

M Manhattan School of Music

Dean of Musical Theatre *Leadership Profile*



August 2025

This leadership profile is intended to provide information about Manhattan School of Music and the position of Dean of Musical Theatre and is designed to assist qualified individuals in assessing their interest in the position.

The Opportunity

Manhattan School of Music (MSM), one of the world's preeminent, independent conservatories, seeks a visionary and dynamic individual to serve as its next Dean of the School's renowned Musical Theatre division. This is a full-time, 12-month position (with a portfolio of responsibilities that can include limited or occasional teaching opportunities). The Musical Theatre program at MSM has an internationally recognized reputation with world-renowned faculty and alumni, and a student population of nearly 125.



The Dean of Musical Theatre oversees artistic and academic planning and has a collaborative working style to create a strong, unifying identity among faculty and peer colleagues. The Dean will understand the changing dynamics of the musical theatre industry and lead the Musical Theatre division in creating and supporting the preparation of emerging performing artists to meet the demands of their future careers. The Dean will actively collaborate across disciplines and divisional areas to develop and create interdisciplinary performance and curricular opportunities for artistic programming and academic study.

Paramount to this position is nurturing the positive and comprehensive artistic experience for student learning through support of the students and faculty. MSM's total student population of approximately 1,050 students reflects diverse socio-economic and global backgrounds, and hails from nearly every state in the US and more than 50 countries.

Supporting our students' education experiences are MSM's Musical Theatre faculty members; these gifted artist-educators are working performers, choreographers, directors, musical directors, arrangers, composers, designers, and scholars – active throughout the professional theatre world in New York City, nationally and internationally, as well as the worlds of film and television. Among their collective achievements are multiple Tony Awards and nominations and a long list of Broadway credits reflecting nearly 50 years of American theatre history and experience.

Our Musical Theatre faculty are part of a larger MSM faculty who have appointments with the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Bang on a Can, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra; and who perform regularly at such iconic New York jazz venues as the Blue Note, Dizzy's Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Village Vanguard, Birdland, Smalls, Smoke, and many more. MSM's faculty also includes Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellows, Grammy Award recipients and nominees, and acclaimed recording artists, composers, leading soloists, and eminent chamber musicians.

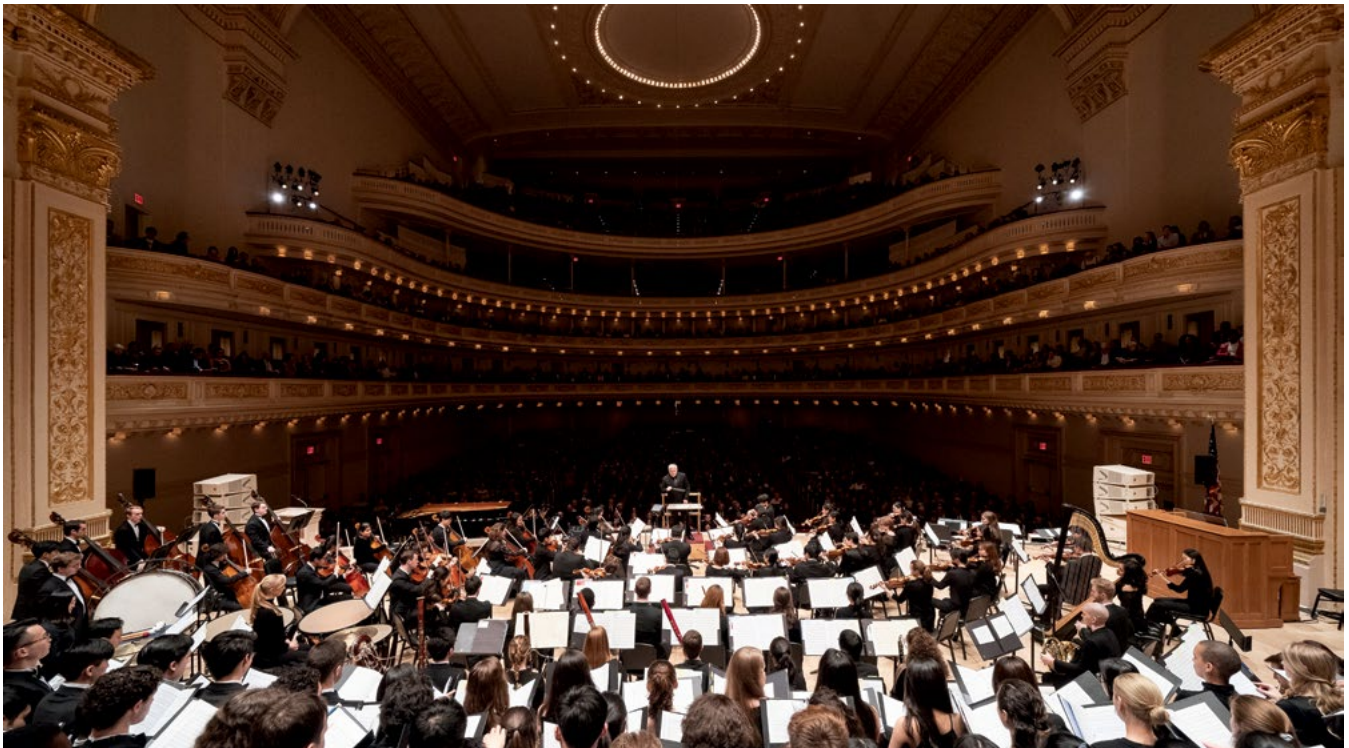
The successful candidate will report to MSM's Executive Vice President and Provost (EVP/Provost) and will work closely with members of the Provost's Council, including the Vice President of Enrollment Management, Deans of Academic Affairs, Students, and Performance and Production Operations, as well as the VP for Philanthropy and VP for Marketing, Communications, and Alumni Affairs. The Dean leads the Musical Theatre faculty, oversees artistic and curricular activities, advises students in academic and artistic matters, and participates broadly within the College to promote cross-disciplinary opportunities aligned with MSM's **Strategic Plan**.

