

# What does it take to make it in the competitive world of opera?

A fine vocal instrument, *plus...*



... knowing how to showcase the best of your abilities.



... understanding language, diction, and style.



... possessing endurance and persistence.



... making smart choices in the face of pressure.



... maneuvering through a world of auditions, agents, contracts and business practices.



**Susan Shiplett Ashbaker has been helping singers develop their careers for over 20 years. She has distinguished herself as an artist, a teacher, an advisor, and an administrator for a Level One Opera Company.**

**She now brings those unique, collective experiences to you in a special series of programs designed to help emerging singers advance their careers to the next level.**

## What people say about Susan Shiplett Ashbaker:

“We have worked together on numerous occasions and she has meticulously coached my roles with a patience that I’ve never experienced. I will jump always at the opportunity to work with her.”

**Denyce Graves, mezzo-soprano**

“Susan Ashbaker is a very sensitive accompanist and an articulate coach with knowledge of languages and operatic literature that would help any singer bring a stellar performance every time.”

**Angela M. Brown, soprano**

“Combining extensive experience as a vocal coach and accompanist with perspective as an artistic administrator, Susan offers sterling credentials and invaluable insight.”

**Laura Brooks Rice, Professor of Voice  
Westminster Choir College, Rider University**

“Susan is a wonderfully gifted coach and musician. The singers at The Curtis Institute of Music have, over the years, benefitted greatly from her artistry, expertise, and generosity of spirit.”

**Mikael Eliassen, Head of Opera and Vocal Studies,  
The Curtis Institute of Music**

“From her wonderful playing to her understanding of how a singer needs to approach an aria, Susan stands out among coaches I’ve worked with as a true singer’s coach.”

**Meredith Arwady, Contralto**

**For more information on how you can bring Susan Shiplett Ashbaker to your campus or company, e-mail Susan at [ssashbaker@me.com](mailto:ssashbaker@me.com) or call 267.408.0027**

# Susan Shiplett Ashbaker



## Professional Singer Services



### Helping Singers Achieve Their Voice



### Individual or Group Coaching Master Classes

### Audition Preparation Keynote Speaker/Lecturer Independent Artistic Advisor

**[susanashbaker.com](http://susanashbaker.com)**



## Susan Shiplett Ashbaker Background and Qualifications

Susan Shiplett Ashbaker spent 11 of her 16 years at the Opera Company of Philadelphia as the Director of Artistic and Music Administration, where she led the casting and music practices of this Level One Opera Company.

A member of the faculty at The Curtis Institute of Music since 1993, she has also taught at the Academy of Vocal Arts and Philadelphia's College of Performing Arts, and has held assistant conducting positions with New York City Opera, Israeli Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv, and Theater am Goetheplatz in Germany.

Her experience on both sides of the opera industry — as administrator and singer advocate — gives her a rare and comprehensive approach to the key elements of career advancement for singers.

## What Can Susan Do For Your Singers?



**Individual coachings** Whether focusing on the basics of interpretation or putting a final polish on phrasing and diction.



**Group coachings and Master Classes** How many singers have had their “aha!” experience while watching a colleague work in an energetic and supportive setting?



**Mock auditions and audition preparation** Learn the do's and don'ts from someone who has watched over two decades of professional auditions from both sides.



### Keynote speaking/Lectures

Sample conversation topics:

*The Business of Being a Singer*

*Making the Most of Your Vocal Program*

*Bios and Resumes and Photos... Oh My!*

*The Singer/Agent Relationship*

*Steps to the Next Level*

*Staple Yourself to a Singer*



Whether for an afternoon or a week, Susan can tailor a program to suit the needs of you and your students and provide a rewarding, positive experience.

## Additional Credits:



**Competition Judge** for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions; the Marian Anderson Competition; and the Richard Tucker Competition.



**Vocal coach and accompanist** positions with the European Center for Opera and Vocal Arts in Belgium and Chautauqua Institute in New York.



**Frequent moderator and panelist** for Opera America, National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), and National Opera Association.



**Extensive concert and recital work**, throughout Europe and North America, including her New York debut at Weill Hall in 1988. Artists with whom Susan has collaborated include Denyce Graves, Angela Brown, Nathan Gunn, Meredith Arwady, William Burden and Carol Channing.



**Italian, German and French** language specialties.



**Master Degrees in Piano, Vocal Accompanying/Coaching and graduate work at L'ecole Normale de Musique in Paris.**

