

Victor Simonson

718-791-0428

Email: simonsonv@gmail.com

www.victorsimonson.net

DISCIPLINES:

Music Director, Conductor, Pianist, Organist, Minister of Music, Composer

MUSIC DIRECTING AND PERFORMING EXPERIENCE:

“MJ The Musical”

Music Director, 1st National Tour

May - current

“Shout Sister Shout”

Associate Music Director

Jan - May 2023

Ford’s Theater, Washington DC

“Hamilton”

Associate Music Director

And Peggy Tour, May 2021 - Jan 2023

“Sophisticated Ladies”

Music Director

December, 2020, Strathmore Performing Arts Center in Collaboration with Young Artists of America

“Shakespeare Gala”

Music Director and Original Arrangements

October, 2020, Shakespeare Theater

“Amen Corner”

Music Director and Original Arrangements

January - March, 2020 Shakespeare Theater

“Newsies”

Keyboard

November – December, 2019 Arena Stage

“Aladdin”

Keyboard

July - Sept, 2019

Kennedy Center

“Into the Woods”

Associate Conductor

February - March, 2019 Ford’s Theater

“Music Man”

Conductor/Pianist

February, 2019,

Kennedy Center

“The Watson’s Go To Birmingham”

Associate Music Director/Arranger/Keyboard Programming

January, 2019, Kennedy Center

“Anything Goes”

Keyboard

November – December, 2018 Arena Stage

“The Lion King”

Keyboard

National Rafiki Tour

May - August, 2018

“The Wiz”

Associate Conductor

February – May, 2018 Ford’s Theater

“West Side Story”

Cover Conductor/Pianist

February, 2018

Kennedy Center, Concert Hall

“The PaJama Game”

Associate Conductor

September – December, 2017 Arena Stage

“Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen”

Curator/Music Director/Arranger

August, 2017 Glimmerglass Festival

“Stomping Grounds”

Music Director/Composer

Hip-hop Opera August, 2017 Glimmerglass Festival

“Bud Not Buddy”

Music Director

Eisenhower Theater Kennedy Center January, 2017

“Batboy the Musical”

Music Director

Montgomery College

September – October, 2016

“Born For This”

Keyboard

Arena Stage

June – August, 2016

“110 In The Shade”

Associate Conductor

Ford’s Theater February 2016-May 2016

“Matilda”

Keyboard

Kennedy Center

December 2015-January 2016

“Motown, the Musical”

Keyboard

National Theater

December 2015 - January 2016

“Beautiful, The Carole King Musical”

Keyboard

Kennedy Center October 2016

“Book of Mormon”

Keyboard

Kennedy Center June-August 2016

“Freedom’s Song”

Associate Conductor

Ford’s Theater February 2015-May 2015

“Diner”

Keyboard

Signature Theater

December 2014 - January 2015

“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”

Keyboard

Kennedy Center

December 2014

“Evita”

Keyboard

Kennedy Center October, 2014

“Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown”

Keyboard

American University

September – October 2014

“The Lion King”

Keyboard

Kennedy Center June – Aug 2014

“Smokey Joe’s Café”

Music Director

Arena Stage April – May 2014

“Violet”

Assistant Conductor

Ford’s Theater

January - February 2014

“A Civil War Christmas”

Music Director

Centerstage Theater, Baltimore MD October - December 2013

“Memphis the Musical”

Associate Music Director

National Tour

September 2012 - May 2013

“Addams Family the Musical”

Keyboard

Kennedy Center August 2012

“Wicked”

Keyboard

Kennedy Center

June – August 2011, December 2016 – January 2017

“Two Gentlemen of Verona”

Assistant Director

Shakespeare Theater January 2011

“The Wiz”

Music Director

CenterStage Theater, Baltimore MD

October – November 2010

“The Color Purple”

Associate Conductor

First National Tour Producer: Oprah Winfrey Director: Gary Griffin January 2007 – March 2010

“Three Mo’ Divas”

Music Director

Creator, Marion J. Caffey

September 2005 – January 2006

“A Good Man the Musical”

