
ELENA BIRD ZOLNICK, D.M.A.

ZOLNICK@STTHOMAS.EDU

(907) 953-0128

649 FALCON RIDGE RD, WOODBURY, MN

ELENATBIRD.COM

CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

- 2021-2024 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, Minneapolis, MN
Degree: Doctor of Musical Arts, 2024
Major: Voice Performance, Minor: Choral Conducting
- 2011-2013 FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, Tallahassee, FL
Degree: Master of Music
Major: Voice Performance
- 2007-2009 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER, Boulder, CO
Degree: Bachelor of Music
Major: Voice Performance
- 2005-2007 SAINT OLAF COLLEGE, Northfield, MN
Major: Voice Performance

PRIMARY TEACHERS: Dr. Matthew Mehaffey, conducting; Prof. Kathy Romey, conducting; Trish McCaffrey, voice; Jane Giering-DeHaan, voice; Dr. Jacob Benda, organ

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2022-Current MUSIC DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS SCHOOL OF DIVINITY
Director of Music for the Saint Paul Seminary; includes directing three choral ensembles (men's schola, SPS Choir and SPS Mixed Choir), playing organ and arranging music for daily mass, training cantors, private voice instruction, instructor of Liturgical Presidency I/II and Community Leadership
- 2023-Current DIRECTOR OF LITURGICAL CHOIR, UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS
Director of the Liturgical Choir; working with the Aquinas Chapel and Music Department

- 2024-Current EXTRAORDINARY MUSIC WORKSHOP, Kraków, Poland
Director of intermediate international choir; lecturer and instructor for voice, pedagogy, and rehearsal technique
- 2022 ORATORIO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA, St. Paul, MN
Assistant Conductor; assisted with rehearsal in Summer Chorus, administrative responsibilities, conduct on Summer Chorus concert
Artistic Director: Dr. Matt Mehaffey
- 2021-2022 MATERNITY OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH, St. Paul, MN
Director of Sacred Music; leading choir and congregation in chant, hymns, and selecting music appropriate for the liturgy, selecting new hymnal, cantor
- 2016-2021 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH, Stirling, NJ
Director of Sacred Music, cantor
Pastor: Fr. Richard Carton
- 2013-2016 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON, New Vernon, NJ
Director of Sacred Music
- 2011-2013 CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. THOMAS MORE, Tallahassee, FL
Assistant Music Director, cantor
- 2011-2012 ST. MARY'S BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH, New York, NY
Music Director, cantor
- 2007-2010 ST. THOMAS AQUINAS UNIVERSITY PARISH, Boulder, CO
Interim Director of Sacred Music, cantor

TEACHING AND ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2024-current EXTRAORDINARY MUSIC WORKSHOP, Kraków, Poland, Choral and Voice faculty
Director of International Intermediate Choral Ensemble
On-site voice instructor
- 2023-current UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL CHOIR
Director of Liturgical Choir
Adjunct professor for the Music Department
- 2022-current UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS, SAINT PAUL SEMINARY MUSIC DIRECTOR
Director of Choirs
Private Voice Instructor
Organist/Liturgist
Professor of Liturgical Presidency I/II; Community Leadership (Principles of Sacred Music)

- 2021-2022 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, Voice Department TA
Private Voice Instructor
Voice Class for majors and non-majors
- 2021-2022 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, Choral Department TA
Conductor for University Women's Choir
Conductor for University Chamber Singers
- 2021-2022 ST. LAWRENCE PARISH AND NEWMAN CENTER, Minneapolis, MN
Director of Student Schola/music for Friday Student Mass
Pastor: Fr. Jake Anderson
- 2020 DREW UNIVERSITY, Madison, NJ
Assistant Director and Conductor for Drew University Chamber Choir
- 2011-2013 FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, Voice Department TA
Private Voice instructor
- 2009-Current PRIVATE VOICE INSTRUCTOR, Alaska, New Jersey, Minnesota, Rome
Maintain private voice studio, in-person and online. Organize and recruit for student summer "bootcamp" and performance. Volunteer as vocal instructor for the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

CONDUCTED CONCERTS/PROJECTS

- 2024* A ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS
Christmas concert at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, MN
Director of Liturgical Choir, UST
- 2024 EXTRAORDINARY MUSIC WORKSHOP
International Choir, Final Concert
- 2024 SAINT PAUL SEMINARY TTBB CHOIR
"Songs for Discernment" recording project, to be distributed on Hallow, Pandora, and Spotify
- 2024 SAINT PAUL SEMINARY/UST LITURGICAL CHOIR
Sung Stations of the Cross, featuring *Via Crucis* by Franz Liszt
- 2023 UST LITURGICAL CHOIR
Fall Choir Concert, UST Choirs
- 2022-24 SAINT PAUL SEMINARY SATB/TTBB CHOIR
Lessons and Carols Advent Concert

