

Robert Bott – Conductor/Educator

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Professional Profile

Assistant Professor of Music at Lone Star College, teaching orchestra, symphonic band, music appreciation, theory, and aural skills. 2021 National Finalist, The American Prize in Conducting (college/university orchestra division). Conducting and performance experience includes professional, collegiate, youth, string, and community orchestras as well as pep band, wind ensemble, jazz band, and marching band. Additional experience as a mentor/advisor, published author, saxophone/clarinet player, composer, and choral singer/conductor.

Teaching and Mentoring Experience

College Teaching Positions

Assistant Professor: Lone Star College-CyFair, Cypress, TX, August 2023-present

- Teacher of record for orchestra, symphonic band, music appreciation, theory, and aural skills.
- Instructor for the first-year theory and aural skills sequence.
- Teach online and hybrid music appreciation classes that cover historical highlights from the Medieval era to twentieth-century popular music.
- Committee work: Learning Communities Committee; Writing Across the Curriculum.
- Band Club advisor.

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.

Workshops/Online Courses

Instructor: Fundamentals of Conducting Workshop, Salt Lake City, UT, January 2023

- Developed and taught an in-person conducting workshop to teach fundamentals of conducting and rehearsal technique to amateur musicians.
- Topics included: traditional beat patterns; mixed meter beat patterns, physics of the ictus; cueing; entrances (on and off the beat); fermatas; subdividing; planning rehearsal; techniques for efficient rehearsal; communication with instrumentalists and singers during rehearsals.

Instructor: Salt Lake Singers, UT, 2020-21

- Developed an online music fundamentals course to offer an educational opportunity for amateur musicians during COVID-19.
- Held bi-weekly classes via Zoom; topics included sight-singing, theory, conducting, and general musicianship.
- Created special sessions on topics of general interest, such as music in *Star Wars*.

Mentoring/Advising

Senior Program Mentor: Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, UT, 2010-2023

- Managed a caseload that averages 110 students for a Regionally and CAEP-accredited online Teachers College in a one-on-one, distance-learning model.
- Coached students in skills for college success such as time management, test-taking strategies, and study habits.
- Advised undergraduate and graduate students about class schedules, job pathways in education, and advancement to other degrees or educational programs.
- Trained new hires and serve as a peer leader by responding to questions and giving advice in official University channels.

Orchestral Conducting Experience

Lone Star College-CyFair Orchestra, Cypress, TX, August 2023-present

- Duties include conducting the college/community orchestra, programming, recruiting, music purchasing, contracting players, and library work.
- Sample repertoire: Bizet: suite from *L'Arlésienne*; Mussorgsky/Kano: *Pictures at an Exhibition*; Tchaikovsky/Isaac: "Waltz" from *Sleeping Beauty*; Mozart: *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*; Strauss/Moutoussi: *The Blue Danube*; Nagata/Benjamin: "Dragon Roost Island"; Holst/Deterling: "Jupiter"; Ravel/Goldsmith: *Pavane for a Dead Princess*.

Music Director: West Jordan Symphony, UT, 2021-2023

- Primary duties: conducted amateur musicians in all rehearsals and performances; repertoire planning; recruitment; publicity/outreach.
- Successes:
 - Diversity in programming initiative, which led to the performances of works by under-represented composers as well as the world premiere of a symphonic movement written by a local composer.
 - Developed and led a recruiting drive that resulted in a 20% increase in orchestra participants for the 2022-23 season.
- Sample repertoire: Baliet: Symphony #2 (mvt.1 – world premiere); Massenet: "Méditation" from *Thaïs*; Elgar: Cello Concerto (mvt. 1); Händel: *Messiah*; Bizet: selections from *L'Arlésienne*; Beethoven: Symphony #5 (mvt. 4); Bologne: Overture to *L'Amant anonyme*.
- Additional experience: engaging with soloists; writing contracts; bowings; library work; sourcing music; securing rehearsal/concert venues.

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

- Served as cover conductor for all concerts; conducted amateur musicians in rehearsal and performance at the invitation of the Music Director.
- Assisted the Music Director and Board in artistic planning and season programming.
- Sample repertoire: Beethoven: Symphony #7 (mvt. 2); Christmas pops pieces; Selections from *The Nutcracker*; *Album of Opera Themes*.

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

- Served as cover conductor for all concerts; conducted professional musicians in rehearsal and performance at the invitation of the Music Director.
- Contributed to improvement in ensemble sound by providing feedback on balance and intonation.
- Sample repertoire: Gounod: *Funeral March of a Marionette*; Verdi: "Triumphal March" from *Aïda*; Prokofiev: Violin Concerto #2; Mendelssohn: *The Fair Melusine*.

