

ELLEN OAK

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

Certificate of Study, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven CT: 1987
MA, Choral Conducting, Yale School of Music, New Haven, CT: 1987
MAR, Worship and Music, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT: 1987
BA with Distinction, Music Major, Religion Minor,
Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA: 1978

POSITIONS HELD

Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Music, Church of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal),
Acton, MA
September 2021 to Present
Musician and Liturgist, Lutheran Episcopal Ministry, Massachusetts Institute of
Technology, Cambridge, MA
January 2020 to Present
Minister of Music (interim), Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Natick, MA
August 2018 to January 2021
Director of Liturgy, Music, and the Arts, and Member of the Faculty,
Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA
May 2015 to July 2017
Director of Music, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA
August 2012 to April 2015
Director of Music, Campus Ministry, Regis College, Weston, MA
September 2011 to June 2012
Director of Music (interim), First Parish of Stow and Acton, Stow, MA
February to June 2011
Founding Artistic Director, Three Rivers Chorus, Maynard, MA
October 2010 to March 2015
Guest Conductor, Boston Gay Mens Chorus, Boston, MA
February to April 2008
Director of Music (interim), St. Theresa of Lisieux Parish, Sherborn, MA
January to June 2008
Director of Music, Church of the Immaculate Conception, Boston, MA
July 2004 to July 2007

Cantor and Pianist, Saint Isidore Parish, Stow, MA
 September 2002 to February 2012

Cantor, Holy Family Parish, Concord, MA
 December 2000 to December 2012

Founding Artistic Director, Boston Women's Rainbow Chorus, Boston, MA
 September 1998 to January 2002

Guest Conductor, Boston Gay Mens Chorus, Boston, MA
 September to December 1998

Director of Music (interim), Memorial Congregational Church, Sudbury, MA
 February to June 1997

Director of Music (interim), Congregational Church of Needham, Needham, MA
 September to December 1996

Director of Music (interim), Calvary Episcopal Church, Stonington, CT
 May to August 1996

Professor (adjunct) in Worship, Theology and the Arts,
 Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, MA
 June 1993 to June 2011

Director of Liturgy and Music, Visitation Parish, Kansas City, MO
 September 1991 to June 1995

Director of Music, Newton Highlands Congregational Church, Newton Highlands, MA
 July 1990 to August 1991

Director of Music, Order of St. Anne-Bethany, Lincoln, MA
 July 1990 to August 1991

Founding Artistic Director, KAIROS Vocal Ensemble, Boston, MA
 June 1988 to June 2006

Director of Music, Saint John's Seminary, Brighton, MA
 September 1987 to June 1990

Assistant Conductor, Battell Chapel Choir, Yale University, New Haven, CT
 September 1985 to May 1987

Conductor, Chorus of Middlebury College German School, Middlebury, VT
 Summer 1984 and Summer 1985

Conductor, Marquand Chapel Choir, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT
 September 1983 to May 1985

Organist and Choir Director, First Church of Christ, Bethany, CT
 September 1983 to May 1985

Organist and Choir Director, Centre Congregational Church, Brattleboro, VT
 September 1982 to August 1983

Director of Music, Vermont Academy, Saxton's River, VT
 September 1982 to August 1983

Organist, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Brattleboro, VT
 February to August 1982

Organist and Choir Director, First United Methodist Church, Brattleboro, VT
 September 1981 to January 1982

Director of Music, Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Norwich, CT
September 1979 to June 1981

SELECTED FREELANCE ENGAGEMENTS

MEZZO-SOPRANO

Roles of Fides and Disciplina

Cappella Clausura's production of *Ordo Virtutum* by Hildegard of Bingen,
Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT: January 2011

Cantor and Soloist

Jazz Eucharist, Old South Church, Boston, MA: December 2010

Recitalist

Inciting Incarnation: The Songs of Hildegard of Bingen.

Saint John the Evangelist Church, Boston, MA: December 2010

Soloist

A Joyful Noyse Early Music Consort in concert of Praetorius and Schütz.
Hancock Church, Lexington, MA: November 2010

Recitalist

With Meena Malik, soprano, Peter Terry, counter-tenor, and Rachel Hassinger,
piano. Robert Schumann Op. 114, OP. 35, and Op. 40.

St. John's Episcopal Church, Jamaica Plain, MA: October 2010

Recitalist

With Carol Messina, piano. Works of Debussy, Vaughan Williams, Purcell, and
Rorem.

St. John's Episcopal Church, Jamaica Plain, MA: September 2010

Recitalist

Solo unaccompanied songs from sixth century chant to contemporary.
Notre Dame de Chartres Cathedral, Chartres, France: October 2009

Soloist

With Seraphim Singers. Works of Bach, Gyger, and Tallis.
Boston, MA: May 2007

Soloist

Greater Glory of God, a dramatization with music and dance exploring the
Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius, created by Robert VerEecke, S.J.

