

Christopher M. Besch

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Education

Doctor of Musical Arts, Vocal Performance 2021
Rice University - Shepherd School of Music, Houston, TX

Voice Teacher: Stephen King
Scholarship: Lynne and Joe Hudson Scholarship in Voice

Master of Music, Vocal Performance 2011
Rice University - Shepherd School of Music, Houston, TX

Voice Teacher: Stephen King
Scholarship: Atkinson Memorial Tuition Award

Bachelor of Music, Vocal Performance Magna Cum Laude 2009
Lawrence University, Appleton, WI

Voice Teacher: Steven Paul Spears
Scholarship: Lawrence University Music and Academic Scholarship

Studio and Preparatory Teaching Experience

Voice Fellowship Coordinator at

The Classical Music Institute of San Antonio – Spring 2021 - Present

Development and implementation of a two-week summer program in San Antonio with a focus on pedagogical mentorship of college-age singers teaching high school students in collaboration with Opera San Antonio. Future plans include developing the program into a year-long teaching and performance engagement for emerging artists looking for more training in their post-graduate career.

Lecturer in Voice at Texas State University, Fall 2022 – Present

Teach private voice lessons to both education and performance majors on the undergraduate and graduate level.

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Private Voice Studio, Fall 2007 – Present

Voice instruction encompassing a diverse range of experience levels, ages, and repertoire.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice at The University of Memphis – Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

Taught private voice lessons to both education and performance majors on the undergraduate and graduate level. Genres included classical, musical theater, commercial contemporary, jazz, and others.

Lecturer in Voice at University of Texas at San Antonio – Fall 2019 – Spring 2021

One-on-one instruction for voice majors and courses in vocal pedagogy for instrumentalists. Duties also included coordinating student events for the voice area, recruitment, and service initiatives.

Adjunct Faculty at Lone Star College - Kingwood, Fall 2016 – Spring 2019

Served as at one of the premier community colleges in Texas, educating a diverse student body of over 30 voice majors and seven voice faculty. Responsibilities included teaching the diction sequence in English, Italian, Latin, German, and French, as well as studio classes and private lessons.

Classroom Experience

Vocal Literature

Spring 2023, Texas State University

A vocal literature class with a flipped-classroom model in which the students write papers and present on various time periods, styles, and underrepresented composers. The course focuses on writing for program notes and presentation for audiences in a pre-concert lecture style.

Undergraduate Vocal Pedagogy

Fall 2022, Texas State University

Fall 2021, University of Memphis

Designed and taught an introductory evidence-based pedagogy curriculum focusing on anatomy, physiology, acoustics, psychoacoustics, and health of the singing voice to prepare students for teaching private lessons.

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Graduate Vocal Pedagogy

Spring 2022, University of Memphis

A curriculum focusing on evidence-based and historical vocal pedagogy. Topics include anatomy, physiology, acoustics, and psychoacoustics drawing from the teachings of Kenneth Bozeman, Manuel Garcia, Giovanni Battista Lamperti, Richard Miller, W. Stephen Smith, Harry Witherspoon, and others.

Vocal Techniques for Instrumentalists

Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, University of Texas at San Antonio

Designed and taught a class for future instrumental music educators on vocal technique and literature to prepare them for the possibility of teaching basic choir, as well as passing the TExES certification test for music education.

Vocal Acoustics, Physiology, and Health

Spring 2016, Spring 2018, Spring 2020, Rice University.

Designed and taught this course for graduate students, which explores the physical acoustics, anatomy, and health of the human voice in a hands-on approach.

Voice Teaching Assistant

Fall 2015 – Spring 2021, Rice University

Lead studio class in the absence of Dr. Stephen King, proctor for visiting studio lecturers, and programming of studio recitals for undergraduate and graduate voice students.

Diction

Fall 2016 – Spring 2019

Spring English, Italian, French, and German, Lone Star College – Kingwood.

A sequence of four diction classes, 1 credit hour each, for undergraduates for two hours each week. Topics included IPA, poetic analysis, and word for word analysis of songs and arias and includes a hybrid of online and in class material.

Fundamentals of Music

Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Rice University.

Fundamentals of music to non-major undergraduate students. Topics covered included rhythm, melody, harmony, and individual composition, as well as music appreciation.

