

Jolie A. Rocke

EDUCATION

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance, 2019

Dissertation Title: *Contralto Marian Anderson as Goodwill Ambassador*

Loyola College, Baltimore, Maryland

Master of Early Childhood Education – Montessori Emphasis, 2001

Association Montessori International, Hartford, Connecticut

International Primary Level Teaching Diploma, 1998

University of Hartford, The Hartt School, West Hartford, Connecticut

Bachelor of Music Education, 1989

Undergraduate Kodály Certificate, 1989

State of Connecticut, Department of Education, Professional Teaching Certificate

Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten, 1998 (renewable April 2024)

Music: Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12, 1989 (renewable April 2024)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2021-present San Jacinto College, Pasadena, TX

Adjunct Instructor of Music

1998-present Rocke Vocal Studio

Owner, Vocal Instructor, Coach, Producer

2017-2019 Prairie View A&M University, Brailsford College of Arts & Sciences, Prairie View, TX

Adjunct Instructor of Music

2015-2019 Texas Southern University, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Studies, Houston, TX

Adjunct Instructor of Music 2019, Spring 2019

Interim Managing Director of The DeLUXE Theater, 2017-2018

Education Coordinator of The DeLUXE Theater, 2016-2017

Visiting Associate Professor of Music, 2015-2018

Opera Workshop Director, 2015-2018

Vocal Jazz Ensemble Director, 2017-2018

2008-2011 Manchester Community College, Department of Humanities, Manchester, CT

Lecturer in Music

2008-2012 Capital Education Regional Council, Hartford, Connecticut

Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, *Vocal Music Teacher*, 2008-2012

Montessori Magnet School, *Music Teacher*, 2008-2009

TEACHING EXPERIENCE *continued*

- 2003-2007 University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
School of Fine Arts, Department of Music, Vocal Studies
Pre-Doctoral Fellow, Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2003-2007
Teacher of Record, 2006-2007
School of Fine Arts, Department of Theater
Guest Lecturer, 2007
- 2003-2005 Greater Hartford Arts Council, Neighborhood Studios, Hartford, CT
Master Teaching Artist – Music Studio
- 1989-2003 Hartford Board of Education, Hartford, CT
Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School, *Music Teacher, 2001-2003*
Montessori Magnet School, *Primary Level Teacher (ages 3-6), 1998-2000*
Lewis Fox Middle School, *General Music Teacher, 1994-1998*
Mary M. Hooker Elementary School, *General Music Teacher, 1989-1994*

RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 2023-present HBCU Arts™, Houston, TX
Founder
- 2023-present Driven Theater Company, Houston, TX
Co-Artistic Director
- 2022-present First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, TX
Director of Music
- 2022-present The Ensemble Theater, Houston, TX
Vocal Instructor & Coach for BOLD Boot Camp Program
- 2020-present Equity Arts Enterprises LLC
Chief Executive Director, Principal Partner
- 2020-2024 Texas Commission on the Arts
Touring Roster Artist
- 2020-2022 Houston Independent School District, Houston, TX
Vendor - Fine Arts Materials and Services
- 2019-present V. Michael McKay's Gospel Legends Choir, Houston, TX
Vocal Coach
- 2018-2021 St. Peter United Church of Christ, Houston, TX
Resident Artist

RELATED EXPERIENCE *continued*

- 2014-2017 JRB Productions, LLC/Jolie Roche Brown, Soprano; Wethersfield, Connecticut
Owner, Executive Director, Producer, Arts Education Consultant, Artist
- 2012 Jumoke Academy at the Hartford Conservatory, Hartford, Connecticut
Executive Director
- 2011-2012 Faith Congregational Church, Hartford, Connecticut
Interim Minister of Music
- 2006-2007 Ossen Fund for the Arts, Windham Resident Artist Program, Windham, Connecticut
Founder, Director
- 2001-2014 Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, Connecticut
Soloist/Choir Section Leader
Spirit Hill Sunday School Teacher and Curriculum Contributor
Director - Children's Choir, Cherub Choir, Christmas Pageant

VOICE TEACHERS, COACHES, CONDUCTORS, DIRECTORS (*deceased)

2008-2016	Roland Burks	1998	Ellen Schlaffer
2011	Julius P. Williams	1998-2008	David Lee Brewer
2006-2009	Diana Soviero	1998-2017	Willie Anthony Waters
2005-2007	Marc Verzatt	1986-1989	Gloria Aliani
2005	Doris Kosloff	1985-1986	Joan Glazier
2002, 2006	Fausto Nardi	1984-1985	H.L. Smith
2001, 2002	Talmage Fauntleroy*	1983-1984	Anna Ext
2003-2007	Constance Rock	1982-1983	Helen Deas
2004	Buck Ross	1977-1982	Wilma Russell

