christopher Powell, *Vice President, Orchestral Operations and Artistic Administration – The Phoenix Symphony*
412.874.3799

Thomas Cabaniss, *Faculty - The Juilliard School & Teaching Artist - Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall*
trc@thomascabaniss.com / 646.422.9156

Hugo Vera, *Contract Principal Artist – The Metropolitan Opera*
hugovera@hotmail.com / 785.218.6039

SHORT FORM BIO

A well-versed educator and performer, soprano **Shanelle Valerie Woods** musical theater and opera credits include: the title role in Bizet's CARMEN, Tituba (THE CRUCIBLE), Ronnie (HAIR), The Judge in the world premiere of STOMPING GROUNDS - a hip-hopera commissioned by **The Glimmerglass Festival**, Jeanette in the **Colour of Music Festival** production of L'AMANT ANONYME, and a double feature with **Spoletto Festival USA** as Kentucky Kate in AFRAM OU LA BELLE SWITA and Annie in PORGY AND BESS. While the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic regrettably forced the cancellation of 2nd Lady in Mozart's MAGIC FLUTE and Countess Ceprano in Puccini's RIGOLETTO (both with **Opera North**), Shanelle championed on and most recently debuted as Jenny in a digital production of Kurt Weill's Threepenny Opera with **City Lyric Opera**.

In 2020, Shanelle began the *Ujima Sessions* (taken from the Kwanzaa principle meaning "collective work and responsibility"), offering free voice lessons to students of color, thereby removing barriers of entry to equitable arts education. She also began offering training to voice studios, providing consultation on studio diversification and non-appropriative teaching practices.

Previously having worked on the voice faculties of Charleston Southern University and Claflin University, and maintaining a studio at FAME Performing Arts, Shanelle is now the Education Coordinator for the **Young People's Chorus of New York City** and provides voice lessons to several of YPC's Voice Fellows. She is also simultaneously an Adjunct Instructor of Voice and completing an Advanced Certificate in Vocal Pedagogy and Performance at **New York University**.

For future updates, please visit www.shanellevaleriewoods.com, or @shanelle.woods on Instagram.

LONGFORM BIO

Equally at home on the operatic, musical theater, or concert stage, Shanelle Woods is repeatedly praised as an artist with vocal expressiveness, a commanding stage presence, and a range flexible enough to support a breadth of characters, including the operatic and musical theater likes of Bizet's CARMEN, Tituba (THE CRUCIBLE), Ronnie (HAIR), The Judge in the world premiere of STOMPING GROUNDS - a hip-hopera commissioned by **The Glimmerglass Festival**, Jeanette in the **Colour of Music Festival** production of L'AMANT ANONYME, and a double feature with **Spoletto Festival USA** (Kentucky Kate in AFRAM OU LA BELLA SWITA and Annie in PORGY AND BESS.) While she was regrettably not able to fulfill her contract as 2nd Lady in Mozart's MAGIC FLUTE or as Countess Ceprano in Puccini's RIGOLETTO (both with **Opera North**) due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Shanelle recently made her debut on a digital stage, performing the role of Jenny Diver in **City Lyric Opera's** interactive production of Kurt Weill's THREEPENNY OPERA.

Additionally, Ms. Woods has also performed roles from DIE FLEDERMAUS (Prince Orlofsky), DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE (Third Lady), Benjamin Britten's NOYE'S FLUDD (Mrs. Noye), COSI FAN TUTTE (Dorabella), THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF (Miss Pinkerton), Kurt Weill's DOWN IN THE VALLEY (Jennie Parsons) and Seymour Barab's children's opera, LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD (mother/grandmother). Her musical theater credits include THE MUSIC MAN, THE WIZARD OF OZ, and SHOWBOAT (Queenie). Her concert repertoire includes solo features in Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Vesperae Solemnes de Confessore* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Ms. Woods also has several international choral residencies to her credit, including York Minster, Chichester, and Southwark Cathedrals (England, United Kingdom). In 2019, Ms. Woods joined the roster of the acclaimed **American Spiritual Ensemble** on their 24th annual national concert tour.

