

# Steven Aguiló-Arbues

**Conductor, Chorus Master, Vocal Coach, Pianist**

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## Staff and Faculty Positions

### **Artistic Director** *Opera Fort Collins, Fort Collins, CO* 2022-present

I was recently appointed as artistic director of Opera Fort Collins. I oversee all artistic operations as well as am in charge of the artistic aesthetic and vision of the company. I will also conduct the mainstage operas of every season. I am engaged to conduct Floyd's *Susannah* and Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* in 2023.

### **Conductor and Music Director** *Boulder Opera Company, Boulder, CO* 2015-2016, 2020-present

I currently serve as conductor/music director and will be leading a new production of Massenet's *Manon* in 2023. Past conducting engagements include Ravel's *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and the 2016/2020 Gala concerts.

### **Conductor and Lecturer**, *Inside the Orchestra, Denver, CO* 2012-present

I serve as conductor for a professional (union) orchestra that performs for more than 30,000 school children per year (formerly known as the *Junior Symphony Guild*). The performances expose school children and family audiences to symphonic repertoire, opera and ballet through a fast-paced scripted concert. Repertoire and styles range from Bach, Beethoven, Stravinsky to John Williams. In 2015, I created the first English/Spanish bilingual program, helping to foster relationships with Colorado's Hispanic population.

### **Program and Music Director of Studio Artists**, *Sarasota Opera, FL* 2018-2020

Promoted to Director of the Studio Program after one season with Sarasota Opera. I created programs, administratively managed, and musically coached all studio artists for roles and concerts through out the winter season. The Studio Artists are members of the more advanced level of Sarasota Opera's two training programs. Many already have representation with a manager, and they are usually assigned comprimario roles/covers in all four productions of the winter season. I served as the music director for outreach performances throughout the region.

**Cover and Assistant Conductor, Sarasota Opera, FL 2017-2022**

I was in charge of conducting rehearsals as well as coaching/preparing not only principal singers, but entire cover casts. I had the privilege of collaborating and covering for productions of *Rigoletto*, *Dialogues des Carmélites*, *Carmen*, *L'Italiana in Algeri*, *Tosca*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Turandot*, *Brundibar*, and *The Pearl Fishers*. I had the privilege of working with distinguished conductors such as Victor DeRenzi (Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, Sarasota Opera), David Neely (Music Director at Des Moines Metro Opera, Director of Orchestral Activities University of Maryland), Anthony Barrese (Artistic Director Opera Southwest, Opera Delaware), and Maestro Marcello Cormio (UK Philharmonia).

**Assistant Conductor/Principal Coach Pianist, Opera Colorado, Denver, CO 2008, 2012, 2014**

I was assistant conductor to Maestro Stephen Lord during a production of *Madama Butterfly* and served as rehearsal conductor during *Le Nozze di Figaro*. I also served as principal rehearsal pianist/coach for main stage productions of Bizet's *Carmen* and Verdi's *Rigoletto* with distinguished Metropolitan Opera artists including Rachele Gilmore, Rene Barbera, Gordon Hawkins, Sandra Piques Eddy, Jay Hunter Morris and Michael Fabiano.

**Conductor and Artistic Director, The Renaissance Project, Boulder, CO 2013-2017**

In charge of preparing and conducting a 25-person *a cappella* choir specializing in Renaissance choral works as well as contemporary choral works of a similar aesthetic. Additional responsibilities included administrative and marketing duties.

**Conductor, Vocal Coach, and Recording Producer, Art Song Colorado, Denver, CO 2018-present**

I am currently engaged to conduct a remounted production of *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* in 2023. I served as associate conductor to the Colorado Springs Chamber Orchestra in a production of Heggie's *To Hell and Back*. I am also engaged to serve as collaborative pianist and recording producer on upcoming record album projects as well as public performances.

**Mentored Assistant Conductor, San Diego Opera, San Diego, CA 1997-2003**

I was a conducting pupil of esteemed Italian Maestro Edoardo Müller (Teatro alla Scala, Metropolitan Opera) at the San Diego Opera, working on productions of *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca* and *Il Trovatore*.