FEATURED ARTIST IN MASTER CLASSES

2012	Denise Graves for American Traditions Competition
2007	Mark Pittsinger for University of Connecticut
2006	Marc Verzatt for University of Connecticut
2006	Diana Soviero for Connecticut Opera
2005	Mark Rucker for Opera Noire of New York
2004	Virginia Zeani for Classical Singer Magazine Competition

OPERATIC ROLES (+ cover)

3/2021	Hartford Opera Theatre, CT, "Changing Fortunes" Wolfson - <i>Sharon</i>
4/2018	Texas Southern University, "Dido and Aeneas" Purcell - <i>Sorceress</i>
6/2011	Trilogy Opera, NJ, "Harriet: A Woman Called Moses" Musgrave - <i>Harriet</i>
2010	New Britain Symphony, CT (semi-staged), "La bohème" Puccini - <i>Musetta</i>
2008	Opera Comique, Paris, France, "Porgy and Bess" Gershwin - <i>Clara+</i>
2007-8	New York Harlem Theater, "Porgy and Bess" Gershwin - <i>Clara+</i>
2005	Connecticut Concert Opera, "La Sonnambula" Bellini - <i>Lisa</i>
2005	Connecticut Lyric Opera, "Die Zauberflöte" Mozart - <i>Queen of the Night</i>
2005	University of Connecticut, "The Telephone" Menotti - <i>Margaret</i>
2005	Intermezzo Opera, CT, "Ariadne auf Naxos" Strauss - <i>Zerbinetta</i>
2004-5	New York Harlem Theater, "Porgy and Bess" Gershwin - <i>Clara+</i>
2004	Connecticut Opera, "Hänsel und Gretel" Humperdinck - <i>Sandman/Dewfairy</i>
2004	Houston Ebony Opera, TX, "Don Giovanni" Mozart - <i>Zerlina</i>
2002	Studio Lirico, Italy, "Così fan tutte" Mozart - <i>Despina</i>
2001	Houston Ebony Opera, TX, "La bohème" Puccini - <i>Musetta+</i>
1998	Connecticut Opera, "Porgy and Bess" Gershwin - <i>Strawberry Woman/Annie</i>

CONCERT/RECITAL

2022	Harris County Cultural Arts Center, Houston, TX <i>Singing HERstory, Sing, Langston!, Songs of the African American Soul</i>
2022	Museum Fine Arts at Bayou Bend, Houston, TX <i>Remembering Juneteenth</i>
2022	Driven Theater Company, @First Unitarian Church of Houston, TX <i>Remembering Juneteenth</i>

CONCERT/RECITAL *continued*

- 2023 The Links, Inc., Western Area Conference, Los Angeles, CA, Guest Solo Artist
- 2023 The Hartford Chorale, Bushnell Center for the Arts, CT, **Credo** by Margaret Bonds, soloist
- 2023 The Hett Center, McKendree University, IL, **Evolution of the Negro Spiritual**
- 2023 The Presbyterian School, Houston, TX, **Songs of the African American Soul**
- 2023 Cypress Creek Foundation for the Arts & Community Enrichment, TX, **Lasting Impressions**
- 2022 Houston Ebony Opera, Annual Christmas Concert, Featured Soloist
- 2022 Odyssey Chamber Music Series, Columbia, MO, **Blessed Assurance: The Evolution of the African American Spiritual**
- 2022 The Presbyterian School, Houston, TX, **Songs of the African American Soul**
- 2022 First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, TX Arts Forum, **Singing HERstory**
- 2022 Rocke Vocal Studio, St. Peter United Church, Houston, TX, **Triumphant Over Triple Negative** (premiere)
- 2021 Cypress Creek Foundation for the Arts & Community Enrichment, TX, **Singing HERstory**
- 2021 Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Christmas Concert, Guest Artist for Houston Ebony Opera
- 2021 Houston Methodist Hospital, Center for Performing Arts Medicine, **Holiday Cheer**
- 2021 JW “Blind” Boone Heritage Foundation, COMO 200 Bicentennial Celebration, Guest soloist
- 2021 The Links, Inc., Western Area Conference, Guest Solo Artist (Virtual)
- 2021 Texas Commission on the Arts, City of Sullivan City, TX, **Remembering Juneteenth**
- 2021 Equity Arts Enterprises LLC, Houston, TX (Virtual), **Art Songs & Spirituals by African American Female Composers**
- 2021 Siloam Presbyterian Church, Bklyn, NY (Virtual), **Black Women’s Perspectives of The Passion**
- 2021 Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc., North Atlantic Regional Conference, Guest Soloist
- 2021 Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc, Southwestern Regional International Prayer, Guest Soloist
- 2020 Equity Arts Enterprises LLC, Houston, TX (Virtual) **Hymns for Healing**
- 2020 Houston Methodist Hospital, Center for Performing Arts Medicine, (Virtual) **Hymns for Healing**
- 2019 Houston Methodist Hospital Crane Garden Performance Series, **Good News**
- 2019 University of Missouri, Columbia, **Ballad of the Brown King, Magnificat** (Bach)
- 2019 First Unitarian Church, Houston, TX **Requiem** (Faure)
- 2019 Odyssey Chamber Music Series, Columbia, MO, **Freedom Bound: The Evolution of the African American Spiritual**
- 2019 University of Central Missouri, *Recital*
- 2019 The Links, Inc., Western Area Conference, Austin, TX, Guest Soloist Artist
- 2019 International Voices Houston, Featured Soloist
- 2019 Houston Ebony Opera, Midtown Arts Festival, Featured Soloist
- 2019 First Congregational Church, Bloomfield, CT – **Good News** solo recital
- 2018 Prairie View A&M Chorale Guest Soloist, Wortham Center, Houston, TX
- 2018 Prairie View A&M Chorale Guest Soloist, Tour of Germany & Poland
- 2017 Pleasant Hill Congregational Church, Houston, TX **The Life of Christ** concert
- 2017 Gospel Workshop of America Concert, Monroe, LA
- 2017 Black History Gospel Festival, Bastrop, LA
- 2017 Houston Methodist Hospital, Crane Garden Artist Series, Houston, TX, recital
- 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Celebration, Simsbury, CT, guest soloist
- 2016 Houston Methodist Hospital Crane Garden Performance Series, featured recitalist
- 2016 S.M. Wright Foundation’s Christmas at the Park, Fair Park, Dallas, TX, guest artist
- 2016 Exalted Praise Church, Grand Prairie, TX, **Tis the Season Musical** featured artist