An avid recitalist, Ms. Woods has organized and performed in several recitals as part of Charleston's **Piccolo Spoleto Festival**: *I, Too, Sing America* (2014), a recital performed in tribute to those who have furthered the African-American presence in the realm of classical music - and reprised that same year for the **MOJA Arts Festival**, and *To Be Sung Upon the Water: Love and Other Elements* (2015) an ode to American art song literature. *The Roaring 20s* (2017) and *French Fantasies* (2018) both featured faculty vocalists and instrumentalists of Charleston Southern University. In 2018, Ms. Woods also began a recurring engagement with *The Sound of Charleston* concert series and has been prominently featured on their summer Piccolo programming, most notably in their Gershwin and Jazz show, in which Ms. Woods offers several selections from *Porgy and Bess*. Originally curated for Piccolo 2016, *Songs of Love and Justice* - a recital framed by, and in response to, the nation's current socio-political climate - was later revisited as part of the Holy Trinity Concert Series in 2017 (Gainesville, FL) and subsequently featured on the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's 2018 - 2019 Concert Series season (Detroit, MI).

In addition to performing, Ms. Woods has a passion for utilizing her talents to further arts education. She herself received the Bachelor of Arts degree in Voice Performance from Charleston Southern University in 2009 and in 2010, became the inaugural recipient of CSU's Artist Certificate in vocal performance. She completed requirements for the Master of Music (Voice Performance) at the University of Florida. She is now completing an Advanced Certificate in Vocal Pedagogy at **New York University's** Steinhardt School. In January of 2022, she joined their teaching roster as an Adjunct Instructor of Voice.

Additionally, Ms. Woods is the Education Coordinator for the renowned **Young People's Chorus of New York City**, where she works to support choristers musically and academically, while also providing private voice instruction to YPC's Matisse Fellows. Previously, she served as adjunct voice faculty member at both Charleston Southern University and Claflin University, and maintained a private voice studio at FAME Performing Arts in Mt. Pleasant, SC, for whom she still offers virtual lessons. Ms. Woods also worked as assistant children's choir director at St. Philip's Church (Charleston, SC) and as a guest vocal clinician to churches, schools, and theater companies in the greater Charleston area.

Ever aware of the link between the arts and social responsibility, Ms. Woods is often called upon as a guest speaker and presenter. She has been invited to speak to the Black Women in Opera Fest audiences on ways to increase diversity in Opera Education and has been invited to speak on panels regarding more inclusive teaching practices. In 2020, Ms. Woods also offers consultation to private voice teachers on more inclusive studio strategies, including everything from repertoire to recruitment and retention. In 2019, Ms. Woods was a featured performer for **TEDxCharleston**, in which she presented an excerpt of a contemporary opera, *Service Provider* (Christopher Weiss and John De Los Santos), which served to explore social currents, specifically how modern technology has affected human interaction. She has also worked as a soloist with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra's The Orchestra Sings - an educational outreach performance made possible through the **Carnegie Hall Link Up** program.

In the meantime, and inspired by more recent events, Shanelle felt spurred to act within the artistic community in a way that specifically benefits black and brown students. Recognizing the innate gifts that many of these students already possess, she became resolved to remove at least one barrier of entry to musical study, by offering free voice lessons to these students, 10 - 18 years old. Borrowing the Kwanzaa principle of collective work and responsibility, and to take on the problems of the community and make them your own, Shanelle has now been offering these free '**Ujima Sessions**' since the summer of 2020.

For future updates, please visit Shanelle via www.shanellevaleriewoods.com, on Instagram: [@shanelle.woods](https://www.instagram.com/shanelle.woods) or on Facebook [@ShanelleValerieWoods](https://www.facebook.com/ShanelleValerieWoods).

REVIEWS

Jenny Diver (THE THREEPENNY OPERA)

City Lyric Opera – New York, NY

"Shanelle Valerie Woods lent Jenny due gravitas, wielding a potent mezzo with an expressive vibrato."

-David Shengold, Opera News

Carmen (CARMEN)

GLOW Lyric Theatre – Greenville, SC

"Glow's company did an admirable job executing this vision. The vocal talent of the cast was staggering, without any considerable weak links. As the lead, Shanelle Valerie Woods' rich, emotive mezzo tones and her expressive features and physicality gave her command of the stage."

Catherine Sessler, Greenville Arts Today

Carmen (CARMEN)

GLOW Lyric Theatre – Greenville, SC

"...The talented Glow cast and orchestra delivered a virtually flawless musical performance...Shanelle Woods as Carmen presented not only a beautiful, desirable presence, but a wonderful mezzo soprano with excellent phrasing. At the conclusion, it was evident that the audience also loved the performance and enjoyed experiencing live opera in Greenville." - Dennis Tavernetti, Greenville Arts Today

Ronnie (HAIR)

GLOW Lyric Theatre – Greenville, SC

“...the tribe executes one extraordinary composition after another: the monster acid-pop hit “Aquarius” (lead by the splendidly commanding Shanelle Woods, the accomplished mezzo soprano who also singsthe pivotal role of Tituba in “The Crucible.” - Carolina Curtain Call