**Conductor, Staff Pianist and Coach, Centro Studi Lirica Opera, Novafeltria, Italy 2005**

I conducted opera scenes and played for regional and touring performances through out the Emilia Romagna region of Italy (Italian opera and song repertoire). I worked closely with Italian coach/conductor Ubaldo Fabbri (Rossini Opera Festival, Accademia Rossiniana).

**Assistant Conductor, Staff Pianist and Coach, Manhattan School of Music,  
New York, NY 2004-2007**

I served as assistant conductor to the opera seminars conducted by Maestro Thomas Muraco (Oper Bremen, studienleiter). I assisted on productions of *Madama Butterfly*, *Don Giovanni*, *Dialogues des Carmélites*, *Il Tabarro*, and *Gianni Schicchi*. I also studied orchestral conducting with Maestro David Gilbert (New York Philharmonic, American Ballet Theatre).

**Assistant Conductor and Conducting Fellow, Miami Music Festival, FL 2016**

Assistant conductor to Mo. Steven Gathman (former Head of Music/Chorusmaster, Washington National Opera) on productions of *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* and *Gianni Schicchi*. I prepared a substantial amount of symphonic repertoire for study and rehearsal with master teachers David Efron (former Artistic Director of Central City Opera and Professor of Conducting at Indiana University) and Larry Rachleff (Professor of Conducting, Rice University).

**Assistant Professor Vocal Coach/Opera Conductor, Colorado State  
University, Fort Collins, CO 2013-2015**

In 2015, I was the music director and conductor for CSU's production of *Idomeneo*. I served as principal vocal coach for the university voice area department and the Charles and Reta Ralph Opera Center. Coordinated the opera music rehearsal schedule and conducted all opera music and staging rehearsals. I was the opera chorus master and backstage conductor.

**Opera Conducting Consultant and Vocal Coach, Festival Amadeus,  
Whitefish, MT 2019**

Served as opera conducting adviser, vocal coach, repetiteur and continuo harpsichord to Mo. John Zoltek (Music Director Glacier Symphony and Chorale) for the production of *Così fan tutte*.

**Staff Pianist Coach, Atlanta Opera, Atlanta, GA 2013**

I was principal rehearsal pianist for Puccini's *Tosca* as well as organist during performances under the musical direction of Arthur Fagen (Atlanta Opera Music Director, Professor of Conducting Indiana University). Additional performances included Atlanta Opera's 2013 Gala Concert as well as preview concerts in the Atlanta metro area, featuring distinguished artists Kara Shay Thomson (Lyric Opera of Chicago, New York City Opera), Luis Ledesma (La Scala, Teatro Colon, Houston Grand), and Massimiliano Pisapia (La Scala, Zürich Opernhaus).

**Associate Conductor, Music Director/Pianist and Teaching Artist, Central  
City Opera, CO 2012-present**

I serve as music director/pianist for the Central City Opera Touring Artists for performances through out the state of Colorado. Additional performances include preview and Gala concerts with distinguished artists such as Anna Christy (Metropolitan Opera, Santa Fe Opera, San Francisco Opera), Michael Mayes (Washington National, Teatro Real Madrid), Daniel Belcher (Opera Philadelphia,

Houston Grand) and Elizabeth Welch (Phantom of the Opera, Broadway, Berlin). In addition, I was the coach/pianist for a touring production of *The Ballad of Baby Doe* under the baton of Mo. John Baril. I also served as coach/pianist for Central City Opera's collaboration with the Denver Philharmonic on a production of *The Elixir of Love*. I will serve as associate conductor for a production of Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* in winter of 2022.