CONCERT/RECITAL *continued*

- 2016 Texas Southern University, Dept of History, ***Family History: Our Heritage and Hope***
- 2016 Tour – Connecticut, Texas, ***America My Home***
- 2016 Oikodome Bible School Conference, Houston, TX, featured artist
- 2015 Music Doing Good Gala, Houston, TX, featured artist
- 2015 Tour – Connecticut, Michigan, ***Celebrate Hymn*** with Audrey DuBois Harris
- 2015 Baby Grand Piano Series, Hartford Public Library, Hartford, CT – jazz series solo concert
- 2015 Lucy Robbins Library, Newington, CT, ***Songs of Freedom***
- 2014 Fort Bend Church, Sugarland, TX, opening artist for Kirk Whalum
- 2014-6 Jazzical Artists Tour – New York, Connecticut, Florida, ***Footsteps of Peace***
- 2014 Asylum Hill Congregational, Hartford, CT, ***Sacred Concerts***, Duke Ellington - soloist
- 2013- Tour – Connecticut, New York, Texas, Michigan, Washington, Pennsylvania, ***Rock of Ages***
- 2013 Tour of Far North Queensland, Australia, ***Duet*** with Alteouise DeVaughn
- 2012 Leonardtown Rotary Club Concert Series, Maryland – ***S’Wonderful***
- 2008-11 Congregation Beth Israel – soloist for High Holy Services
- 2007- Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, CT - 2008, 2010, 2012
- 2006 Opera Noire of New York
- 2003- New Britain Symphony - 2004, 2010
- 2002- Hartford Symphony - 2005, 2010
- 2001- Houston Ebony Opera Guild – featured soloist (also 2004, 2015-21)
- 2000 Carnegie Hall (Weill) - Leontyne Price Vocal Arts Competition Winner debut recital

THEATER

- 2021-3 ***Remembering Juneteenth***, by Jolie Rocke, touring
- 2019 ***God’s Trombones***, adapted by Jolie Rocke, Union Baptist Church, Hartford, CT
- 2017 ***Hands Up... Don’t Shoot*** (reading), DeLUXE Pages & Players, Houston, TX
- 2017 ***The Big Blind***, DeLUXE Pages & Players, Houston, TX (co-writer)
- 2015-7 ***Singing HERstory***, JRB Productions, LLC – Connecticut, Texas, New York
- 2015 ***Juneteenth Celebrated***, Amistad Center for Art & Culture, Hartford, CT
- 2013-5 ***Freedom in Three Acts***, Bated Breath Theatre Company, multiple city tour CT
- 2009 ***Colors: Dream of the Masta***, Tenri Cultural Center, New York City, NY
- 1998 ***God’s Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons***, Charter Oak Cultural Center, Hartford, CT

OPERA VOCAL DIRECTOR for Texas Southern University

- Spring 2018 ***Dido and Aeneas*** by Henry Purcell – fully staged production with orchestra
- Fall 2017 Opera Scenes
- Spring 2017 Opera Scenes (community outreach)
- Fall 2016 ***The Impresario*** by WA Mozart (concert reading)
- Spring 2016 Tribute to Black Broadway (community outreach)
- Fall 2015 Opera Scenes

