

MASON CANCELLA

(716)-534-7850 • cancella.mason@gmail.com
343 Huntington Avenue, Apt. 1 Buffalo, NY. 14214 • masoncancilla.com

EDUCATION

M.M. MUSIC PERFORMANCE – 2023

Orchestral Conducting
UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, BUFFALO, NY

B.A. MUSIC - 2020

With studies in Conducting, Piano, Vocal Performance and Composition
CANISIUS COLLEGE, BUFFALO, NY

A.S. MUSIC - 2018

With studies in Conducting, Piano, Vocal Performance and Composition
NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, SANBORN, NY

POSITIONS HELD

Oct. 2023 – Present – Founder and Music Director of Avanti Chamber Orchestra and Chorus. Buffalo, NY

Sept. 2023 – Present – Conductor and Team Coordinator
Buffalo String Works. Buffalo, NY

Aug. 2023 – Present – Liturgical Pianist
Niagara University Alumni Chapel. Lewiston, NY

Auh. 2023 – Present – Liturgical Pianist
Immaculate Conception Church. Ransomville, NY

Sept. 2021 – Present – Music Director of Cantio Sacra.
Canisius College. Buffalo, NY

Sept. 2021 – Present – General Music Teacher. Grades PreK-8th
St. Andrew's Country Day School. Kenmore, NY

August. 2020 – Present – Organist
St. Andrew's Church. Kenmore, NY

Sep. 2021 – May 2023 – Assistant Conductor of the University at Buffalo Symphony Orchestra. University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY

Oct. 2022 – Dec. 2023 – Guest Conductor
Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra. Cheektowaga, NY

August. 2020 – Oct. 2020 – Music Director
Corpus Christi Church. Buffalo, NY

Sept. 2020 – Mar. 2022 – Voice and Piano Instructor
Lockport Music Center. Lockport, NY

Dec. 2018 – Sept. 2020 - Choir Director and Associate Organist
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Tonawanda, NY

Sept. – Nov. 2019 – Music Director and Pit Conductor (9 performances)
“Into the Woods” by Stephen Sondheim.
Niagara County Community College. Sanborn, NY

Sept. 2016 – July 2018 – Orchestra Librarian
Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra. Cheektowaga, NY

Jan. – May 2018 – Assistant Music Director and Pit Conductor (9 performances)
“GodSpell” by Stephen Schwartz.
Niagara County Community College. Sanborn, NY.

Jan. – April 2017 – Pit Conductor and Assistant Vocal Director (3 performances)
“Wizard of Oz” by Harold Arlen
St. Stephen’s Parish Players. St. Stephen School. Grand Island, NY

Sept. 2016 – Sept. 2017 – Stage Manager
Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra. Cheektowaga, NY

Oct. – Nov. 2017 – Pit Conductor (9 performances)
“Pippin” by Stephen Schwartz.
Niagara County Community College. Sanborn, NY

May 2017 – Pit Conductor
“First Date” by Austin Winsberg (4 performances)
Medaille College. Buffalo, NY

Feb. – April 2015 – Pit Conductor
“Cinderella” by Rodgers and Hammerstein. (3 performances)
Niagara Wheatfield Senior High School. Sanborn, NY

CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE

Feb. 3rd, 2024 – Conductor

Avanti Chamber Orchestra and Chorus
St. Andrew's Church. Buffalo, NY

Nov. 1st, 2023 – Conductor/Accompanist

Cantio Sacra
Canisius University. Buffalo, NY

July 11th, 2023 – Student Conductor

Summer@Eastman Choir, Mendelssohn *Elijah*
Eastman School of Music. Rochester, NY

Dec. 18th, 2022 – Guest Conductor

Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra
Cheektowaga, NY

Oct. 30th, 2022 – Guest Conductor

Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra
Cheektowaga, NY

July 12th, 2022 – Student Conductor

Summer@Eastman Choir, *Ein Deutsches Requiem*
Eastman School of Music. Rochester, NY

May 25th, 2022 - Guest Conductor/ Composer

Niagara Falls High School Choirs
Niagara Falls, NY

May 20th, 2022 – Conductor/Accompanist

Cantio Sacra
Canisius College. Buffalo, NY

May 12th, 2022 – Conductor

University at Buffalo Symphony Orchestra
Center for the Arts, Buffalo, NY

May 9th, 2022 – Conductor

University at Buffalo Symphony Orchestra
Center for the Arts, Buffalo, NY

April 19th, 2022 – Conductor

University at Buffalo Symphony Orchestra
St. Andrew's Country Day School, Kenmore, NY

