



MATTHEW VALA



Curriculum Vitae & Biographical Data

- Matthew Vala** • Instructional Assistant Professor of Music | Illinois State University
- Education Director & Theatrical Director | Hoogland Center for the Arts

Email: matthewvala@matthewvala.com

Website: matthewvala.com

I. EDUCATION

| | | | |
|------|-----|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2021 | DMA | Voice Performance (Graduating 8/1/21) | University of North Texas |
| 2018 | MM | Voice Performance | Illinois State University |
| 2014 | MPA | Public Administration in Nonprofit Management | University of Illinois at Springfield |
| 2009 | BM | Voice Performance | University of North Texas |

II. TRAINING

Voice Training

Richard Croft
Justin Vickers
Lynn Eustis

Coachings

Stephen Dubberly
Geoffrey Duce
Shannon McGinnis

Conducting

Sheila Vaughn Walker

Piano Training

Anastasia Markina
Karen Danner
Ann Hine

Dance Training

Gary Shull

Masterclasses

Mary Saunders Barton

Music Areas of Study: accompanying, conducting, contemporary music, cross-training, diction (German/Italian/French/English), music research, musical theatre, music theory, opera, piano, vocal literature, vocal disorders, vocal pedagogy

Administration Areas of Study: budget, curriculum development, entrepreneurship, finance, fundraising, human resources, marketing, media design, organizational structure, remote teaching

III. PERFORMANCE FILES & PORTFOLIO

Link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZOOXcKwaelmnjQtHGNfqtBw3RO7XL4yb?usp=sharing>

IV. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| 2021– Present | Instructional Assistant Professor of Voice | Illinois State University | Normal, Illinois |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor of applied voice to undergraduate and graduate students, director of opera practicum, and teacher of English, Italian, German, and French diction. | |
| 2012– Present | Education Director, Theatrical Director | Hoogland Center for the Arts | Springfield, Illinois |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Created educational curriculum for classroom and performance groups. Enrollment more than doubled in its second year to 104 students with a wait list of students. Current enrollment: 180 students with over a 95% retention rate.• Director of all productions with tasks consisting of hiring musicians, casting actors, and supervision of technical crew members.• Designer of costumes and scenery for each production and supervises construction team.• Acquired new and continuing sponsorships for programs, recipient of numerous grants, and continues to strengthen community ties with area organizations.• 2016 expansion program added 24 new educational courses and teacher leadership training. | |

- Created new programs, such as the Higher Education Initiative, partnering with area universities and colleges to provide practicum courses for graduate students in design, direction, and leadership.
 - During the COVID-19 pandemic, the program successfully moved to a hybrid format offering both remote instruction and in-person learning.
- 2016** **Adjunct Professor of Music** **Blackburn College** **Carlinville, Illinois**
- Instructor of musical theatre history and stage movement for actors/singers.
- 2015** **Adjunct Professor of Theatre** **Illinois College** **Jacksonville, Illinois**
- Instructed students on realization of scenic technical drawings, taught painting techniques, and collaborated with fellow designers.
- 2003–Present** **Instructor** **Vala Voice & Piano Studio** **Springfield, Illinois**
- Teaching private voice and piano lessons to students in Dallas, Texas and Springfield, Illinois. Styles include classical, CCM, folk, jazz, and musical theatre.
- 2007–2012** **Department Chair, Director of Music and Theatrical Studies** **Calvary Academy** **Springfield, Illinois**
- Created benchmarks for K–12 music classes. Directed three choirs growing in size to 92% of the student body. Produced and directed five annual performances attracting surrounding community audiences.
 - As Department Chair, oversaw employees, managed departmental budget and designed all marketing publications. Created fundraisers resulting in a financially self-sustaining department and initiated an outreach program to assisted living facilities. Developed School of Music offering piano, voice and guitar lessons to over 40 students.
- 2007–2008 & 2002–2004** **Music Teacher** **St. Patrick School** **Springfield, Illinois**

- Instructed K–6 grade music in a mission school. Developed curriculum, organized and prepared students for two yearly concerts; coordinated special concerts off campus. Created special curriculum for summer program, including advanced music skills coursework.

