

Josh Lisner

Conductor

PROFILE

Josh Lisner maintains an active career as a conductor, tenor, and professional musician. He is in demand in professional, liturgical, and choral settings as a soloist, chorister, and conductor.

Lisner is currently pursuing a Masters of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Cincinnati: College Conservatory of Music.

Prior to his graduate work, Lisner served as Director of Choirs and Vocal Music at Edison High School in New Jersey for five years.

Lisner hopes to one day continue his education with doctoral studies and to eventually conduct high-level symphonic repertoire at the collegiate and professional level.

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

University of Cincinnati: College Conservatory of Music - Masters of Music in Choral Conducting
- **(In Progress –Fall 2026 – May 2028)**

Westminster Choir College - Bachelor of Music in Music Education
- Summa Cum Laude, Four-time Dean's List Recipient, Undergraduate GPA: 3.8, Graduate GPA: 4.0
- Dean's Scholarship Recipient
- Burns Alan Dobbins, Jr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship – Music Education Award
- Student Government Association – Senator at Large
- Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity Rho Kappa Chapter – Elected Officer & Choir Master
- Westminster Choir College Tutoring Center – Music Theory Tutor
- Chapel Choir – Tenor Section Leader

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Edison High School – Director of Choirs and Vocal Music
2021 – 2026
- Conducted rehearsals of 160+ students, developing vocal technique, artistry, and ensemble leadership to deliver unified, expressive, and engaging concert performances.
- Collaborated with world-renowned artists—including Voces8, the Westminster Choir, Donald Nally, Eric Whitacre, and Reena Esmail—and prepared performances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, providing students with mentorship and exposure to premier professional experiences.
- Planned and led annual overnight competition trips for 100 students to locations including Virginia Beach, Disney, Universal, and Myrtle Beach, coordinating travel logistics and recreational activities that culminated in fulfilling musical experiences with choirs earning first-place, Superior, and Best in Class awards at all four locations.
- Served as Chief Executive Officer of the Edison High School Choir Parents Organization, directing all parent fundraising efforts and initiatives totaling over $700K across five years, including planning, budgeting, and execution of major trips, festivals, and musical programs.
- Created and conducted the Edison Township Choral Festival, uniting 300 students, alumni, and community members from rival high schools (Edison High School and John P. Stevens High School) into a single choral ensemble.

Edison High School – Interim Director of Orchestras (Maternity Leave Position)
February 2024 – June 2024
- Instructed 3 orchestra classes (Freshmen Orchestra, Concert Orchestra, and Auditioned Chamber Orchestra), all while handling Director of Choirs and Vocal Music responsibilities.
- Conducted diverse repertoire for performances and collaborated with Wind Ensemble Colleagues and students to perform symphonic orchestral pieces.
- Managed logistical aspects of the orchestra program, including scheduling rehearsals, organizing concerts, and coordinating with faculty and staff, while maintaining communication with parents and guardians.
- Mentored student leaders within the orchestra, fostering leadership and musical skills.

John P. Stevens High School – Student Teacher
2021
- Conducted virtual rehearsal of 150 students through the use of technology integration and differentiated instruction.
- Planned and facilitated community building activities within the choral department.
- Assembled virtual choir projects for concerts and showcases (Adobe Premiere, Adobe Audition)

Princeton Girlchoir, Westrick Music Academy – Conducting Fellow
2020–2021
- Conducted weekly virtual rehearsals of 45 students using technology and prerecorded lectures.
- Assisted conductor with preparation for virtual concerts and weekly rehearsal preparations.
- Facilitated conversations with students about performances and musical components.
- Enhanced recruitment through connections to local and national teachers, campus programs, and scholarships.

Bear Tavern Elementary School – Elementary General Music/Choir Practicum Student
2020
- Conducted and accompanied choral warm-ups and rehearsals both in-person and online.
- Instructed students in general music classes and Orff instrument ensembles.

Westminster Choir College Vocal Institute – Aural Theory Instructor and Conductors Assistant
2018–2020
- Instructed students on aural theory topics including rhythm, melody, sight-reading.
- Connected with students one-on-one to provide individualized instruction with written feedback and goals.
- Assisted program director in organization and planning of institute schedule, recitals, concerts, auditions, and classes.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Princeton Pro Musica – Conducting Fellow
2025 – 2026
- Conducted in subscription performances, leading a 120-person choir and orchestra in various repertoire including movements from Handel's Messiah, large scale Christmas Carols, and the first Movement of Chichester Psalms.
- Directed rehearsals on repertoire such as Bach's Magnificat, emphasizing rhetorical style, clarity of gesture, and expressive delivery.
- Facilitated a healthy and collaborative rehearsal culture through targeted warm-ups and ensemble-building practices that supported vocal health and musical engagement.
- When not conducting, participated in the tenor section while taking detailed rehearsal notes in preparation for weekly planning meetings with the Artistic Director.

