Powering Creativity Opera
A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute

An elite professional training ground for exceptional young singers, Fletcher offers in-depth training at the graduate and post-graduate levels. Renowned, resident artist faculty and visiting artists provide one-on-one instruction, coaching and master classes. Fully staged performance opportunities provide exceptional practical experience. Fellows accepted into the Institute are awarded full-tuition scholarships (including all fees) and a living stipend.

CONCENTRATION

Master of Music
Graduate Certificate
Professional Artist Certificate

Voice

FACULTY

Saxton Rose—Interim Dean
Steven LaCosse—Artistic Director
James Allbritten—Music Director
Phyllis Paccella—Mezzo-soprano
Glenn Siebert—Voice, Tenor
Marilyn Taylor—Soprano, Voice/Department Chair
Angela Ward—Principal Coach

GUEST ARTISTS

Brian Banion—Bass-Baritone
Rene Barbera—Tenor
Anthony Dean Griffey—Tenor
Sherill Milnes—Baritone
Kenneth Overton—Baritone
Michael Shell—Stage Director
Frederica von Stade—Mezzo-soprano
Stephen Stubbs—Conductor
Anthony Walker—Conductor
Steven White—Conductor
Bradley Willard—Breath Specialist
Virginia Zeani—Soprano

Faculty members are active professional musicians who bring with them real-world experience and practical perspectives. They will both support and challenge you, as you explore your artistic voice and build technical skills that will prepare you for a life as a professional musician.

In addition to in-depth study with A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute faculty, fellows are mentored by guest artists who share their knowledge, experience and talent. Guest artists have included distinguished singers, conductors, collaborative pianists and professionals working in opera houses and theaters across the country and around the globe.
The Institute presents two productions of classic and contemporary opera and one program of opera scenes in venues that include the 1,380-seat Stevens Center, a neoclassical theater downtown, and the intimate 188-seat Agnes de Mille Theatre on campus. Newly conceived productions are created by the top-ranked School of Design & Production. In addition, the Institute offers extensive touring and outreach opportunities throughout the community.

You will receive advanced study in voice, language and diction, along with weekly musical coaching with a resident vocal coach and the music director. Instruction covers such topics as movement and dance, breathing and body awareness, stage combat and career enhancement strategies.

The Master of Music in Vocal Performance degree program admits a select number of qualified singers who demonstrate the potential for advanced study in opera. Highlights include roles in fully staged productions, scenes, touring and outreach programs, master classes and workshops with renowned visiting artist-teachers. The course of study is specifically designed to nurture professional growth through advanced study in voice, weekly vocal/diction coaching with a resident vocal coach, language and diction study, acting and movement work. This program will teach you how to free the body for effective performance, and prepare you with career enhancement and audition strategies. You will also have the opportunity to audition for regional professional companies.

The Graduate Certificate in Voice is a one-year program that admits a select number of qualified singers who want to pursue further study at the graduate level. Highlights include roles in fully staged productions, scenes, touring and outreach programs, master classes and workshops with renowned visiting artists, two vocal/diction coachings per week with the resident principal coach, two musical coachings per month with the music director, audition preparation, advanced language study and opportunities to meet with and audition for regional professional companies.

The Professional Artist Certificate is a one-year post-master’s program that admits a select number of uniquely qualified singers who demonstrate exceptional potential for success in a professional career. Highlights include roles in fully staged productions, scenes, touring and outreach programs, advanced study in voice, master classes and workshops with renowned visiting artists, two vocal/diction coachings per week with the resident principal coach, two musical coachings per month with the music director, audition preparation, advanced language study and opportunities to meet with and audition for regional professional companies.
To obtain an audition for the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute, you must submit the following:

- UNCSA application
- Cover letter
- Transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation
- Résumé
- Headshot
- Audition repertoire

**Master of Music in Vocal Performance applicants:**
Pre-screening video recording file or link consisting of two contrasting arias.

**Graduate Certificate in Voice applicants:**
Pre-screening video recording or link consisting of 3 arias representing three languages.

**Professional Artist Certificate applicants:**
Pre-screening video recording file or link consisting of four arias, representing at least three languages.

Visit uncsa.edu/apply to start the application process.