

MASI ASARE
Performance Scholar, Composer and Musical Playwright, Voice Teacher

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EDUCATION

New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY

PhD Performance Studies, expected May 2018

Dissertation: Voicing the Possible: Technique, Vocal Sound, and Black Women on the Musical Stage
Committee: Alexandra T. Vazquez (chair), Tavia Nyong'o, Karen Shimakawa, Fred Moten, Deborah Kapchan

MA Performance Studies, May 2007

Assistantship: Editorial Assistant at *TDR* (Richard Schechner, Editor)

Academic Service: Peer-elected MA Student Representative

Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges, Cambridge, MA

BA *magna cum laude*, Performance Studies, June 2000

ARTISTIC TRAINING

Billie Burke Ziegfeld Award Program, 2016

Mentors: Jeanine Tesori, Daryl Roth

Estill Voice Training, 2014-2015

Harvard University, Boston, MA (Level One); Campus Notre-dame-de-foy, Quebec City, Canada (Level Two); CAP21, New York, NY (Figuring Out the Figures)

Lead Instructors: Kimberly Steinhardt, Robert Sussuma

Dramatists Guild Musical Theatre Fellowship Program, 2011

Mentors: David Henry Hwang, Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty

ASCAP/Disney Musical Theatre Workshop, 2010

Panelists: Stephen Schwartz, Lynn Ahrens, Marcy Heisler

New Dramatists Composer-Librettist Studio, 2009

BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Writing Workshop, 2003-2008

Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts, Summer 1995

Acting/Theater Major, Dance Minor

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Black performance

Musical theatre studies

Sound and voice studies

Critical race theory

Popular music studies

Musical dramaturgy

Acting the song

Writing theatre lyrics

Musical playwriting

PRESENTATIONS

“Women Composers Panel,” Co-Moderator with Julianne Wick Davis, New York University Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program Sessions, March 26, 2017.

“Singing Unhealthy: Lauryn Hill and the Limits of Vocal Sound,” EMP Pop Conference, From a Whisper to a Scream: The Voice in Popular Music, EMP Pop Museum, Seattle, April 15, 2016.

“Affective Techniques,” The Listening Salon, New York University Department of Performance Studies, April 16, 2014.

“Loud Bodies: Listening for Affect and Timbre in Excessive Voices,” Voice at the Limits of Hearing: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Sonic Materiality and Expression, New York University Department of Music, March 7, 2014.

“Collaborative Strategies for Composers & Writers,” 8 Minute Musicals Workshop, New York Musical Theatre Festival, September 2010.

“Breaking the Voice: A Singing Techniques Project,” Performance Studies MA Conference, New York University, May 2007.

PRODUCTIONS

Sympathy Jones: The New Secret Agent Musical (Composer/Lyricist)

New York Musical Theatre Festival, musical director Phillip Kirchman, directed by Sarah Gurfield, September 2007

Studio cast recording, Asiwome Belle Music, iTunes, Amazon, Google Play, Spotify
30+ productions in the US and internationally, published and licensed by Playscripts

The Best (Composer/Lyricist)

Brisbane Theatre Festival, Anonymous Ensemble, directed by Eamonn Farrell (Australia) July 2006

Ars Nova (NYC), February 2006

Berlin Neupolis Festival (Germany), June 2006

Dixon Place (NYC), May 2004

The Knight Who Was Afraid of the Dark (Composer/Lyricist)

Commissioned by Pocket Full of Tales Theatre Company (Boston, L.A.), premiered January 2000

Dances for a Journey (Composer/Lyricist/Bookwriter)

Harvard’s Agassiz Theatre (Boston), March 2000

READINGS/WORKSHOPS

The Family Resemblance (Composer/Lyricist/Bookwriter)

Bingham Camp Theatre Retreat, March 2017, September 2016, music director Mark Fifer, directed by Devanand Janki

The Anniversary (Composer/Lyricist)

Prospect Theater Company Musical Theatre Lab, October 2015

The Family Resemblance (Composer/Lyricist/Bookwriter) (f/k/a *Dry Wind in Pennsylvania*)

Dramatists Guild Showcase, Playwrights Horizons, music director Andy Einhorn, September 2011

ASCAP Songwriter Showcase, September 2010

Sympathy Jones: The New Secret Agent Musical (Composer/Lyricist)
ASCAP/Disney Workshop, music director Jason Loffredo, directed by Daniella Topol, April 2010.

