

Robert Bott, Conductor/Educator

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Professional Profile

Conducting experience spans 14 years and includes professional, collegiate, youth, string, and community orchestras. Has taught and mentored in individual and classroom settings at the college level at both state and private institutions. Expertise in online instruction and working with a diverse population of non-traditional students. Additional experience as a published author, saxophone/clarinet player, composer, and choral singer/conductor.

Teaching and Mentoring Experience

Music Teaching

Instructor, Salt Lake Singers, UT, 2020-Present

- Developed a music fundamentals course to train amateur musicians, ages 20-65, in sight-singing, theory, and general musicianship
- Hold bi-weekly classes via Zoom (moving to in-person when COVID-19 protocols allow)
- Create special sessions on topics of general interest, such as music in *Star Wars*

Teaching Fellow, University of North Texas, Denton, 2018-19

- Teacher of record for two sections of undergraduate aural skills per semester
- Utilized techniques such as movable do (Curwen variant), proto-notation, harmonic paradigms, and melodic patterns
- Drew on singing experience to model proper tone production and pitch accuracy
- Composed extra exercises to reinforce key concepts
- Taught conducting principles and required conducting during prepared sight-singing exercises
- Averaged a 4.5 (out of 5.0) rating on student evaluations

Mentoring

Program Mentor II, Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, UT, 2010-Present

- Regionally and CAEP-accredited online Teachers College
- Manage a caseload that averages 110 students in a one-on-one, distance-learning model
- Coach students in skills for college success such as time management, test-taking strategies, and study habits
- Advise students about class schedules, job pathways in education, and advancement to graduate programs
- Train new hires and serve as a peer leader by responding to questions and giving advice in official University channels
- Recent successes include: promotion from Program Mentor I; consistent top 20% ranking in retention and student satisfaction; recipient of "Deliver Results" award

Orchestral Conducting Positions

Music Director, West Jordan Symphony, UT, 2021-present

- Position started on 1/1/21
- Duties to-date include repertoire selection and collaborating with the board to plan a spring concert in accordance with local COVID-19 protocols
- Future duties will include conducting the ensemble in all rehearsals and performances, season planning, securing rehearsal/concert venues, recruitment, and publicity/outreach

Assistant Conductor, West Jordan Symphony, UT, 2019-2020

- Conducted amateur musicians, ages 15-65, in rehearsal and performance
- Served as the cover conductor for all concerts
- Repertoire has included works such as Beethoven: Symphony #7 (mvt. 2), Christmas pops selections, and *Album of Opera Themes*

Assistant Conductor, Lewisville Lake Symphony, TX, 2017-18

- Conducted professional musicians in rehearsal and performance
- Contributed to improvement in ensemble sound by providing feedback on balance and intonation
- Served as the cover conductor for all concerts
- Repertoire included works such as Gounod: *Funeral March of a Marionette*, Verdi: "Triumphal March", Prokofiev: Violin Concerto #2, and Mendelssohn: *The Fair Melusine*

Student Assistant Conductor, University of North Texas, Denton, 2014-17

- Conducted student-musicians (undergraduate and graduate) in rehearsal and performance
- Observed all rehearsals, concerts, and orchestral events to learn the day-to-day responsibilities of a college orchestra director
- Served as the cover conductor or provided feedback on balance and intonation for all concerts
- Repertoire conducted includes Tchaikovsky: Symphony #5 (mvt. 1), Bartok: Viola Concerto (mvt. 1), Puccini: *La Boheme* (selections from Act 1), and Brahms: *Tragic Overture*

Assistant Director, Salt Lake Pops Orchestra, UT, 2013-14

- Principal rehearsal/concert conductor during the group's inaugural season
- "Start-up" orchestra with a mission to perform modern songs and film music, incorporate technology, and advocate for music education
- Personnel included professional musicians and advanced amateurs
- Interdisciplinary collaboration incorporated vocalists, instrumental soloists, and dancers
- Repertoire included works such as *Grenade*, *Firework*, *Defying Gravity*, selections from *The Nutcracker*, *Dr. Who Medley*, and *World of Warcraft: Main Theme*

