

# Kwynn “KJ” PHILLIPS, M.M.

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## EDUCATION

University of Memphis, Memphis, TN

**Doctorate of Musical Arts 2027\*** Voice Performance, Vocal Pedagogy, and Vocology

University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD

**Master of Music May 2023** Emphasis in Voice Performance

University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD

**Bachelors of Music Education May 2020** Emphasis in Vocal and Instrumental Music

## PROFESSIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

**Arkansas State University**

Adjunct Professor of Voice

Courses taught: Applied Voice Lessons, Applied Studio Class

Jonesboro, AR

2024-Present

**Briar Cliff University**

Adjunct Professor of Voice

Courses taught: Applied Voice Lessons

Sioux City, IA

2023-2024

**University of South Dakota**

Per Diem Instructor of Voice

Courses taught: Applied Studio Class, Advanced Choral Conducting, Chamber Choir

Vermillion, SD

2023-2024

## PROFESSIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Outlook Music Studios**

Owner, Teacher

Taught: Voice Lessons, Piano Lessons, Music Theory, Composition

Memphis, TN

2018-Present

**Sioux Falls Multicultural Center**

Lead Teacher

Taught: STE(A)M grades PK-8

Sioux Falls, SD

2021

**Montrose School District**

Secondary Vocal and Instrumental Instructor

Courses Taught: High School Choir, High School Band, Middle School Choir, Middle School Band, 6th Grade Choir, 6th Grade Band, 5th Grade Choir, 5th Grade Band, 4th Grade General Music, Music Appreciation

Montrose, SD

2020-2021

**Tea Area School District**

Student Teacher

Duties: Supported mentor teacher in lesson planning and teaching six vocal ensembles, voice lessons, and accompanying for solo-ensemble competitions. Held responsibility for all middle school ensemble lesson planning during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Aided mentor teacher in lesson planning, grading, and communications for all students and guardians.

Tea, SD

2020

**West Central School District** Hartford, SD  
Lead KARE Teacher K-6th 2018-2019  
Duties: daily lesson planning, classroom management, weekly field trips, and activities for upwards to 90 students and staying within state-regulation for child care laws.

**Academy of Fine Music** North Sioux City, SD  
Lead Vocal Instructor 2016-2018  
Taught: Voice Lessons, Piano Lessons, Music Theory, and Composition

**Canton Schools** Canton, SD  
Substitute Music Teacher 2021-2024  
Duties: Follow lesson plans and give instruction to students in 5-12th grade bands and maintain communication with classroom teachers about student progression.

**Tri-Valley High School** Colton, SD  
Substitute Music Teacher 2015-2020  
Duties: Follow lesson plans and give instruction to students in 5-12th grade bands and maintain communication with classroom teachers about student progression.

## PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

**St. Louis Catholic Church** Memphis, TN  
Featured Soloist, Cantor, Bass Section Leader 2024-Present

**Trinity Lutheran Church** Vermillion, SD  
Youth Choir Director 2017-2018

**South Dakota All-State Choir Auditions** SD  
Judge - Selective Southwest and Central SD Schools 2016-Present

## ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Choral Intern - United Church of Christ** Vermillion, SD  
Bass Section Leader 2022-2023  
Responsible for leading the bass section during rehearsals and performances. Advocate for the bass section for rehearsal time for questions or concerns during the music learning process. Direct rehearsal if needed.

**University of South Dakota Conducting Practicum** Vermillion, SD  
Student Conductor 2019  
Studied extensive ear training, rehearsal techniques, score study, and conducting techniques under university faculty in an independent study. Lesson planned, taught, and conducted the University of South Dakota's Men's and Women's Chorus.

**High Howlers A Capella at The University of South Dakota** Vermillion, SD  
Co-Founder, Director, President 2016-2020  
Organized and held yearly auditions, program and arrange music for competition, coordinated schedules, created plans for travel, created fundraising opportunities for members for travel and other expenses, directed and taught music to members, organized rehearsals and outside clinicians, collaborated with other artists and groups.