Music Director

Director, John Ruocco

Ray Leslee, Music

Book and Lyrics by Philip S. Goodman February 2005

“Brooklyn, The Musical” – Broadway Bound Show

Music Director

Mark Schoenfeld -Barri McPherson Production in cooperation with Sibling Entertainment, NYC

John McDaniel – Musical Supervisor

Jeff Calhoun - Director

February 2003

Three Mo’ Tenors

Musical Director - Conductor, Pianist

Joseph Joubert – Music Supervisor

Thomas Young, Roderick Dixon, Victor Trent Cook; Tenors Conducted National Symphony Orchestra for the Whoopi Goldberg Mark Twain Awards,

Kennedy Center, Washington, DC

Summer 2001 – January 2003

Opera From a Sistah’s Point of View

Music Director, Pianist, Baritone

Angela M. Brown, Kishna Davis; Sopranos

Queens Symphony Orchestra Gospel Choir

Assistant Music Director, Pianist, Composer

Spring 2001

Common Realities

Composer/Assistant Music Director

Brent Jones, William Becton

NEW Productions, Norris D. Wiggins, Producer Spring 2000

Boys Choir of Harlem

Interim Musical Director/Pianist/Teacher

Director – Dr. Walter J. Turnbull Spring 1996 - Spring 2001

United Voices of Praise

Assistant Music Director/Pianist

Fall 1998 - 2001

Winners of the 1st Place National McDonald's Gospel Fest Awards

These Three Tenors

Music Director

Long Island, New York January 1998 – 2002

Ephesus Ensemble

Conductor 1999-2003

Repertoire includes, but not limited to:

Handel; "Messiah"

Williams, Vaughn;

Let all the World in Every Corner Sing from 5 Mystical Songs Brahms; How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place

Vivaldi; Gloria

Special Appearances:

2001- WORD Network

2001- FOX 5 New York Easter Special

MUSIC MINISTRY EXPERIENCE:

Director for Worship and Outreach

Springfield Christian Church, Springfield, VA Sept. 2018 – Sept. 2020

Director of Music and Fine Arts

Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington DC Mar. 2015-2018

Director of Worship and Arts

Clifton Baptist Church, Silver Spring, MD Nov. 2010 – Sept. 2012

Director of Organ Music

Metropolitan Baptist Church, Washington, D.C. 2003 - 2006

Rev. Dr. Beecher Hicks, Pastor

Richard Smallwood, Music Consultant

Nolan Williams, Director of Music

Assistant Minister of Music

Calvary Baptist Church, Queens, New York 9/2000 –2003

Rev. Victor T. Hall, Pastor

Organist/Keyboardist

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY

12/98 - 9/2000

Rev. Dr. Anthony Trufant, Pastor.

Assistant Minister of Music

Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York 9/00 – 10/97

Rev. Alvin Bernstein, Pastor

Pianist

Howard University, Washington, DC 9/92-12/93

Collaborated with the Howard University Chorale

Director of Fine Arts - Dr. Weldon Norris.

Director of Choirs

Mt Olivet Baptist Church, Rochester, NY 12/95-8/96

Minister of Music

Dewey Avenue Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY. 12/94-11/95

Pianist

St. Raphael's RCC, Silver Spring, MD 4/94- 12/94

Assistant Minister of Music

Memorial Presbyterian Church, Roosevelt, New York 1985 – 1992

Rev. Dr. Reginald Tuggle, Pastor

Dr. Stanley Lee Ralph, Minister of Music

GUEST ORGANIST:

Appeared at churches throughout the USA as the featured Guest Organist/Pianist including the following:

St, James AME
Third Baptist Church

Chicago, IL
San Francisco, CA

Pastor Willie Thorne
Pastor Amos Brown

Grant AME	Los Angeles, CA	Pastor Leslie White
St. John United Methodist	Houston, TX	Pastor Rudy & Juanita Rasmus
New Life Fellowship Church	Charlotte, NC	Pastor John P. Key
Ebenezer Baptist Church	Atlanta, Georgia	Pastor Raphael Wornock
Hartford Memorial	Detroit, MI	Pastor Charles G. Adams
Oak Grove AME	Detroit, MI	Pastor Robert Broomfield
Progressive Missionary Baptist	St. Louis, IL	Pastor PJ Oliver
Ray of Hope Christian Church	Atlanta, GA	Pastor Cynthia Hale
Light of the World CC	Indianapolis, IL	Pastor Tom Benjamin
Mississippi Blvd Christian Church	Memphis, TN	Pastor Frank Thomas