The successful Dean of Musical Theatre candidate will join MSM at a pivotal time as the School will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Musical Theatre in 2026–27, is engaged in a Second Century Campaign to grow MSM's endowment, and has recently launched its Strategic Plan (2024–29), which, among other priorities, focuses on preparing students to engage



deeply with the arts and realize a life that contributes to a vibrant society. MSM greatly values and practices a culture of collegiality and collaboration with faculty and staff. The School offers excellent artistic training that promotes a spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation among faculty and students, and enjoys an international reputation with world-renowned faculty and alumni.

The Dean will demonstrate a strong commitment to enriching the culture of students' experiences in a college/conservatory atmosphere and connecting MSM with the local, national, and global community to promote MSM's artistic excellence. The successful candidate will have a demonstrable record of artistic success as performer/dancer/collaborative creator, arts administrator, and/or teaching artist.



Manhattan School of Music: An Overview

Manhattan School of Music is a remarkable institution with a 107-year history of extraordinary success. From its beginnings as a small settlement music school, MSM has become an internationally recognized conservatory and leading force in professional music education and performing arts training. The largest independent conservatory in the nation offering training in musical theatre, classical music, jazz, contemporary performance, and composition, MSM has upheld its tradition of excellence in music education and performing artists throughout its history.

MSM's Musical Theatre program will celebrate its 10th Anniversary in the 2026–27 academic year, just eight years after the school celebrated its milestone centennial year during the 2018–19 academic year. Those Centennial celebrations featured a diverse, season-long program of performances and events, including a special performance by students, faculty, and distinguished alumni that hailed the opening of a grand new campus entrance and the reopening of MSM's renovated principal performance space, Neidorff-Karpati Hall, and a climactic Gala Centennial Performance at Carnegie Hall (led by Distinguished Visiting Artist and MSM trustee Maestro Leonard Slatkin). One hundred years prior to these celebrations, what would become Manhattan School of Music was founded by pianist, social worker, and philanthropist Janet D. Schenck. Originally called the Neighborhood Music School, it was located on East 105th Street and tasked with bringing high-quality musical training to the immigrant communities of the surrounding neighborhoods. By re-establishing the musical communities that had existed in these immigrants' home countries, Schenck hoped to further the nascent cause of music education in America.

By 1928, enrollment at the School had reached 400 students. Under additional artistic guidance from renowned artists such as Pablo Casals, Harold Bauer, and Fritz Kreisler, the Neighborhood Music School erected a new building and, in 1938, changed its name to Manhattan School of Music. In its first two decades, the School had built a national reputation. By 1943, the School offered the Bachelor's degree, and advanced degree programs soon followed. The Musical Theatre program began student recruitment in early 2015 and welcomed its first class in Fall 2016.

Now home to 1,050 students—who come from more than 50 countries and nearly every state—MSM fosters a supportive atmosphere, valuing individuals and welcoming creative exploration, and provides the training to attain the highest standards of performance. MSM's rigorous curriculum and superb artist-faculty, who continue their own creative and professional lives at some of this country's most prestigious institutions and venues, give students the artistic experience and the technical foundation to succeed in the highly competitive world of the performing arts. Exchange programs, distance learning, and entrepreneurial opportunities further expand the School's breadth, depth, and reach. Offering more than 1,000 concerts, recitals, master classes, and community events each year, MSM is a vigorous contributor to the cultural fabric of New York City.