Music Director/Conductor, Davis County Celebration Orchestra, Layton, UT, 2011-13

- Conducted volunteer, amateur musicians ages 16-72 in weekly rehearsals, 4 masterwork concerts, pops, and outreach appearances
- Collaborated on recruitment efforts that doubled the size of the orchestra over 3 years

- Cultivated community outreach projects that included performances in nursing homes and for holidays such as Veterans Day, Independence Day, and Pioneer Day
- Selected repertoire commensurate with players' capabilities, such as Dvorak: Symphony #9, Mozart Horn Concerto #3, and music from *Oklahoma!*, *Camelot*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean*

Music Director/Conductor, Northern Utah Youth Symphony, Brigham City, 2010-12

- Conducted student-musicians from grades 9-12 in weekly rehearsals, 3 masterwork concerts, pops, and outreach appearances
- Conducted the ensemble in an annual all-state youth orchestra festival
- Increased the size of the orchestra by 25% through recruiting efforts in local school districts
- Rehearsal and programming focused on long-term goals such as improving intonation, balance, and ensemble rhythm; providing appropriate challenges to improve musicianship; and engendering a love of orchestral performance
- Selected repertoire commensurate with players' capabilities, such as Schubert: "Unfinished" Symphony, Liszt: Piano Concerto #1, Gliere: *Dance of the Russian Sailors*, Saint-Saens: *Danse Macabre*, and Williams: *Hook*

Assistant Conductor, Davis County Celebration Orchestra, Layton, UT, 2010-11

- Shared conducting and repertoire selection duties with the Music Director
- As a member of the Board, collaborated on and implemented initiatives to revitalize the orchestra after an organizational split

Student Assistant Conductor, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, 2007-09

- Conducted student-musicians (undergraduate and graduate) in rehearsal and performance
- Served as the cover conductor for all concerts in 2008-2009, and as sole conductor of the Campus Symphony for two months in Spring 2009
- Repertoire conducted included: selections from *West Side Story*, Walton: *Crown Imperial*, Mozart: *Exsultate, Jubilate*, Sibelius: Symphony #1, and Haydn: Symphony #94 "Surprise"

Opera and Oratorio Conducting Experience

Assistant Conductor, *Turandot*, University of North Texas Symphony, 2017

Assistant Conductor, *Die Walküre* (Act I) University of North Texas Symphony, 2015

Conductor, *The Messiah*, Davis County Celebration Orchestra, 2012 and 2011

Assistant/Choral Postlude Conductor, *Little Women*, University of Utah Philharmonia, 2009

Assistant Conductor, *Candide*, University of Utah Philharmonia, 2008

Other Conducting and Performance Experience

Choral Conducting Positions

Worship Service Music Leader, Lake Cities 2nd Ward, Copper Canyon, TX, 2014-17

- Directed musical activity for a congregation of 150
- Selected music for weekly worship services
- Conducted the congregational singing of hymns and other worship music

Interim Conductor, Salt Lake Choral Artists Men's Choir, 2013

- Conducted 12 amateur singers, ages 30-55, from September to December in rehearsal and a holiday performance
- Selected repertoire for the concert, drawn from various musical styles from the Renaissance to modern arrangements

Choir Director and Music Leader, Valley View Ward, Salt Lake City, UT, 2007-09

- Conducted the choir in rehearsal and performance of hymns and other worship music
- Composed arrangements to match the ability level and voice types in the ensemble
- Directed musical activity for the congregation and selected music for weekly worship
- Recruited performers for special musical numbers

Guest Conducting

Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra, TX, May 2016

- Assistant/Cover Conductor for one subscription concert

Salt Lake Choral Institute, UT, 2009

- Conducted on a public concert at the invitation of the Music Director

Salt Lake Symphony, UT, 2008

- Conducted the secondary ensemble in *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis*

Holladay Summer Marching Band, Holladay, UT, 2009-11

- Played saxophone and clarinet in the ensemble and conducted one piece on each concert

