

# Robin Terrill Bier

## Contralto | Singing Teacher

(215) 740-8667  
robin.bier@gmail.com  
www.robinbier.com | www.lescanardschantants.com

### EDUCATION

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**PhD in Music**, University of York, York, UK 2016  
Dissertation: The Ideal Orpheus: An Analysis of Virtuoso Self-Accompanied Singing

**MA in Music**, distinction University of York, York, UK 2010  
Area of concentration: Vocal Studies, solo voice ensemble singing emphasis

**BMus**, cumulative GPA 3.95 Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Oberlin, OH 2006  
Major: Vocal Performance

#### Advanced Training

Britten Pears Young Artist (voice) 2019  
Salzburg Mozarteum Sommerakademie (voice) 2017, 2019  
American Bach Soloists Academy (voice) 2016  
Amherst Early Music Festival Baroque Academy (voice) 2016, 2017  
Dartington International Summer School (voice) 2010  
Oberlin in Italy Italian Opera and Language Summer School (voice) 2003  
Adamant Music School (piano) 2001  
Aspen Music School (piano) 1998  
Boston University Tanglewood Institute (piano) 1997

#### Private Teachers

Voice: Christian Immler (current), Rachel Nicholls, Gerald Crawford  
Piano: Angela Cheng, Kay Lund

#### Coaches and Master Classes

Voice: Frederica von Stade, Nathalie Stutzmann, Max von Egmond, Marilyn Horne,  
William Sharpe, Judith Malafronte, Julianne Baird, Mikael Eliassen, Barbara Schlick  
Piano: Herbert Stessin, Maria Clodes-Jaguaribe, Ruth Laredo, Robin Macabe

#### Selected Conductors

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Jeffrey Thomas, Philippe Herreweghe, Lee Reynolds, James Feddeck,  
Robert Hollingworth, Corrado Rovaris, Joseph Caulkins, Peter Seymour, Leif Bjaland, Stephen Smith

#### Stage Directors

Laurent Pelly, Renaud Doucet, James Alexander, Matthew Ozawa, Drew Minter, Paul Curran,  
Victoria Vaughan, Jonathan Field, Michael McConnell

#### Languages

Native English, advanced French, intermediate Italian, intermediate German;  
English, French, German and Italian diction; study of historical pronunciation; IPA

## SELECTED PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

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### CONCERT

Bach <i>Cantatas 112, 131</i>	Philadelphia Bach Collegium	<i>Upcoming</i>
Bach <i>St John Passion</i>	Washington Bach Consort	<i>Upcoming</i>
Beethoven <i>Missa Solemnis</i>	Glacier Symphony and Chorale	<i>Upcoming</i>
Bach <i>BWV 78, 105, 236</i>	Snape Proms	2019
Elgar <i>Sea Pictures</i>	Bryn Athyn Orchestra	2019
Recital: Finzi, Vaughan Williams	Glencairn Museum Concert Series	2019
Mendelssohn <i>Elijah</i>	Key Chorale	2019
Bach <i>Cantatas 78, 125</i>	Cantata Collective	2019
Handel <i>Messiah</i>	Period Instrument Orchestra of St. Joseph's	2018
Bach <i>St John Passion</i>	American Bach Soloists	2018
Rachmaninoff <i>All Night Vigil</i>	Reading Choral Society	2017
Recital: Schumann, Debussy, Britten	Beijing Normal University, China	2017
Elgar <i>The Music Makers</i>	Dartington Festival Orchestra	2017
Bach <i>B Minor Mass</i>	Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute	2016
Handel <i>Messiah</i>	Bourbon Baroque	2016

### OPERA

Menotti <i>Amahl</i>   Mother	Delaware Valley Opera Company	<i>Upcoming</i>
Handel <i>Orlando</i>   Medoro (concert)	Corona del Mar Baroque Music Festival	2018
Cesti <i>L'Oroneta</i>   Aristeo	Haymarket Opera Summer Course	2017
Purcell <i>King Arthur</i>   Saxon Priestess	Amherst Early Music Festival	2017
Handel <i>Il Parnasso in Festa</i>   Clori (concert)	American Bach Soloists Academy	2016
Agazzari <i>Eumelio</i>   Mercurio	Cornell Early Music Lab	2016

