

# ELISE SANTA

elise.c.santa@gmail.com | (218) 341-2688 | www.elisesanta.com

---

## MUSIC DIRECTION

Disney's Beauty and the Beast - Ordway Center for the Performing Arts – *Conductor*  
Six - Norwegian Cruise Line - *Keys Conductor*  
Bright Star - Lyric Arts (Regional Premiere) - *Keys Conductor*  
Disneys' Beauty and the Beast - Duluth Playhouse, NorShor Theatre - *Conductor, Keyboard Programmer*  
A Grand Night for Singing - Duluth Playhouse, NorShor Theatre – *Keys Conductor*  
Urinetown: The Musical - Lyric Arts - *Keys Conductor*  
Nice Work If You Can Get It - Lyric Arts – *Keys Conductor*  
The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee - Lyric Arts - *Keys Conductor*  
Children of Eden - Pindar Theatre Performers, UK - *Keys Conductor*  
Godspell - Chaska Valley Family Theatre - *Keys Conductor*  
Wellstone: A Minnesotan Musical - Minnesota Fringe Festival, Stoll Thrust Theatre, Rarig Center - *Keys Conductor*

## ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTION & CONDUCTING

Jersey Boys - Chanhassen Dinner Theatres – *Keys, Keys Conductor Substitute*  
The Prom - Chanhassen Dinner Theatres – *Keys, Keys Conductor Substitute*  
Footloose – Chanhassen Dinner Theatres - *Keys Conductor Substitute*  
Mamma Mia! - Chanhassen Dinner Theatres - *Keys Conductor Substitute*  
The Pajama Game - Greenwich Theatre, UK - *Assistant Music Director, Keys*  
Postgraduate Musical Theatre Showcase, Mountview - Unicorn Theatre, UK - *AMD, Arranger, Keys, Keys Programmer*  
London Road - Karamel Theatre, UK - *Assistant Music Director, Rehearsal Accompanist*  
Flora the Red Menace - Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, UK - *Assistant Music Director, Keys*  
Babes in Arms - Mountview Academy of Theatre Art, UK - *Assistant Music Director, Keys*

## ACADEMIC MUSIC DIRECTION

And the World Goes 'Round - The Southern Theater - St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists - *MD, Keys*  
The Threepenny Opera - St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists - *Music Director, Keys Conductor*  
Jesus Christ Superstar - Cretin-Derham Hall - *Music Director, Keys Conductor*

## PIT MUSICIAN & ACCOMPANIST

Every After in Concert – Ordway Center for the Performing Arts – *Keys*  
Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant - Park Square Theatre (Premiere) – *Keys, Rehearsal Accompanist*  
Shrek The Musical - Lyric Arts - *Keys*  
Working: A Musical - University of Minnesota - *Rehearsal Accompanist*  
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat - Chaska Valley Family Theatre - *Keys*  
Matilda the Musical - Edina High School - *Keys, Rehearsal Accompanist*

## CABARETS, MASTERCLASSES & MISC.

The 24 Hour Musicals: Minneapolis - Hennepin Theatre Trust, University of Minnesota Duluth,  
Chanhassen Dinner Theatres - *Music Director, Keys Conductor*  
Acting Through Song Masterclass: Melissa Hart - St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists - *Accompanist*  
WTI Cabaret - Women's Theatre Initiative - Bryant Lake Bowl & Theater - *Keys*  
Not Fair, My Lady - Drafts & Draughts, Playwrights' Center, *Keys*  
Spotlight Orchestra Masterclass - Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight Education, State Theatre - *Keys*  
Acting Through Song Masterclass: Aimee Bryant - St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists - *Accompanist*  
Key Change Cabaret - The BAND Group, Bryant Lake Bowl & Theater - *Keys*  
Actors Cabaret - Karamel Club, Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, UK - *MD, Arranger, Keys Conductor*  
BAND Cabaret - The BAND Group - Bryant Lake Bowl & Theater - *Keys*  
All Access Cabaret - The BAND Group, Bryant Lake Bowl & Theater - *Keys*

# ELISE SANTA

---

## EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Madison, Wisconsin, USA

**Master of Science in Educational Psychology – Learning Analytics**

May 2023

Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London, UK

**Master of Arts in Musical Direction**, Merit

July 2018

University of Minnesota Duluth, Minnesota, USA

**Bachelor of Music in Music Education** - Instrumental

Departmental Honors, *magna cum laude*

May 2013

## SKILLS

Tableau, Excel, R, SQL, RapidMiner, Sibelius, Finale, MainStage, Logic, QLab

## CERTIFICATION

Minnesota State Teaching License K-12 Music Education Instrumental

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

AFM – American Federation of Musicians, Local 30-73

## DATA SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

Learning Analytics Consulting Capstone Project, University of Wisconsin – Madison

2023

### **Visualization Lead**

- Developed a plan with stakeholder, Sun Prairie Area School District (15 schools serving 8,500 students) to analyze standardized assessment outcomes against student mobility and attendance
- Analyzed 5 standardized test data sets ranging from 390 to 17,000 lines of data with 15 variables using ANCOVA and t-tests in R
- Collaborated with 3 team members and 8 stakeholders to present at virtual meetings
- Created [Tableau visualizations](#) to display trends in student demographics and academic achievement
- Presented key findings to stakeholders through [PowerPoint presentations](#) and provided actionable analyses