PROGRAMS

Manhattan School of Music offers the Bachelor of Music (BM) and the Master of Music (MM) degree in **Composition, Instrumental Performance, Jazz, Musical Theatre** (BM only), and **Voice**. A Master of Music degree is also offered in **Collaborative Piano, Conducting, Contemporary Performance**, and **Orchestral Performance**.

The dual degree program in Music Education and Performance offers an MM from Manhattan School of Music and an Ed.M. K–12 Music Teacher Certification from Teachers College Columbia University. For undergraduates, a partnership with Barnard College also offers expansive possibilities for elective courses.

Beyond the Master's degree, MSM offers the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) across several areas of study, as well as three post-graduate certificate programs – the Professional Performance Diploma, the Performance Studies Certificate, and the highly selective Artist Diploma.

FACULTY

MSM's outstanding 200-member studio faculty includes musicians from New York's leading performing institutions, including the **great Broadway stages, New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra**, and many more, along with internationally acclaimed, award-winning solo, chamber, and jazz artists.

The nearly 100 academic (classroom) faculty members are scholars, writers, and practitioners in music theory, musicology, and the humanities and social sciences.

Another 140 faculty members teach in the Precollege Division.

ALUMNI

MSM alumni are active in every aspect of contemporary musical life and beyond, including Musical Theatre graduates performing on Broadway, in prestigious regional productions, and on national and international tours. Many are among the most acclaimed performers on the great stages of the world, from Lincoln Center to Covent Garden to the Montreux Jazz Festival to Broadway. This is a community that has been honored with Tony, Academy, and Emmy Awards; Pulitzer Prizes and MacArthur Fellowships ("Genius Grants"); Metropolitan Opera competitions; Avery Fisher Career Grants; and NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships. They have performed on the greatest stages in the world at institutions including the great Broadway houses, the Metropolitan Opera, the New York Philharmonic, the Royal Opera Covent Garden,



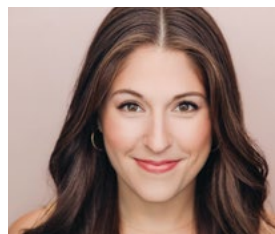
RECENTLY HIRED MUSICAL THEATRE FACULTY



Frankie Alvarez



Maddie Corman



Kaitlyn Frank



Kirsten Scott

Paris Opera, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Vienna State Opera, the Chicago Symphony, the London Philharmonic, the Village Vanguard Orchestra, and Jazz at Lincoln Center. They have been prizewinners in international competitions, including the Van Cliburn, Naumburg, Tchaikovsky, and Rubinstein. And they have won numerous Grammy Awards and been central to literally hundreds of Grammy-winning projects.

Distinguished alumni include a host of Broadway performers and creators, including **Jasmine Amy Rogers**, **Shuler Hensley**, **Rupert Holmes**, **Alysia Velez** (pictured, right, in the recent Broadway revival of *Into the Woods*), **Jose Llana**, **N’Kenge Simpson Pacurar**, and **Joseph Joubert**; **Elmar Oliveira** (Naumburg International Competition first-prize winner), **Viviane Hagner** (internationally renowned violinist), **Kirill Gerstein** (concert pianist, Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient), **Guy Braunstein** (concert artist and former concertmaster, Berlin Philharmonic), **Bing Wang** (associate concertmaster, Los Angeles Philharmonic), and **Yooshin Song** (concertmaster, Houston Symphony); opera singers **Susan Graham**, **Dawn Upshaw**, **Dolora Zajick**, **Lauren Flanigan**, **Brandon Jovanovich**, **Simon O’Neill**, **Liam Bonner**, **Anthony Roth Costanzo**, **Yunpeng Wang**, and **J’Nai Bridges**; jazz musicians **Stefon Harris**, **Ron Carter**, **Jane Monheit**, **Jason Moran**, **Miguel Zenón**, **Linda Oh**, **Ambrose Akinmusire**, **Christian Sands**, **Steve Turre**, **Dave Grusin**, **Hugh Masekela**, **Max Roach**, and **John Lewis**; composers **John Corigliano**, **Aaron Jay Kernis**, **Tobias Picker**, **Gunther Schuller**, **Elliot Goldenthal**, **Jack Perla**, and **Anna Clyne**; conductors **Jane Glover**, **Bernard Labadie**, **Kristjan Järvi**, **Alondra de la Parra**, and **Earl Lee**.



