

# Stefanie Margaret Tranchida

(507) 810-0360 | stefanie.tranchida@gmail.com | Rochester, MN

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dedicated educator, director, and performer with extensive international and domestic experience in vocal direction and artistic leadership. Passionate about creating innovative, accessible programming that bridges tradition with contemporary performance. Skilled in mentoring singers, producing high-caliber performances, and choral conducting. Known for a warm, encouraging teaching style that fosters healthy technique, stylistic authenticity, and student confidence in a supportive, inclusive learning environment. Background in cross-cultural and interdisciplinary music education with a research-based, student-centered approach to learning and performance.

## EDUCATION

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Master of Music Education</b><br>Conservatorio di Musica G. Tartini, Trieste, Italy <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>GPA 110/110 (4.0) <i>with Honors</i></li></ul> | <b>July 2022</b> |
| <b>Early Childhood Education Teaching Certificate (Teach for America)</b><br>The New Teacher Project / Teach for America, Baton Rouge, LA                                   | <b>June 2012</b> |
| <b>Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, Specialization in International Development</b><br>Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI  | <b>May 2011</b>  |

## EXPERIENCE

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Professor of Voice</b><br>Luther College, Decorah, IA   | <b>2025 - Present</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Teach <i>Applied Voice</i> to undergraduate music majors and non-music majors through weekly one-on-one vocal instruction focused on technique, interpretation, and repertoire development.</li><li>Lead a weekly voice seminar fostering performance practice, peer feedback, and stage communication skills.</li><li>Provide individual coaching on diction, vocal health, and artistic expression, supporting student recitals and juried performances.</li></ul>   |                       |
| <b>Concert Choir Director and Professor of Voice</b><br>Rochester Community and Technical College, Rochester, MN   | <b>2026 - Present</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Direct and conduct the RCTC choir program, including rehearsal planning, repertoire selection, and performance preparation for concerts and community events.</li><li>Teach applied voice lessons, providing individualized instruction in vocal technique, repertoire, and performance practice for students of varying experience levels.</li><li>Mentor and develop student musicianship through sight-righting, ensemble skills, and vocal health, fostering both artistic growth and confidence on stage.</li></ul> |                       |
| <b>Artistic Director and President</b><br>Hometown Opera Company, Rochester, MN  | <b>2023 - Present</b> |
| <u>Artistic Leadership</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Founded and developed a nonprofit opera company, expanding regional access to professional performances across southeast Minnesota through site-specific and community-rooted productions.</li><li>Curate seasonal programming, casting performers, hiring artistic personnel, and overseeing creative and decisions that align with the company's mission and artistic vision.</li></ul>   |                       |

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## Production and Direction

- Direct, vocal direct, and produce original concerts and staged productions, including Giacomo Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, *New Media Opera Scenes*, and interdisciplinary collaborations.
- Oversee scenic design, costumes, projections, lighting, and costumes, maintaining artistic cohesion and production quality within budgetary constraints.
- Manage production timelines and coordinate artistic teams to meet performance deadlines.

## Education Coordination

- Lead the development of youth-centered outreach initiatives, including the *Opera for Kids* series and educational school workshops.
- Design curriculum, write scripts, and coordinate with schools and educators to provide standards-aligned arts programming.
- Created and manage a high school student apprenticeship program, offering hands-on training in stagecraft, performance, and production operations.

## Administration and Fundraising

- Collaborate with the Executive Director on strategic planning, board engagement, and community partnerships.
- Secure and manage a \$50,000 annual operating budget through grant acquisition, donor cultivation, sponsorships and in-kind contributions.
- Represent the company publicly through media appearances, community talks, and stakeholder events.

## **Music Arranger**

**2023 - Present**

### **Hometown Opera Company, Rochester MN**

- Created a full chamber orchestration of Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* for piano, auxiliary percussion, and string quintet.
- Arrange of Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries" from *Die Walküre* for a fully staged performance with multimedia for *New Media Opera Scenes*.
- Adapt musical scores for use in school workshop and educational outreach, including re-orchestrations and simplified piano reductions.
- Tailor arrangements to suit the venue, ensemble availability and thematic intent.

## **Vocal Director**

**2024 - Present**

### **Rochester Civic Theatre, Rochester, MN**

- Spearhead vocal coaching and musical preparation for *Newsies*, *Anastasia* and *Frozen* with particular focus on vocal technique and stage presence.
- Customize vocal arrangements to optimize cast strengths while preserving musical integrity and stylistic authenticity.
- Provide detailed, constructive feedback that enhance ensemble cohesion and individual vocal growth.
- Cultivate a collaborative rehearsal environment, empowering performers to deliver dynamic performances.
- Integrate advanced vocal techniques to refine diction, phrasing, and storytelling through song.

