

CTHS Private Lesson Program

Laura Stevenson



Laura Lewis Stevenson started her formal music education studying choral conducting under Bev Henson at Sam Houston State University. She then transferred to Texas Woman's University to study Vocal Performance / Pedagogy under Lanelle Blanton Stevenson and Joan Wall, where she received her B.S. in Vocal Performance, graduating summa cum laude. She continued pedagogical studies with Stephanie Samaras and Joan Wall. Laura Stevenson has an extensive performance resume in opera, oratorio, musical theatre, and Contemporary Commercial Music. She is proficient in sound engineering and mastering.

Laura has taught private voice for thirty years in Texas schools and her private studio. She has placed well over 100 students in the Texas All State Choir and her studio can claim over \$5M in scholarships. Her students consistently place in NATS at the chapter, regional, and national levels. Mrs. Stevenson is Past President of DFW Area Chapter of National Association of Teachers of Singing and currently serves as Audition Co-chair. She also sits on the Texoma Region NATS board as Private Teacher Liaison. Laura has always been an early adopter of technology in her studio. She has lectured and led round table discussions on technology in the studio at NATS chapter conferences. She is a member of TMEA, NATS, MTTA, and National Opera Association.

Dean Willis



Dean Willis a bass-baritone from American Samoa. He currently holds an MM in Vocal Performance from Southern Methodist University as a student of Virginia Dupuy and an MM in Choral Conducting from SMU as a student of Dr. Pamela Elrod Huffman. Dean received his BA in Vocal Performance from Abilene Christian University as a student of Dr. Paul Piersall. Dean has been booked for engagements with the Fort Worth Symphony as Jesus in the Bach *St. Matthew Passion* under direction of Miguel Hearth-Bedoya and as a cover for the Dallas Opera Outreach Program as the Mayor in Bizet's *Dr. Miracle*. Dean has also performed the roles of Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Escamillo in *Carmen*, and Bob in *The Old Maid and the Thief*.

Dean is currently auditioning for opportunities across the United States in solo concert and operatic settings as well as professional choral opportunities. In addition to performance, Dean teaches voice to middle school and high school students in the South Fort Worth, TX area and is the music minister for the Pleasant Ridge Church of Christ in Arlington, TX. Dean lives in Burleson, TX with his wife, Kristen; his two children, Chloe and Camden; and his two dogs, Nala and Liam.