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

- Conducted student-musicians (undergraduate and graduate) in rehearsal and performance at the invitation of the Director of Orchestral Studies.
- 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
- Sample repertoire (conducted in concert or rehearsal): Tchaikovsky: Symphony #5 (mvt. 1), Bartok: Viola Concerto (mvt. 1), Puccini: *La Boheme* (selections from Act 1); Brahms: *Tragische Ouvertüre*; Wagner: "Vorspiel" from *Die Walküre*; Stravinsky: "Danse Sacrale" from *Le sacre du printemps*.

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

- Principal rehearsal/concert conductor for the inaugural season of a "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.
- Select repertoire: *Grenade*, *Firework*, *Defying Gravity*, *Dr. Who Medley*, and *World of Warcraft: Main Theme*.

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

- Duties: conducting amateur musicians in all rehearsals and performances; season planning; recruitment; publicity/outreach.
- Successes:
 - Recruitment efforts that doubled the size of the orchestra over 2 years.
 - Community outreach initiative that led to performances in nursing homes and at public holiday celebrations.
 - Obtaining financial sponsorship through the city of Layton, UT.
- Sample repertoire: Dvorak: Symphony #9; Mozart: Horn Concerto #3; selections from *Oklahoma!*; Grieg: Suite from *Peer Gynt*; Badelt/Ricketts: *Pirates of the Caribbean*; Sibelius: *Valse Triste*.

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

- Conducted student-musicians from grades 9-12 in all rehearsals and performances, including an annual all-state youth orchestra festival.
- Successes:
 - Increased the size of the orchestra by 25% through recruiting efforts in local school districts.
 - Improved intonation, balance, and ensemble rhythm through detailed rehearsal and pedagogical techniques.
 - Conscientious season programming that provided appropriate challenges to improve musicianship and engender a love of orchestral performance.
- Sample repertoire: Schubert: "Unfinished" Symphony; Liszt: Piano Concerto #1 (mvt 1); Glière: "Dance of the Russian Sailors" from *The Red Poppy*; Saint-Saëns: Cello Concerto #1 (mvt. 1); Williams: *Hook*.

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.
- Sample repertoire (conducted in concert or rehearsal): Bernstein/Mason: *West Side Story* Selections for Orchestra; Walton: *Crown Imperial*; Mozart: *Exsultate, Jubilate*; Sibelius: Symphony #1; Holst: "Uranus" from *The Planets*; Haydn: Symphony #94 "Surprise".

Band Conducting Experience

Lone Star College-CyFair Symphonic Band, Cypress, TX, August 2023-present

- Duties include conducting undergraduate students in the symphonic band, programming, recruiting, music purchasing, contracting players, and library work.
- Sample repertoire: Grainger/Sweeney: Two Movements from *Lincolnshire Posy*; Mussorgsky/Kano: *Pictures at an Exhibition*; Bourgeois/Brand: Serenade, Op.22; Gliere/Susi: "Russian Sailor's Dance" from *The Red Poppy*; Bernstein/Sweeney: *West Side Story* Selections for Flex Band; Smith/Earp: "Rondo" from *Incidental Suite*; Gillingham: *Appalachian Counterpoint*; Mackey/Dunnigan: *Sheltering Sky*.

Conductor: West Jordan Symphony Winds, UT, 2022

- Wind ensemble performance of music from *Loki* on the Fall concert.

Conductor/performer: Holladay Summer Marching Band, Millcreek, UT, 2009-11

- Played saxophone and clarinet in the ensemble and conducted one piece each year.

Conductor: Skyline High School Pep Band, Millcreek, UT, 1999-2000

- Led the Skyline High School pep band in performances at football games.

Other Conducting Experience

Opera and Oratorio

Conductor: *The Messiah*

- West Jordan Symphony: 2022, 2021
- Davis County Celebration Orchestra: 2012, 2011

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

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

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

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

Choral Conducting

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

- Directed musical activity for a congregation of 150 and 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 *God So Loved the World* in a public performance

Salt Lake Symphony, UT, 2008

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

University of Utah Composers Forum, 2007

- Ensemble conductor for premieres of student works

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

Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, Online, July 2021 (Auditor)

International Conductors Workshop and Competition, Lawrenceville, GA, 2018 (Participant)

International Conducting Institute, Boulder, CO, 2011 (Participant)

California Conducting Institute, Bakersfield, CA, 2009 (Participant)

Conductor's Retreat at Medomak, Washington, ME, 2008 (Participant)

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.

Selected Service

Board Member: West Jordan Symphony

- Collaborated on a season plan and secured rehearsal/concert locations during COVID-19

Guest Lecturer: Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Online, 2021

- Presentation to youth musicians on music theory

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 Orchestra, 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

Selected Awards

Competition

National Finalist: The American Prize in Conducting (college/university orchestra division), 2021

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