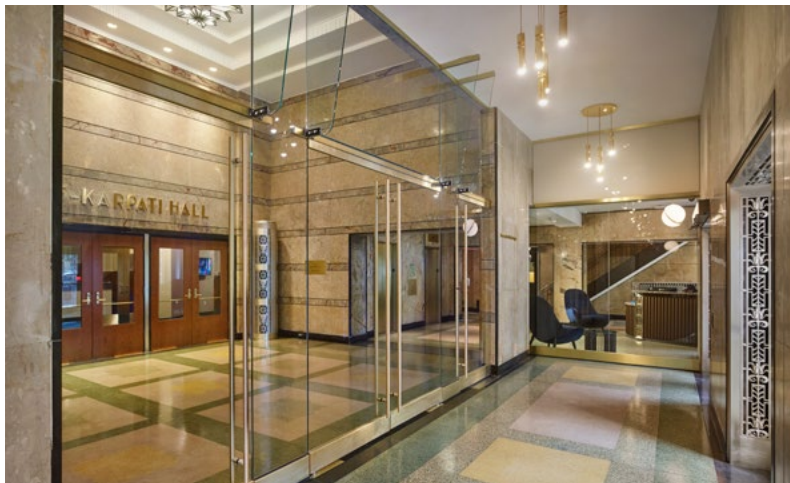
Alumni in administration positions include **Jesse Rosen** (BM ’75), former President and CEO of the League of American Orchestras; **Howard Herring** (MM ’78, HonDMA ’15), President and CEO of the New World Symphony; **Fred Bronstein** (MM ’82), Dean, Peabody Institute/The Johns Hopkins University; **David Handler** (BM ’04) and **Justin Kantor** (BM ’02), founders of *le poisson rouge*; **Jeff Sharkey** (BM ’86), Principal (CEO) of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland; and **Daniel Andai** (MM ’07, PS ’08), Dean of Music and Chief Academic Officer, New School of the Arts, Miami-Dade College. Other alumni are in a variety of fields outside of music, including **Jared Bernstein** (BM ’78), a former Chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers; **Cynthia Boxrud** (BM ’78), MD, surgeon, and professor at UCLA Medical School; **José García-León** (MM ’97, DMA ’01), Dean of Music, Yale University; **Elizabeth VanArsdel** (MM ’85), former Senior Vice President/Senior Wealth Advisor at New Mexico Bank & Trust; and **David Wolfsohn** (DMA ’84), JD, Partner, Duane Morris LLP, to name just a few.



CAMPUS

Since 1969, Manhattan School of Music has been located at Broadway and 122nd Street. As part of New York’s Morningside Heights/West Harlem academic community, it includes among its neighbors in the “academic acropolis” **Columbia University**, **Barnard College**, **Columbia Teachers College**, **Bank Street College**, **Union** and **Jewish Theological seminaries**, **Riverside Church**, **International House**, and the **Cathedral of St. John the Divine**.

Manhattan School of Music’s campus consists of three buildings, constructed in 1910, 1931 (by Shreve, Lamb and Harmon, the architects who designed the Empire State Building), and 2001 (the 19-story Andersen Residence Hall, which houses approximately 500 students in addition to performance spaces and practice rooms). In November 2018 as part of the realization of MSM’s ambitious Centennial Project, the School opened a stunning new entrance on Claremont Avenue – the entrance had previously been located on West 122nd Street – with an expanded entryway and two new entry lounges, and re-opened the School’s principal performance space, **Neidorff-Karpati Hall**, which had undergone a sweeping renovation.



The School has nine performance spaces, ranging from 25 to 650 seats, and a state-of-the-art recording studio. The Peter Jay Sharp Library and the Evelyn Sharp Performance Library contain scores, books, periodicals, audiovisual recordings, on-demand streaming of concerts, and a large range of performance materials.

With The Orto Center's Distance Learning Program, the first of its kind at a major international conservatory, Manhattan School of Music maintains a leadership role in the use of technology for music performance and education. In the more than two and a half decades since its inception, using state-of-

the-art interactive videoconference technology to enhance the curriculum and learning experience for MSM students, the School has developed increasingly effective means of connecting students, educators, and distinguished artists around the globe. Its higher education partnerships span from Austria to Australia and have connected to five continents in order to exchange artistic resources and provide a truly global music education. The Orto Center's Distance Learning Program engages with partners in nearly every state in the US and more than 20 countries to reach more than 10,000 learners worldwide. Additionally, the program provides livestreamed concerts and master classes, featuring MSM student ensembles, acclaimed faculty, and guest artists, which now attract a global audience.