## **Voice and Piano Instructor**

**2023 - Present**

### **Rochester Academy of Music, Rochester, MN**

- Teach private piano and voice lessons to students of all ages and voice types, with individualized instruction based on technical development and musical goals.
- Develop custom lesson plans incorporating music theory, aural skills, and performance preparation.
- Prepare students for recitals, competitions, and auditions, including those focused on classical, musical theatre, and contemporary repertoire.
- Support students exploring jazz and popular styles by teaching jazz theory fundamentals, including modal scales, ii-V-I progressions, improvisation and chord reading and voicing.
- Foster a structured yet supportive learning environment that encourages growth, confidence, and expressive musicianship.

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## Voice and Piano Instructor

2024 - Present

Home Studio, Rochester, MN

- Specialize in intermediate to advanced vocal instruction for adult singers, with a focus on applying classical technique across styles.
- Structure lessons to begin with technical vocal work—including agility drills, connected breath, balanced onset, resonance placement, and jaw/throat relaxation—followed by guided repertoire coaching.
- Teach a wide range of vocal styles, including musical theatre, bel canto, oratorio, art song, opera, and contemporary music, tailored to each student's goals and vocal development.
- Select literature to support each singer's technical needs and artistic growth, emphasizing both musical expressiveness and vocal health.
- Offer semiannual recitals and quarterly master classes to provide regular performance experience and foster community among students.
- Create a welcoming, flexible studio culture that encourages artistic risk-taking and sustained vocal development at all levels.

## Choir Director and K-12 Music Teacher

2022 - 2024

Lyle Public School, Lyle, MN

- Transformed the choral program, increasing student participation by over 110% through innovative recruitment and engagement.
- Led the choir to earn a Superior rating at the Large Group MSHSL contest within 18 months.
- Arranged student-centered SSATB choral music, including student and teacher lead instrument ensembles, increasing enthusiasm, engagement, and performance quality.
- Organized and led a student performance trip to Universal Studios Florida, providing students with an opportunity to showcase their talents in a professional setting, fostering confidence, and artistic growth.

## Opera Chorus Director

2022

Conservatorio di Musica G. Tartini, Trieste, Italy

- Led vocal direction for scenes from *La Traviata* as a part of a student-led opera scenes project within the Conservatory's Theatre Department.
- Coached a cast of undergraduate and graduate students in ensemble technique, character interpretation, and musical expression.
- Designed and implemented rehearsal strategies to strengthen musical cohesion and dramatic expression in staged performances.

## Music Club Teacher and Cheerleading Coach

2018 - 2021

The International School of Trieste, Trieste, Italy

- Created and led a music club for high school and pre-college students, focused on engaging students in vocal and instrumental performance, ensemble singing, and music appreciation.
- Designed and choreographed routines as Cheerleading Coach, incorporating movement, rhythm, and teamwork to enhance school spirit and performance quality.
- Provided mentorship and instruction in both musical and physical expression, fostering confidence and collaborative learning in students.

## RELATED RESEARCH, TEACHING & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### Music Education Researcher

2021 - 2022

Conservatorio di Musica G. Tartini, Trieste, Italy

- Conducted a four-month prospective, randomized, matched, unblind, study exploring the role of music and movement in early childhood literacy acquisition.

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- Designed interactive reading interventions incorporating song, dance, and body percussion to improve phonemic awareness and phonics skills.
- Performed statistical analysis and presented findings on kinesthetic learning strategies in multilingual classrooms.

## **Athletic Director, Pre-K - Grade 10 Physical Education and Health Teacher** **2018- 2021**

**The International School of Trieste**, Trieste, Italy

- Collaborated with the music department to integrate movement-based numbers into school performances.
- Developed a holistic school-wide Physical Education and Health curriculum emphasizing teamwork, taking positive-risks, reflection, and inquiry.
- Expanded extracurricular offerings by recruiting and mentoring coaches, increasing student participation in athletics, regional tournaments, and competitions middle school to pre-college students.

## **Academic Advisor** **2018 - 2021**

**The International School of Trieste**, Trieste, Italy

- Implemented individualized academic advising for middle school through pre-college students, focusing on university preparation, course selection, and long-term academic planning.
- Assisted students in navigating the rigorous bilingual curriculum, balancing North American and Italian educational standards.
- Provided mentorship on time management, study strategies, and adapting to learning in multiple languages, ensuring success in an international academic setting.

