

Dr. Bianca Jackson Biography



Coloratura soprano Bianca Jackson, DMA, is an Associate Professor of Music and Voice Coordinator at Alcorn State University, where she teaches applied voice, lyric diction, vocal pedagogy, song literature, aural skills, and African American music. She maintains a dynamic vocal music studio, performing classical and contemporary music. Her students have graduated to become music educators, performers, and entrepreneurs. Previous appointments include Associate Professor of Music at Norfolk State University. With over ten years of teaching experience, she is also a proud former music education teacher in the Mississippi Public School system.

Jackson possesses over twenty years' experience in classical, sacred, and contemporary genres and has performed across the U.S. and in Italy. She is in demand as a performing artist and collaborator, coordinating events featuring Black composers with various city, cultural, and community organizations. She performed the music of Black women composers as a featured soloist and guest lecturer in multiple concerts with the Virginia Chorale and Virginia Opera. Performance ensembles have included the Virginia Opera and featured soloist with the Norfolk State University Theatre Company. Her debut recital in Hampton Roads (Virginia) was with the Chesapeake Civic Chorus.

As a current Virginia Humanities HBCU Scholars Fellow, Jackson has a lifelong investment to express Black creativity, performing and researching folk, operatic, classical, and contemporary vocal music. Her research has sought to highlight the Black voice in classical music, notably her lecture recital: *Little Black Slave Child: Musical Expressions of Black Cultural Trauma*. Jackson presented a lecture recital at the 2020 National Opera Association's Southeastern Regional Conference on cultural trauma in selected operas by William Grant Still, the "Dean of African American Composers." She was presenter and panelist on the history and impact of spirituals at the 2021 Virginia Chapter and Mid-Atlantic Regional Conferences for the National Association of Teachers of Singing. She has been an active performer in virtual performances with musicians across the U.S. and world. Jackson created an annual virtual Black History VOICE Recital to showcase student and faculty performances.

Jackson serves as vice-president of an HBCU Opera & Musical Theatre Collective, collaborating to diversify the arts. Previous leadership roles include Scholarship Chair and Co-Advisor of the student chapter of the Tidewater Area Musicians Branch of the National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc. She has been an adjudicator of independent film festivals, youth music competitions, and HBCU pageants. Jackson has been featured as a soloist on several recordings. As a singer-songwriter and poet, she has composed music for stage play and Black historical events. She founded a non-profit that merges a message with music, The WOMB Project, to address challenges to women's health.

Honors include a Mississippi Arts Commission Fellowship, encouragement award for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and finalist in New York City's Career Bridges Competition. She is an alumna of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship and the Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers. Jackson earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance from The University of Texas at Austin, as the first graduate music student with certification in African and African American Studies. Other degrees include a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and dual Music Performance and Music Education degrees from Tougaloo College, where she was a Presidential Scholar.