In addition to the \$16.5-million Centennial Project detailed above, MSM has in the last decade invested more than \$30 million in campus improvements, including creating 28 new Wenger SoundLok practice rooms; two new acting/dance studios; newly renovated offices for classroom faculty; a new HVAC system and complete LED replacement of all lights in the 1910, 1931, and 2001 buildings; and a complete cafeteria renovation.





Mission Statement

Manhattan School of Music is deeply committed to excellence in education, performance, and creative activity; to the humanity of the School's environment; to preparing all our students to find their success; and to the cultural enrichment of the larger community. A premier international conservatory, MSM inspires and empowers highly talented individuals to realize their potential. We take full advantage of New York's abundant learning and performance opportunities, preparing our students to be accomplished and passionate performers, composers, and teachers, and imaginative, effective contributors to the arts and society.

Strategic Plan 2024–29

In the fall of 2023, MSM assembled a Steering Committee to develop the 2024–29 Strategic Plan that will serve as the institution's compass through the end of the decade. This group met together for a dozen-plus hours in structured meetings facilitated by McKinsey & Company, a global consulting firm that provided pro bono services thanks to MSM Board Vice Chair David Knott, who is a Senior Managing Partner with the firm.

The resulting Strategic Plan initiatives are divided into two categories: Foundational and Bold Moves. The Foundational area focuses on enhancing the School's existing systems and infrastructure as well as securing enrollment and financial stability, issues confronting most higher education institutions. The Bold Moves are targeted initiatives that build on MSM's specific strengths and embody its institutional values.

FOUNDATIONAL INITIATIVES

Enduring Mission, Values, & Culture

F1. Institutionalize the "MSM Way"

Ensure a nurturing culture is an integral part of MSM's value by further embedding it into leadership, general training, and daily practice throughout the institution.

F2. Advance the Cultural Inclusion Initiative and Access for All

Expand access for all through community learning opportunities, partnerships, and support systems.

F3. Catalyze NYC (Harlem and Beyond) as MSM's Home

Strengthen MSM's presence in New York City through collaborative relationships with key cultural and musical institutions, emphasizing the cultural enrichment of the larger community and MSM, as well as the impact MSM can have on the community.

Resilient Infrastructure

F4. Modernize Classrooms and Technology

Upgrade and reconfigure classrooms to better serve current needs of faculty and students, including industry-standard technology and fixtures to improve the faculty and student experience.

F5. Conduct End-to-End Transformation of Finance Function

Pursue a high level of accuracy, timeliness, and harmonization between accounting, budgeting, and financial reporting while incorporating fuller automation within student accounts, accounts payable, payroll, and financial reporting. Those efforts will be accompanied by thoughtfully developed and integrated management tools to help inform institutional decisions and manage functional efforts all to help ensure MSM's success.

F6. Optimize Human Capacity

Enhance human capacity and support operations throughout the institution by analyzing and assessing employee and institutional needs to optimize efficiency, effectiveness, and engagement.

Enrollment Security

F7. Increase the College Tuition Discount Rate

Leverage MSM resources to ratably increase the College tuition discount to 50% by FY29 to continue to attract and retain talented students.

F8. Crystalize Differentiated Value Propositions for the College Student Population

Clearly articulate a universal value proposition and identify differentiated populations to create nuanced value propositions; aligning marketing and communication and leveraging more evidence-based accomplishments and alumni success stories to increase applications, build brand awareness, and perceived return on investment.

F9. Expand Online Marketing and Presence

Launch a comprehensive strategic marketing campaign to heighten MSM's visibility and image to attract new students and donors.

F10. Strengthen Domestic College Student Pipeline

Grow and diversify the pipeline of incoming domestic students to maintain $\geq 50\%$ domestic of the total student population. Prioritize feeder organizations and geographic locations for application growth, enhance connectivity between the MSM Community and applicants to drive yield of domestic students, and sustain financial resilience.

F11. Strengthen International Student Pipeline

Grow and diversify the pipeline of incoming international students. Prioritize feeder organizations and geographic locations for application growth, enhance connectivity between the MSM Community and applicants to drive yield of international students, and sustain financial resilience.

The Strategic Plan 2024–29 “Bold Moves” can be found at: msmnyc.edu/about/msm-strategic-plan-2024-29/

Fulfilling the Mission

Manhattan School of Music has been at the forefront of innovation and creativity in its degree offerings for more than 80 years. In the 1970s it was one of only several colleges in the nation to have an Office of Career Planning targeted at music students. In the 1980s MSM was the first independent conservatory to offer jazz degrees. In the 1990s the School founded two renowned programs: the graduate Orchestral Performance Program and the Distance Learning Program. In this century, MSM launched the Center for Career Readiness and Community Impact (formerly the Center for Music Entrepreneurship), expanding the reach of its offerings to prepare students professionally; created the graduate Contemporary Performance Program; and in 2016 launched a Bachelor's program in musical theatre, the only such program at an American independent conservatory. And as recently as June 2025, the School announced its newest groundbreaking program: a fully online BFA in Performing Arts degree completion program, which allows students to transform their professional experience into academic credit; the program will welcome its first class in January 2026.