CD PROJECTS / FEATURED COMPOSER

Composer/Original Arrangements

AMEN CORNER
February, 2020
Shakespeare Theater

Composer/Music Director

STOMPING GROUNDS Hip-Hop Opera
August, 2017 Glimmerglass Festival

Composer/Pianist/Arranger

On My Journey Now, Artist: Lester Lynch, February, 2017 Pentatone records

Composer/Pianist/Arranger

Victory, Introducing Victor Simonson February, 2008

Orchestrations / Arranger / Overdubs

Grammy Award winner Donnie McLurkin "McClurkin Project"

Composer (Another Chance)

Grammy Nominated Gospel Category CD "Total Praise", Brooklyn, NY
Frank Haye – Conductor
Released February 2003

Composer - Gospel Inspirational Musical

"A House is Not A Home"

Christopher Williams (New Jack City), Chantey Moore, Trin-i-Tee

Composer

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE:

SAG -ScreenActorsGuild–SAGMemberAppearedasextra

- "Bronx Tale" Robert De Niro
- "Clockers" Spike Lee
- "Scent of A Women",
- "Night and the City"
- "Law and Order"

COMMUNITY:

Al Pacino Robert De Niro 6 episodes

Bread For the World Hunger Justice Leaders – Advocated at the White House for poor and hungry persons worldwide. Music Director for National Gathering, 2012.

C.A.A.P.A., Inc. (Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts, Inc.)

<http://www.4caapaa.org>

Non-Profit Organization dedicated to the cultural outreach, talent development, community programming, and audience awareness of African Americans, classical musicians, and students.

National Urban League

Musical Director of Gospel Choir – NULITES

NAACP ACT-SO Competition

Served as Collaborative Pianist for Classical Musicians participating in Rochester, NY branch.

AWARDS:

- Grammy-Nominated CD. Composer Contributor "Total Praise" - 2003
- Helen Hayes Award Nomination – Best Musical Direction – 2007 "Three Mo' Divas "

EDUICATION:

Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington D.C.

Master of Divinity, 2021

Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York Attended 1994 - May 1996

Vocal Performance (voice- lyric baritone)

Studio of John Malloy

Studied Piano in the studio of Rebecca Penneys

Howard University, Washington, DC

Fall 1992 - Spring 1994 Major – Piano 4 Year Presidential Scholarship

Tutelage of Dr. Weldon Norris

Manhattan School of Music Preparatory Division, New York City,

NY Fall 1988 - Spring 1991 Major

Piano Major - Mr. Diaz Acosta

Minor – Trombone Studio of Rosetta Goodkind

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Bullis Private School

Teacher of Voice

June 2020 – 2021

Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Washington D.C.

September 2019 – March 2020

Collaborative Pianist

University of Maryland, College Park

January 2018 - 2023

Music Director/Coach for Musical Theater Class

Washington Mathematics Science Technology Public Charter High School

September 2016 – 2018

Music Theory, Digital Recording and Choral Music

Boys Choir of Harlem

1996-2000

Vocal Pedagogy, Diction and Vocal Performance

TRAINING:

Dr. Robert Harris	Conducting
John Malloy - Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York	Voice
Michael Crouse, Freeport, New York	Voice
Mrs. Rebecca Pennys, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY	Piano
Dr. Thomas Flagg, Howard University, Washington, DC	Piano
Mrs. Rosetta Goodkind - Manhattan School of Music, NYC, NY	Piano
Dr. Stanley Lee Ralph, Roosevelt, New York	Piano

REFERENCES:

Scot Reese,
Professor | Head of Performance
University of Maryland
sreese@umd.edu

Joseph Joubert
Music Director, Orchestrator, Pianist
joejoubert@comcast.net

Dr. Eileen Guenther,
Professor of Church Music,
Wesley Theological Seminary
Powerofspirituals@gmail.com