SELECTED CONCERTS

Women of Note, New York Musical Theatre Festival (Composer/Lyricist)
“Testimony” from *The Family Resemblance*, performed by Zonya Love Johnson. Music direction by Jess Glover. Playwrights Horizons, July 21, 2017.

Songwriter Showcase, National Alliance for Musical Theatre (Composer/Lyricist)
“An Ocean Away” and “Look in the Mirror” from *The Family Resemblance*, performed by Shelley Thomas and Talia Thiesfield. Music direction by Mark Fifer. New World Stages, October 27, 2016.

The Lilly Awards Broadway Cabaret (Composer/Lyricist)
“If I Didn’t Have You” from *Sympathy Jones*, performed by Ann Harada and Jeff Blumenkrantz. Music direction by Georgia Stitt. The Cutting Room, October 17, 2016.

MuseMatch 6.0 (Composer/Lyricist)
“So Much to Tell You” performed by Cicily Daniels. Directed by Bill Coyne. Music direction by Kristen Rosenfeld. 54 Below, January 15, 2016.

The Music Box, New York Musical Theatre Festival (Composer/Lyricist)
“The Music Box,” an original song for this revue, and “If I Didn’t Have You” from *Sympathy Jones*. Directed by Karen Azenberg. Music direction by Charity Wicks DePinto. Ford Foundation Studio Theatre, Pershing Square Signature Theatre Center, July 23, 2014.

Otherwise: Queer Scholarship into Song (Singer)
“The Song Buried in Enchantment,” new song by Chris Williams inspired by writings of Ann Pellegrini. Directed by Kay Turner. Dixon Place, April 4, 2013.

Binders Full of Women’s Songs (Composer/Lyricist)
“A Story” from *Sympathy Jones* performed by Kate Shindle. Music direction by Katya Stanislavskaya. Presented by the Directory of Contemporary Musical Theatre Writers and City Center’s Encores! Off Center. 54 Below, July 26, 2013.

ASCAP Songwriter Showcase (Composer/Lyricist)
“You Don’t Have a Clue” from *Sympathy Jones* performed by Kate Shindle, Colin Hanlon. Moderator, Ted Chapin. Music direction, Jason Loffredo. New World Stages, September 20, 2010.

AWARDS & HONORS

Creative:

York Theatre NEO (New/Emerging/Outstanding) Artist	2017
Jonathan Larson Grant Finalist	2017
Theatre Royal Stratford East commission for <i>The Family Resemblance</i>	2016
Billie Burke Ziegfeld Award	2015
Jerome Foundation Travel Grant Finalist	2011
Dramatists Guild Musical Theatre Fellow	2010
Anna Sosenko Assist Trust Grantee	2007

Academic:

Franco Coli Dissertation Award	2017
Tisch School of the Arts Scholarship, New York University	2012
Leigh George Odom Award for Distinguished MA Student, New York University	2007
Harvard College Research Program Grantee	1999
Harvard College Award, Harvard University	1998
Detur Book Prize for Academic Achievement, Harvard University	1997