Boston, MA: June 2006

Creator and Performer

Sounding the Living Light, one-woman show about Hildegard of Bingen.
Washington University, St. Louis, MO: May 1997

OTHER

Teacher

A Singing Presence, six-week series on spirituality of singing.
Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, MA: Fall 2011

Conductor

Service of Lessons and Carols.
St. Isidore Parish, Stow, MA: December 2010

Retreat Leader

Clergy Day of Reflection on spirituality and the arts.
Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire, Concord, NH: December 2010

Performer and Presenter

Conference on Mysticism and Monothesisim
Vitalpix, Boston, MA July 2007

Liturgist, Cantor, and Co-Leader

With Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, *Heaven On Earth*, a week long retreat.
Notre Dame de Chartres Cathedral, Chartres, France:
April 2007 and October 2005

GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES TAUGHT

Chanting the Liturgy

Feeding the Fire of Sung Faith (What Shall We Sing On Sunday Morning?)

Hildegard and the Living Light

Liturgical Praxis

Te Deum (Theology, spirituality, and historical survey of Christian sacred music)

The Art of Faith

The Transforming Power of Ritual

RECORDINGS

O Chorusans Lux Stellarum

Song by Hildegard of Bingen, recorded by Oak. Published by the National Association for Music Education in *Benchmarks in Action: A Guide to Standards-Based Assessment in Music*: 2003

Singing Light

CD. KAIROS Vocal Ensemble performs Gregorian chant and medieval polyphony: 2002

Deep Within Deep

CD and Songbook. Original compositions for meditation and worship: 2001

Earth and Sky: The Psalms of Ascent

CD. Layered interpretation of psalms 120-134 with Gregorian chant, spoken original translations, and instrumental improvisation: 1997

Sounding the Living Light

Cassette. Original one-woman show about Hildegard of Bingen created from her letters, sermons, books, and songs: 1996

Harmony of Heaven

CD. Solo unaccompanied performance of songs of Hildegard of Bingen: 1996

Dark Angels

CD, video, study booklet. Texts of Susan Griffin, Psalm 22, and Isaiah. Original musical settings and choreography. Explores theological and spiritual aspects of healing from sexual and domestic violence: 1996

Pour Out Your Hearts

Cassette. Original compositions for meditation and worship: 1991

Songs of the Love of God

Cassette. Original compositions for meditation and worship: 1989

COMPOSITIONS

Bakerwoman God. SATB a capella. Text: Alla Bozarth Campbell. 2013

Chartres Pilgrim's Prayer. Solo a cappella voice. Text: Traditional. 2009

Te Deum. Assembly, SATB, organ, djembe drums. Text: Traditional and original. 2004

Let Your Love. SSAAB. Text: Biblical selections. 1998

Love Is Strong. SATB. Text: Song of Songs. 1996

Welcome Home. Assembly, SATB, piano. Text: Original. 1991

You Hear Me. SSAA. Text: Psalm 22. 1990

Numerous psalms settings for cantor, choir, congregation and keyboard

See also Recordings

ARTICLES

The Naked Voice

Sufi, Volume 83, Summer: 2012

As Judged by Those We Serve: The Mission of the Liturgical Musician

Modern Liturgy, Volume 25, Number 5: 1998

Sounding the Voice of Hildegard Today

Christianity and the Arts, Volume 5, Number 2: 1998

Why Music?

Cantor: 1997

The Healing Heart of Eucharist

Eucharistic Minister: 1997

ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Conducting: Otto-Werner Mueller, Aspen Music School, Aspen, CO
Voice: Elizabeth Vrenios, Valerie Walters, Robert Honeysucker, Marga Mueller
Organ: George Kent
Choral Arts: Charles Dodsley Walker, Emory Fanning, George Kent, Blanche Moyse.
Gregorian Chant: John Blackley, Richard Crocker
Acting: Shakespeare & Company, Lenox, MA
Improvisation in story, sound, and movement: InterPlay, Oakland, CA
Dance: City in Motion Dance Theatre, Kansas City, MO, Credo Liturgical Dance Company, Boston, MA
Opera: Crittenden Opera Studio, Boston, MA
Bodywork: Yoga, Alexander Technique, Middendorf Breath Technique
Languages: Working knowledge of German, French, and Latin
Multicultural: Visions, Inc., Boston, MA
Computer: Apple hardware; page layout; website design; spreadsheets;
Finale music notation software
Professors at Yale: Aidan Kavanagh and Jeffery Rowthorn in liturgy; John Cook in visual arts; Peter Hawkins in literature; Margaret Farley and Letty Russell in feminist theological studies; Marguerite Brooks, Fenno Heath, and Johannes Somary in choral conducting; Robert Baker and Thomas Murray in organ; Joan Panetti in composition; Richard French in music history

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Faculty Prize “to the student in whose being and work the ideals and values of the Institute are best exemplified,” Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT
Tuition Scholarship, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT
Full Scholarship, Aspen Music School, Aspen, CO
Scholarship Participant, National Endowment for the Humanities conference: The Origins of Medieval Liturgical Drama, Staunton, VA
Phi Beta Kappa

AFFILIATIONS

Member, American Choral Directors Association
Member, North American Academy of Liturgy
Oblate, Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde, MO