

Selwyn's Guest Artists



An interpreter of contemporary and hybrid works, **Dr. Sequina DuBose** recently recorded composer B.E. Boykin's provocative song cycle, *Moments in Sonder*, set to lesser-known text by Maya Angelou, as part of the WDAV (89.9 FM Classical Public Radio) Recording Inclusivity Initiative in 2023. The recording was uploaded to the "All Classical Radio" database for nationwide access and airplay. It has aired in regular rotation on WDAV and classical stations throughout the U.S. since May 2024. In 2022, she launched her debut album *Blurred Lines: 21st Century Hybrid Vocal Literature* on the Albany Records label. Recent performance highlights include a debut as soprano soloist in Orff's *Carmina Burana* with Western Piedmont Symphony, a role debut as Donna Elvira in Eve Summer's modern adaptation of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* with Opera Carolina, as well as two premieres with the Virginia Arts Festival in chamber operas, *Companionship* by Rachel Peters and *Tales From the Briar Patch* by Nkeiru Okoye. She returned to Opera Carolina as Clara in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* in the 2022-2023 season. Dr. DuBose regularly performs with prestigious ensembles such as The American Spiritual Ensemble and Chorale Le Chateau. Other notable engagements include with the Michigan Opera Theater, Tulsa Symphony and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Royal Danish Opera, Ojai Youth Opera Company, and as a soloist and ensemble member with Kathleen Battle in *Underground Railroad: A Spiritual Journey* at the Metropolitan Opera.

Dr. DuBose currently serves as Assistant Professor of Classical and Contemporary Voice, and Coordinator of the Musical Theater Certificate program at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. An avid arts advocate, she serves on the WDAV Community Advisory Board, serves with The International Florence Price Festival (Board Vice-President), and as a founding board member and Director of Development with Baltimore-based, African-American-led theatre, ArtsCentric. To learn more about Sequina DuBose, please visit her website: www.SequinaDuBose.com.



Dr. Susan Gouthro is an Assistant Professor of Voice at UNC Charlotte. For over a decade she was engaged as a soprano soloist on a full-time contract at the opera house in Kiel, Germany. She performed many of the most important roles in the lyric soprano repertoire including Mozart roles Pamina, Queen of the Night, Donna Anna, and Fiordiligi; French roles Micaela, Marguerite, Antonia, and Manon; and Italian roles Liu, both Mimi and Musetta, and Violetta. Her diversity extends to German operetta (Hanna Gawari in *The Merry Widow* and Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus*) and the first forays into Wagner's operas with Eva in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. Czech roles that round out her repertoire are the title roles in *The Cunning Little Vixen* and *Rusalka*, as well as Marie in *The Bartered Bride*. She had many opportunities to perform as a guest at other German houses including the opera companies in Cologne, Würzburg, Bremen, Lübeck, Dessau, Hagen, and Kassel. An avid concert and recital performer, she performed in many oratorios and was a featured artist in diverse Lieder Abende and chamber music concerts. In the 2015/2016 season, Gouthro was celebrated as the opera-diva Carlotta in the musical *The Phantom of the Opera in Germany*, singing eight shows a week for a total of over

300 performances in a production that was cast and rehearsed by the creative team from *Phantom* on Broadway.

Having studied and performed contemporary music at The Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada, The Britten-Pears School in England, and on the opera stage in Germany, Dr. Gouthro has lately been delving into new music from her home country Canada. Researching and performing music by living composers has become one of her passions.



Monica Griffin Hunter received the Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan, the Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, and the Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Texas Wesleyan University, graduating magna cum laude. She completed additional study at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. Dr. Hunter has taught for the School of Music at Western Michigan University and at Grand Valley State University. She served as Senior Lecturer of Music and Director of Voice Studies at Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA from 2011-2021.

As a soprano soloist, she has been featured in Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, Handel's *Messiah*, J.S. Bach's *Magnificat*, Rutter's *Requiem*, Elfrida Andrée's *Swedish Mass #1*, Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*, Poulenc's *Gloria*, Tommasini's *Three Spanish Songs*, Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, David Gillingham's *Lifesongs*. and as Leonora in Beethoven's *Fidelio*. Her operatic experience includes the roles of Michaela in Bizet's

famous opera *Carmen*, the *Theory of Everything* Suite, the Mother in *Hansel and Gretel*, Contessa in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Madame Lidoine in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi*.

She has served as a professional singer for churches in Texas and Washington State. She participated as a finalist in the 2005 Berlin International Opera Auditions in Germany, where she sang for thirty of the most prestigious opera houses in the world. Among Dr. Hunter's distinctions and awards are two fellowships from Rice University and the prestigious Golden Shears Award from Texas Wesleyan University, where she was named Music Major of the Year in 2000. Professional affiliations include membership in the National Association of the Teachers of Singing, Alpha Chi National Honor Society, and Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity for Women.

Dr. Hunter loves sharing her gifts in the classroom, in the voice studio, and on the stage. In March 2022, she was invited by American Choral Composer, Morten Lauridsen, to perform his *Six Duets for Mixed Voices and Piano* in Chicago with renowned baritone, Jeremy Huw Williams. Other interests include promoting performances of African American Spirituals and music by female composers. She lives in the Charlotte area with her husband and two sons and is excited to join the Voice faculty at UNC Charlotte.



Susan Renz started taking piano lessons at the age of four, and quickly grasped the language of music. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Renz also studied Applied Mathematics and Statistics. After which, she began moving up and down the East Coast after college.

Renz's extensive history with music includes teaching piano, positions as an organist and choir master for several churches, and extensive experience in choral accompanying performance. She has traveled to Italy several times with Collegium, the showcase choir from The Taft School, and played for several children's choirs like Sing Out CT! in Connecticut and Young Voices of the Carolina in Charlotte. Renz was also the accompanist for the Waterbury Chorale, Naugatuck Choir, RIT Singers, and the University of Rochester Glee Club. She has played with the Waterbury Symphony, Opera Carolina Express, and various Honors Choirs in both Connecticut and North Carolina. Renz is a member of the Music Teachers National Association and Handbell Musicians of America.