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Masi Asare Voice Studio	New York, NY
Private voice instructor for Broadway, rock, and pop performers	2006 to present
Performance Studies PRAXIS: Innovate, Network, Collaborate	New York, NY
Workshop Leader, “How Not to Sing: Many Ways of Making Vocal Sound”	February 2016
City Center Encores! Off-Center: The Lobby Project	New York, NY
Mentor and songwriting coach for high school student composer/writer	Summer 2014
Columbia University Arts Initiative	New York, NY
Workshop Leader, “Writing Successful Arts Grants”	October 2011
New York University	New York, NY
Invited Panelist, “M.A. in Performance Studies, Now What?”	November 2010
Pennsylvania Thespians Conference	York, PA
Workshop Leader, “Writing and Presenting New Musicals”	December 2009
Kidstock Theater Education Center	Boston, MA
Creative Music Director, music and drama classes (pre-K to grade 8)	May-Nov 2002
Teaching Artist, children’s music and drama classes	1997-2000

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Columbia Business School	New York, NY
Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations	<i>Jul 2014 – present</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Senior leader for a team of seven that raises over \$8 million annually from corporate, foundation, and government funders. Work closely with faculty, senior leaders, and the senior vice dean’s office to develop and write proposals for research support. Direct pre- and post-administration processes for a portfolio of over 50 active grants comprising more than \$10 million in grant funds. Hired as Associate Director and promoted successively.	
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs	New York, NY
Cultural Development Fund Grants Selection Panelist	<i>2016, 2013, 2010, 2009</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Served as a panelist reviewing applications from a city-wide range of cultural organizations; ranked applicants according to the quality of submitted proposals and budgets, and made recommendations to the Department about funding approvals and award size.	
Columbia University School of the Arts	New York, NY
Associate Director, Institutional and Foundation Relations	<i>Feb 2010 – Jun 2014</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Served as lead grant writer for a six-person development team for the School of the Arts and performing arts venue Miller Theatre; raised \$1 million annually. Worked closely with the Dean	

and Assistant Director of Public Programs to launch a new visiting artists program with a budget of \$400,000 over 4 years. Hired as Development Officer and promoted successively.

Lark Play Development Center
Development Manager

New York, NY
Nov 2007 – Jan 2010

- Managed fundraising operations, wrote proposals and appeal letters for a theatre organization that supports a diverse group of playwrights. Worked closely with playwrights including Katori Hall, and Rajiv Joseph to develop artist statements and seek support for commissions. Co-wrote, with John Eisner and Michael Robertson, the proposal for the Lark’s largest-ever grant at that time, \$500,000 from the Mellon Foundation.

Raw Impressions Music Theatre
Associate Artistic Director

New York, NY
Nov 2003 – Mar 2007

- Developed new work in musical theatre and musical film. Co-produced annual Music Theatre Marathon, an intensive artist development process where 48 writers and composers create 24 new 10-minute new works in 24 days, and the finished works are fully staged and performed.
- Selected artists, led workshops on the collaborative process, facilitated dramaturgy sessions, wrote grants and participated in organizational planning.

Performance Studies Department, NYU Tisch
Administrative Secretary

New York, NY
2001; Aug 2003 – May 2006

- Managed office, administered databases, edited newsletters, scheduled dissertation defenses. Helped to organize 25th Anniversary Celebration featuring four panels and 28 speakers. Department Chairs: Diana Taylor, Barbara Browning, José Esteban Muñoz.

SELECTED PRESS

“York Theatre Company Presents a Concert of New Works by Emerging Writers.”
Theatermania.com. Bethany Rickwald. 20 September 2017.

“Bingham Camp Theatre Retreat Debuts a Reading of THE FAMILY RESEMBLANCE in NYC.”
Broadwayworld.com. 3 March 2017.

“Masi Asare: Composer and Lyricist.” *KSF Chats Video Series*. Kevin Spacey Foundation website.
2 December 2016.

“14 Powerhouse Female Creatives Name the Up-and-Coming Women in Theatre They Are Watching.” *Playbill*. Ruthie Fierberg. 8 March 2016.

“Unpacking ‘Diversity’ in Musical Theatre.” *HowlRound*. Michael R. Jackson. 30 September 2015.

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP)
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
Dramatists Guild of America
Lilly Awards Power Network
Maestra: New York Women Composers of Musical Theatre Collective