

Gabriela Farias brings a unique perspective as both a classroom music teacher and private voice studio owner. She holds an honours undergraduate degree in music education from the University of Toronto, and a Master's of Teaching degree from OISE where she completed her thesis on culturally responsive pedagogy in music education. Gabriela presented her research on pedagogy as it applies to the private voice studio at the NATS (National Association for Teachers of Singing) conference in Chicago, Illinois in July, 2022. She is a knowledgeable voice teacher and pedagogue.

Gabriela is also a versatile singer with performance experience in both opera and music theatre. She has lent her voice to several films showcased at the TIFF lightbox in October 2016. Her favourite roles include: Maria, in the Sound of Music; Susanna, in *The Marriage of Figaro*; Dee Dee, in *Suds*; Rosie, in *Bye Bye Birdie*; Fantine, in *Les Miserables*; and Maria, in *West Side Story*.

At UofT, Gabriela won the Sonja Koerner scholarship in recognition of academic excellence and dedication to music education. During her time at OISE, she was privileged to be awarded the Vernon McCaul fellowship with Young Voices Toronto where she taught under the tutelage of Zimfira Poloz and Tracy Wong. Gabriela made her conducting debut with the choir by premiering a new choral work by Canadian composer Sheldon Rose. Additionally, she received the Mark A. R. M. Crowe Memorial Award which recognizes a student who demonstrates compassion, dedication, and excellence in teaching.

Gabriela has instructed classroom music for grades K-8 in Toronto and Peel region public schools. She acted as assistant conductor to Peel's Honour Choir during rehearsals for their 2019 spring performance. She has also provided musical direction for several devised theatre productions for youth of all ages with the City of Brampton. Currently, Gabriela implements vocal music workshops and masterclasses for public schools in Peel Region and continues her work as a private voice teacher. Gabriela's private voice students have gone on to successfully audition for Regional Arts programs as well as post-secondary music programs.