- 2023 SAINT PAUL SEMINARY SATB CHOIR
Via Crucis by Franz Liszt
Aquinas Chapel Arts Series guests
- 2022 SAINT PAUL SEMINARY AND SAINT PAUL CATHEDRAL CHOIRS
All Souls' Day *Requiem* by Tomás Luis de Victoria
St. Mary's Chapel and the Saint Paul Cathedral
- 2022 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WOMEN'S CHOIR, assistant conductor
Ted Mann Concert Hall, "Spring Fling"
- 2022 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WOMEN'S CHOIR, assistant conductor
St. Paul Cathedral, "Music for a Grand Space"
- 2022 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CHAMBER SINGERS, conductor
"Voices of Hope" rehearsal and performance video
- 2021 A YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH, conductor
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church treble choir celebrates the Year of St. Joseph in song
in Stirling, NJ
- 2020 MAGNIFICAT SINGERS, conductor
"Ever Ancient, Ever New" Christmas choral and brass concert in Stirling, NJ
- 2020 MAGNIFICAT SINGERS, conductor
"Summer Sing" outdoor concert in Basking Ridge, NJ
- 2019 MAGNIFICAT SINGERS, conductor
"Rejoice Greatly" Christmas choral and brass concert in Stirling, NJ
- 2019 MAGNIFICAT SINGERS, conductor
"Springtime Prayer" Evening prayer concert in Stirling, NJ
- 2018 MAGNIFICAT SINGERS, conductor
"Lessons in Carols" Christmas choral and brass concert in Stirling, NJ
- 2017 MAGNIFICAT SINGERS, conductor
"Christmas in Song" Christmas choral and brass concert in Stirling, NJ

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2025* Catholic Music Association of America, Summer Colloquium; presenting on article
"How to Run a Vocally Efficient Rehearsal", and DMA Thesis, "Teaching the Chants of
the Roman Missal"
- 2025* "How to Run a Vocally Efficient Rehearsal", being published by *Choral Journal*

2024 Vocal Pedagogy for Beginners, and “How to Run a Vocally Efficient Rehearsal”,
Extraordinary Music Workshop, Kraków, Poland

OTHER SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Current Keyboard and accompanying proficiency, 20+ years

2021 Guest speaker/vocalist for Oratorio Society of Minnesota; focused on pedagogical warm-ups after a vocal hiatus

2021-current Volunteer voice teacher for students of the Pontifical North American College in Rome

2021-current Contributor to presentations on “Liturgical Music Administration” and formation for new priests at the Pontifical North American College in Rome

2020 Guest speaker for Harmonium Choral Society, Morristown, NJ; focused on vocal pedagogy and choral warm-ups

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

*for a more detailed performance resume, please visit: elenatbird.com

2024 ORATORIO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA
Contracted Soloist

2022 SOUTH METRO CHORALE, Minneapolis, MN
Contracted Soloist

2021 BACH ROOTS FESTIVAL, Minneapolis, MN
Chorister and Soloist for professional ensemble

2016- 2019 FARGO-MOORHEAD OPERA, Fargo, ND
Contracted Mainstage Artist and Young Artist (2016)

2017-2021 MAGNIFICAT SINGERS, Stirling, NJ
Founder and Artistic Director of semi-professional choral ensemble

2019 RIVERSIDE CHORAL SOCIETY, New York, NY
Contracted soloist

2013-2019 HARMONIUM CHORAL SOCIETY, Morristown, NJ
Contracted Soloist, Guest Speaker and Clinician focusing on vocal pedagogy

2016-2020 WADE ARTIST MANAGEMENT, New York, NY
Represented by WAM as a Rostered Soprano

- 2017 ANCHORAGE COMMUNITY CHORALE AND ORCHESTRA, Anchorage, AK
Contracted soloist
- 2017 MASTERWORK CHORALE, Madison, NJ
Contracted Soloist
- 2017 MASTERWORK CAMERATA, Madison, NJ
Rehearsal conductor for Handel's *Messiah* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*
- 2017 NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA
Contracted Mainstage Artist
- 2014-2018 LIGHT OPERA OF NEW JERSEY, Basking Ridge, NJ
Contracted Mainstage Artist