

Liz Townsend

VOCALIST & MUSIC EDUCATOR



ewood.townsend@gmail.com



315.491.3441



1230 Highgate Rd
Kalamazoo, MI 49006



liztownsendmusic.com

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

Master of Music	Vocal Jazz Performance Western Michigan University 2020-2022 GPA 4.0
Bachelor of Music	Choral/General Music Education Minor in Nonprofit Leadership Western Michigan University Lee Honors College 2009-2015 Magna Cum Laude GPA 3.73
Standard Teaching Certificate	Music Education (JQ) K-12 State of Michigan Department of Education 2015-2026

STUDIO TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Interim Professor of Jazz Voice

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI / 2023

- Cover the duties of the jazz voice studio while Greg Jasperse is on sabbatical
- Provide individualized instruction to students in one-on-one weekly lessons
- Guide students through meaningful expression by addressing the text and musical elements

Professor of Jazz Voice

Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI / 2023-present

- Provide individualized instruction to students in one-on-one weekly lessons
- Prepare students for two voice area recitals each term

Adjunct Voice Faculty

Southwestern Michigan College, Dowagiac, MI / 2022-present

- Provide individualized instruction to students in one-on-one weekly lessons
- Lead two masterclasses each semester for all voice students
- Prepare students for annual cabaret show, university auditions, and musical
- Provide instruction in a variety of styles including classical, musical theatre, jazz, and pop

Private Voice Instructor

Kalamazoo, MI / 2013-present

- Use evidence-based vocal tools to help students better understand their instrument
- Coach students to instill sustainable vocal health habits and routines
- Guide students through meaningful expression by addressing the text and musical elements

Voice & Piano Faculty

Kalamazoo Music School, Kalamazoo, MI / 2019-2022

- Teach weekly individual lessons to voice and piano students
- Coach students in vocal performance classes
- Facilitate group lessons with a wide range of ages and ability
- Prepare students for recitals and *Rise-Up* recording sessions

Voice Faculty

Kalamazoo Academy of Rock, Kalamazoo, MI / 2019-present

- Provide vocal instruction to students in private lessons
- Coach students for upcoming performances with student bands

Voice & Piano Faculty

Broughton Music Center, Kalamazoo, MI / 2014-2018

- Teach weekly individual lessons to voice and piano students
- Prepare students for semiannual recitals

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Gold Company II (GCII) Director

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI / 2020-2023

- Direct undergraduate students in Gold Company II (GCII) in twice weekly rehearsals
- Teach foundational vocal jazz techniques and style in an ensemble setting
- Impart the history of jazz through discourse and music selection
- Arrange music specifically catered to the students in the ensemble

Graduate Assistant

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI / 2020-2022

- Assist with music education instruction by observing and providing feedback to undergraduate practicum students on their lesson plans and coursework
- Teach special topic lessons to undergraduate students in music education courses
- Mentor music students on Aural Skills material through the Music Maestro program
- Assess and provide feedback to students on their written assignments for Music History II and Introduction to the African Diaspora courses
- Assist with various jazz area duties including providing hospitality for guest artists, promoting performances, and general administrative tasks

Vocal Jazz Ensemble Founding Director

Jazz and Creative Institute, Kalamazoo, MI / 2019-2020

- Lead ensemble in weekly rehearsals on sound system
- Work with students on repertoire appropriate for students' ability and interest while curating a well-rounded vocal jazz experience
- Recruit students to audition for the ensemble through school visits and advertising

Middle School Choir Director

Mattawan Consolidated School, Mattawan, MI / 2016-2019

- Apply differential instruction to 300 students in 6 class periods daily
- Facilitate opportunities for students to work with guest clinicians and collaborate with other teachers and musicians within the district
- Bring choirs to MSVMA District Choral Festival where they received "Excellent" ratings

K-8 Music Teacher

William C. Abney Academy, Grand Rapids, MI / 2015-2016

- Deliver general music instruction to cater to the students' varying learning styles
- Foster learning by building relationships with students, families, and staff
- Prepare students to perform at regular school assemblies

Intern Teacher

Jenison Public Schools, Jenison, MI / 2015

Les Rowsey & Grant Carmichael, *Mentors*

- Directed rehearsals for 5 high school choirs
- Coached small vocal ensembles for high school "Club Night"
- Assisted with sectionals and vocal coaching for high school musical, *Oklahoma*

Festival Choir Director

Third Christian Reformed Church, Kalamazoo, MI / 2014-2020

- Prepare and direct choir for the Christmas and Easter seasons
- Collaborate with service-planning team to choose repertoire to compliment the message of each service

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Assistant Director

New York Voices Vocal Jazz Camp, Kalamazoo, MI / 2021-2022

- Prepare payroll documentation for independent contractors
- Assist and troubleshoot any technical needs
- Execute various administrative tasks based on the needs of the staff and campers

Administrative Manager

Jazz & Creative Institute, Kalamazoo, MI / 2019-2020

- Communicate with students, parents, and faculty about scheduling lessons
- Create and send out monthly invoices and manage each billing cycle

Education Department Intern

The Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, Kalamazoo, MI / 2013-2014