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| 2004–2006 | Private and Group Piano Instructor | Ogilvy Music Studio | Denton, Texas |
| 2005 | Music Director | Springfield Theatre Centre Performing and Enrichment Program | Springfield, Illinois |
| 2005 | Voice Teacher | Medlin Middle School | Trophy Club, Texas |
| 2004 | Guest Clinician | Crownover Middle School | Corinth, Texas |

V. DIRECTORIAL EXPERIENCE

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|------|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 2020 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>Joseph...Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2020 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>Frozen</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2019 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>Matilda</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2019 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>Seussical The Musical</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2018 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>The Crucible</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2018 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>Beauty & the Beast</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2017 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>Urinetown The Musical</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2017 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2017 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>The Lion King Jr.</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2016 | Designer, Music Director | <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2016 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>Peter Pan</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2016 | Designer, Music Director | <i>Great Expectations</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2015 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>The Addams Family</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2015 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>James & the Giant Peach</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2015 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>Tarzan</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |

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| 2014 | Music Director, Conductor | <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2014 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>La Cage aux Folles</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2014 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>Shrek the Musical</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2013, 2012 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>A Very Hoogland Christmas</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2013 | Music Director, Conductor | <i>Gypsy</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2013 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>The Little Mermaid</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2013 | Designer, Music Director | <i>Smokey Joe's Cafe</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2013 | Designer, Music Director | <i>The Fantasticks</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2012 | Lighting Designer | <i>Man of La Mancha</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2012 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>Cinderella</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2012 | Music Director | <i>Ain't Misbehavin'</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2011 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>Ragtime</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2011 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> | The Springfield Muni Opera |
| 2011 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>Seussical the Musical</i> | Calvary Academy |
| 2010 | Director, Designer, Music Director | <i>Grease</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2010 | Music Director | <i>Sondheim's Company</i> | Springfield Theatre Centre |
| 2010 | Music Director, Assistant Director | <i>Parade</i> | OTM Productions |
| 2009 | Music Director, Conductor | <i>Nunsense</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2009 | Music Director, Conductor | <i>High School Musical 2</i> | Roxy Theatricals |
| 2007 | Music Director | <i>Halloween Dreams</i> | The Roxy Group |
| 2007 | Music Director, Conductor | <i>High School Musical</i> | Roxy Theatricals |
| 2007 | Music Director, Conductor | <i>Parade</i> | Watertower Theatre |
| 2006 | Assistant Music Director | <i>Man of La Mancha</i> | Watertower Theatre |

VI. PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

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|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2019 | Agatha Trunchbull | <i>Matilda the Musical</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2018– 2019 | Tenor | A Cappella Choir | University of North Texas |

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| 2017 | Aeneas | <i>Dido and Aeneas</i> | Illinois State University |
| 2017 | Alfredo, Candide | <i>A Night of Opera Scenes</i> | Illinois State University |
| 2017 | John Adams | <i>1776</i> | Illinois State University |
| 2017 | Tenor | Concert Choir | Illinois State University |
| 2016 | Martin | <i>The Tender Land</i> | Illinois State University |
| 2015 | Lahdalord | <i>James and the Giant Peach</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2014 | Shrek | <i>Shrek the Musical</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2013 | Michael Track | <i>Smokey Joe's Cafe</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2013 | Matt | <i>The Fantasticks</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2012 | Joseph | <i>Joseph...Dreamcoat</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2011 | Bob Wallace | <i>White Christmas</i> | Springfield Theatre Centre |
| 2011 | Freddy | <i>Dirty Rotten Scoundrels</i> | Springfield Theatre Centre |
| 2010 | Mary Sunshine | <i>Chicago</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2010 | Rooster | <i>Annie</i> | Springfield Muni Opera |
| 2010 | Britt Craig | <i>Parade</i> | OTM Productions |
| 2009 | Beast | <i>Beauty & the Beast</i> | Springfield Theatre Centre |
| 2009 | Sky Masterson | <i>Guys and Dolls</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2009 | Jamie | <i>The Last Five Years</i> | Hoogland Center for the Arts |
| 2008 | Jimmy | <i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i> | Springfield Theatre Centre |
| 2007 | Tulsa | <i>Gypsy</i> | Theatre in the Park |
| 2006– 2007 | Singer | UNT Jazz Singers 2 | University of North Texas |
| 2006 | Ensemble | <i>Man of La Mancha</i> | Watertower Theatre |
| 2006 | Tenor Solosit | <i>Sweeney Todd</i> | Lyric Stage |
| 2006 | Ensemble | <i>South Pacific</i> | Casa Manāna |
| 2005 | Ensemble, Dance & Vocal Captain | <i>Ragtime</i> | Lyric Stage |
| 2004 | Ephraim | <i>Seven Brides for Seven Brothers</i> | Springfield Muni Opera |
| 2003 | Joseph | <i>Joseph...Dreamcoat</i> | Repertory Company Theatre |