## **First Grade Teacher** **2015 - 2018**

**The International School of Trieste**, Trieste, Italy

- Implemented differentiated, research-based instruction tailored to multi-lingual students.
- Fostered a student-centered classroom environment that emphasized collaboration and creative problem-solving, while developing positive relationships with parents and key stakeholders.
- Integrated music and movement into literacy instruction, fostering engagement and language acquisition.

## **Mentor Teacher & Kindergarten Inclusion Teacher** **2011 - 2015**

**Donaldsonville Primary School**, Donaldsonville LA

- Led professional learning communities, mentoring new educators in evidence-based teaching methodologies and classroom management.
- Developed inclusive curriculum models to support students with diverse learning needs, ensuring equitable access to education.
- Differentiated instruction to meet a variety of learning styles and fostered a joyful, engaging classroom culture where students felt supported and empowered in their learning journey.

## **Teach for America Corp Member Advisor** **2013**

**Teach for America**, Cleveland MS

- Provided intensive coaching to new educators, improving classroom management and instructional effectiveness.
- Conducted real-time feedback sessions, helping teachers refine lesson delivery, student engagement, and assessment techniques..
- Led professional development workshops on culturally responsive teaching, curriculum, design, and best teaching practices.

## **Community Outreach Intern** **2010**

**Equal Education**, Khayelitsha, South Africa

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- Organized community engagement initiatives advocating for educational equity.
- Conducted a research study on language and code-switching in multilingual classrooms.
- Collaborated with local educators to develop literacy workshops for underserved youth.

## MASTERCLASSES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Master Class with Karen Brunssen, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa **2025**
- Teaching Rhythm Seminar, Carol Krueger, Luther College, Decorah Iowa **2024**
- Kodaly Teaching Workshop, Edith Acts & Tomàs Endre, Monfalcone, Italy **2022**
- Feniarco Choir Directing Workshop, Italy **2022**
- Master Class on Contemporary Singing & Composition, Nicholas Isherwood, Italy **2022**
- Master Class on Mozartian Singing, Viktor Rud, Italy **2021**
- ECIS P.E. Conference (Speaker), Barcelona, Spain **2019**
- PYP P.E. with Andy Vasily, Warsaw, Poland **2018**
- TAP Mentor Teacher Training, Louisiana **2012 - 2015**
- Kagan Teaching Workshop, Louisiana **2012**

## SELECTED PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

### Opera

- The Brook, *The Miller's Daughter*, J. Goble, V. Erickson, Hometown Opera Company **August 2026**
- The Brook, *The Miller's Daughter*, J. Goble, V. Erickson, Opera Athena **2025**
- Lauretta, *Gianni Schicchi*, G. Puccini, Hometown Opera Company **2025**
- Storyteller, *Opera for Kids*, Hometown Opera Company **2023 - present**
- "Addio del passato," *La Traviata*, G. Verdi, Hometown Opera Company **2025**
- Grimgerde, "Ride of the Valkyries," *Die Walkure*, R. Wagner, Hometown Opera Company **2025**
- "Convien partir," *La figlia del reggimento*, G. Donizetti, Hometown Opera Company **2023**

### Oratorio

- Soprano soloist, *Requiem*, J. Rutter, Austin MN Symphony Orchestra **2025**
- Soprano Soloist, *Messiah*, Handel, Austin MN Symphony Orchestra **2024**

### Art Song

- "Enfant, si j'étais roi" *Trois chansons*, F. Liszt, Hometown Opera Company **2023**
- "The Vagabond," *Songs of Travel*, R. Vaughan Williams, Conservatorio di Musica G. Tartini **2022**

### Concert Soloist Work

- Soprano Soloist, *The Peaceable Kingdom*, R. Thompson, Rochester Symphony Orchestra **2025**
- Soprano Soloist, *Journey to Ireland*, Rochester Pops Orchestra **2025**
- Soprano Soloist, *Out of Eden*, D. Kassler, Minnesota Refugee Benefit **2024**

### Musical Theatre

- Nicola, *Kinky Boots*, Calliope Theatre Company **2024**
- Eamon (Girl US), *Once*, Calliope Theatre Company **2024**

### Ensemble and Crossover Work

- Vocalist and Keyboard, Oliver Books and the Big Big World Rock Band **2024 - Present**
- Vocal Cover, The Notochords Jazz Band **2023 - Present**

