

KEVIN VONDRAK

Conductor & Collaborator

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<http://kevinvondrak.com>

Philadelphia, PA

Employment (Conducting)

- 2017–present **Assistant Conductor & Artistic Associate, The Crossing**
Philadelphia, PA
- 2018–present **Conductor, Beaumont Chorus** (residential choir at retirement community)
Beaumont at Bryn Mawr, Bryn Mawr, PA
- 2019–present **Rotating Conductor & Ensemble Singer, Chestnut Street Singers** (cooperative choir)
Philadelphia, PA
- 2019–2020 **Conducting Scholar, Reading Choral Society** (community symphonic chorus)
Reading, PA
- 2018 **Assistant Music Director, The Mile-Long Opera** for 1000 voices by David Lang
staged on The High Line, NYC
- 2016–2017 **Graduate Assistant Conductor, BCE—Bienen Contemporary/Early Vocal Ensemble**
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2015–2016 **Graduate Assistant Conductor, University Singers**
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Employment (Church Music)

- 2022–present **Staff Singer (Tenor 1), St. Mark's Church, Locust Street**
Philadelphia, PA
- 2017–2021 **Staff Singer (Tenor 2) & Associate Conductor, St. Thomas' Church, Whitmarsh**
Flourtown, PA
- 2016–2017 **Tenor Section Leader, Immaculate Conception Catholic Parish**
Highland Park, IL

Education

- 2017 **M.M., Choral Conducting, Northwestern University**
Bienen School of Music, Evanston, IL
Major Teacher: Donald Nally (conducting)
J. Marcus Ritchie Music Scholarship (1 of 1)
- 2014 **B.A., Music, Washington University in St. Louis**
St. Louis, MO
Major Teachers: Nicole Aldrich (voice, conducting); Juri Seo (composition)
Antoinette Dames Award for Productive Scholarship in Music (1 of 6)

Creative Activity – Classical Music

Selected Conducting Engagements

- 2023 Shadow Conductor, **Rob Maggio's ANIARA @ Baltic Sea Festival, Berwaldhallen** with **The Crossing**. Shadow conduct in performance under Donald Nally. Stockholm, Sweden. August 30.
- 2023 Assistant/Cover Conductor, **Ted Hearne's FARMING @ The Big Sing** with The Crossing. Schuur, Haarlem, The Netherlands. July 4.
- 2021 Co-Conductor, **The Forest in Montana**. Co-conduct The Crossing in a performance of *The Forest* (co-composed with Donald Nally) presented by Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. Jack Creek Preserve, Ennis, MT. July 30.
- 2021 Co-Conductor, **Eclipse @ Northwestern University**. Commissioned world premiere (with Donald Nally) for the first public performance of Northwestern University Choirs since COVID shutdown. The Lakefill, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. April 25-26.
- 2020 Co-Conductor, **The Forest**. Co-conduct The Crossing in the world premiere performance of *The Forest* (co-composed with Donald Nally) as the first public performance of The Crossing since COVID shutdown. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, New Hope, PA. October 3-4.
- 2020 Rotating Conductor, **Chestnut Street Singers concert "Always Singing"** including conducting **world premiere of Dale Trumbore's "A Different Kind of Flight."** St. Mark's Church and Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA. March 6 & 8.
- 2020 Conductor, **Chestnut Street Singers live broadcast from WRTI 90.1FM Performance Studio**. Philadelphia, PA. March 6.
- 2019 Rotating Conductor, **Chestnut Street Singers concert "World Without End"** S. Clement's Church, Philadelphia, PA and St. Thomas' Church, Fort Washington, PA. November 15 & 17.
- 2019 Conductor, **The Mile-Long Opera Pop-Up Performance @ Bang on a Can Annual Gala**. Collaboration with David Lang. **Brooklyn Academy of Music**. Brooklyn, NY. May 28.
- 2019 Shadow Conductor, **Julia Wolfe's Fire in my mouth World Premiere @ David Geffen Hall** with **New York Philharmonic**. Shadow conduct The Crossing in performance under Jaap van Zweden. New York, NY. January 24-26.
- 2019 Conductor, **Fire in my mouth Preview Event**. Rehearsed and prepared members of The Crossing for excerpted previews of Julia Wolfe's *Fire in my mouth* presented in partnership with the **New York Philharmonic** at NYC's **The Tenement Museum**. New York, NY. January 14.
- 2018 Guest Conductor, **Design Dinner of the 2018 TED Conference**. Collaboration with **Target** and **Diller, Scofidio + Renfro** to rehearse and perform a preview of David Lang's **The Mile-Long Opera** with the **Vancouver Chamber Choir**. Vancouver, BC. April 11