MUSICAL THEATRE VOCAL DIRECTOR

- Spring 2015 ***The Pajama Game*** by Adler & Ross, Granby Memorial High School, Granby, CT

MUSICAL THEATRE VOCAL DIRECTOR *continued*

- Spring 2014 *Oklahoma* by Rodgers & Hammerstein, Granby Memorial High School, Granby, CT
Summer 2006 *The Bottom of the Punchbowl* (original production), Greater Hartford Arts Council
Neighborhood Studios Summer Program
Spring 2007 *A Little Night Music* by Stephen Sondheim, University of Connecticut, Huskies on Stage

PRODUCTIONS

- 2022 *Songs of the African American Soul* (original work)
2021 *Triumphant Over Triple Negative*, (original work), MOCA/HAA SACI grant 2021
2021 *Remembering Juneteenth*, (original work) Film commissioned by Amistad Center for
Art & Culture, produced for The Travelers Insurance Co. National Lunch & Learn, et. al.
2020-2021 *Second Saturdays @6 Concert Series*, (virtual) Equity Arts Enterprises, LLC.
2019 *God's Trombones*, Roche Vocal Studio
2015-Present *Singing HERstory*, (original work)
2012-2015 *Rising Star Youth Concert Performance*, The Wilson-Gray YMCA, Hartford, CT
2013-Present *Rock of Ages*, National Tour
2010 *Opera is Not Dead*, Asylum Hill Congregational, Hartford, CT
2006 *Sing, Langston!* Faith Congregational Church, Hartford, CT; University of Connecticut,
Department of Social Work

RECORDINGS

- 2015 E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come
2013 Rock of Ages: Hymns for the Soul
2012 "Donde Estabas Tu Ven Iroko", *Mikata*
2007 Jolie Roche Brown in concert

MOVIE CREDITS

- 2021 *Remembering Juneteenth*, Roche Vocal Studio, creator, writer, producer, artist
2021 *Singing HERstory*, Roche Vocal Studio, creator, writer, producer, artist
2009 *Porgy & Me*, documentary by Boomtown Media, artist

TELEVISION BROADCAST

- 2014 Connecticut News 12, *Our Lives*, Norwalk CT
2013 Fox61, *The Stan Simpson Show*, Hartford, CT
2013 Fox61, *The Morning Show*, Hartford, CT
2011 Hartford Public Access Television, *Amistad Through the Arts Summer Showcase*
2010 Hartford Public Access Television, *Holiday Feature*

INTERNET/RADIO BROADCAST

- 2021 Quinten Simon Show, HOD Radio Show, internet radio
GodRadio1.com, Wake Up Morning Show with Dr. LT and Robert Earl Dean

INTERNET/RADIO BROADCAST *continued*

- 2020 Vital Voices with Audrey DuBois Harris <https://www.facebook.com/1112265669/videos/pcb.10222228040145913/10222228039465896/>
- 2019 KTSU/TRUTH 65 V. Michael McKay *Music of the African American Tradition for and Educational Perspectives: Spirituals and Anthems*
- 2017 KUHF, Houston <https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/arts-culture/2017/08/03/228449/a-new-film-festival-premieres-in-houstons-historic-fifth-ward/>
Source Nation! *Indie Soul Saturdays* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCqzxi3Kjh4>
One Nation Radio
107.9 FM Radio, with Alexander Martin
Spiritco Radio, www.spiritco1.com
E-Word Radio, www.ewordradio.com
WJOC Radio, Florida
The Outlet Radio, www.TheOutletRadio.com
One Gospel Web Radio Station, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 2016 Source Radio Network, Indie Soul Saturdays with Kathy B.
WVOD Online
Survival Radio Christian Network with Christina Lockett
Victory 1075.com, Atlanta, GA with the Marlo Moore Show
K104, Dallas
Internet Interview with Larry DaSilva, *Stars and Legends CT Productions*,
Nutmeg TV Community Television, CT <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuCtYiOr0Iw>
- 2014 Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, *Marian Anderson: Powerful Voice for Change*
DIY History Module Launch, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06m8J8RSZYU>
WIHS, Interview with Gerry Williams, Middletown, CT
- 2013 Internet Interview with Bro. Steve Harris, "Breast Cancer Survivor-Singing Hymns for Healing"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQ11grF69_Q
- 2010 Opera Pulse TV, internet interview <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgByOJ9WELg>

PUBLISHED WORKS

- 2021 *Triumphant Over Triple Negative*, by Jolie Rocke, premiered St. Peter United, Houston, TX
- 2018 *Spirituals: Music for Bamboo Pipes* by Charlotte Elliott Poletti. Avon: Pipers Publications.
Foreword
- 2016 Worship, Music & Ministry Journal, United Church of Christ Musicians Association
Racial Justice Ministry Through Music