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## TEACHERS AND COACHES

- Carla Thelen Hanson, Luther College 2024 - present
- Lara Bolton, Minnesota Opera 2026 - present
- Dr. Eric McEnenay, Minnesota Opera 2024 - present
- Pat Anderson, Rochester Symphony Orchestra 2022 - 2024
- Pauletta Morrocù, Conservatorio di Musica G. Tartini 2021 - 2022
- Lorenzo Regazzo, Conservatorio di Musica G. Tartini 2020 - 2021
- Patrizia Tirindelli (piano), Conservatorio di Musica G. Tartini 2020 - 2022
- Fiorenza Badila Costantini, Trieste Italy 2016 - 2019
- Dr. Joseph Baunoch, Michigan State University 2007 - 2008
- James Hughes (jazz piano), Jerry Luck Studios 2003 - 2006
- David Eifert, Jerry Luck Studios 2002 - 2006
- Lora Luck (piano), Jerry Luck Studios 1998 - 2002

## DIRECTORS AND CONDUCTORS

- Stephen Ramsey, Austin MN Symphony Orchestra 2024 - 2025
- Sonia Larson, Austin MN Symphony Chorus 2024 - 2025
- Pat Anderson, Rochester Symphony Orchestra 2025
- Brock Besse, Rochester Pops Orchestra 2025
- Tommy Rinkoski, Calliope Theatre Company 2024
- Kristina Boerger, Minneapolis, MN 2024
- Audrey Rinkoski, Calliope Theatre Company 2024
- Adriano Martinolli D'Arcy, Conservatorio di Musica G. Tartini 2021 - 2022
- Walter Lo Nigro, Conservatorio di Musica G. Tartini 2021 - 2022
- Dr. John Reed, Michigan State University, 2007 - 2009

## PUBLICATIONS

- Tranchida S., Fredrigo C., et al. **Kinesthetic Music Interventions in English Literacy** (in progress)

## GRANTS AWARDED

- **Rochester Music Guild**, Hometown Opera Company, MN 2025
- **Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation Grant**, Hometown Opera Company, MN 2025
- **Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council Organization Grant**, Hometown Opera Company, MN 2024
- **Mayo Clinic Community Outreach Grant**, Hometown Opera Company, MN 2024
- **EATAL Reach-a-Kid, Teach-a-Kid Classroom Grant**, Donaldsonville Primary School, LA 2012

## CERTIFICATES

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- Vocal Music Tier 3 K-12 Teaching Certificate, Minnesota **2022 - present**
- C.S.E.N Personal Trainer Certificate in Bodybuilding, Italy **2018**
- Early Childhood Education Tier 2 Teaching Certificate, Louisiana **2011 - 2017**

## AWARDS

- **Educational Research Scholarships**, Conservatorio di Musica G. Tartini **2021 - 2022**
- **The Gordon and Norma Guyer Public Policy Award**, Michigan State University **2010**
- **The McPherson Study Abroad Scholarship**, Michigan State University **2010**
- **The Kelly Joan Endowed Scholarship**, Michigan State University **2006**
- **Michigan State University Dean's List** **2007 - 2011**

## LINGUISTIC SKILLS

- Native English; near-native Italian; beginner Spanish
- Proficient in English, Italian, Spanish, German, Latin and French diction

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- CrossFit Purple, Athlete, MN **2025 - Present**
- Rochester Montessori School, STEM Summer Camp Teacher, MN **2024**
- Conservatorio di Musica G. Tartini Academic Choir, Soprano I, Italy **2021 - 2022**
- Teatro delle Cose, Actor, Italy **2021 - 2022**
- Trieste Madrigal Choir, Soprano I, Italy **2021 - 2022**
- The International School of Trieste, Soccer Coach, Italy **2015 - 2020**
- CrossFit Audace, Competitive Weightlifter and Athlete, Italy **2019 - 2022**
- CrossFit La Fenice Programmer and Coach, Italy **2018 - 2019**
- Il Trifoglio Women's Soccer Club, Italy **2015**
- The Proving Ground CrossFit, Athlete, LA **2014 - 2015**
- FC Ballerz Soccer Team, LA **2012 - 2015**
- Michigan State University, State Singes, Alto I, MI **2007 - 2009**

## A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I am an avid traveler, enjoying exploring new places and learning about different cultures with my husband, Matteo. Together we have so much fun hiking, snorkeling, doing amateur photography, and most recently, scuba diving. Sport has been a huge part of my life, and I enjoy working out at CrossFit Purple and Pure Barre. Matteo and I also love our Aussie, Yoko, and spend lots of time managing her high energy!