

GENE RYMAN

CHOIR DIRECTOR/THEORY AND COMPOSITION TEACHER

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To whom it may concern:

I am an experienced Choir Director, General Music Teacher, Theory/Composition Teacher, and Piano Teacher/Accompanist relocating to Houston, TX and looking for a full time position teaching Choir, General Music, and/or Music Theory. Over the course of my teaching career, I have received four nominations for “Best Music Direction” at the Metropolitan High School Theatre Awards, led my high school women’s choir to the semifinals at the Intercollegiate High School a Cappella (ICHSA) competition, built a general music curriculum, and heavily revised my district’s AP and Honors Music Theory curricula to include more student-centered learning. For more information on my experiences, student work samples, and educational philosophies, please visit my online portfolio at <http://eryman.github.io>.

I have ten years of experience as an educator, including five years teaching Choir, General Music, and Music Theory, and five years as a Private Piano, Voice, and Composition Teacher, both independently and contracted through private organizations. I hold a Master’s degree in Music Education from Boston University as well as a Bachelor’s degree in Musical Studies from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, and I intend to pursue a doctorate in Music Education in the near future. I’ve obtained a Provisional Certificate in Texas to teach music as of April, 2018 and intend to take the necessary exams over the summer. I am certified in Secondary Education in New Jersey (2009), and K-12 in New York (2014) as well.

My time as a teacher at Northern Highlands Regional High School in New Jersey has afforded me many opportunities. Beyond my aforementioned theatre award nominations and my women’s choir’s success in the world of competitive choir, I have five years of experience teaching both in a traditional classroom setting and as a choir director. I was the music director and rehearsal pianist for our award-winning theatre program, which in turn presented me with the opportunity to work as music director for a theatre production at the elementary level with 30 students with a wide range of abilities and skill levels in a school which lacked a curricular choral program.

On the other hand, my time as a piano, voice, and composition teacher in New York afforded me an entirely different opportunity; The opportunity to educate on a much more personal level and work in-depth with a diverse array of students from early childhood to adult with a variety of needs, preparing them for NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) festival adjudication and performances such as recitals, nursing home concerts, and even the occasional open mic night. I’m excited to apply this experience in my classroom teaching.

I aim to cultivate a love of music as well as a holistic knowledge of music within my students through group activities, performance, improvisation, and other opportunities for them to express themselves creatively. I am looking for a position in which I, too, have the opportunity to be creative and to make a difference not only in the lives of my students, but in the school community itself.

Sincerely,

Gene Ryman