**Resident Coach Accompanist, Opera Colorado, Denver, CO 2008-2013**

I was in charge of musically preparing the Opera Colorado Young Artists for performances including outreach touring shows, aria and ensemble performances, comprimario main stage roles, recital song repertoire, and masterclasses. I also coached the young artists for auditions and competitions, which led to Bass-Baritone Ryan Speedo Green to win the Grand Finals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Along with being the pianist for all Young Artist performances, I was also the répétiteur for all Young Artist matinées. I also arranged the outreach Young Artist touring operas as well as condensed versions of main stage operas for educational performances. I assisted in the *Page to Stage* educational program as resident composer, helping high school students create their own opera. In 2008, I was the music director (in collaboration with Central City Opera) of new opera scenes featured at the Opera America Conference.

**Staff Coach Pianist, Crested Butte Music Festival, Crested Butte, CO 2012**

I served as rehearsal pianist Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'amore* under Mo. David Syrus (former Head of Music for the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, London). I coached and played for the Marcello Giordani Young Artist Program artists. I worked closely with renowned vocal coaches Richard Raub (Opera Company Philadelphia, Academy of Vocal Arts) and Laurent Phillipe (Academy of Vocal Arts, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden).

**Music Director Senior Opera Theater, Manhattan School of Music, New York, NY 2007**

I coached and was responsible for the musical preparation of the Opera Theater seminar for undergraduate seniors completing a vocal performance degree. Repertoire included arias/ensembles from opera and musical theater selections. Served as chorusmaster and répétiteur for the production of *Dido and Aeneas*.

**Associate English Diction Coach, Manhattan School of Music, New York, NY 2006**

I served as Associate English diction coach (Mid-Atlantic dialect) with Kathryn LaBouff (diction coach Metropolitan Opera, Houston Grand Opera) for the MSM Opera Studio productions of *The Village Singer* and *Lord Byron's Love Letter*.

**Music Director Pianist and Vocal Coach, CU NOW, University of Colorado at Boulder, CO 2018**

I coached and performed new opera scenes composed by selected CU composition students at the Composer Fellows' Initiative during the University of

Colorado's New Opera Workshop (CU NOW). I also collaborated with esteemed contemporary opera composer Jake Heggie (*Dead Man Walking, Moby Dick, It's a Wonderful Life*) to improve the new opera scenes.

### **Conducting Teachers**

Edoardo Müller, Opera Conducting, *San Diego Opera*. 1997-2003.  
Stephen Lord, Opera Conducting, *Opera Colorado*. 2008  
David Effron, Orchestral Conducting, *Miami Music Festival*. 2016.  
Larry Rachleff, Orchestral Conducting, *Miami Music Festival*. 2016.  
David Gilbert, Orchestral Conducting, *Manhattan School of Music*. 2004-06.  
Lawrence Kaptein, Choral Conducting, *University of Colorado Boulder*. 2002

### **Played for Studio Coachings/Masterclasses led by:**

Marilyn Horne, Renata Scottò, Nico Castel, Thomas Hampson, Martin Katz, Stephen Lord, Samuel Ramey, Ari Pelto, Ubaldo Fabbri, Martha Eggerth, David Gately, David Syrus, Robert Cowart, Marni Nixon, Victor DeRenzi, Ashley Putnam, Brian Zeger, Richard Danielpour, Jose Maria Condemi, Lori Laitman, Takács String Quartet