INVITED LECTURES

- 2022 Boone Heritage Foundation – John William “Blind” Boone Symposium 2022
“The Singers of the Blind Boone Concert Company”
- 2020 University of Missouri – Black Women in Music Course (Online Guest), Columbia, MO
“Contralto Marian Anderson as a Goodwill Ambassador”
- 2019 National Opera Association - Texoma NATS Conference, Dallas, TX
“Contralto Marian Anderson as a Goodwill Ambassador”
- 2017 Texas Southern University, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, Houston, TX
From the Middle Passage to Black Lives Matter Conference
Singing HERStory and Marian Anderson: Goodwill Ambassador

INVITED LECTURES *continued*

- 2016 Texas Southern University, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, Houston, TX
Russia Through Time: Commemorating the 100th Conference Paul Robeson and Russia
- 2016 Texas Southern University, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, Houston, TX
Summer Workshop on African American Texas History (SWATH) *Singing HERstory*
- 2015 Carnegie Mellon University, Opera Department, Pittsburgh, PA
“Voice, Vision, Variety & Value”
- 2014-5 Explore New York - Road Scholar/Elderhostel Program, Hunter College, New York City, NY
“Arias in My Life”
- 2014 Texas Southern University, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, Houston, TX
Summer Workshop on African American Texas History (SWATH)
“Marian Anderson as Goodwill Ambassador”
- 2014 Lincoln Middle School, New Britain, CT
Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame, DIY History Module Launch
Marian Anderson: Powerful Voice for Change
- 2012 Stepping Stone Academy, Trinity College, Hartford, CT
Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame, Featured Honoree
“A Woman with Two Careers”
- 2009 International Centre for Creativity and Imagination, Windham, CT
“Finding your Creative Voice”

WORKSHOPS

- 2016 United Church of Christ, National Youth Event and Conference, Disney World, FL
“Singing Through Voices of Change”

MASTERCLASS INSTRUCTOR

- 2020 North Carolina Central University, Live Stream Masterclass, sponsored by
Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA) Master Class Series
- 2019 University of Missouri, Voice Department and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Masterclass
- 2019 University of Central Missouri, Voice Department, Masterclass/Recital
- 2018 University of Missouri, Voice Department and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Masterclass
- 2016 Carnegie Mellon University, Opera Department, Lecture/Masterclass/Recital
“Voice, Vision, Variety & Value”
- 2015 Hartt School Community Division, University of Hartford, Vocal Honors Lecture/Masterclass
- 2014 Sam Houston State University, Opera Workshop Rehearsal Critique and Discussion
- 2014 Texas Southern University, Department of Music, Lecture/Masterclass/Recital
“From the gospel church to the opera stage...stopped by the club on the way”

ADJUDICATOR

- 2017 Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards, Houston, TX
- 2014 Hartt School Community Division Vocal Competition, University of Hartford, CT

COURSE CREATION

- 2016 State of Texas, Texas Southern University, *MUSI 235 African American Women in Music*
2010 State of Connecticut, Manchester Community College, *MUS 277 Vocal: Opera to Broadway*

COMMITTEE WORK

- 2021-2 JW “Blind” Boone Symposium, for JW “Blind” Boone Heritage Foundation,
Columbia/Warrensburg/Jefferson City, Missouri, *Committee Lead*
2021 *Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration*, The Hartt School, University of Hartford, CT
Texas Southern University
2018 *TSU Summer Workshop on African American Texas History Steering Committee*
2017-2018 *Music Department Academic Misconduct*
2016-2018 *Music Department Alumni Committee*
2016-2018 *Music Department Scheduling*
2016-2018 *Masterclass Series Coordinator and Host to Visiting Artists*
Avid Williams, Tenor, Artist Management, Music Educator, 2018
James Walker, Jr, Attorney, Music Industry Expert, Author, 2017
Dance Houston, Dwight Baxter and Andrea Cody (Dance), 2017
Don Wilson Glenn, Director/Playwright (Stage Direction), 2017
Timothy Dickson, Director/Playwright (Character Development), 2017
Marques J. Ruff, Baritone, Chanticleer Educational Programs Coordinator, 2016
Joel A. Martin, Pianist/Founder of Jazzical, Inc., 2016
Angela Renee Simpson, Soprano (sponsored by CAAPA), 2016
Willie A. Waters, Conductor & Professor, SUNY Binghamton, 2016
David Lee Brewer, Vocal Instructor, Berlin, Germany, 2016
2016-2017 *Music Department Brochure* (Chairperson)
2015-2018 *COLABS Student Enhancement Committee*

GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS

- 2022 BIPOC Arts Network and Fund Houston Grantee
2021 Texas Commission on the Arts, Geographically Underserved Area Summer Tour
2020 Triumphant Over Triple Negative Production, *Support for Artists and Creative Individuals Grant*
Mayor’s Office for Cultural Arts through the Houston Arts Alliance
2017 Fifth Ward Documentary Film Festival, The DeLUXE Theater, Houston, TX
Texas Southern University Foundation, Houston Arts Alliance, *City Initiative Grant*
2012 Jumoke Academy Integrated Arts Summer Camp, Jumoke Academy, Hartford, CT
City of Hartford; Hartford Foundation for Public Giving; Long Foundation
2011 Amistad Through the Arts Summer Program, Faith Congregational Church, Hartford, CT
Faith-Based Initiatives; Ossen Family Foundation Grant; Private Funders

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

- 2022-3 Harris County Cultural Arts Center, Houston
2018-23 The Links, Inc., Western Area; Houston, TX Chapters; and Hartford, CT Chapters
2017- Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy, Houston

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS *continued*

- 2018 Texas Southern University Opera Workshop Collaboration, *HISD Volunteer*
2017 Texas Southern University & Prairie View A&M University
Collaborative Voice Area German Lieder Recital, *Organizer & Facilitator*
2017 Houston League of Business and Professional Women, Inc.
Emerging Vocal Arts Competition, *Host*
2016 The DeLUXE Theatre, Houston
Community Involvement Committee
1989- Organized Parents Make a Difference (OPMAD), Hartford, CT
1994 Parent Teacher Volunteer

PANELIST

- 2020 Gustavus Adolphus College, MN. *Racism in American Classical Music*
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Hartford, CT. *Music and the Brain*
<https://fb.watch/2Je84Yalkb/>
Hartford Symphony. *Anti-Black Racism in American Orchestras*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7tb4c1qgCY&t=28s>

AWARDS and HONORS

- 2015 Connecticut League of History Organizations
Co-Writer & Music Director, *Freedom in 3 Acts*, Bated Breath Theatre
2014 Amistad Center for Art & Culture, Spirit of Juneteenth Honoree
2014 National Association of Professional Women, VIP Member
2012 Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame Honoree
2011 Global Directory of Who's Who
2006 University of Connecticut, Concerto Competition, Graduate Division Winner
2007 Amici Competition, Opera Theater of Connecticut, Honorable Mention (2005, 2003)
2002 Apple for the Teacher Award, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.
2002 Today's Vision Award, Greater Hartford Chapter, The Links, Inc.
2000 Northeast District Winner, Leontyne Price Vocal Competition, Inc.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Current

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Xi Alpha Omega, Houston, TX
Association of Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries
Christ Church Cathedral, Sugarland, TX
First Unitarian Universalist Church, Houston, TX
Houston Ebony Opera Guild, Houston, TX
LaGuardia High School of Music and Arts, *Class Leader* 1985-Present, New York, NY
National Association of Teachers of Singing, *District Governor South Texas*,
Greater Houston Chapter, Texoma Region, TX
Phillip Hall Singers, Houston, TX
St. Peter United Church of Christ, Houston, TX

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS *continued*

Union Baptist Church, Hartford, CT

University of Hartford, West Hartford, CT

Alumni Board of Directors, 1992-1996, 2016-2022

Member at Large, 2019-2022

Alumni of Color Task Force Chairperson, 2017-2022

Hartt School of Music Liaison, 2016-2019

Hartt School of Music

Alumni Committee, Board of Trustees, member 2016-2019

V. Mike McKay & Yolanda Adams Hymns for Him & Gospel Legends Choir

Former

Amistad Center for Art & Culture, Hartford, CT

Association Montessori International (AMI), Rochester, NY

Association Montessori International Alumni (NEAMIA)

Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, CT

Bushnell Theater for the Performing Arts, Hartford, CT

Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA)

Connecticut Opera, Hartford, CT

Connecticut Lyric Opera, New London, CT

Connecticut Vocal Artists (CONCORA), New Britain, CT

Faith Congregational Church, Hartford, CT

First Congregational Church, Somerville, MA

Grace Congregational Church, New York, NY

Greater Hartford Arts Council, Hartford, CT

Hartford Conservatory, Hartford, CT

International Voices Houston, TX

Music Educators Technology Association (META) Hartford, CT, New England

National Association for Music Education (NAfME)

National Opera America, New York, NY

Opera Noire of New York, Inc., New York, NY

Texas Music Educators Association

United Church of Christ, Connecticut Conference Choir – *Co-Founder & Director*

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Huskies on Stage Student Organization Founder and Member, 2005-2007

