# KRISTOF VAN GRYSPERRE, D.M.A.

Collaborative Pianist • Vocal Coach • Conductor • Opera Educator

Arcadia, California • (626) 636-1135 • kristof@vangrysperre.com • ww.vangrysperre.com

## Professional Summary

Collaborative pianist, vocal coach, conductor, and opera educator with 25+ years of experience preparing singers and pianists for professional careers. Specialist in vocal and operatic repertoire, diction, audition and role preparation, and interdisciplinary Opera Workshop pedagogy. Conducting informs a deep understanding of musical architecture and ensemble communication, enriching both coaching and rehearsal leadership. Known for a text-first, expressive coaching approach and for mentoring students into top graduate programs and young-artist opportunities.

## Areas of Specialization

- Collaborative Piano (vocal & instrumental)
- Vocal Coaching (opera, art song, musical theater)
- Conducting (opera, orchestra, contemporary works)
- Opera Workshop & Scene Preparation
- Lyric Diction: Italian, French, German, English, Dutch, Latin
- Audition & Prescreening Preparation
- Chamber Music Coaching
- Applied KCA Piano and Conducting Instruction
- Operatic Performance Practice
- Multimedia Opera Production
- Recording Engineering & Video Production
- Score Preparation & Reduced Opera Scenes Orchestrations (70+)
- Curriculum Design & Artistic Leadership

## Academic and Institutional Appointments

**Azusa Pacific University (2021–2025)**
*Director of Opera & Vocal Studies; Vocal Coach; Collaborative Piano Faculty*
- Directed Opera Workshop (music + staging)
- Mentored faculty and coached undergraduate, graduate and Artist Certificate students
- Prepared pianists for acceptance into USC KCA (with scholarship)

**Angels Vocal Art (2015–present)**
*Artistic Director & CEO; Conductor; Vocal Coach*
- Oversaw artistic vision, programming, production design
- Conducted full productions *(The Consul, Tosca, etc.)*
- Coached emerging artists; produced audition video recordings

**University of Southern California (2002–2004)**
*Acting Music Director, USC Opera; Lecturer*
- Conducted USC Opera productions *(Così fan Tutte, Der Schauspieldirektor, Gianni Schicchi)*
- Taught "Word & Music in Opera" and opera coaching

**Long Beach Opera (2013-2018)**
*Resident Conductor; Artistic Administrator; Chorus Master*
- Conducted mainstage and contemporary works
- Prepared chorus and coached principal soloists
- Supported artistic planning and music licensing

**Cal State University Los Angeles (2016)**
*Music Director, CSULA Opera*
- Conducted Philip Glass's *Hydrogen Jukebox*

**Intimate Opera Company (2006–2010)**
*Music Director & Conductor*

**Baltimore Opera Studio (2005)**
*Music Director & Vocal Coach (Young Artist Program)*

**SongFest (2004–2009)**
*Music Director — Young Artist Opera Program*

**Academy of Veurne & Ieper, Belgium (2009–2012)**
*Professor of Piano & Chamber Music*

**Additional Institutional Coaching**
*Tanglewood Music Center • Aspen Opera Theater • European Center for Opera & Vocal Art*

## Courses Taught

- Opera Workshop
- Operatic History & Performance Practice
- Advanced & Professional Vocal Coaching
- Artist Certificate Chamber Music
- Preparing the Total Performer
- Applied Conducting
- Applied KCA Piano
- Seminar in Professional Preparation

## Selected Conducting Credits

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Impresario & Other Operatic Affairs | APU Opera | 2025 |
| The Old Maid and the Thief | APU Opera | 2024 |
| The Consul | Angels Vocal Art | 2023 |
| Tosca | Angels Vocal Art | 2023 |
| Marilyn Forever | APU Opera | 2023 |
| Suor Angelica | APU Opera | 2022 |
| Cosi fan Tutte | APU Opera | 2020 |
| Il Trittico | Angels Vocal Art | 2019 |
| Evening of Opera | Carnegie Hall | 2019 |
| The Consul | Chicago Opera Theater | 2017 |
| Candide | Long Beach Opera | 2016 |
| Fallujah | New York City Opera | 2016 |
| Anya17 | Angels Vocal Art | 2016 |
| Hydrogen Jukebox | Long Beach Opera | 2015 |
| La Traviata | Angels Vocal Art | 2015 |
| The Difficulty of Crossing a Field | Long Beach Opera | 2014 |
| King Gesar | Long Beach Opera | 2013 |
| The Mikado | Intimate Opera Company | 2008 |
| L'Elisir d'Amore | Opera Pacific | 2007 |
| Die Fledermaus | Intimate Opera Company | 2007 |

## Selected Coaching Credits

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Carmen (Highlights) | New West Symphony | 2025 |
| La Voix Humaine | Angels Vocal Art | 2021 |
| Don Giovanni | Bakersfield Symphony | 2014 |
| Il Barbiere di Siviglia | Bakersfield Symphony | 2015 |
| Fidelio | Bakersfield Symphony | 2005 |
| Wagner/Verdi excerpts | Bakersfield Symphony | 2013 |
| La Traviata | Bakersfield Symphony | 2009 |
| Carmen | Bakersfield Symphony | 2007 |
| Le Grand Macabre | Tanglewood | 2003 |
| Il Tabarro | Long Beach Opera | 2000 |
| Volo di Notte | Long Beach Opera | 2000 |
| Golem | Aspen Opera Theater | 2000 |
| Il Viaggio a Reims | ECOV | 1993 |
| La Tragédie de Carmen | ECOV | 1993 |
| Don Giovanni | ECOV | 1992 |

## Recordings & CD Albums

- Recorded & played for hundreds of audition videos at AVA Studio (2020–present)
- A Moment of Joy (2009)
- KMZT-FM Recital (2005)
- Chamber Music CD Releases on the Phaedra & René Gailly labels (1996)

## Awards & Honors

- Fulbright Grant
- Belgian Foundation SPES Fellowship
- AmCham Gold Scholarship
- Gwendolyn Koldofsky Fellowship (USC)
- Tanglewood Fellowship
- Laureate, Belgian Foundation of Vocation

## Education

- DMA – Keyboard Collaborative Arts (Musicology, Choral & Opera Conducting), University of Southern California (USC)
- MM – Orchestral Conducting, USC
- MM – Keyboard Collaborative Arts, USC
- Artist Diploma – Piano, Royal Music Conservatory of Liège (Belgium)
- Artist Diploma – Chamber Music, Royal Music Conservatory of Ghent (Belgium)
- First Prizes – Written & Practical Harmony, Piano Accompaniment, Royal Music Conservatory of Ghent (Belgium)

## Languages

- Complete diction mastery: Italian, French, German, English, Spanish, Latin, and Dutch
- Fluent in French, German, English, Dutch and conversational Italian
- Reading of Latin and old-Greek

## Selected Press

“Gifted and stylistically impeccable.” – Orange County Register
“Provided the expert pianoforte accompaniment for the recitatives” – LA Times
“Paces the music tautly.” – Chicago Tribune
“Elegant and nuanced performance.” – Press Telegram
“A precious collaborator.” – Carlo Bergonzi