Choral Arts Society of New Jersey – Assistant Conductor Intern
2024 – 2025
- Led rehearsals for a 50-member choir, preparing Mariana Martínez's Dixit Dominus and Mozart's Missa Brevis in B-flat in the artistic director's absence.
- Coordinated concert logistics with the executive board, managing spatial planning and program details.
- Provided rehearsal feedback on balance, diction, intonation, and musical interpretation.
- Led sectional rehearsals, refining vocal technique and ensemble cohesion.
- Served as tenor section leader, supporting the ensemble in rehearsals.

The Crossing Choir – Summer Associate
2021
- Supported the artistic staff (Donald Nally and Kevin Vondrack) with rehearsal and performance logistics and planning.
- Provided performers with technology assistance on Echoes Amplification Kits, a new amplification system The Crossing designed for socially-distant singing.
- Corresponded with stage management, audio engineers, front of house, and artistic staff for effective rehearsals and performances.

LITURGICAL EXPERIENCE

Friendship United Methodist Church – Director of Sacred Music and Worship
Beginning August of 2026
- Will select repertoire for weekly services for a blended worship service environment.
- Will attend weekly planning and collaboration meetings with the pastor and church leadership.
- Will collaborate and mentor accompanist.

Church of the Immaculate Conception – Tenor Section Leader
2017–2026
- Performed as a member of the choir, professional TTBB quartet and cantor for Catholic Mass Services (3 calls per week)
- Conducted rehearsals of the full choir and the chamber choir.
- Conducted and accompanied sectional rehearsals.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MASTERCLASSES, AND CONFERENCES

Interlochen Choral Conducting Institute (Auditioned)
2026 (Summer Program)
- Conducted in an ensemble of 50 in a Masterclass with Dr. Amanda Quist.
- Served as choral ringers on repertoire including Brahm's *Schicksalslied*, Copland's *The Promise of Living,* and Quartel's *There was a Time.*

College Conservatory of Music: University of Cincinnati – International Conductor Training Program (Auditioned)
2023 – 2025 (Summer Program)
- Conducted rehearsals and a performance of movements of Bach's Magnificat and Haydn's Paukenmesse with professional singers and instrumentalists.
- Attended lectures on score study and classes on rehearsal technique under the direction of Joe Miller and Brett Scott.
- Participated in masterclasses on conducting gesture with a professional choir and orchestra.
- Sang as a member of the ensemble for performances of Duruflé's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Poulenc's *Gloria*, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

Westminster Choir College Conducting Institute – Attendee (non-auditioned) and Director's Assistant
2018–2020 (Summer Program)
- Conducted repertoire in Masterclass sessions daily. Studying in a studio under: Dr. Bruce Chamberlain (2018), Dr. Charles Bruffy (2019), and Dr. James Jordan (2020).
- Assisted program director in the organization, facilitation, and planning of the institute's schedule, recitals, concerts, auditions, and classes.
- Acted as an Executive Assistant to eight high profile conductors (program instructors), ensuring all travel (including flights), meals, and logistical needs were met prior to, and during the program.

Westminster Summer Choral Festival Attendee
2017-2019 (Summer Program)
- Conducted repertoire in Masterclass sessions throughout the week. Studying in a studio under: Dr. Ryan Brandau (2017), Dr. Amanda Quist (2018), and Dr. Z. Randall Stroope (2019).
- Sang as a member of the Choral Festival Choir on repertoire including: *Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610* featuring early music ensemble *Pifaro* (2017), Bach's *Magnificat* and Howell's *Requiem* (2018), along with other repertoire.

Conferences
- NJACDA Summer Conference Attendee: 2021-2025
- Montclair State University Choral Festival: 2021-2025
- Combating Systemic Racism in the Music Classroom Seminar Attendee: 2020
- Westminster Choir 100th Year Tour Chorister: 2020
- ACDA Eastern Division Conference Attendee: 2020
- Visions of Research in Music Education Conference Attendee: 2019
- NAfME National Convention Attendee: 2017

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Grammy Quarterfinalist for the 2027 Music Educator Award – 2026
- Nominated and selected as a music educator "who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrates a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools."