Throughout the year, MSM brings nearly 100 acclaimed artists and conductors to campus — both in person and via distance learning — for master classes and to work with students. Our popular Musical Theatre Master Classes feature leading actors,

writers, and producers who talk about how they built their careers, overcame challenges, and in many cases, won Tony Awards. Students perform and are offered feedback.

Guests in previous years have included: **Randy Graff** (*Les Misérables*, *City of Angels*), Tony Award-winning stage, film, and television actress; **Joanna Gleason** (*Into the Woods*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*), Tony Award-winning stage, film, and television actress; **Bebe Neuwirth** (*Sweet Charity*, *Chicago*, *Cheers*, *Madame Secretary*), multiple Tony and Emmy Award-winning stage, film, and TV actress, dancer, MSM trustee; **Christopher Jackson** (*The Lion King*, *In the Heights*, *Hamilton*, *And Just Like That...*), Tony-nominated stage, film, and TV actor; **Victoria Clark** (*The Light in the Piazza*, *Sister Act*, *Cinderella*, *Gigi*, *Homeland*), Tony Award-winning stage, film, and TV actress, director, educator; **Caesar Samayoa** (*Sister Act*, *Come from Away*), Broadway, film, and TV actor; **Courtney Reed** (*Aladdin*, *In the Heights*, *Mamma Mia!*), Broadway, film, and TV actress; **Andrea Frieron** (*Once on This Island*, *The Lion King*, *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow isn't enuf*), Broadway, film, and TV actress, singer, author; **Merri Sugarman**, Tara Rubin Casting; **Rachel Hoffman**, The Telsey Company; **Erika Karnell** and **Chris Foster**, BRS/Gage Talent Agency; **Joan Lader**, renowned voice teacher and therapist; **Bonnie Panson**, production stage manager of more than 25 Broadway productions; **Alice Whitey** and **Brian Mann**, ICM; and many more.



The School has in recent years forged new alliances with other arts and educational institutions, including **Disney Theatrical Group**, **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, **Jazz at Lincoln Center**, **Orchestra of St. Luke's**, **Harlem Stage**, **National Sawdust**, **American Ballet Theater**, other peer independent American conservatories, and its neighbors in the Morningside Heights/West Harlem neighborhood. And in spring 2021, MSM, with **mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna**, **Royal College of Music (London)**, and the **Royal Danish Academy of Music** (and subsequently, **the Conservatorium van Amsterdam**) launched the **Global Conservatoire**, an innovative digital learning environment that expanded each partner school's course offerings.

Manhattan School of Music's summer offerings include "MSM Summer," a program with 175 students ranging in age from 8 to 17, and a Summer English Study program that has enabled MSM to help international students strengthen acquisition of written and verbal communication skills before they begin their formal degree study during the fall semester.

In August 2019, MSM launched its Cultural Inclusion Initiative (CII) to provide support and opportunities for members of the MSM Community. The CII mission is to foster inclusion and equal access for all by auditing current MSM practices, identifying areas where additional attention is needed to achieve change, and creating regular discussion forums for students, faculty, and staff.

The Future

Manhattan School of Music is an impressive and highly specialized institution. The School is financially sound, and enrollment is stable. As momentum builds and its reputation for excellence deepens, new and exciting opportunities present themselves at every turn. The leadership team is talented and committed to the long-term sustainability of MSM as a recognized leader in exceptional artistic training. The artist-faculty and classroom faculty are engaged and dedicated to the students and the work that they do. The Board of Trustees is committed to the institutional enterprise and eager to move ahead, led by a focused, dedicated, and energetic leader, **Chair Lorraine Gallard**.

The entire campus Community has been revitalized and, as the School continues to build on more than a century of innovation and excellence, there is a palpable sense of pride and excitement about the future of the institution. This is an ideal time for a new Dean of Musical Theatre to join MSM, which is poised for yet more great advances in the years ahead.