Masterclasses Given

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University of the Incarnate Word	Spring 2022
Lone Star College - Montgomery	Fall 2019
Lonestar College - Kingwood	Fall 2019
University of Northern Iowa	Spring 2019
Lawrence University One-week Residency	Fall 2019

Service Activities

Digital Content Creation for Social Media Engagement and Recruitment

The University of Memphis, Fall 2021

University of Texas at San Antonio, Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Edit and record videos and voice-overs for multiple recruitment videos used in both private and public Department of Music recruitment initiatives.

Vocal Arts Series

University of Texas at San Antonio, Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

Administrated a series of themed performances to create more opportunities for the students. In the 2020-2021 academic year, they were pre-recorded and edited together into a video which publicly premiered on YouTube with over a thousand combined views.

Students National Association of Teachers of Singing (SNATS) Faculty Advisor

University of Texas at San Antonio, Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

Advise a student lead organization focusing on vocal pedagogy. Activities include karaoke events and guest masterclasses among other things.

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Scholarly Projects & Presentations

Singing Voice Science Workshop – Presenter & Private Sessions

Summer 2021 & Summer 2022

An international clinic on science-related voice pedagogy based at Montclair State University. Presentations include voice-type and style-specific pedagogies, as well as the use of the spectrograph to visualize the singing voice.

VoceVista Workshop at The University of Kentucky – Presenter

Fall 2021

A three-day workshop for students and faculty on the pedagogical applications of the spectrograph software *VoceVista* for the singing voice.

War in Modern Music

Rice University, Spring 2021

A recital focusing on 20th and 21st-century art songs on the theme of war; examining how the public perception of the experiences of soldiers and their families have skewed over time toward its darker realities.

VoceVista: Synthesizing the Singing Voice in Real Time

Lawrence University, Fall 2021

Lawrence University, Fall 2020

Texoma NATS Conference, Fall 2019

A presentation exploring the capabilities and possible uses of the tone generator component of the spectrograph software *VoceVista* as a pedagogical tool and digital practice room for vocal technique.

Continuing Education & Conferences

National Association of Teachers of Singing National Conference	Chicago, IL	2022
Texas Music Educators Association	San Antonio, TX	2022
Acoustic Vocal Pedagogy Summer Workshop	New England Conservatory of Music (Online)	2020

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National Association of Teachers of Singing National Conference	Knoxville, TN (Online)	2020
Performing Arts Medicine Conference	Lone Star College – University Park	2020
Voice Workshop (various courses)	Suffolk, UK (Online)	2020
Singing Voice Science Workshop	Montclair State University	2020
Singing Voice Science Workshop	Montclair State University	2019
Acoustic Vocal Pedagogy Bjorklunden Seminar	Lawrence University	2016
National Association of Teachers of Singing National Conference	Minneapolis, MN	2006

Student Successes

Spring 2022

Cordara Harper	Featured in “Jam Sessions” in the National Association for Teaching Music Education’s January 2022 issue of <i>Teaching Music</i>
Sullivan Ojala-Hembolt	Waitlisted for Aspen Opera Theater’s VocalARTS Program Performed as Il Conte in the University of Memphis Opera Department’s production of <i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i> Finalist for Opera Memphis Nuevas Canciones Competition Performed selections from <i>Carmina Burana</i> with the University of Memphis Wind Ensemble
Carlos Romero	Performed as Figaro in the University of Memphis Opera Department’s production of <i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i> Finalist for Opera Memphis Nuevas Canciones Competition
Bradley Sowell	Performed as Bartolo in the University of Memphis Opera Department’s production of <i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i>

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Il Conte in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with FAVA Salzburg

Camden Kegley

Performed as Antonio in the University of Memphis Opera Department's production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*
Second Place in Memphis Beethoven Club Competition

Fall 2021

Sullivan Ojala-Helmbolt

Performed as Robin Oakapple in the University of Memphis Opera Department's production of *Ruddigore*

Carlos Romero

Performed as part of Opera Memphis's "Latinfest"

Chris Rose

Performed as Richard in the University of Memphis Opera Department's production of *Ruddigore*

Spring 2021

Alejandro Cuellar

Performed Pancho in UTSA Lyric Theatre's *Una Vieja* and cover Pasqual in *El Grumete*

Joshua Moncada-Zoll

Performed Pasqual in UTSA Lyric Theatre's *El Grumete*

Kaylee Rios

Performed Lady 3 in UTSA Lyric Theatre's *A Picnic Cantata*

Fall 2020

Osvaldo Chacon

Semi-finalist, Sophomore TBB at Texoma NATS

Kyree Harrison

Performed in UTSA Lyric Theatre's *Speed Dating Tonight*

Gabrielle Sharp

Finalist, Sophomore Treble at Texoma NATS

Hector Tobar

5th Place, Junior TBB at Texoma NATS (\$80)
Performed in UTSA Lyric Theatre's *Speed Dating Tonight*