### **Opera/Musical Theater Repertoire**

***Susannah***, Conductor. *Opera Fort Collins*. 2023  
***Dido and Aeneas***, Conductor. *Opera Fort Collins*. 2023  
***Manon***, Conductor, Chorusmaster. *Boulder Opera*. 2023  
***Amahl and the Night Visitors***, Associate Conductor. *Central City Opera*. 2022  
***Les pêcheurs de perles***, Cover Conductor. *Sarasota Opera*. 2022  
***Tosca***, Assistant and Backstage Conductor, *Sarasota Opera*. 2022  
***Le Nozze di Figaro***, Conductor. *Boulder Opera Company*. 2021  
***L'Enfant et les sortilèges***, Conductor. *Boulder Opera Company*. 2021  
***Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World***, Music Director, Coach. *Central City Opera*. 2021.  
***To Hell and Back***, Associate Conductor, Coach. *Art Song Colorado*. 2021.  
***L'Elisir d'amore***, Assistant Conductor, *Central City Opera*, 2021  
***Roméo et Juliette***, Cover Conductor. *Sarasota Opera*. 2020.  
***Rigoletto***, Cover Conductor. *Sarasota Opera*. 2019.  
***Brundibar***, Cover Conductor. *Sarasota Opera*. 2019.  
***Così fan tutte***, Conducting Consultant, Pianist. *Festival Amadeus*. 2019.  
***Turandot***, Assistant and Backstage Conductor. *Sarasota Opera*. 2019.  
***Carmen***, Cover Conductor. *Sarasota Opera*. 2018.  
***Dialogues des Carmélites***, Cover Conductor. *Sarasota Opera*. 2017.  
***L'Italiana in Algeri***, Assistant Conductor. *Sarasota Opera*. 2017.  
***The Ballad of Baby Doe***, Coach, Pianist. *Central City Opera Tour*. 2016-17.  
***L'Enfant et les Sortilèges***, Assistant Conductor. *Miami Music Festival*. 2016.  
***Gianni Schicchi***, Assistant Conductor. *Miami Music Festival*. 2016.  
***The Scarlet Letter***, Chorus Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2016.  
***Il Barbiere di Siviglia***, Conductor. *Boulder Opera Company*. 2015.  
***Idomeneo***, Conductor, Chorusmaster. *Colorado State University*. 2015.