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**Memphis Symphony Chorus**  
Baritone

Memphis, TN  
2024-Present

## **YOUNG ARTISTS EXPERIENCE**

**Music On Site, Inc.**  
Opera Scenes Program

Wichita, KS  
2024

**Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival Opera and Musical Theatre Intensive**  
Featured Artists and Scholarship Recipient  
Opera and Musical Theatre Scenes

Fairbanks, AK  
2023

### **Spotlight on Opera**

Featured Artists and Scholarship Recipient

Shreveport, LA  
2023

*Gianni Schicchi, Madama Butterfly, Suor Angelica*, Opera Scenes Program

**Music On Site, Inc.**  
Opera Scenes Program

Wichita, KS  
2021

## **YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAM EXPERIENCE**

**South Dakota Senior Honor Choir**  
Co-Head Camp Counselor

South dakota  
2022-Present

**South Dakota Senior Honor Choir**  
Camp Counselor

South dakota  
2016-2021

**University of South Dakota Summer Music Camp**  
Choral and Opera Camp Counselor

Vermillion, SD  
2015-2022

## **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Sanford Vermillion Hospital and Clinic**  
Patient Access Representative

Vermillion, SD  
2020-2024

Collected demographic information for patients. Advocates for patients' needs while screening phone calls, filing appropriate legal and demographic paperwork. Helped create and maintain patient and provider relationships.

## **CONFERENCES**

SD Music Educators Association **2017-2022**

SD All-State Chorus Workshop **2017-2022**

Iowa Music Educators Association **2016**

USD Choral Directors Institute **2017, 2022**

NAfME Virtual Conferences **2020, 2021**

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION**

National Association for Music Education  
South Dakota Music Education Association

South Dakota BandMasters  
National Association of Teachers of Singing  
South Dakota American Choral Directors Association  
National Opera Association  
Young Artist Program Tracker

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Death by Chocolate and Aria Selected Singer and Speaker **2022**  
Acceptance into Music on Site, Inc. Opera Scenes and Main Stage Opera **2024/2021**  
Second Place: South Dakota NATS, Musical Theatre Division, **2019**  
Third Place: SDNATS, Classical Division **2019**  
Honorable Mention: South Dakota Music Teachers National Association **2017**  
Second Place: SDNATS, Classical Division **2015**  
First Place: Glenn Miller National Music Scholarship Competition **2015**  
National Finalist: Glenn Miller National Music Scholarship Competition **2015**

## **STAGE DIRECTORS**

Cindy Sadler at Spotlight on Opera; *Gianni Schicchi*  
Dr. Bruce Cain at Spotlight on Opera; *Suor Angelica, Opera Scenes Program*  
Beverly Thiele at Spotlight on Opera; *Opera Scene Program*  
Dr. Tracelyn Gesteland at University of South Dakota; *The Tender Land, Le Nozze di Figaro, Die Fledermaus, The Consul, Cindrillion, Speed Dating Tonight, Alcina, Gianni Schicchi, Suor Angelica, Notes on Viardot*  
Dr. Juan Carlos Mendoza at University of South Dakota; *Opera Scenes and Aria, An Embarrassing Position*  
Dr. Nicolas Provenzale at University of South Dakota; *Opera Scenes and Aria, Hansel and Gretel*  
Dr. Brandon Hendrickson at University of South Dakota; *L'elisir D'amore*  
Dr. Joshua May at Music On Site, Inc.; *Die Zauberflöte*  
Katie Kelly at Music On Site, Inc.; *Opera Scenes Program*

## **MUSIC DIRECTORS**

Dr. Luis Viquez at University of South Dakota Opera  
Dr. Bradly Baker at Music on Site, Inc.  
Dr. Sheryl Lindquist at Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival  
Dr. David Holdhusen at University of South Dakota Opera  
Dr. William Reber at Spotlight on Opera  
Dr. Stephen Karr at Spotlight on Opera, University of Memphis, Opera Memphis  
Dr. Taylor Burkhardt at Spotlight on Opera  
Dr. Kristin Roach at Spotlight on Opera