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Spring 2020

Osvaldo Chacon	Awarded San Antonio Gardenia Club Music Scholarship (\$500)
Hector Tobar	Awarded Opera Guild of San Antonio Fellowship (\$500) Performed the Count in UTSA Lyric Theatre's <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>
Madison Tobin	Covered Cherubino in UTSA Lyric Theatre's <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>
Gabrielle Sharp	Awarded Oscar J. Fox Outstanding Freshman in Voice Award (\$500)

Solo Performing Experience

Opera

Musiqqa	<i>Kassandra</i> (Commercial Recording)	2022
Opera in the Heights	Highlights from <i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i> and <i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i>	2021
UT-San Antonio Lyric Theater	<i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> - Figaro	2020
Opera in the Heights	<i>Kassandra</i> – Apollo (premiere)	2020
Opera in the Heights	<i>Les pêcheurs de perles</i> - Nourabad Eiki Isomura, Cond., John de Los Santos, Dir.	2017
American Bach Soloists	<i>Parnasso in festa</i> - Mars Jeffrey Thomas, Cond.	2016
Houston Grand Opera (HGOco)	<i>What Wings the Were</i> - Peter Gray (premiere)	2016
Opera in the Heights	<i>La Cenerentola</i> - Alidoro Eiki Isomura Cond., David Ward, Dir.	2016

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Rice University	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i> - Bartolo Richard Bado, Cond.	2015
Houston Grand Opera (HGOco)	<i>O Columbia</i> – Bass (premiere) Timothy Myers, Cond., Kevin Newbury, Dir.	2015
American Bach Soloists	<i>Sémélé</i> (Marais) - Jupiter	2015
Detroit Symphony Orchestra	<i>Tosca</i> - Jailer Leonard Slatkin, Cond.	2015
Opera Theatre of Weston	<i>The Secret Garden</i> - Archibald Craven Nolan Gasser, Comp.	2015
Castleton Festival	<i>Madama Butterfly</i> - Yakuside/*Bonze Brad Moore, Cond. Tomer Zvulun, Dir.	2014
Castleton Festival	<i>Don Giovanni</i> - Il Commendatore Salvatore Percacciolo, Cond., Giandomenico Vaccari, Dir.	2014
Rice University	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i> - Don Bartolo Richard Bado, Cond., Vera Calábria, Dir.	2013
Skylight Theatre	<i>Fidelio</i> - Rocco Viswa Subbaraman, Cond.	2013
La Coruña, Spain	<i>La fanciulla del West</i> - Ashby Lorin Maazel, Cond. Giandomenico Vaccari, Dir.	2013
Castleton Festival	<i>La fanciulla del West</i> - Ashby Lorin Maazel, Cond. Giandomenico Vaccari, Dir.	2013
Opera Naples	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> - Peter Quince Richard Bernas, Cond., Cecil Mackinnon, Dir.	2013
Opera Theatre of Weston	<i>Noye's Fludde</i> - Noye	2013

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The Royal Opera House of Muscat	<i>La bohème</i> - *Benoît / *Alcindoro Lorin Maazel, Cond.	2012
Castleton Festival	<i>A Little Night Music</i> - Fredrik Levi Hammer, Cond., Dottie Danner, Dir.	2012
Castleton Festival	<i>Carmen</i> - Zuniga Lorin Maazel, Cond. William Kerley, Dir.	2012
Castleton Festival	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i> - Fiorello Lorin Maazel, Cond. William Kerley, Dir.	2012
Opera Colorado	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i> - #Figaro John Baril, Cond., David Gately, Dir.	2012
Opera Colorado	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i> - Antonio John Baril, Cond., David Gately, Dir.	2011
Opera Colorado	<i>Trouble in Tahiti</i> - Sam Brad Trexell, Dir.	2011
Opera Colorado	<i>Carmen</i> - #Escamillo Cherity Koepke, Dir.	2011
Aspen Opera Theater Center	<i>Westside Story</i> - Gee-tar Edward Berkely, Dir., Michael Christie, Cond.	2011
Aspen Opera Theater Center	<i>Falstaff</i> - Pistola Tomas Netopil, Cond., Mary Duncan, Dir.	2011
Rice University	<i>Our Town</i> - Dr. Gibbs Richard Bado, Cond. Mary Duncan, Dir.	2011
Rice University	<i>L'Incoronazione di Poppea</i> - Seneca Richard Bado, Cond. Debra Dickinson, Dir.	2010
Aspen Opera Theater Center	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i> - Don Basilio Josep Caballe-Domenech, Cond.	2010

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Garnett Bruce, Dir.

