

# *ROBERTA A. LAWS*, Soprano

## **Education:**

B.M., M.M. (Voice Performance/Opera)  
Boston Conservatory of Music (1977/1979)  
Voice Instructor: Iride Pilla  
Opera Workshop Director: John Moriarty

## **Extended Studies:**

Performance Presentation Forum (Adria Firestone, 2007)  
Martina Arroyo Foundation, Inc. Role Preparation Class (Martina Arroyo, 2003)  
Saving the Young Voice (Sylvia Olden Lee, 1998)  
Italian, French and German Diction (John Moriarty, Instructor, 1979-1981)  
Opera Workshop (John Moriarty, Director, 1979-1981)  
Private Voice Study: Virginia Grasso  
David Jones  
Mahon Bishop

## **Festivals:**

Colour of Music Festival (Charleston, SC 2013, 2014)  
Piccolo Spoleto Festival (Charleston, SC 2011, 2012)  
International Cervantino Festival (Mexico, 2008)  
New Hampshire Summer Music Festival (2001)  
Grahamstown Festival (South Africa, 1996)  
Saratoga Springs Performing Arts Center Summer Festival (1992)  
Mann Music Center Summer Festival (Pennsylvania, 1992)  
Savolina Festival (Finland, 1992)  
Ravinia Festival (Ohio, 1991)  
Spoleto Festival (Australia, 1987)

## **Competitions:**

Pavarotti Competition Finalist (1981)  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner of the Opera Company of Rhode Island Competition (1980)  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner of the Metropolitan Opera New England Regional Competition (1980)  
Metropolitan Opera National Competition Finalist (1980)  
Houston Grand Opera Studio Competition Finalist (1980)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner of the Metropolitan Opera New England Regional Auditions (1977)

## **Honors/Awards:**

NCCU, College of Arts and Sciences, Dept. of Music; Excellence in Teaching Award (2016)  
Outstanding Community Service for the Talk with NatashaG Radio Show (2013)  
Medgar Evers College Distinguished Achievement Award in Music (2012)  
Lifetime Music Award for the Preservation of African-American Sacred Music (1996)  
N.A.A.C.P. Image Award Nominee for Best Actress (1995)  
Santa Fe Opera Outstanding Apprentice/Artist Award (1980)

## **Teaching Experience:**

KD's Music and Art, Houston, TX (1995-1996)

- Vocal technique
- Vocal coaching and interpretation for Art Songs and Musical Theater repertoire
- Dramatic coaching for Art Songs and Musical Theater repertoire
- Diction coaching
- Audition preparation
- Performance preparation

Boston English High School Music Faculty, Boston, MA. (1979-1981)

- Music Appreciation & Fundamentals
- Choral Director
- Stage movement, Costuming and Make-up for singers
- Audition preparation for College/University/Conservatory entrance

## **Choral Conducting Experience:**

- Director of the North Carolina Central University Choir (2015 to present)
- Guest Concert Choir Conductor for the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Intercollegiate Music (2018)
- Handel's Messiah (Part I) in collaboration with St. Augustine's and Shaw Universities (2017)

**Private Voice Studio: (2009-2014)**

- Vocal technique
- Assign repertoire
- Diction coaching
- Vocal coaching and interpretation of Art Songs, Opera Arias and Roles, and Musical Theater repertoire
- Dramatic coaching of Art Songs, Opera Arias and Roles, and Musical Theater repertoire
- Audition preparation
- Performance preparation

**Master Classes & Vocal Workshops:**

North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC 2013)

Albany State University (Albany, GA 2000, 2002)

Boston Conservatory of Music (Boston, MA 1997)

Prairie View A & M University (Houston, TX 1996)

- Vocal coaching and interpretation of Art Songs, and Opera Arias and Roles
- Dramatic coaching of Art Songs, and Opera Arias and Roles
- Diction coaching
- Explore, study and develop the character of a complete role through the historical and musical setting of the work
- Analyze translation of text and composer's musical intent
- Discussion of proper audition and performance attire
- Information given on apprentice programs, young artist programs, competitions, and artistic management

**Educational & Community Outreach:**

Opera Carolina (Charlotte, NC Public Elementary School System, 2004)

The Ash Tree Organization, Inc. (Savannah, GA, 2002)

Medgar Evers College Presidential Lecture Series (2000)

**"Introducing Students to the World of Opera"**

All City High School Music Program (1997)

Houston Grand Opera Education and Outreach (Artist in Residence, 1996/1997)