Grammy Award in the 67th Grammy Awards – 2022
- Featured in Netflix's film *Maestro*, directed by Bradley Cooper – a biographical film about Leonard Bernstein, winning a Grammy in the 67th Grammy Awards.

OTHER SKILLS

Budget Management	Travel/Tour Coordination (Large Group)	Concert Program Design
Program Note Author	Video Production / Editing	Simple Audio Recording Production
Music Library Management	Website Development	Graphic Design
Writer		

MAJOR PERFORMANCES SUNG

Mahler Symphony No. 2 in C minor	Yannick Nézet-Séguin	Carnegie Hall	Philadelphia Symphonic Choir	2026
Verdi Requiem	Ricardo Muti	Kimmel Center – Mary Anderson Hall	Philadelphia Symphonic Choir	2024
Puccini La Bohème	Yannick Nézet-Séguin	Kimmel Center – Mary Anderson Hall	Philadelphia Symphonic Choir	2024
Orff Carmina Burana	Tito Muñoz	Carnegie Hall	Orchestra of St. Luke's	2024
Mozart Requiem	Nathalie Stutzmann	Kimmel Center – Verizon Hall	Philadelphia Symphonic Choir	2024
Music of Leonard Bernstein	Yannick Nézet-Séguin	Lincoln Center –David Geffen Hall	New York Philharmonic Chorus	2024
Brahms Requiem	Yannick Nézet-Séguin	Kimmel Center – Verizon Hall	Philadelphia Symphonic Choir	2024
Bruckner Te Deum	Yannick Nézet-Séguin	Kimmel Center – Verizon Hall	Philadelphia Symphonic Choir	2023
Handel Messiah	Jeannette Sorrell	Kimmel Center – Verizon Hall	Philadelphia Symphonic Choir	2022
Bernstein Make our Garden Grow	Bradley Cooper	Maestro 2023 Film – Bradley Cooper	Philadelphia Symphonic Choir	2022
Pachamama Meets and Ode	Yannick Nézet-Séguin	Kimmel Center – Verizon Hall	Philadelphia Symphonic Choir	2022
The Hours (World Premiere)	Yannick Nézet-Séguin	Kimmel Center – Verizon Hall	Philadelphia Symphonic Choir	2022
Bach Saint Matthew Passion*	Joe Miller	Maltz Performing Arts Center +	Westminster Choir	2020
Ravel L'Enfant et les sortilèges	Stéphane Denève	Kimmel Center – Verizon Hall	Westminster Symphonic Choir	2020
Bach B Minor Mass	Yannick Nézet-Séguin	Kimmel Center – Verizon Hall	Westminster Symphonic Choir	2019
Whitbourn Annelies	James Jordan	National Cathedral – Washington DC	Westminster Williamson Voices	2019
Beethoven 9th Symphony	Xian Zhang	Carnegie Hall	Montclair University Chorale	2019
Chichester Psalms – Tenor Soloist	Amanda Quist	Princeton University Chapel	Westminster Choir College - Vocal Institute	2018
Bach Magnificat & Howells Requiem	Joe Miller	Richardson Auditorium	Westminster Summer Choral Festival	2018
Britten War Requiem	Michael Pratt	Richardson Auditorium	Princeton Pro Musica	2018
Selections from Durufle Requiem	Amanda Quist	Princeton University Chapel	Westminster Choir College - Vocal Institute	2017
Monteverdi Vespers of 1610	Joe Miller	Princeton Theological Seminary	Westminster Summer Choral Festival	2017
Vivaldi Gloria and Mass Service	Heather Buchanan	Saint Peter's Basilica – Rome Italy	Montclair State University –Vocal Accord	2017
Selections from Mozart Requiem	Amanda Quist	Princeton University Chapel	Westminster Choir College - Vocal Institute	2016
Mozart Vespers	Richard Bjella	Carnegie Hall	Manhattan Concert Productions	2015

* Indicates concert was prepared but not performed due to Covid-19 Pandemic

REFERENCES

Dr. Heather Buchanan – Montclair State University
Director of Choral Activities

Dr. Ryan Brandau – Princeton Pro Musica
Artistic Director

Dr. Joe Miller – University of Cincinnati/Philadelphia Orchestra Symphonic Choir
Director of Choral Activities/Choir Master

Dr. Jason Vodicka – Westminster Choir College
Senior Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences & Professor of Music Education

Contact information will be furnished upon request.