Rice University	<i>A Little Night Music</i> - Bertrand Richard Bado, Cond. Debra Dickinson, Dir.	2010
Rice University	<i>Ariadne Auf Naxos</i> - Ein Lackai Richard Bado, Cond. Debra Dickinson, Dir.	2009
Lawrence University	<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> - Falstaff David Becker, Cond. John Gates, Dir.	2008

Concert

Classical Music Institute of San Antonio	<i>Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen</i>	2023
Bach Society Houston	Leipzig Bach Festival	2023
Bach Society Houston	Erickson's <i>Passion</i>	2023
Bach Society Houston	300 th Anniversary Vespers	2023
Ars Lyrica	<i>A Marian Feast</i>	2022
Bach Society Houston	Bach's <i>Christmas Oratorio</i>	2022
Symphony of the Hills	Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	2022
San Antonio Mastersingers	Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	2022
Second Presbyterian Church of Louisville	Haydn's <i>The Creation</i>	2022
St. Thomas Episcopal Church Houston	Howell's <i>By the Waters of Babylon</i> & Fauré's <i>Requiem</i>	2022
Bach Society Houston	Oktoberfest Vespers	2022

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Ars Lyrica Houston	Purcell's <i>Hail, Bright Cecilia</i> and <i>Welcome to All the Pleasures</i>	2022
Harmonia Stellarum Houston	Schütz's <i>Musikalische Exequien</i> & Philippe de Monte's <i>Requiem</i>	2022
Classical Music Institute of San Antonio	Beethoven Folk Songs	2022
Classical Music Institute of San Antonio	Sylvie Bodorova's <i>Terezin Ghetto Requiem</i>	2022
Classical Music Institute of San Antonio	Lori Laitman's <i>Men with Small Heads</i>	2022
Bach Society Houston	<i>Schweig stille, plaudert nicht</i>	2022
First Fine Arts Series at First Baptist Church San Antonio	Recital	2022
Bach Society Houston	<i>O Jesu Christ, meins Lebens Licht</i>	2022
Sam Houston Art Song Festival	War in Modern Art Song (recital)	2022
Monocle, LLC	<i>Here, Bullet</i> (Commercial Recording)	2021
Cantos Para Hermanar al Mundo	Holiday Concert	2021
Symphony of the Hills	Beethoven 9	2021
Classical Music Institute	Savor the Music	2021
Bach Society Houston	<i>Wer Dank opfert, der preiset mich</i>	2021
Rice University	War in Modern Art Song (Recital)	2021
Classical Music Institute of San Antonio	Schubert & Beethoven (Recital)	2021
Symphony of the Hills	Beethoven <i>Symphony #9</i>	2020
Victoria Bach Festival	Holiday Concert	2020

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Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 61</i>	2020
University of Texas at San Antonio	<i>Cornelius's Sweet Freedom's Song</i> (premiere)	2020
First Baptist Church of San Antonio	Lang's <i>The Little Match Girl Passion</i>	2020
Oregon Bach Festival	<i>Various</i>	2020
New American Voices	Lang's <i>The Little Match Girl Passion</i> & Crouch's <i>Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird</i>	2020
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 36</i>	2019
UT-San Antonio Choirs and Orchestra	<i>Bach Magnificat</i>	2019
UT-San Antonio Symphonic Band	<i>A Lincoln Address</i>	2019
Faculty Chamber Recital (UT-San Antonio)	Howell's <i>By the Waters of Babylon</i>	2019
Oregon Bach Festival	<i>Various</i>	2019
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 67</i>	2019
Bach Society Houston	<i>St Matthew Passion</i>	2019
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 69</i>	2019
Lone Star College - CyFair	Herrington's " <i>Notes in a Minister's Hymnbook</i> " (premiere)	2019
Kingwood Chorale	<i>Italian Seasoning</i>	2018
Opera in the Heights	<i>Artist Showcase</i>	2018
Bach Society Houston	<i>Righini Mass in D Minor</i>	2018