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| 2003– 2006 | Tenor | UNT Concert Choir | University of North Texas |
| 2003 | Valjean | <i>Les Miserables</i> | Sacred Heart-Griffin |

VII. HONORS AND AWARDS

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|---------------|---|--|
| 2021 | Featured in <i>Education in the Time of Covid-19</i> | WSEC-TV |
| 2018 | Vocal scholarship recipient | University of North Texas College of Music |
| 2017 | 40 under 40 award recipient | Springfield Business Journal |
| 2017 | Finalist | Illinois State University Concerto Competition |
| 2017 | Featured in <i>Matthew Vala, Hoogland Kids and Hoogland Teens</i> | Illinois Times |
| 2016 | Grant recipient | Springfield Area Arts Council Community Arts Access |
| 2015 | Grant recipient | Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln |
| 2014 | Grant recipient | Springfield Area Arts Council Community Arts Access |
| 2013 | Featured in <i>Local Youth Gain Greater World View through the Arts</i> | Springfield Own Magazine |
| 2013 | Grant recipient | Springfield Area Arts Council Community Arts Access |
| 2003– 2007 | Vocal scholarship | University of North Texas College of Music |
| 2003– 2007 | Vocal scholarship | Polly Roesch Vocal Scholarship |
| 2004 | First Place, Division IV, Betty Utter Award | National Association of Teachers of Singing, Texoma Region |
| 2003 | Third Place, Division IV, | National Association of Teachers of Singing, Texoma Region |

VIII. PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

National Association of Teachers of Singing

The College of Music Society

Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, Alpha Alpha Chapter

Graduate Student Representative, Wonsook Kim College of the Fine Arts Development Committee

IX. COURSES TAUGHT

University of North Texas

Undergraduate Studio Class

Studio Assistantship

Illinois State University

Applied Voice

Group Voice

Opera Practicum

Diction: English, French, German, Italian

Blackburn College

Musical Theatre History

Stage Movement for Actors

Illinois College

Scenic Design

Scenic Construction and Painting Techniques

Hoogland Center for the Arts

Directing and Student Leadership

Hoogland Teens Program (Grades 9–12)

Hoogland Kids Program (Grades 4–8)

Hoogland Juniors Program (Grades 1–3)

Scenic, Lighting and Property Design

Group Voice

Musical Theatre History

Calvary Academy

High School Honors Choir

High School Choir

Music History and Theory

Junior High Choir

Music Appreciation (Grades Pre-K–6)

Private Piano

Private Voice

Saint Patrick School

Music Appreciation (Grades K–8)

Ogilvy Music Studios

Private Piano

Group Piano

X. REFERENCES

Lori Adams

Head of Acting Program, Illinois State University

Centennial East 109, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois 61761

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Professor Richard Croft

Distinguished Research Professor of Voice, University of North Texas

1155 Union Circle #311367, Denton, Texas, 76201

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Dr. Lynn Eustis

Associate Professor of Music, Voice:
Director of Graduate Studies, Boston University

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Dr. Betsy Goulet

Public Administration Professor, University of Illinois Springfield

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Dr. Helen Dewey Reikofski

Adjunct Professor of Diction/
Coaching, University of North Texas

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Dr. Justin Vickers

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