April 5th, 2022 – Conductor/Accompanist
Cantio Sacra
Canisius College, Buffalo, NY

December 6th, 2021 – Conductor
University at Buffalo Symphony Orchestra
Center for the Arts, Buffalo, NY

September 15th, 2021 – Conductor/Accompanist
Cantio Sacra
Canisius College, Buffalo, NY

August 7th, 2021 – Conductor
Conductors Institute of South Carolina Orchestra – Final Concert
Etheridge Center - University of South Carolina, Aiken SC

March 7th, 2020 – Conductor/Composer (of the orchestra and choir)
Canisius College Festival of Ensembles Concert.
Montante Cultural Center, Buffalo, New York

November 24th, 2019 - Conductor
Canisius College Chamber Orchestra.
Montante Cultural Center, Buffalo, New York

November 7th – 17th, 2019 – Music Director and Pit Orchestra Conductor
“Into the Woods” – Stephen Sondheim
Niagara County Community College, Sanborn, New York

April 4th – 14th, 2019 – Assistant Music Director and Pit Orchestra Conductor
“Godspell” – Stephen Schwartz
Niagara County Community College, Sanborn, New York

March 2nd, 2019 – Conductor/Composer (of the orchestra and choir)
Canisius College Festival of Ensembles Concert.
Montante Cultural Center, Buffalo, New York

November 10th – 19th, 2017 – Orchestra Conductor
“Pippin” the Musical – Stephen Schwartz
Niagara County Community College, Sanborn, New York

April 7th – 9th, 2017 – Pit Orchestra Conductor
“First Date” the Musical – Austin Winsberg
Medaille College, Buffalo, New York

April 23rd – 26th, 2016 – Pit Orchestra Conductor
“Cinderella” the Musical – Rodgers and Hammerstein
Niagara Wheatfield Senior High School, Sanborn, New York

COVER CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE

Jan. 25th-28th, 2024– Assistant/Cover Conductor to JoAnn Falletta
Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. Buffalo, NY

Dec. 2022 – Assistant/Cover Conductor for all rehearsals and performance of
Mozart’s *Impressario* or *Der Schauspieldirektor*, given by UB’s Vocal Studio under the
direction of Tiffany DuMouchelle, and the UB Symphony under the direction of
Dr. Rachel Lauber.
University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY

2021-2023 – Assistant/Cover Conductor for ALL rehearsals and performances
given by the University of Buffalo Symphony Orchestra (UBSO) under the direction of
Dr. Rachel Lauber.
University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Sept. 2018 – May. 2020 – Assistant Conductor/Arranger for the Canisius College
Chamber Orchestra. Canisius College. Buffalo, NY

Sept. 2017 – May. 2020 – Choir member and Student Conductor of the Canisius Chorale.
Canisius College. Buffalo, NY (18 performances)

Oct. 2016 – Jan. 2020 – Ambassador to the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.
Kleinhans Music Hall. Buffalo, NY

Sept. 2017 – Dec. 2018 – Choir member of Cantio Sacra. (4 Performances)
Canisius College. Buffalo, NY

May 2018 – Sept. 2019 – Artistic Representative to Dr. Harold Rosenbaum (NYC)
Remotely from North Tonawanda, NY

Aug. 2015 – May 2018 – Choir member
Niagara County Community College Choir (9 performances)
Niagara County Community College. Sanborn, NY

Dec. 2017 – Student Conductor of the Niagara County Community College Choir.
Niagara County Community College. Sanborn, NY (2 performances)

PERFORMING EXPERIENCE

Sept. 2023 – Present – Choir member of Canisius University Chorale
Canisius University. Buffalo, NY

November 25th, 2019 - Chorus Member/Student Conductor
Canisius College Chorale.
Church of the Nativity, Tonawanda, New York

November 23rd, 2019 - Chorus Member/Student Conductor
Canisius College Chorale.
Montante Cultural Center, Buffalo, New York

November 18th, 2019 - Chorus Member/Student Conductor
Canisius College Chorale.
Annunciation Church, Elma, New York

April 29th, 2019 - Chorus Member/Student Conductor
Canisius College Chorale.
St. Timothy's Church, Tonawanda, New York

April 27th, 2019 - Chorus Member/Student Conductor
Canisius College Chorale.
Montante Cultural Center, Buffalo, New York

