

Allison Michel Lewis

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EDUCATION

University of Kansas, **Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance with an emphasis in Operatic Studies (BM)**

University of Kansas, **Master of Arts in African and African American Studies (MA)**

University of Kansas, **Doctor of Philosophy in American Studies (PhD – estimated graduation date May 2025)**

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Director of “The Melting Pot Singers” | March 2019**
 - This program focused on teaching Middle School student-singers vocal technique and black musical literature through an afro-centric lens at the Melting Pot Theater in Kansas City.
 - Researched, created the syllabus for, constructed a research methodology for, did logistics and planning, and musically directed this program.
- **Founding Member of Musicians for an Anti-Racist College | July 2020 - Current**
 - MARC is an organization of current and former students from the KU School of Music (KUSM) who advocate for the intellectual, emotional, and professional agency of current student musicians. We do this by taking direct action against racist, exploitative, and patriarchal institutional practices; partnering with organizations throughout KU and the larger Lawrence community; and facilitating critical spaces for decolonial thought within music studies.
 - Acting president, lead hiring Black faculty initiatives, recruited, and built relationships with applicants, constructed the political and theoretical framework for the organization, lead efforts to protect marginalized students from predatory practices of administration and faculty.
- **Writer and Director of “Reflections Through the River: A Visual Album” | March 2020**
 - “Reflections through the River” is a visual album and short film that used the music of African American composer, Margaret Bonds, and the poetry of Langston Hughes to discuss the role racist imagery in media plays in violence perpetrated against Black women. Focused on the murder of Breonna Taylor, this project aimed to be in conversation with current social movements such as #sayhername and to be educational material for middle school and high school students.
 - Wrote the script, hired all musicians, artists, and crew, allocated funds, scheduled rehearsals, and shooting times, and provided all historical research.
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F3OmGzwLFfRmZTofrMu11xjBkqyISrRa/view>
- **Black Opera Database | August 2020 - Current**
 - Creator and co-researcher for the Black Opera Database project, a digital humanities and archival research initiative that searches and documents operas created by Black composers and/or librettists.
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MU-C9LkIhtsLphINGNty9qYIla5AGIQh8cR8yFAdvU/edit?usp=sharing>
- **Mixed Reviews with Allison and Aubrey: A Podcast | 2020 – 2021**
 - Head writer, co-host, and producer of “Mixed Reviews with Allison and Aubrey” is a movie review podcast that uses a Black feminist lens to examine Black cinema.
 - <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/mixed-reviews-with-allison-aubrey/id1484593938>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Kansas

AAAS 104: Introduction to African American Studies | Fall 2017, Fall 2018 | Dr. Tony Bolden

AAAS 323: Sports, Race, and Society | Spring 2018 | Dr. Shawn Alexander

AMS 110: American Identities | Fall 2020, Spring 2021 | Dr. Ben Chappell and Dr. Dave Roediger

AMS 100: Introduction to American Studies | Fall 2021 | Dr. Ray Pence, Dr. Randall Jelks

- Lead Discussion classes for 60+ students.
- Provided additional educational materials
- Lead and constructed writing retreats for students.
- Available for one-on-one instruction and tutoring.

Instructor of Record, University of Kansas

- AMS 100: Introduction to American Studies | Summer 2022, Fall 2022

AWARDS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, and CONFERENCES

American Studies Association Conference | New Orleans, November 2022

- Presenter – “Metropolitan Narratives: Black Opera Archives as Sites for Reparative Justice”

American Musicology Association Conference | New Orleans, November 2022

- Presenter – “Metropolitan Narratives: Black Opera Archives as Sites for Reparative Justice”

Hall of Humanities Summer Fellow at the Black Archives of Mid America | Summer 2022

Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) recipient for Wolof | Summer and Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2021, Spring 2022

- This scholarship provided funding to meritorious students undergoing training in international languages.
- I was awarded funding to study at home and abroad, The West African Research Center (WARC), Senegalese language Wolof.

Charting Black Opera | Black Opera Research Network, June 17, 2021

- Panelist

Affiliate Scholar and Researcher at the Black Opera Research Network | 2020 – 2022

- BORN is a community and network that serves to platform conversations on the history, politics, experiences, and practices of Black Opera.
- I was invited to become an affiliate scholar of this network due to my research accomplishments with the Black Opera Database.
- <http://blackoperaresearch.net/affiliates/>

Kansas African Studies center (KASC) Graduate Research Conference | University of Kansas, April 12, 2019

- Presenter - “*The American Sound: The Educational Tradition of African-American Music Making and the Burden of Sound*”
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j2W1YOXrFUQRlrnnG3YbMcMHOOZ0gbmU/edit?usp=sharing&oid=114661987072211483244&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Midwest Music Research Collective (MMRC) Spring Symposium | University of Kansas, April 13, 2019

- Presenter - “*The American Sound: The Educational Tradition of African-American Music Making and the Burden of Sound*”
- March 26-27, 2021 | Panel Moderator

The Commons Red Hot Graduate Research Conference | University of Kansas, November 22, 2019

- Presenter - “*The American Sound: The Educational Tradition of African-American Music Making and the Burden of Genre*”

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Student Outreach Program Volunteer at the Willow Domestic Violence Center | August 2015 – August 2016

- This program focused on teaching Middle School students about abusive relationships, how to identify them, avoid them, and leave them safely.

“In the Blood” Play by Suzanne Lori-Parks | Fall 2019

- Singer and Music Consultant | University of Kansas Theater Department, directed by Timmia DeRoy

“Urinetown: The Home Video Musical” | October 2020

- Singer, Performer, and Musical Director | University of Kansas Theater Department, directed by Timmia DeRoy | Presented at the KU Theater Department’s Film Festival.

“EVERYBODY” Play by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins | Fall 2022

- Music Curator | University of Kansas Theater Department, directed by Timmia DeRoy