

# Spencer Dee Hansen (he/him)

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AEA, Music Director, Educator, Pianist, Performer

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## University Education

MFA Acting - West Virginia University 2024

*Full Tuition Waiver and Teaching/Pianist Assistantship*

*Thesis Title: "Ask The Duke, Why: How Fabrications Can Undermine Impact in Shakespeare's Measure for Measure"*

BFA Musical Theatre, Specialization in Music Direction - Texas State University 2017

*Magna Cum Laude*

*National Council of Scholars*

*Pioneer of the Music Direction Specialization Degree Program*

## Additional Training

Rob Clare - Royal Shakespeare Company/National Theatre 2019-Present

*Specialized Shakespeare Analysis and Acting Training*

Scott Freeman Studio - Alex Neil 2018-2020

*Scene Study, Acting Training*

Upright Citizen's Brigade - Lou Gonzalez 2018-2020

*Improvisation, Sketch Writing*

Growing Studio - Book of Mormon 2019

*Work sessions with NYC casting directors*

Theatre Apprenticeship - Theatre Aspen 2015

*Performed in main season/workshops and devised apprentice showcase*

Bob Krakower - On-Camera Acting 2015

*Focused on making accurate and organic choices quickly*

## Teaching Experience

Texas State University	Assistant Professor of Practice	2024-Present
<i>Taught and refined curriculum for MT Musicianship I and II; Served as Music Director, Accompanist, Music Coach, Music Supervisor, and Composer/Arranger for Season Productions, Theatrical Workshops, and Student Enrichment</i>		
West Virginia University	Graduate Teaching Assistant	2021-2024
<i>Taught Acting the Song, Introduction to Acting, Accompanist Etiquette; Served as Music Director, Rehearsal/Classroom/Audition Accompanist, and Vocal Coach</i>		
Nexus	Faculty/MD/Accompanist	2023
<i>Taught Intro to Musicianship, Accompanist Etiquette; Served as Music Director and Rehearsal/Classroom/Audition Accompanist</i>		
Camp Baco/Chenawah	Instructor/MD/Accompanist	2023
<i>Served as Music Director and Rehearsal Accompanist</i>		
Summer at Sem	Instructor/MD/Accompanist	2018-2022
<i>Taught Shakespeare Acting, Acting the Song, Ballet, Tap, Accompanist Etiquette; Served as Music Director, Rehearsal/Classroom/Audition Accompanist, and Vocal Coach</i>		
Marymount Manhattan Uni.	Music Coach/Accompanist	2018-2019
<i>Served as Classroom/Audition Accompanist and Vocal Coach</i>		
Pace University	Music Coach/Accompanist	2018-2019
<i>Served as Classroom/Audition Accompanist and Acting Coach</i>		
Texas State University	Teaching Assistant/MD/Accompanist	2013-2017
<i>Assisted the Teaching of Singing for the Actor; Served as Music Director, Rehearsal/Classroom/Audition Accompanist, and Vocal Coach</i>		
Rose Summer Intensive	Voice Teacher/Accompanist	2008-2013
<i>Served as Music Director, Rehearsal/Audition Accompanist, and Vocal Coach</i>		
Oregon Children's Choirs	Voice Teacher/Accompanist	2008-2013
<i>Served as Music Director, Rehearsal Accompanist, and Vocal Coach</i>		

## Courses Taught

MT Musicianship I	Texas State University	2024-Present
<i>Offered detailed instruction in fundamentals of musicianship for the Musical Theatre performer, including notation, meters, scales, key signatures, intervals, chords, and sight singing. Equal emphasis is placed on practical skills and theoretical analysis of the musical theatre canon.</i>		
Fundamentals of Voice	West Virginia University	2023-2024
<i>Taught sustainable and practical vocal production techniques to undergraduate theatre majors at the 200 level.</i>		
Acting the Song	West Virginia University	2023

*Taught a mix of Junior Musical Theatre and Acting BFA's through the musical application of acting techniques, character connection, and song analysis.*

Introduction to Acting	West Virginia University	2021-2024
<i>Taught the beginning level Acting course to a variety of undergraduates. Focused on the fundamentals of character building and organic interaction.</i>		
Shakespeare Acting	Summer at Sem	2018-2022
<i>Taught scansion and poetic analysis in Shakespeare's text. Focused on creating a natural sound using analytical work to inform character and story.</i>		
Vocal Technique	Summer at Sem/Marymount Manhattan	2018-2022
<i>Coaching students through navigating challenging musical pieces. Focused on ease of sound, pitch/rhythmic accuracy, and intentional music choices.</i>		
Singing for the Actor	Texas State University	2015-2017
<i>Assisted Kaitlin Hopkins in teaching the fundamentals of character and storytelling through song to a variety of undergraduate performers.</i>		

### Workshops Taught

Dialects and IPA	West Virginia University	2023-Present
<i>Utilizing Knight-Thompson techniques, I have taught workshops breaking down several dialects ranging from Glaswegian Scottish to Yiddish (Poland).</i>		
Accompanist Etiquette	TXST/WVU/Nexus/NEMC	2018-Present
<i>Teaching advanced industry techniques for working/communicating with an audition accompanist.</i>		
Advanced Song Analysis	West Virginia University	2023
<i>Combining scansion and music theory, this course approaches characterization and storytelling through in-depth musical analysis.</i>		
Theory for Actors	West Virginia University/SAS	2018-2023
<i>Teaching a customized curriculum that gives musical actors the knowledge they need in preparation for professional work.</i>		