Music Department Student Council Graduate Representative, 2004-2007

Outreach Program Coordinator and Artist, 2003-2007

University of Hartford, West Hartford, CT

African American Student Association, 1985-1989

Hartt School of Music Student Council Freshman Representative, 1985-1986

Red Cap Orientation Tour Guide, 1986-1989

Resident Assistant, 1986-1987

Voice Foundation, Greater Houston Chapter, TX

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

In 2010, a student asked, “Why are you so excited, jumping up and down and crazy when you are teaching us???” My response, “I am passionate about teaching vocal technique and I get excited when I recognize you all are ‘getting it’.” At the end of the semester, students in that junior level voice class composed this poem and presented it as a gift:

Coming in daily to work on our talent
Performance and technique trying to find the balance
With every mood possible lingering in the room
Negativity made it seem like there was nothing but doom
But something about your persistency
Made us see things just a little bit differently

And through all the complaints we began to see
What could happen once you just let go and breathed
And we'll never forget everything that you've taught
And the never ending strategies you instilled and brought
An inspiring woman, this much is true
We've all come so far Jolie, we thank you.

When taking the stage or working with aspiring artists, I draw from my total life experience. Since 1989, I have served as an inspirational educator for students of all ages. I began singing professionally in 1998, performing as soloist of varied genres with and for local, regional, national, and international organizations. In 2012, I left the field of public education, to focus on my career as a self-employed singer, producer, private voice teacher, youth arts program developer, and youth talent scout. Though successful, I missed teaching and decided to accept a Visiting Instructor position at Texas Southern University in 2015.

Teaching healthy vocal production, strong technique, and convincing performance skills are my focus. Beginning with the basics of breathing and alignment, students discover their true voice as they expand their vocabulary of sound and develop singing habits that promote vocal freedom, agility, and efficiency. Students who work with me understand music careers as viable, satisfying and stable. Many remain in contact, seeking advice as they build their career and family. It is a great honor to provide support to students during their course of study and as they continue life's journey—regardless of career choice. There are many levels of success—it is up to each individual to determine their aspirations and continually evaluate and adjust as they strive to achieve goals. Advice can be helpful yet asking key questions that guide students to a better understanding of their concern is essential to success. The greatest competition is to best your last best performance.

A full-time tenure track professorship at an accredited college or university would provide me with an opportune conduit to share the gift of song as well as connect students and colleagues to my network within the international arts community and related fields. My dedication to training and providing performing opportunities for developing artists is unwavering.

COLLEGIATE, PRIVATE VOICE STUDIO, AND MENTEE ACHIEVEMENTS

Admittance to Graduate Programs:

University of Arkansas
Morgan State University
Manhattan School of Music
University of Missouri (Kansas City)
Central Connecticut State University
University of Missouri (Columbia)
Florida State University
University of Texas (Arlington)
University of St. Thomas
Cincinnati Conservatory of Music

Admittance to Undergraduate Programs:

Carnegie Mellon University
University of North Texas
Columbia College Chicago
Belmont College
Spelman College
Prairie View A&M University
Emerson University
Muhlenberg College
Berklee College
University of Hartford, The Hartt School
The College of Wooster
Five Towns College
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Washington University in St. Louis
University of Tampa
Kalamazoo College
University of Connecticut

Competition Winners:

NATS, Greater Houston Classical, Upper High School Classical, finalist (2022)
NATS, TEXOMA Classical, Upper High School Classical, 3rd place (2021)
NATS, Greater Houston Classical, Lower High School Classical, 2nd place (2020)
NATS, Greater Houston Classical, Advanced College Level, 2nd place (2019)
NATS, Greater Houston Classical, Advanced College Level, 1st place (2018)
NATS, Greater Houston Classical, Upper College Level, 2nd place (2017)

Student Internships:

Prairie View A&M University, STEM Grant Student Intern (2019)
Hampton University Ministers Conference, Choir Directors & Organist's Guild Workshop (2016)

COLLEGIATE, PRIVATE VOICE STUDIO, AND MENTEE ACHIEVEMENTS *continued*

Young Artist Program Participants:

Lonestar College (Kingwood) Summer Program (2019)

Varna Opera Academy, Bulgaria (2017)

Carnegie Mellon Summer Music Program (2013)

Professional Artists (year of study):

Scott Bradlee, Jazz & Popular Styles, (2006) Founder & band member of *Postmodern Jukebox*

Gloria Deveraux, Soprano, Classical (2019) *Voices of Houston*

Dy’Jah Doucett, *a.k.a.* Dy’Jah, Gospel (2016- 20) Stellar Award Nominee 2020-Youth Project of the Year

Michelle Johnson Major, Soprano, Opera (2015)

Ashton Jones, Baritone, Classical (2015-19) *Max Ferdinand Singers*

Sache Marshall, *a.k.a.* Ysanne, R&B (2007-15)

