



ERIC J. McCONNELL

MUSIC, THEATER, AND STEM EDUCATOR

Denver, CO ♦ eric.j.mcconnell@gmail.com ♦ 303-909-2593



OBJECTIVE

Dynamic and dedicated performing artist with over a decade of national experience in opera, musical theatre, and arts education seeking to inspire the next generation of students through innovative teaching, performance-based learning, and a deep commitment to artistic and personal growth.

TEACHING & EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

THEATER CAMP INSTRUCTOR

Summer 2025

Breckenridge Backstage Theater – Breckenridge, CO

- ♦ Led four weeks of a theater summer intensive for students aged 5–13 focused on musical theatre performance and classical vocal technique.
- ♦ Helped students create individual characters for an original show of their own design, performed at the end of each week.
- ♦ With the ideas provided by the students, wrote a script (including musical numbers), directed/music directed the show, and worked with choreographers/lighting designers to create a smooth final product.
- ♦ Taught students about stage directions, acting techniques, improvisation, theater games, etc. Worked mostly with groups of 15–20 while finding times to also work one-on-one with students who needed extra help.
- ♦ Handled first aid and interpersonal issues as they sprung up. Cleaned the theater at the end of each day, and worked with two other teachers to ensure everything was taken care of.

BROADWAY BOUND INSTRUCTOR

Summer 2024

Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre – Logan, UT

- ♦ Led a summer intensive for students aged 8–15 focused on musical theatre performance and classical vocal technique.
- ♦ Assigned roles and curated scenes tailored to students' vocal and acting strengths.
- ♦ Directed and staged scene work, taught musical material, and played piano for rehearsals and performances.
- ♦ Oversaw full rehearsal processes including tech, costumes, and staging.
- ♦ Conducted a specialized masterclass connecting healthy classical vocal technique to contemporary musical theatre repertoire.

PRIVATE VOICE & PIANO TEACHER

2015–2018

Self-Employed – Chicago Metro Area

- ♦ Managed a studio of 10–15 students ranging from children to senior citizens.
- ♦ Tailored individualized lesson plans to students' age, goals, and musical style.
- ♦ Provided audition preparation, technical skill development, and music theory instruction.
- ♦ Balanced scheduling logistics, payment processing, and lesson planning while traveling to students' homes.
- ♦ Developed student confidence and performance skills through informal studio recitals and goal-oriented progression.

PRIVATE VOICE TEACHER, PALS PROGRAM

2018–2021

Aspen Music Festival and School – Aspen, CO

- ♦ Delivered high-quality voice and piano instruction to local Aspen-area students.
- ♦ Balanced rigorous festival rehearsal/performance schedule while teaching weekly private lessons.
- ♦ Transitioned smoothly to virtual teaching during COVID-19, utilizing Zoom and digital resources to keep students engaged and progressing.
- ♦ Fostered musical curiosity and technical growth in a wide range of ages and experience levels.

DAY CAMP COUNSELOR

Summers 2011–2012

Camp Explorer, City and County of Broomfield – Broomfield, CO

- ♦ Supervised and mentored children ages 5–14 in a dynamic and fast-paced day camp environment.
- ♦ Coordinated and led daily activities including field trips, outdoor games, crafts, and specialized clubs.
- ♦ Designed and led a “Music Club” culminating in a camp-wide performance; taught basic rhythm, melody, and group singing, as well as music history.

- ♦ Ensured camper safety and handled minor first aid, while maintaining strong communication with parents and fellow counselors.
- ♦ Developed strong leadership, patience, and improvisational problem-solving skills in a youth-centered environment.

PERFORMANCE & OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

PROFESSIONAL SINGER AND STAGE ACTOR

2014–Present

Self-Employed – Denver, CO (base)

- ♦ Nationally touring baritone/actor with expertise in opera, musical theatre, and cabaret. Independently manages audition schedules, travel logistics, and professional networking.
- ♦ Develops performances with rapid turnaround, mastering music, choreography, and staging under tight deadlines.
- ♦ Regularly engages in community and educational outreach performances—speaking with students about the arts, storytelling, and the life of a working artist.
- ♦ Attends private events and donor functions, facilitating relationship-building between arts organizations and their supporters.
- ♦ Known for professionalism, adaptability, and a strong collaborative spirit in rehearsal and performance environments.

RESIDENT ARTIST

Opera Colorado – Denver, CO (2018–2020) and Virginia Opera – Norfolk, VA (2020–2022)

- ♦ Created and toured educational operas for students Pre-K through 12th grade.
- ♦ Performed in a variety of roles across diverse repertoire—from classical fairy tales (Opera Colorado) to new socially relevant works (Virginia Opera).
- ♦ Participated in Storytime Sessions for preschool-aged audiences (Opera Colorado), introducing opera through narrative and song while also promoting literacy.
- ♦ Took responsibility for set/costume setup, driving touring vans, applying stage makeup, and interacting with children post-show for Q&A sessions.
- ♦ Fostered arts appreciation and accessibility through hundreds of school performances and public outreach events.

OUTREACH ARTIST

2018–2019

“Opera for the Young” – Madison, WI

- ♦ Performed the role of the Sea King in a child-friendly adaptation of Dvořák’s *Rusalka*, touring across the Midwest.
- ♦ Taught choreography to school choirs before each show and led them during live performances.
- ♦ Handled challenging performance logistics, including emergency troubleshooting (set repair, costume fixes, winter travel).
- ♦ Communicated effectively with school faculty and kept young audiences engaged with kindness, humor, and enthusiasm.

SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

Advanced Piano Accompaniment & Sight-Reading, Exceptional Classical and Musical Theatre Vocal Technique, Youth Mentorship & Classroom Management, Educational Outreach & Curriculum Development, Strong Organizational & Time Management Skills, Proficient in Virtual Instruction & Technology Integration (Zoom, Google Suite), CPR/First Aid Training (Past), Music Technology: Basic instruction in GarageBand and Adobe Audition (recording, editing, and mixing); audiobook production experience

REFERENCES

Available upon request.