## RELEVANT COURSEWORK EXPERIENCE

Master of Science in Educational Psychology – Learning Analytics, University of Wisconsin – Madison

2021-2023

### **Graduate Student**

- Conducted 2 rigorous research projects in quantitative and qualitative research methods using a variety of programming software applied in learning analytics
- Designed learning environments modeled to predict success and retention and support strategic learning outcomes
- Created visualizations using Tableau and presentations using Powerpoint to communicate engaging and meaningful results to stakeholders through compelling data-driven stories
- Applied data mining techniques to large educational data sets to gain insights into how people learn and examine institutional effectiveness

## SELECT MUSIC LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Chanhassen, MN

2020 – Current

**Associate Music Director:** *Jersey Boys, The Prom, Footloose, The Music Man, Mamma Mia!*

- Perform 8 shows a week playing a programmed keyboard with 100+ instrumental patch changes
- Lead performances as the substitute keys conductor cuing a 10 piece orchestra and 25 piece ensemble
- Maintain diligently detailed observations and notes regarding the conductor's cues and gestures

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, St. Paul, MN

2022

**Music Director: *Disney's Beauty and the Beast***

- Collaborated with a 40+ person creative team to design and create this enchanted story for a 2,000 seat theatre
- Rehearsed with 35 actors and 12 orchestra musicians to teach the music and continually apply stylistically appropriate musical characterizations in coordination with the choreographer and director
- Directed all performances as orchestra conductor and maintained precise timing of QLab click tracks and musical coordination with the ensemble and creative team

Norwegian Cruise Line, Miami, FL

2020

**Music Director: *Six***

- Performed 4 shows a week on stage in character as the conductor and keys player using MainStage and QLab to maintain accuracy of every show
- Strengthened vocals with the actors to maintain the highest musical standards and improved physical stamina throughout each performance
- Cultivated a spirit of teamwork and support through the tumultuous decisions and changes regarding COVID-19

**TEACHING AND DIRECTING EXPERIENCE**

Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, St. Paul, MN

2019 - 2021

***Orchestra Department Head***

***Chamber Orchestra Teacher***

- Conducted rehearsals and creatively engaged classes of 30+ students to collaboratively hone musical technique
- Organized collaborative ensemble performances to include diverse instrumentalists for small and large scale orchestral pieces
- Designed and instructed in-person and virtual conducting and music theory curriculum for 30 current students and an indefinite number of future students
- Selected a stylistic variety of chamber repertoire with wide instrumentation accessibility

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Circle Pines, MN

2014 – 2016

**Music Director**

- Organized collaborative ensemble performances with choirs and instrumentalists
- Performed solo and collaborative instrumental repertoire, hymns and contemporary worship songs
- Conducted handbell choir rehearsals and performances and taught proper musical technique

St. Louis Park Middle School, St. Louis Park, MN

2014 – 2015

***World Drumming and Guitar Teacher***

- Engaged diverse classes of 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in connecting music with worldly cultures
- Instructed students in proper playing technique for world drums, percussion, guitar and voice
- Taught music theory, notation, composition, and improvisation through each learned instrument

Maple Lake Elementary School and St. Timothy's School, Maple Lake, MN

2013 - 2014

***Band and General Music Teacher***

- Directed 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade band ensemble rehearsals and conducted organized concerts
- Taught proper instrumental technique and theory while assessing students through lessons and rehearsals
- Engaged grades 1, 2, and 3 in Orff, Kodaly, and Dalcroze learning methods

Santa Piano Studio, Savage, MN 2014 – 2017, 2020 - 2022  
Annandale Community Education, Maple Lake, MN 2013 – 2014  
Private Instructor, Duluth, MN & Burnsville, MN 2007 – 2013

***Piano Teacher***

- Instructed students throughout diverse phases of playing piano and music theory
- Generated age appropriate curriculum and repertoire
- Maintained flexible and versatile communication for age appropriate training
- Provided continual development practices to prepare students for future musical studies

ACCOMPANYING

Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London, UK 2018

***Singing Assessment Accompanist***

- Accompanied postgraduate students in contemporary and legit musical theatre assessments

University of Minnesota Duluth, Duluth, MN 2011 – 2012

***Vocal & Instrumental Accompanist***

- Accompanied solo instrumental and vocal juries
- Rehearsed with students and professors in weekly lessons

Hope United Methodist Church, Duluth, MN 2010 – 2012

***Choir Accompanist***

- Accompanied vocal choir rehearsals and performances
- Required ability to sight-read, transpose, and play with accuracy and musicality

VOCAL COACHING

Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, MN 2019

***Vocal Coach and Accompanist***

- Selected vocally appropriate golden age repertoire for individual students
- Engaged students in acting through song and instructed proper vocal technique
- Accompanied musical theatre singing juries

ADMINISTRATION

***MMTA Theory and Sight Playing Exam Administrator***

University of Northwestern, St. Paul, MN 2017

Normandale Community Bloomington, MN 2015 – 2017