Position Description: Dean of Musical Theatre

The incoming Dean of Musical Theatre will join an institution with a clear vision for the future, a commitment to innovative practices that support students' artistic growth, and a collaborative and supportive spirit. Building upon the successes of our past, the new Dean will work to enhance the School's reputation as a leader in professional performing arts education with a history of excellence. The portfolio of responsibilities for the successful candidate will include:

Visionary/Leadership Responsibilities

- Possess a deep commitment to work in an educational environment that supports MSM's mission and Cultural Inclusion Initiative.
- Inspire and demonstrate collaborative leadership among faculty and staff to foster and retain a high level of collegiality within and across departments.
- Create a vibrant and cohesive vision for the Division's goals to train and prepare performing artists to thrive as artists in a contemporary, ever-evolving professional landscape.
- Explore and promote external artistic partnerships to elevate performance opportunities to create more visibility for the program.
- Work with the Office of Philanthropy to identify donors and strategies for increasing scholarship, capital, and production support.
- Serve as a member of MSM's leadership councils, including the President's Council, the Provost's Council, and the Academic Leadership Council.

Students' Curricular Experiences and Academic Success

- Collaborate in school-wide artistic programming and lead Musical Theatre artistic planning to create cohesive and pedagogically rooted repertoire selection for a variety of productions and performance engagements. The Dean selects productions, hires creative teams, and casts two mainstage productions, two smaller staged productions at Riverside Theatre, the Freshman Hello!, and Senior Showcase. Based on the Dean's area of expertise, they typically choreograph or direct one show per year. The Dean also collaborates with colleagues from across the School, both in the academic and performance realms, to create cross-disciplinary experiences.
- Oversee the direction of the MT Lab Series, an exciting and important program that offers Musical Theatre majors the opportunity to work with professional musical theatre creators on their musicals-in-development. (See msmnyc.edu/musicaltheatre for more information on the Lab Series.)
- In collaboration with faculty and academic leadership, evaluate, revise, and ensure the curriculum reflects students' needs, including content and sequence of offerings.
- Advise students providing artistic, pre-professional advice and mentorship, assisting students with summer stock auditions, and collaborating with MSM's Center for Career Readiness & Community Impact.
- Engage with the EVP/Provost and Dean of Academic Affairs to create and maintain assessment methods, analytics, and responses related to internal and external program reviews.

- Participate in monitoring student retention, students' academic progress, and contributing ideas and strategies in order to improve retention and graduation/placement rates.
- In consultation with the Dean of Academic Affairs, determine course sequencing and section offerings balancing curriculum requirements with allocations of instructional budget and approved faculty loading.
- Collaborate at all levels of the Admission/student recruitment cycle, working closely with the Admission department to identify the next freshman class.
- Collaborate with the EVP/Provost and Dean of Performance and Production Operations to curate the annual guest artists for performances and master classes, and manage the selection of students to ensure that the roster reflects an equitable rotation of students.
- Collaborate with the Dean of Students and the Director for Student Success to link students with MSM's academic and wellness services and support systems.
- Participate as a member of the Curriculum Committee, the Artistic Planning/Calendar Committee, the Academic Leadership Council, and other committees as assigned.

Faculty Engagement

- Approve students' voice studio assignments and review faculty teaching loads in accordance with appointment letters and fiscal budget.
- Review and evaluate faculty teaching using course evaluations and MSM's formal faculty review processes.
- In consultation with the EVP/Provost, recruit, hire, and support/review all program faculty.
- Collaborate with Vice President for Enrollment Management and faculty to develop and implement recruitment strategies to matriculate and retain a balanced enrollment of Musical Theatre majors.

Fiscal Management

- In collaboration with the EVP/Provost, as well as the Dean of Performance and Production Operations, create and manage an annual budget for artistic and academic expenses related to the Musical Theatre Division. Actively participate in budget planning and projections for instruction and performance programming, including master classes, guest conductors, and other guest artists.
- Set guest artist/adjudicator fees in consultation with the EVP/Provost and Dean of Performance and Production Operations, or their designees.

Preferred Characteristics and Capabilities

Manhattan School of Music seeks a vibrant, collaborative, communicative, dynamic leader with an ability to link artistic and academic experiences for students' educational growth and progress in the Musical Theatre Division.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Ability to inspire students and faculty, and contribute to the humanity of the MSM educational environment;
- Ability to design and prioritize curricular and artistic experiences to meet the educational needs of young, emerging performers;
- Administrative experience in an academic setting, with understanding of curricular design, professional training, general education, and program/faculty assessment;
- Demonstrable record of collaborative leadership within a Musical Theatre program and proven ability to work in an inclusive and consultative way with faculty, staff, peers, and students;
- Significant professional experience as a performer, choreographer, director, and/or arts administrator;
- Substantial and successful teaching experience in a related area at the collegiate or young artist levels;
- Successful record of budget planning and fiscal management of resource allocations;



- Strong communication skills and ability to promote the Musical Theatre Division to a broad constituency that includes prospective students, alumni, and potential/current donors;
- Ability to lead and inspire students and professional faculty and staff;
- Master's degree in Musical Theatre or a related area of study (or commensurate experience).