### SELECTED ENSEMBLES

American Bach Choir	I Fagiolini (occasional)	The Thirteen
Apollo's Fire (occasional)	Les Canards Chantants	Trinity Wall Street (deputy)
Clarion Choir	Philadelphia Opera Chorus	Voices of Ascension
Ensemble VIII	Philadelphia Symph. Choir	Yorkshire Baroque Soloists

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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*Private Studio Voice Teacher*; self-employed, USA, UK 2006-present

Private studio averaging 10-15 regular students; ranging in age from adolescent to mature adult

- Private instruction in vocal technique, health and repertoire (classical, musical theater, jazz, pop)
- Experience preparing students for ABRSM exams, auditions and recitals

*Teaching Residency*; Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China 2017

- Taught series of public vocal master classes for university voice majors
- Presented lectures on vocal health and pedagogy; historical performance practice

*Guest Coach*; Temple University Early Music Ensemble, Philadelphia, PA, USA 2016-present

Mixed ensemble of auditioned undergraduate singers and instrumentalists

- Coach singers on language, ensemble technique, historical performance practice
- Coach full ensemble on style and interpretation

*Guest Conductor*; Gloria Singers, Reading Choral Society, Reading, PA, USA 2015-2018

Outreach program for 175 un auditioned co-ed students grades 3-8 from Berks County Parochial Schools

- Plan and lead 2-day choral workshop culminating in a public performance
- Choose repertoire and provide guidance to teachers on preparation

- Director of Choristers*; Bryn Athyn Cathedral, Bryn Athyn, PA, USA 2014-present  
 30 auditioned co-ed choristers grades 1-8 divided into beginner and advanced ensembles
- Conduct choristers in rehearsals, church services and public performances
  - Provide group coaching in vocal technique, musicianship and choral discipline
- Graduate Assistant*; University of York Music Department, UK 2012-2013
- Provided lessons and coaching to undergraduate voice students of Professor of Voice Rachel Nicholls during her traveling performance engagements.
- Aural Skills Teacher*; University of York Music Department, UK 2010-2013  
 60 University undergraduate music majors
- Designed, taught and assessed 8-week courses in aural skills, eurhythmics and conducting
- Writing Tutorial Assistant*; University of York Music Department, UK 2010-2011  
 70 first year music undergraduates
- Taught weekly small-group tutorials in academic writing about music, research methods
- Assistant Director*; Jumonville Drama Camp, Jumonville, PA, USA 2006  
 25 un auditioned students grades 9-12
- Music director and rehearsal accompanist for production of musical *Godspell*
- Secondary Voice Instructor*; Oberlin Conservatory of Music, USA 2004-2006  
 Studio of 3-5 auditioned college and conservatory undergraduates
- Taught accredited weekly private lessons in vocal technique, health and repertoire
- Assistant Music Director*; Oberlin Conservatory Opera Theatre, USA 2003
- Piano accompanist for rehearsals of Britten *Rape of Lucretia*, orchestral pianist in performance
  - Provided additional musical coaching to singers
- Keyboard Monitor*; Oberlin Conservatory Music Theory Department, USA 2002-2004  
 60 conservatory undergraduate students
- Tutored weekly keyboard skills appointments
  - Assisted Music Theory Department faculty in revising practical piano curriculum

## **RELEVANT COURSEWORK IN VOCAL PEDAGOGY, DICTION AND REPERTOIRE**

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- Teaching Observations*, University of York, UK 2009
- Interviews and/or observation sessions of prominent singing teachers and choral directors
  - Physiological, technical, artistic comparison of male and female alto and treble voices
- Introduction to Music Education*, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, USA 2005
- Overview of the K-12 music education in a variety of school settings, with observations
  - Exploration of relevant approaches to teaching choral, general and instr. music, all levels
- The Teaching of Singing*, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, USA 2004
- History/methods of vocal pedagogy, international singing schools
  - Study of vocal physiology and health, choral/solo technique, fachs/voice types, young voices
  - Supervised teaching sessions with feedback from conservatory voice teachers.
- Advanced Opera Theatre*, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, USA 2004
- Repertoire, advanced theatre techniques (historical gesture, stage fighting, baroque dance)
  - Audition techniques, professional development, scenes performances.