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Oregon Bach Festival	<i>Various</i>	2018
Victoria Bach Festival	<i>Mozart Requiem</i>	2018
Houston Grand Opera	<i>Jewish Liturgical Concert</i>	2018
Civic Symphony of Green Bay	<i>Verdi Requiem</i>	2018
Bach Society Houston	<i>Brookes Passion - HWV 48</i>	2018
Bach Society Houston	<i>Magnificat - BWV 243</i>	2017
Bach Society Houston	<i>Mass in B minor - BWV 232</i>	2017
Manchester Music Festival	<i>Evening of Opera</i>	2017
Oregon Bach Festival	<i>Various</i>	2017
Leipzig Bach Festival with Bach Society Houston	<i>Various</i>	2017
Bach Society Houston	<i>St. John Passion</i>	2017
St, Martin's Episcopal Church	<i>Lord Nelson Mass</i>	2017
Rice University	<i>Schubert's Schwanengesang</i>	2017
Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church Houston	<i>The Messiah</i>	2016
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 61</i>	2016
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 80</i>	2016
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 75</i>	2016
American Bach Soloists Academy	<i>Parnasso in festa</i>	2016
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 147</i>	2016

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Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Oster-Oratorium</i>	2016
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 71</i>	2015
American Bach Soloists Academy	<i>Sémélé</i>	2015
American Bach Soloists Academy	<i>Bach Mass in B Minor</i>	2015
American Bach Soloists Academy	<i>Bach Cantata 56</i>	2015
American Bach Soloists Academy	<i>Bach Cantata 79</i>	2015
Ars Lyrica	<i>Alexander's Feast</i>	2015
St. Martin's Episcopal Church	<i>Beethoven Mass in C</i>	2015
Lawrence University	<i>Bach St. John Passion</i>	2015
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 4</i>	2015
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach St. Matthew Passion</i>	2015
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 196</i>	2015
Rice University	Carl Blench's "Disorder" (premiere)	2015
Bach Society Houston	<i>C.P.E. Bach Magnificat</i>	2015
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 144</i>	2014
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 147</i>	2014
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 187</i>	2014
Bach Society Houston	<i>Bach Cantata 71</i>	2014
Choral Arts Society of Louisville	<i>Mozart Requiem</i>	2012
Choral Arts Society of Louisville	<i>Bach St. Matthew Passion</i>	2011

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Ensemble Performing Experience

Harmonia Stellarum, Vocal Artist 2022-Present
Victoria Bach Festival, Chorus Member 2017-Present
Oregon Bach Festival, Chorus Member 2017-Present
Bach Society Houston, Ensemble Member and Bass Soloist 2010-2011, 2014-Present
Piping Rock Singers, Chorus Member 2017-2020
Chorus Angelorum Houston, Ensemble Member 2015-2020
Houston Grand Opera Chorus, Ensemble Member 2014
Cantare Houston, Ensemble Member 2012-2014
St. Martin's Episcopal Church Choir, Choir Member and Bass Soloist 2010-2019
First Presbyterian Church of Neenah, Ensemble Member 2006-2009

Young Artist Programs and Summer Festivals

Castleton Festival

Principal Artist 2012-2014
Il Commendatore (*Don Giovanni*), Ashby (*La fanciulla del West*)
Zuniga (*Carmen*), Fiorello (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*)

Opera Colorado

Young Artist 2011-2012
Figaro (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Sam (*Trouble in Tahiti*)
Escamillo (*Carmen*)

Aspen Music Festival and School

Participant 2010, 2011
Don Basilio (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*), Pistola (*Falstaff*),
Gee-tar (*West Side Story*)

Chatauqua School of Music Voice Program

Participant 2008

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Awards and Honors

Rice University, Lynne and Joe Hudson Scholarship in Voice 2015
Metropolitan Opera National Council, Gulf Coast Regional Finalist 2015
Metropolitan Opera National Council, Rocky Mountain Regional Finalist 2012
Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition, Sixth Place 2012
Opera Colorado, Harold Norblum Young Artist Award 2012
Eleanor McCollum Competition at Houston Grand Opera, Semi-Finalist 2012
Rice University, Atkinson Memorial Tuition Award 2010-2011
Rice University, Shepherd School of Music Tuition Award 2009-2010
Lawrence University, Lawrence University Music and Academic Scholarship 2005-2009

Professional Associations

American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA)
College Music Society (CMS)
National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS)
National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC)
Pan American Vocology Association (PAVA)

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References

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Rick Erickson

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