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- 2017 Guest Conductor, **The Renaissance Singers** (student-directed chamber ensemble). Rehearsed and performed the world premieres of five commissioned student compositions. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
- 2017 Conductor, **Chamber Opera Initiative** (graduate student-produced opera company). Rehearsed and performed *Das Mahagonny Songspiel* (1927) by Kurt Weill and *Hin und zurück* (1927) by Paul Hindemith. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2017 Conducting Fellow, **Big Sky Choral Initiative**. Conducted *The Crossing* in rehearsal and performance at Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, Big Sky, MT.
- 2016 Conductor, **Graduate Performance Recital**, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Prepared and presented a complete performance of Caroline Shaw's *Partita for 8 Voices* and a commissioned world premiere by Leo Chang. November 11.

Recording Awards

- 2023 **Winner, Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance**
Producer, Assistant Conductor – *The Crossing*
Born: music of Edie Hill and Michael Gilbertson, Navona Records
- 2024 **Nomination, Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance**
Producer, Assistant Conductor – *The Crossing*
Carols After a Plague, New Focus Recordings
- 2022 **Nomination, Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance**
Producer, Assistant Conductor – *The Crossing*
Rising w/ The Crossing, New Focus Recordings
- 2021 **Nomination, Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance**
Associate Producer, Assistant Conductor – *The Crossing*
Carthage: music of James Primosch, Navona Records
- 2020 **Nomination, Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance**
Assistant Conductor – *The Crossing*
Voyages, Innova Records
- 2020 **Nomination, Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance**
Assistant Conductor – *The Crossing*
The Arc in the Sky, Navona Records

Recording Projects

as recording co-producer (with Donald Nally and Paul Vazquez), and assistant conductor of The Crossing:

- 2023 **Titration** – Navona Records
music of Shara Nova
- 2022 **Carols After a Plague** – New Focus Recordings
music of Viet Cuong, Alex Berko, Mary Jane Leach, Vanessa Lann, Nina Shekhar, Leila Adu-Gilmore, Samantha Fernando, LJ White, Joseph C. Phillips, Jr, Edith Canat de Chizy, Tyshawn Sorry, and Shara Nova
- 2022 **Born** – Navona Records
music of Edie Hill, and Michael Gilbertson
- 2021 **Words Adorned** – Navona Records (re-issue)
music of Kareem Roustom, and Kinan Abou-Afach
- 2021 **A Native Hill** – Navona Records
music of Gavin Bryars

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- 2021 **The Tower and The Garden** – Navona Records
 music of Gregory Spears, Joel Puckett, and Toivo Tulev
- 2020 **Rising w/ The Crossing** – New Focus Recordings
 music of David Lang, Alex Berko, Ted Hearne, Santa Ratniece, Paul Fowler, Ēriks
 Ešēvalds, Joby Talbot, and Dietrich Buxtehude

as associate producer of recording project, and assistant conductor of The Crossing:

- 2020 **Carthage** – Navona Records
 music of James Primosch

as assistant conductor of The Crossing:

- 2022 **Telekinesis** – Nonesuch
 music of Tyondai Braxton
- 2022 **Sila: The Breath of the World** – Cantaloupe Music
 music of John Luther Adams
- 2020 **Anonymous Man** – Cantaloupe Music
 music of Michael Gordon
- 2019 **Fire in my mouth** – Decca
 with New York Philharmonic & Young People’s Chorus of New York
 music of Julia Wolfe
- 2019 **Voyages** – Innova Records
 music of Robert Convery and Benjamin C.S. Boyle
- 2019 **The Arc in the Sky** – Navona Records
 music of Kile Smith