### Teaching Areas

Musicianship/Music Theory, Acting (all levels), Shakespeare, Musical Theatre Performance, Meisner Technique, Dialects, IPA, Audition Techniques, Accompanist Etiquette, Music Direction

### Current Research Interests

### Consent for Unscripted Acting Exercises

Many scene study/acting classes incorporate unscripted exercises as part of their curriculum without establishing a base expectation of safety and consent before asking students

to improvise without a scenario or a script. I am particularly interested in finding acting exercises that emphasize and establish consent and boundaries before the improvisation begins.

### **Song Analysis Using Scansion Techniques**

The music/underscore/accompaniment to Musical Theatre songs can give the actor clues towards characterization and story just as Shakespeare's poetic structure does. I am interested in forming musical analysis techniques that allow actors to scan songs like they would Shakespeare's text.

### **Accompanist Etiquette Standardization**

There are dozens of differing opinions on how actors should interact with their accompanist. I am interested in providing instructions to actors that guide them through all the required aspects of a professional audition while maximizing the artistic fruitfulness of their limited time at the piano.

## **Industry Experience**

### **Music Director/Music Supervisor (Professional)**

2024	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	West Virginia Public Theatre
2023	<i>Narnia</i>	West Virginia Public Theatre
2023	<i>Switched (Workshop)</i>	Texas State University
2022	<i>I Do, I Do!</i>	West Virginia Public Theatre
2022	<i>Community Garden</i>	West Virginia Public Theatre
2021	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	West Virginia Public Theatre
2019	<i>Book of Merman</i>	St. Luke's Theatre (NYC)
2019	<i>My Favorite Murder Cabaret</i>	Green Room 42 (NYC)
2018	<i>A Charlie Brown Christmas</i>	National Tour
2017	<i>Curious George and the Golden Meatball</i>	Little Theatre On The Square
2017	<i>Fancy Nancy</i>	Little Theatre On The Square
2016	<i>Dear Edwina</i>	Theatre Aspen

### **Performer (Professional)**

2022	<i>Ghost Brothers... (dir. Jeff Calhoun)</i>	West Virginia Public Theatre
2019	<i>Billboard on Board</i>	Holland America Lines
2019	<i>Follies</i>	Astoria Performing Arts Project
2018	<i>A Charlie Brown Christmas</i>	National Tour
2017	<i>Mama Mia</i>	Little Theatre On The Square
2017	<i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i>	Little Theatre On The Square
2017	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	Little Theatre On The Square

2016	<i>Mama Mia</i>	Theatre Aspen
2015	<i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i>	Theatre Aspen
2015	<i>Cabaret</i>	Theatre Aspen
2015	<i>Junie B. Jones</i>	Theatre Aspen
2015	<i>Huzzah (Laurence O'Keefe+Nell Benjamin)</i>	Theatre Aspen
2013	<i>The Music Man</i>	Oregon Festival of American Music
2012	<i>Kiss Me Kate</i>	Oregon Festival of American Music
2011	<i>Girl Crazy</i>	Oregon Festival of American Music

### **Music Director/Music Supervisor (Academic)**

2024	<i>The Complete Picture</i>	Texas State University
2023	<i>Ride the Cyclone</i>	West Virginia University
2023	<i>Something Rotten</i>	Camp Baco/Chenawah
2023	<i>Willy Wonka Jr.</i>	Camp Baco/Chenawah
2022	<i>Pippin</i>	Summer At Sem
2022	<i>Run Towards Fear</i>	West Virginia University
2017	<i>The World According to Snoopy (Andrew Lippa)</i>	Texas State University
2016	<i>Intimate Apparel (original score)</i>	Texas State University
2016	<i>Legally Blonde</i>	Texas State University
2016	<i>Romeo &amp; Juliet</i>	Texas State University
2015	<i>Lyon's Den</i>	Texas State University
2015	<i>[title of show]</i>	Texas State University
2013	<i>Yerma</i>	Texas State University

### **Performer (Academic)**

2024	<i>Book of Will</i>	West Virginia University
2023	<i>Measure for Measure</i>	West Virginia University
2022	<i>Indecent</i>	West Virginia University
2022	<i>Carrie</i>	West Virginia University
2021	<i>Airness</i>	West Virginia University
2016	<i>Romeo &amp; Juliet</i>	Texas State University
2016	<i>25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>	Texas State University
2015	<i>Evita</i>	Texas State University
2014	<i>Rent</i>	Texas State University
2014	<i>Anything Goes</i>	Texas State University

## **Miscellaneous Skills/Training**

Professional Piano

Music Transcription/Arrangement/Composition (Experience with Finale, Sibelius, Musescore)

Advanced Dialects

Firearm Safety

Beginning French

Basic ASL

Advanced Vedic Meditation

Sport Fencing

Professional Cake Decoration