**Aïda**, Chorus Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2015.

**Signor Deluso**, Music Director. *Colorado State University*. 2015.

**The Medium**, Music Director. *Colorado State University*. 2015.

**Gianni Schicchi**, Rehearsal Conductor, Coach. *Colorado State University*. 2014.

**Suor Angelica**, Rehearsal Conductor, Coach, Chorusmaster. *Colorado State University*. 2014.

**Rigoletto**, Coach, Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2014.

**Carmen**, Coach, Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2014.

**Cendrillon**, Rehearsal Conductor, Coach, Chorusmaster. *Colorado State University*. 2013.

**Tosca**, Coach, Pianist. *Atlanta Opera*. 2013.

**Patience**, Rehearsal Conductor, Coach, Chorusmaster, *Colorado State University*. 2013.

**Don Giovanni**, Chorus Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2013.

**Roméo et Juliette**, Coach, Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2013.

**Die Zauberflöte**, Coach, Pianist. *Crested Butte Music Festival*. 2012.

**L'Elisir d'amore**, Coach, Pianist. *Crested Butte Music Festival*. 2012.

**Le Nozze di Figaro**, Rehearsal Conductor, Coach, Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2012.

**Barber of Seville**, Outreach Music Director. *Opera Colorado*. 2012.

**Florencia en el Amazonas**, Chorus Pianist and Diction Coach. *Opera Colorado*. 2012.

**Hansel and Gretel**, Outreach Music Director. *Opera Colorado*. 2011.

**La Cenerentola**, Coach, Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2011.

**Rusalka**, Chorus Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2011.

**Unfinished Sermons**, Conductor, Chorusmaster. *Denver, Colorado*. 2010.

**Carmen**, Outreach Music Director. *Opera Colorado*. 2010.

**La bohème**, Chorus Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2010.

**Il Barbiere di Siviglia**, Coach, Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2010.

**Tosca**, Chorus Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2010.

**Les Contes d'Hoffmann**, Chorus Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2010.

**Così fan tutte**, Chorus Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2009.

**The Music Shop**, Music Director. *Opera Colorado*. 2009.

**Les Pêcheurs des Perles**, Chorus Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2009.

**Roméo et Juliette**, Outreach Music Director. *Opera Colorado*. 2009.

**Anything Goes**, Conductor, Chorusmaster. *Colorado Light Opera*. 2009.

**Oklahoma!**, Assistant Conductor, Chorusmaster. *Colorado Light Opera*. 2009.

**Madama Butterfly**, Assistant Conductor, Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2008.

**Don Pasquale**, Coach, Pianist. *Opera Colorado*. 2008.

**La Curandera**, Music Director. *Opera Colorado*. 2008.

**Dido and Aeneas**, Music Director, Chorusmaster. *Manhattan School of Music*. 2007.

**Il Tabarro**, Assistant Conductor, Pianist. *Manhattan School of Music*. 2007.

**Gianni Schicchi**, Assistant Conductor, Pianist. *Manhattan School of Music*. 2007.

***Dialogues des Carmélites***, Assistant Conductor, Pianist. *Manhattan School of Music*. 2006.

***Don Giovanni***, Assistant Conductor, Pianist. *Manhattan School of Music*. 2005.

***Madama Butterfly***, Assistant Conductor, Pianist. *Manhattan School of Music*.

***Madama Butterfly***, Mentored Assistant Conductor, *San Diego Opera*. 2003.

***Pippin***, Performance Pianist. *University of Colorado, Boulder*. 2003.

***A Chorus Line***, Conductor, Coach. *Boulder Broadway Company*. 2002.

***Tosca***, Mentored Assistant Conductor, *San Diego Opera*. 2002.

***Il Trovatore***, Mentored Assistant Conductor, *San Diego Opera*. 2000.

***Le Nozze di Figaro***, Mentored Assistant Conductor, *San Diego Opera*. 1998.

### **Chorus Master Experience**

***Manon*** (*Boulder Opera*)

***L'Enfant et les sortilèges*** (*Boulder Opera*)

***Idomeneo*** (*Colorado State University*)

***Suor Angelica*** (*Colorado State University*)

***Cendrillon*** (*Colorado State University*)

***Unfinished Sermons*** (*Denver, CO*)

***Patience*** (*Colorado State University*)

***Oklahoma!*** (*Colorado Light Opera*)

***Anything Goes*** (*Colorado Light Opera*)

***Dido and Aeneas*** (*Manhattan School of Music*)

### **Educational and Outreach Arrangements**

I have created condensed versions of operas, typically 45 minutes to one hour in length, intended mainly for K-12 outreach for Opera Colorado. I have also arranged operas, typically 2 hours in length, for Opera Colorado Young Artist matinee performances in the Ellie Caulkins Opera House with orchestra. Operas include: *Roméo et Juliette*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Carmen*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *La Cenerentola*. 2008-2012.

### **Competition Judge/Adjudicator/Panelist**

**National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Grants Panelist, Opera Division**  
*Washington, DC*. 2020-2021.

**NATS National Association of Teachers of Singing CO/WY**, *Laramie, WY*  
and *Denver, CO*. 2016-2017.

**Colorado Federation of Music Clubs (piano)**, *Denver, CO*. 2010-2016.

**Young Artist Alliance (vocal division)**, *Thornton, CO*. 2017.

**United States International Duo Piano Competition**, *Colorado Springs, CO*. 2011-2015.

## Honors and Awards

**Winner Musical Merit Scholarship**, *Manhattan School of Music*. 2003-2006.

**Winner Festival Bela Bartok Competition (Collaborative piano)** Lima, Peru. 1998.

**Winner International Institute for Young Musicians Competition (Collaborative piano)**, Lawrence, KS. 1998.

## UROP Grant for Musicology Research (*University of Colorado, Boulder*) 2001

Awarded an academic grant in the field of musicology by the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program at the University of Colorado Boulder. I researched a rare medieval instrument called the *Zanfona* in Spain, returned to University of Colorado and presented my research in guest lectures for courses in Music History and Ethnomusicology.

## Languages

Fluent Spanish (Castilian and Latin-American dialects) and English; proficient in conversational and written Italian. Extensive lyric diction studies and have taught university-level advanced diction courses in Italian, French, German, English (Neutral American, Mid-Atlantic, British RP).

## Education

**Miami Music Festival Conducting Fellow**, Miami, FL. 2016

**Manhattan School of Music**, New York, NY, Professional Studies Certificate in Collaborative Piano. 2006.

**Manhattan School of Music**, New York, NY, Master of Music in Collaborative Piano. 2005.

**University of Colorado**, Boulder, CO, Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance. 2002.