- Assisted with the Gilmore Festival Family Concert Series which toured area high schools and venues, working with piano duo Anderson & Roe
- Instructor Assistant at the Sherman Lake Piano Camp for two summers
- Maintained the payroll of the Piano Labs

CLINICS, WORKSHOPS & ADJUDICATION

Southwestern Michigan College

Vocal jazz clinic with Select Choir
April 2023

Gold Company Vocal Jazz Festival Adjudicator

Provided recorded feedback for the vocal jazz groups that attended festival
March 2023

Southwest Michigan Vocal Festival Adjudicator

Assessed and selected vocalists for the SWMVF honors choir
February 2022

Traverse City West High School

Vocal jazz style and technique clinic with two high school choirs
May 2021

Kalamazoo Academy of Rock Workshop

Vocal technique workshop
October 2019

PRESENTATIONS & RESEARCH

WMU Choral Methods Guest Lecturer

“Introduction to Vocal Jazz”
March 2023

Michigan Music Conference

“Singin’ n’ Swingin’: Vocal Jazz Techniques for the Choral Educator”
January 2023

Research Presentation

“Hormones and the Female Voice: the Menstrual Cycle’s Affect on the Voice and Root-Cause Treatment”
April 2021

WMU ACDA Chapter Lecture Series

“Vocal Health Strategies”
October 2020

PUBLISHED ARRANGEMENTS

“Waiting”

by Kathleen Hollingsworth
Anchor Music Publications
SATB, SSAB

“Sailing Home”

by Rosana Eckert and Peter Eldridge
Anchor Music Publications
SATB, SSAB, and SSAA

“Route 66”

by Bobby Troup
Sheet Music Press
SSAA

RECORDING WORK

Artist - <i>Along the Way</i> - Album	October 2023
Artist & Arranger - <i>But Beautiful</i> - Single	September 2023
Artist & Composer - <i>I Choose To Be Happy</i> - Single	September 2023
Vocalist for demo “Together” by Greg Jasperse	July 2023
Supporting Vocalist - Roger Gonda Studio Album	March 2023
Artist & Co-arranger - <i>Bye Bye Blackbird</i> - Single	February 2023
Supporting Vocalist - Jonny Faucher Studio Album	August 2022
Supporting Vocalist - Roger Gonda Studio Album	June 2022
Vocalist for demo “Spirit” by Greg Jasperse	June 2021
Vocalist for demo “Sweet Georgia Brown” arr. Greg Jasperse	March 2014

SELECT ENSEMBLES & PERFORMANCES

Soloist with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra	May 2022
Graduate Recital: <i>Along the Way</i>	April 2022
Gold Company, Western Michigan University	2013-2015, 2020-2022
Supporting Vocalist for Ben Folds with Grand Rapids Symphony	October 2014
University Chorale, Western Michigan University	2012-2014

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

Greg Jasperse

Western Michigan University, 2020-2022
Jazz Voice

Matthew Fries

Western Michigan University, 2021-present
Jazz Piano

Marci Rosenberg

Michigan Voice Clinic, 2019
Vocal Health

Dr. Rhea Olivaccé

Western Michigan University, 2012-2014
Classical Voice

SPECIAL TRAINING

Maddie Tarbox - Vocal Function 101	Summer 2023
Somatic Voicework™ - Levels I, II, and III	July 2021
Musical Theatre Audition Workshop - Jeanie LoVetri	March 2021
Vocal Improvisation - Darmon Meader & Rosana Eckert	September 2020-May 2021
New York Voices Vocal Jazz Camp	July 2020
Estill Level I - Tom Burke	August 2018
Belting Through the Ages - Tom Burke	August 2018
Vocal Health Workshop - Catherine Walker	Fall 2017

MASTERCLASSES

Michael Mayo	March 2023
Johnaye Kendrick	October 2022
Bobby Broom	September 2022
säje	November 2021
Lisa Thorson	July 2021
Maria Schneider	April 2021
Cecile McLorin Salvant & Sullivan Fortner	April 2021
Jiana Hunter	January-April 2021
Cecil Alexander	April 2021
Sean Jones	March 2021
Kevin Jones	January-February 2021
Tom Burke	August 2018
Peter Eldridge	September 2014

AWARDS & GRANTS

Kalamazoo Artistic Development Initiative (KADI) Grant

Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, January 2023

- Awarded to partially fund debut album, *Along the Way*, to be October 2023

Edwin E. Meader Theatre and Performing Arts Scholarship

Western Michigan University, Spring 2022

Graduate Student Association Conference Grant

Western Michigan University, December 2021

Outstanding Performance - DownBeat Student Music Awards

Gold Company, Western Michigan University, 2021

Teacher of the Year 2020

Kalamazoo Music School

Kalamazoo Artistic Development Initiative (KADI) Grant

Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, June 2019

- Awarded to fund establishment of VJE, a vocal jazz ensemble for high school students
- Partnership with Jazz and Creative Institute

Research and Creative Support Grant

Lee Honors College, Western Michigan University, Spring 2014

- Funding for senior thesis project, "All That Jazz: Directing a Nonprofit Vocal Jazz Ensemble"
- Project presented on April 5, 2014

MEMBERSHIPS

National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS)

Jazz Education Network (JEN)

Women in Jazz Organization (WIJO)

The Voice Foundation

Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society