University of Utah Composers Forum, 2007

- Ensemble conductor for premieres of student works

Selected Performance Experience

Bass, Salt Lake Singers, 2020-Present

Bass, Salt Lake Vocal Artists, 2010

- Auditioned touring/competition choir; winners of four First Prize awards and an Audience Favorite award at the Tolosa Choral Contest
- Repertoire included songs in English, French, and Latin, as well as a performance of Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* with the Choral Artists Concert Choir and orchestra

Bass, University of Utah Singers, 2006-08

- Auditioned touring/competition choir; previous winners of the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing
- Participated in the *Festival des Choeurs Lauréats* and the 19th *Choralies de Vaison-la-Romaine*, Vaison, France, 2007

- Repertoire included songs in English, French, German, Italian, and Latin, as well as performances with full choir and orchestra of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*

Bass, Concert Chorale, University of Utah, 2004-06

- Repertoire included songs in English, German, and Latin, as well as performances with full choir and orchestra of Beethoven's *Symphony #9*, Mozart's *Requiem*, and Mahler's
- *Symphony #2*

Education

Degrees

Doctor of Musical Arts: Performance (Orchestral Conducting), University of North Texas, 2020

- Related Field: Music Theory; Principal Advisor: David Itkin

Master of Music: Instrumental Conducting, University of Utah, 2009

- Principal Advisor: Robert Baldwin

Bachelor of Music: Composition, University of Utah, 2007

- Principal Advisor: Steve Roens

Conducting Workshops (Participant)

International Conductors Workshop and Competition, Lawrenceville, GA, 2018

International Conducting Institute, Boulder, CO, 2011

California Conducting Institute, Bakersfield, CA, 2009

Conductor's Retreat at Medomak, Washington, ME, 2008

Principal Teachers

David Itkin

Robert Baldwin

Clay Couturiaux

Brady Allred

Jane Fjeldsted

Masterclass Faculty

Kenneth Kiesler

Donald Thulean

Adrian Gnam

Kirk Trevor

John Farrer

Private Lessons

Vladimir Kulenovic

David Cho

Publications and Conference Presentations

Publications

Bott, Robert. "Sacred Sound at the Symphony: A Conductor's Guide to Faith Traditions in Choral-Orchestral Repertoire." DMA diss., University of North Texas, 2020.

Bott, Robert. "The Affect Effect: Key Characteristics in *Così fan tutte*." *Harmonia* 14 (2016): 25-41.

Conference Presentations

Bott, Robert. "Key Characteristics in *Così fan tutte*." Poster presented at the 42nd Regional Conference of The College Music Society Southern Chapter, Online, 26 February 2021 (scheduled)

Service

Guest Lecturer, Juan Diego High School, Draper, UT, 2020

- Presentation on music in *Star Wars*

Jury Member, TAMS Orchestra Concerto Competition, Denton, TX, 2015

- Judged entrance auditions for annual concerto competition

Board Member, Salt Lake Pops, 2013-14

- Assisted with the development, organization, and execution of the ensemble's first concert season

Board Member, Davis County Celebration Orchestra, 2011-13

- Participated in a successful campaign to obtain sponsorship by the city of Layton, UT, which led to the use of a new practice facility and increased funding

Board Member, Northern Utah Youth Symphony, 2010-12

- Collaborated on community outreach events, including a fundraising auction and an outdoor concert with a Beach Boys cover band

Selected Scholarships and Awards

Honor Societies

Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, University of North Texas Chapter, 2018

Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, University of North Texas Chapter, 2015

Scholarships

Robert J. Hardin Presidential Scholarship, University of North Texas, 2019-20

John Giordano Conducting Scholarship, University of North Texas, 2015-16 and 2014-15

Academic Achievement Scholarship, University of North Texas, 2015-16, 2014-15

Orchestral TA Graduate Student Scholarship, University of Utah, 2008-09

President's Resident Scholarship, University of Utah, 2000-01

Professional Affiliations

College Orchestra Directors Association

Conductors Guild

College Music Society