Original Compositions

- 2021 **Eclipse** for many voices, large lake, and full moon – 90’
 co-composed with Donald Nally
 commissioned by the Bienen School of Music, Northwestern University
 premiere April 25-26, 2021 at The Lakefill, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2020 **The Forest** for 24 singers in the woods – 90’
 co-composed with Donald Nally
 written for The Crossing & ECHOES amplification kits
 first live Crossing performance in the COVID era – [video here](#)
 premiere October 3-4, 2020 at Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, Hew Hope, PA
 subsequent performances by The Crossing:
 • June 3-6, 2021 at Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, Hew Hope, PA
 presented by Penn Live Arts for The Month of Moderns
 • July 30, 2021 at Jack Creek Preserve, Ennis, MT
 presented by Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, Big Sky, MT
- 2017 **In a still room** for voice & piano – 2’
 written for Prof. Hans Thomalla’s class *Writing for Voice* at Northwestern University
- 2016 **Text (after Rapture)** for voice & piano – 2’
 written for Prof. Jay Alan Yim’s class *Content* at Northwestern University
- 2014 **Songs for Voice & Piano** – 8’

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Selected Arrangements

- 2020 ***Knee Plays*** for 18 singing instrumentalists and narrator – 35' (setlist available on request)
musical arrangements of David Byrne's music for "The Knee Plays"
for The Crossing's *Knee Plays: a concert of music from Phillip Glass and David Byrne*
at Annenberg Center's #GLASSFEST
premiered February 21-22, 2020 at the Harold Prince Theatre, Annenberg
Center, Philadelphia, PA
- 2019 ***Quaecumque sunt vera (Northwestern University Alma Mater)*** for SATB choir – 2'
commissioned for BCE by the Bienen School of Music and Donald Nally
new choral arrangement of the university alma mater (original arr. Peter Christian
Lutkin, 1907) included in the 2020 Commencement ceremony and featured
in a Global University PSA video broadcast during nationally-televvised
football games in the 2020-21 season.
- 2018 ***Fourth of July (Sufjan Stevens)*** for TTBB choir – 5'
commissioned by Constellation Men's Ensemble, Ryan Strand, executive director
- 2013-present **100+ commissioned pop a cappella arrangements**
for high school, college, and community ensembles
full list available upon request

Selected Engraving Projects

- 2023 ***Three Songs by Amanda Meier*** for soprano and piano, 10'
performance editions from manuscript
Dr. Kelly Bixby, University of Louisiana Lafayette recital performance
- 2018 ***715 Creeks (Bon Iver)*** for SATB choir, 2'
performance edition from recording
Matt Cramer DMA Degree Recital (ensemble), Northwestern University
- 2017 ***Twelve Songs by Dirty Projectors*** for tenor solo, voices, guitars, drums, and piano, 25'
performance editions from recording
Sam Grosby MM Degree Recital (ensemble), Northwestern University
- 2016 ***Jeff Quartets Omnibus Edition (The Crossing)*** for SATB choir, 80'
editing and engraving for a musical sheet music book including 12 commissioned
works, from composer manuscripts.
- 2016 **"Spring Journey"** for SSAA and piano, 2'. Composed by Florence B. Price.
performance edition and re-orchestration from manuscript
Northwestern University Women's Chorus, Tyrone Clinton, conductor

Concert Supertitles Design and Operation (for The Crossing)

- 2023 **Harvard University, Paine Hall**, Cambridge, MA
2023 **Yale University, Battell Chapel**, New Haven, CT
2023 **Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL
2023 **American Choral Directors Assoc. (ACDA) Nat'l Conference, Aronoff Center**, Cincinnati, OH
2020-2023 **University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg Center**, Philadelphia, PA

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2022 **Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall**, New York, NY
2022 **Cleveland Museum of Art**, Cleveland, OH
2019 **The Met Cloisters**, New York, NY
2019 **Noon to Midnight Festival @ LA Phil, Disney Hall**, Los Angeles, CA
2019 **Delaware Museum of Art**, Wilmington, DE
2018 **Montclair State University Peak Performances**, Montclair, NJ
2018 **Park Avenue Armory**, New York, NY
2018 **FringeArts**, Philadelphia, PA
2018-2022 **Warren Miller Performing Arts Center**, Big Sky, MT
2018 **Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC)**, Troy, NY
2018 **Northwestern University, Galvin Recital Hall**, Evanston, IL
2017 **Institute for Advanced Study**, Princeton, NJ

Other Relevant Experience

2016 **Intern, The Crossing's Seven Responses**
Philadelphia, PA and Mostly Mozart Festival, NYC
2016 **Vocal Fellow, Big Sky Choral Initiative**
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, Big Sky, MT
2012–2015 **Ensemble Member (Tenor, volunteer), St. Louis Symphony Chorus**
Powell Hall, St. Louis, MO
2012–2014 **Music Library Assistant, Gaylord Music Library**
Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Creative Activity – Pop A Cappella Music