April 22nd, 2019 - Chorus Member/Student Conductor
Canisius College Chorale.
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Tonawanda, New York

August 25th, 2017 – Conductor
Harold Rosebaum Masterclass, Final Choir Concert
Buffalo State College, Buffalo, New York

December 3rd, 2018 - Chorus Member/Student Conductor
Canisius College Chorale.
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Orchard Park, New York

December 1st, 2018 - Chorus Member/Student Conductor
Canisius College Chorale.
Montante Cultural Center, Buffalo, New York

November 26th, 2018 - Chorus Member/Student Conductor
Canisius College Chorale.
Our Lady of Czestochowa, North Tonawanda, New York

March 4th, 2018 – Chorus Member
Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, “Come and Sing” Verdi’s *Requiem*
St. Paul’s RC Church, Kenmore, New York

December 16th, 2017 – Chorus Member/Student Conductor
Niagara County Community College Choir.
Niagara Falls Culinary Institute, Niagara Falls, New York

December 12th, 2017 – Chorus Member/Student Conductor
Niagara County Community College Choir.
On-Campus Concert, Sanborn, New York

October 11th, 2015 – Chorus Member
Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, “Come and Sing” Orff’s *Carmina Burana*
St. Christopher’s Roman Catholic School, Tonawanda, New York

July 19th, 2015 – Percussionist
Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Fantasy Camp
Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo, New York

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

The Conductors Guild

League of American Orchestras

The Mahler Foundation

2019-20 Dean’s Student Advisory Council (Canisius)

2018 -20 American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED

July 8th-11th, 2023– Summer@Eastman: Choral Masterworks – Mendelssohn *Elijah*
Score study, interpretation, and rehearsal of *Elijah* with each participant conducting one movement on the final concert.
Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY

July 9th-12th, 2022 – Summer@Eastman: Choral Masterworks – Brahms *Requiem*
Score study, interpretation, and rehearsal of *Ein deutsches Requiem* with each participant conducting one movement on the final concert.
Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY

July/August of 2021 – South Carolina Conductors Institute
14-day intensive study (conducting technique, score interpretation,
management and programming)
Aiken, South Carolina

June of 2020 – South Carolina Conductors Institute
14-day intensive study (conducting technique, score interpretation,
management and programming)
Aiken, South Carolina

January 29, 2019 – EarShot Buffalo
Composer Career Development and New Score Reading
Buffalo, NY

March 8th, 2018 – 2018 Eastern Conference
American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

August of 2017
Completion of a one-week, 25 hour, Harold Rosenbaum Choral Conducting Masterclass.
Buffalo State College. Buffalo, NY

April of 2016
Completion of a one-day Harold Rosenbaum Choral Conducting Masterclass.
Niagara County Community College. Sanborn, NY

April of 2015
Completion of a one-day Harold Rosenbaum Choral Conducting Masterclass.
Niagara County Community College. Sanborn, NY

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2022-23 Academic Year
W. Charles and Eunice B. Buell Music Scholarship – University at Buffalo

2021-22 Academic Year
W. Charles and Eunice B. Buell Music Scholarship – University at Buffalo

April - 2020
Edith DeLuca Memorial Award (Music Excellence) – Canisius College

September - 2018
Music Scholarship – by audition – Canisius College

May – 2018

7th Annual Persis Vehar Competition for Excellence in Composition – 2nd place

Canisius College

May - 2018

Excellence in Business, Technology, and the Arts – Music – Niagara County Community

College

WORKS COMPOSED

Rising Voices – premiered May 25th, 2022. Conducted by the composer at Niagara Falls High School. Niagara Falls, NY

Commissioned by Dr. Brad Wingert for the Niagara Falls High School Choir, directed by Veronica Schucker.

Text by Lyrics Competition Winner, Hayley Mundy

Scored for SATB Choir and Piano

Festival Mass – premiered March 7th, 2020. Conducted by the composer at Montante Cultural Center. Canisius College. Buffalo, NY.

Written for the sesquicentennial of Canisius College.

Scored for Chamber Orchestra, SATB Choir and Soprano Soloist.

Brahm's Geistliches Lied (Arrangement) – premiered March 2nd, 2019. Conducted by the arranger at Montante Cultural Center. Canisius College. Buffalo, NY.

Arranged – from the original Choral/Organ Score – for Chamber Orchestra.

Choir Parts remained original.