Procedure for Candidacy

Applications must be submitted online using [this link](#). Upload a cover letter, resume/curriculum vitae, and list of three references. For fullest consideration, application materials should be received by November 1, 2025. Application review will continue until position is filled.

About MSM Musical Theatre

Manhattan School of Music's prestigious Musical Theatre Program, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2026–27, offers a real-world musical theatre training experience, the kind that only New York City can provide, taught by Broadway performers and creators. Remarkably, it is New York's only stand-alone conservatory degree program in musical theatre. Students receive comprehensive training in the art form, culminating in a fully accredited Bachelor's degree.

The Musical Theatre program attracts professional artist-teacher faculty (including the program's Music Director **David Loud**) and guest artists, many of whom have created and performed in some of Broadway's most renowned and commercially successful shows. Creators such as **John Kander**, **Rupert Holmes**, and the late **Charles Strouse** have attended rehearsals for MSM productions of their work and provided enthusiastic feedback to students. The program's Master Class artists have included **Bebe Neuwirth** (an MSM trustee), **Randy Graff**, **Joanna Gleason**, **Victoria Clark**, **Joan Lader**, and many more.

Each academic year, the program provides several performance opportunities for its students, including: four fully-produced book musicals; multiple readings and student-led projects; and the Freshman Hello! showcase and culminating Senior Showcase (attended by invited New York theatre professionals). All MSM productions are directed, choreographed, and designed by working theatre artists. In addition, the ground-breaking MT Lab Series offers professional musical theatre writers the opportunity to workshop material with our students.

According to current MSM Dean of Musical Theatre **Liza Gennaro**: "We train musical theatre artists excelling in acting, singing, and dancing to thrive in a field where they need to be more than performers. Successful artists today are also creative contributors to project development, skilled at digital media, entrepreneurial and self-producing."

About Manhattan School of Music

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its 1,050 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege Division is a professionally oriented Saturday music program dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 8 to 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.



MSM President's Council

James Gandre, President

Joyce Griggs, Executive Vice President and Provost

Nathan Mortimer, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Jeff Breithaupt, Vice President for Marketing, Communications, and Alumni Affairs

Rebecca Charnow, Dean of Youth Education and Community-Career Connections

Monica C. Christensen, Dean of Students

Melissa Cocco-Fernandes, Vice President for Enrollment Management

Reiko Fütting, Dean of Academic Core and Head of Composition and CPP

Liza Gennaro, Dean of Musical Theatre

Nicolas Gonzalez, Assistant Vice President for Strategic Innovation and Special Initiatives

Carleen Graham, Dean of Vocal Arts

Bryan Greaney, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Campus Safety

JT Kane, Dean of Instrumental Studies and Orchestral Performance

Devon Kelly, Chief of Staff and Liaison to the Board of Trustees

Neeraj Kumar, Interim Chief Information Officer

Susan Madden, Vice President for Philanthropy

Carol Matos, Vice President for Administration and Human Relations

Ruben Mullodzhanov, Associate Vice President of Finance and Controller

Jim Saltzman, Dean of Jazz Arts

Kelly Sawatsky, Dean of Academic Affairs

Madeline Tolliver, Dean of Performance and Production Operations

Additional Detail

Title: Dean of Musical Theatre

Division: Musical Theatre

Reports To: Executive Vice President and Provost

Supervises: Musical Theatre Faculty

Internal Contacts: Deans of Academic Core, Jazz Arts, Vocal Arts & Collaborative Piano, Instrumental Studies & Orchestral Performance, Academic Affairs, Performance and Production Operations, Student Affairs, and Youth Education & Community-Career Connections; the Assistant Deans for the Orto Center and for Artistic Operations; Vice Presidents for Philanthropy, and for Marketing, Communications and Alumni Affairs

External Contacts: Musical Theatre professionals and professional organizations/producers/venues, including: Merri Sugarman (Tara Rubin Casting), Rachel Hoffman (The Telsey Office), Mark Redanty (BRS/Gage Talent Agency), Michael Cassara Casting, Philip Shneidman (the little OPERA theatre of ny); Alexa Aquino and Hannah Dawe (Disney Theatrical Group)

Application Due: Review begins November 1, 2025, and will continue until the position is filled.

Start Date: On or about July 1, 2026

Salary Range: \$150,000 – \$165,000

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