Musical Direction

2015–2017 **Director, Echo Effect** (extracurricular high school pop a cappella ensemble)
Niles West High School, Skokie, IL
<http://kevinvondrak.com/echo-effect>
2013–2016 **Co-Founder, Backporch Productions** (boutique vocal arranging & audio production services)
2013–2015 **Music Director, The Stereotypes** (student-led men's a cappella ensemble)
Washington University, St. Louis, MO
<http://kevinvondrak.com/the-stereotypes>
2013–2015 **Guitarist and Vocalist, Neighbors** (indie-folk-rock cover band)
St. Louis, MO
<http://kevinvondrak.com/neighbors>

Presentations

2022 **"Arrangements in Choral Programming: Case Studies"**
University of Louisiana, Lafayette (zoom) – Sept. 22
2014 **"A Cappella Arranging: Finding New Meaning in Familiar Songs"**
Washington University Music Department Senior Project
St. Louis, MO – Nov. 17

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Awards, Competitions and Compilations: A Cappella Music Directing & Arranging

2017 **3rd Place** at the Midwest semifinal round of the **International Championship of High School A Cappella (ICHSA)**, Niles West High School Echo Effect. Prepared the group for competition and arranged 1 of 3 songs. Auditorium Theatre, Chicago, IL – March 3

1st Place at the Midwest quarterfinal round of **ICHSA**, Niles West High School Echo Effect. Prepared the group for competition and arranged 1 of 3 songs. South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, Milwaukee, WI – February 4

2016 **1st Place** at the **SingStrong Chicago High School A Cappella Competition**, Niles West High School Echo Effect. Prepared the group for competition and arranged 2 of the 3 songs. Niles West High School Auditorium, Skokie, IL – March 12

3rd Place at the Great Lakes quarterfinal round of **ICHSA**, Niles West High School Echo Effect. Prepared the group for competition and arranged the entire set. Port Washington High School, Port Washington, WI — Feb. 6

2015 “All I Want”, a recording off of The Stereotypes’ 2014 CD *All Tied Up* was selected for **Voices Only 2015** – a national scholastic a cappella compilation album (1 of 36 tracks selected). Led pre-production rehearsals for this track.

1st Place & Best Arrangement (for the entire set) at the Midwest Quarterfinal round of the **International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA)**, The Washington University Stereotypes. Prepared the group for competition and arranged 2 of the 4 songs. E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall, Washington University, St. Louis, MO — Jan. 31

2014 **Honorable Mention** for Recorded A Cappella Review Board (**RARB**) Album of the Year (1 of 10), The Washington University Stereotypes’ 2013 CD *Tiebreaker*. Led pre-production rehearsals and arranged 2 of 4 tracks.

Best First Set at the **SoJam A Cappella Festival Scholastic Competition**, The Washington University Stereotypes. Prepared the group for competition. Durham School of the Arts, Durham, NC – Oct. 10

2nd Place at the Midwest Semifinal round of **ICCA**, The Washington University Stereotypes. Prepared the group for competition and arranged 2 of the 4 songs. Braden Auditorium, Illinois State University, Normal, IL – April 5

1st Place at the Midwest Quarterfinal round of **ICCA**, The Washington University Stereotypes. Prepared the group for competition and arranged 2 of the 4 songs. E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall, Washington University, St. Louis, MO — Feb. 1

Recordings – A Cappella

Led pre-production rehearsals and provided musical direction

2014 **All Tied Up**, The Washington University Stereotypes
9-song album featuring 4 of my arrangements; self-released; CD

2013 **Tiebreaker**, The Washington University Stereotypes
4-song EP featuring 2 of my arrangements; self-released; digital EP

References

Donald Nally / 415-676-7388 / donald.nally@googlemail.com
Conductor, The Crossing
John W. Beattie Chair of Music (emeritus), Northwestern University

Michael Smith / 203-645-9227 / msmith@stthomaswhitemarsh.org
Minister of Music, St. Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh

David Lang / 646-753-2126 / david.lang@yale.edu
Composer, Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director, Bang on a Can

Robert McCormick / 202-420-8682 / ramccormick@saintmarksphiladelphia.org
Organist and Choirmaster, Saint Mark's Church, Locust Street, Philadelphia

Lou Carol Fix / 610-248-3882 / lcbfix@gmail.com
Accompanist, Beaumont Chorus