Brittney Melvin, *a.k.a.* Brittney Crush, R&B (2008-11)

Marques Ruff, Bass-Baritone, Classical & Multi-genre (2003-5), *Chanticleer* (2014-18), Tennessee State University Director Choral Studies (2020-21)

Rodney Sharp (2017-19), Houston Grand Opera Chorus, *Aida* 2019-10 season

Kyle Spears (2015-19), Fort Worth Opera Chorus, *Porgy & Bess* 2018-19 season

Kaci Timmons, Soprano, Classical Choral (2019-current), *Exigence*, *Bach Society Houston*, *Houston Ebony Opera*, *Opera in the Heights*

Brian Courtney Wilson, Gospel (2019), Stellar and Dove Award winner, GMA and Grammy nominee

BIOGRAPHY

Jolie Rocke, native New Yorker, and renowned soprano is sharing the gift of song across the world. She has performed as a featured soloist in opera and concert tours of the USA, Europe, and Far North Queensland Australia. Hartford Courant writer and critic Owen McNally marveled, "...a gifted, versatile vocalist who's as much at home soaring on opera arias and celestial hymns as she is getting down with funky blues and earthy jazz, just might, at long last, have the whole world in her hands thanks to her soulful album, *Rock of Ages: Hymns for the Soul*." Her other recording projects *Jolie Rocke Brown in Concert* and *E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come*, are available through iTunes.com, Bandcamp.com, Amazon.com, and other media outlets.

Rocke began her career in opera as a chorus member and honed her fine instrument as a young artist with Intermezzo Opera (CT), Houston Ebony Opera Guild (TX), and internationally with **Studio Lirico** in Anghiari, Italy. She landed contracts for leading roles with **Connecticut Opera, Connecticut Lyric Opera, Houston Ebony Opera Guild, Trilogy Opera, Théâtre national de l'opéra-comique** (Paris), and **New York Harlem Productions Company**. Opera Online reported, "...as both the *Sandman* and *Dew Fairy*, along with the dancing of fourteen young angels stole the end of the first act..." in **Connecticut Opera's** November 2004 production of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*. Her other roles include *Zerbinetta*, in Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Queen of the Night* in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, *Despina* in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, *Musetta* in Puccini's *La bohème*, *Zerlina* in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, *Lisa* in Bellini's *La Sonnambula*, *Margaret* in Menotti's *Telephone*, and *Clara* in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. Concerts and appearances with the **Hartford Symphony Orchestra, New Britain Symphony, West Hartford Symphony, Connecticut Concert Opera, Hartford Chorale, CONCOR, and International Voices Houston**. Dr. Rocke has been featured on the stages of New York's **Carnegie (Weill) Recital Hall**, Houston's **Wortham Theater Center**, Hartford's **Bushnell Center for Performing Arts**, Bridgeport's **Klein Memorial Auditorium**.

Acclaimed as a singer and music educator, Dr. Rocke was named a 2020-2024 Texas Touring Roster Artist by the Texas Commission on the Arts. She was honored by the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame in 2012. The Amistad Center for Art & Culture housed at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, honored her with the 2014 *Spirit of Juneteenth* Award. While her singing career continues to soar, her dedication to training and providing performing opportunities for young artists is unwavering. Jolie draws from her total life experience when she takes the stage or works with aspiring young artists. Her passion for music and the desire to pass it on to her students, leads her to produce concerts, direct community arts programs and train aspiring singers as a private voice teacher, coach, and mentor. For more than twenty years Dr. Rocke served as a teacher in the public schools of Hartford, Connecticut.

A triumphant twelve-year breast cancer survivor, Jolie remains in remission and provides support as a mentor and source of inspiration to other survivors and within the community. She annually donates to the Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation (www.tnbcfoundation.org) and was awarded a 2020 Support for Artists and Creative Individuals Grant from the Houston Mayor's Office for Cultural Arts through the Houston Arts Alliance to write and mount a production sharing how music inspired her through her breast cancer journey.

Jolie earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance from the University of Connecticut, a Master of Early Childhood Education from Loyola College in Baltimore, and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Hartford's Hartt School. Currently a Lecturer at Prairie View A&M University, she has taught at San Jacinto College (TX), Texas Southern University (TX), Manchester Community College (CT), and the University of Connecticut. In 2022, she led the charge to re-establish the John 'Blind' Boone Symposium for the Boone Heritage Foundation in Missouri. She most recently founded HBCU Arts, a program designed to showcase, promote, and celebrate students, faculty, and alums from Historically Black Colleges and Universities. In addition to teaching, performing, presenting master classes, and lecturing nationally, Dr. Rocke is the Director of Music at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, Co-Artistic Director of Driven Theater Company, and Owner of Rocke Vocal Studio in Houston, TX.