*Singers Diction Courses*, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, USA 2003-2004

- Study of correct pronunciation of English, Italian, German, French, Latin in singing
- Study and application of International Phonetic Alphabet in personal practice and pedagogy

*The French Mélodie and The German Lied*, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, USA 2003

- Repertoire courses and performance workshops exploring the development of French and German art song, significant composers and compositions, performance style and pedagogy

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-reviewed articles

'Poem as Score: Finding Melodies for Unnotated Troubadour Songs', in *Sound and Score. Essays on Sound, Score and Notation*, Paulo de Assis, William Brooks and Kathleen Coessens, eds. Orpheus Institute Series: Leuven University Press, 2013.

### Selected Professional Recordings

<i>Riddle Songs: new works by Stef Conner.</i>	Everlasting Voices.	Delphian Records, <i>upcoming</i>
<i>Crazy Jane and Tracce: new works by William Brooks.</i>		Orpheus Instituut, <i>upcoming</i>
<i>Smyth: The Prison</i> (ensemble).	Clarion Choir, James Blachley	<i>upcoming</i>
<i>Bach: St. John Passion</i> (ensemble).	Apollo's Fire, Jeannette Sorrell.	Avie Records, 2017
<i>Valentini Secondo libro de madrigali.</i>	Les Canards Chantants.	Olde Focus Recordings, 2016
<i>Voice Eternal.</i>	The Thirteen, Matthew Robertson.	Affetto Records, 2016
<i>Mystery and Miracle: The York Masses.</i>	The Ebor Singers, Paul Gameson.	Boreas, 2012
<i>Striggio Mass in 40 Parts.</i>	I Fagiolini, Robert Hollingworth.	Decca Records, 2011
<i>Bach St John Passion</i> (solo).	Yorkshire Baroque Soloists, Peter Seymour.	Signum Classics, 2010

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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Vice Chancellor's Gold Award, University of York	2012
Sir Jack Lyons Scholarship, University of York	2010-2012
Roslyn Lyons Masters Scholarship, University of York	2008-2009
Pi Kappa Lambda, Oberlin Conservatory of Music	2006
Conservatory Dean's Merit Award, Oberlin Conservatory of Music	2000-2006
Nancy Stessin Memorial Piano Scholarship, Aspen Music School	1999
Third Place, MTNA Divisional Young Artist Piano Competition	1999-2000
Second Place, American Symphony Orchestras Concerto Competition	1999
First Place, MTNA State Young Artist Piano Competition	1998-2000

## OTHER INTERESTS

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### Music Research

The contralto voice; historical performance; history of self-accompaniment; early music editing; reconstructed pronunciation; Trobairitz song

### Other Musical

Bluegrass; hammered dulcimer; Yeatsian psaltery; Irish folk music; Chinese choral music

### Other

Swing, contra and international folk dance; languages; oil painting; soccer; baking; sourdough

## REFERENCES

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Christian Immler  
Baritone, voice teacher  
+41787390657  
immler@hotmail.com

Heather Miller Lardin  
Director, Temple University Early Music Ensemble  
Principal Bass, Handel & Haydn Society  
607-342-4163  
heather.miller.lardin@temple.edu

William Brooks  
Composer  
Professor of Composition, University of York  
w.f.brooks@york.ac.uk  
44 (0)1904 324449

Rev. Eric H. Carswell  
Pastor, Bryn Athyn Church  
215-947-6225 ext. 208  
Eric.Carswell@BrynAthynChurch.org