Kentucky Kate (AFRAM OU LA BELLE SWITA)

Spoletto Festival USA – Charleston, SC

“The constant shift between operetta-like melodies, witty commentary and good jazzy tunes kept things lively...Shanelle Woods’s song as “Kentucky Kate” was regrettably short.” – Charleston Post and Courier

For future updates, please visit shanellevaleriewoods.com or visit Shanelle on social media:



[@ShanelleValerieWoods](https://www.facebook.com/ShanelleValerieWoods)



[@shanelle.woods](https://www.instagram.com/shanelle.woods)



[Performance video/audio can be found on YouTube by searching Shanelle Valerie Woods.](#)

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OPERA *denotes a cancellation due to COVID 19

*Jenny	Threepenny Opera	Kurt Weill	City Lyric Opera	2020
*2 nd Lady	Magic Flute	W. A. Mozart	Opera North	2020
*Countess Ceprano	Rigoletto	Verdi	Opera North	2020
Carmen Ensemble	Carmen	Georges Bizet	GLOW Lyric Theatre	2019
Tituba	Tosca	Giacomo Puccini	Chas. Symph. Orch	2018
	The Crucible	Robert Ward	GLOW Lyric Theatre	2017
Judge	Stomping Grounds	V. Simonson/P. Hernandez	Glimmerglass Festival	2017
Jeanette	L'Amant anonyme	Chevalier de Saint-Georges	Colour of Music Fest	2016
Annie/Chorus	Porgy and Bess	Gershwin/Heyward	Spoletto Festival USA	2016
Kentucky Kate	Afram ou La Belle Swita	Edmund T. Jenkins	Spoletto Festival USA	2016
Prince Orlofsky	Die Fledermaus	Johann Strauss	UF Opera Theater	2012
Third Lady	The Magic Flute	W. A. Mozart	UF Opera Theater	2011
Miss Pinkerton	The Old Maid and the Thief	Gian Carlo Menotti	CSU Lyric Theater	2010
Jennie Parsons	Down in the Valley	Kurt Weill	CSU Lyric Theater	2010
Mrs. Noye	Noye's Fludde	Benjamin Britten	CSU Lyric Theater	2010
Mother/grandmother	Little Red Riding Hood	Seymour Barab	CSU Lyric Theater	2007

MUSICAL THEATER

Ensemble	My Fair Lady	George Bernard Shaw	GLOW Lyric Theatre	2019
Ronnie	Hair	Galt McDermot	GLOW Lyric Theatre	2017
Maria	West Side Story	Leonard Bernstein	CSU Lyric Theater	2009
Ginger Brooks	1940s Radio Hour	Walton Jones	CSU Lyric Theater	2008
Ensemble	The Wizard Of Oz	Harold Arlen	CSU Lyric Theater	2008
Queenie	Showboat	Jerome Kern	CSU Lyric Theater	2006

CONCERT AND ORATORIO

National Concert Tour		American Spiritual Ensemble		2019
The Orchestra Sings		Chas. Symphony Orchestra/Carnegie Hall Link Up		2017
Gospel Christmas		Colour of Music Festival Chorale		2016
Jazz on the Screen		Charleston Jazz Orchestra		2016
Songs of Love and Justice		Piccolo Spoleto Festival		2016
I Am in Need of Music		Piccolo Spoleto Festival: Spotlight Concert Series		2016
Messiah	*Mezzo Soloist	The King's Counterpoint		2015
To Be Sung Upon the Water		Piccolo Spoleto Festival: Musical Highlights		2015
I, Too, Sing America		MOJA Arts Festival		2014
Elijah	*Mezzo Soloist	University of Florida		2011
Serenade to Music	*Soprano Soloist	Charleston Southern University		2009
Gloria (Vivaldi)	*Mezzo Soloist	Charleston Southern University		2007
Solemn Vespers	*Mezzo Soloist	Charleston Southern University		2006

TEACHERS

Dianna Heldman
Scott Flaherty
Dr. Elizabeth Graham
Dr. Jill Terhaar Lewis

COACHES

Annastasia Victory
Melissa Parks

CONDUCTORS

Eugene Rogers
Marlon Daniel
Stefan Asbury

DIRECTORS

Dr. Everett McCorvey
Paige Hernandez
David Herskovitz

REFERENCES

Christopher Powell, *Executive Director – Vice President, Orchestral Operations and Artistic Administration – The Phoenix Symphony*
412.874.3799

Thomas Cabaniss, *Faculty - The Juilliard School & Teaching Artist - Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall*
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