



Maika'i Nash

Pianist, Music Director, Educator, Opera Coach

Hawaiian pianist, Maika'i Nash, returned home to Hawai'i in 2017 to accept the Head of Music and Director of the Orvis Opera Studio Program positions at the Hawai'i Opera Theatre. In his 20 year absence, Maika'i lived abroad, studying at McGill University in Montréal, at the Schubert Institute of Lieder in Vienna, the Centre for Operatic Studies in Sulmona, Italy, and privately in Paris. He spent the bulk of his career in Toronto and Montréal, working for a number of Canadian opera companies, McGill University, the University of Toronto, Western University, the Glenn Gould School, and the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Always a voracious adventurer, he also spent 2 years in Bogotá, Colombia, working as a vocal coach, répétiteur, and pianist throughout the Colombian capital, and in the other major Colombian cities. Now firmly reestablished in Honolulu, Maika'i has launched the new performing arts, non-profit group, HI Arts Lab... a company creating experiential moments in music across multiple art forms. The company launched in 2019 to rave reviews and a well attended 3-night run at the Entrepreneur's Sandbox in Honolulu's art district, Kaka'ako and produced an additional 6 experiences throughout the 2019-2020 season to sold-out audiences.

As an operatic vocal coach, Maika'i has worked with a number of opera companies throughout Canada, Colombia, and the United States. He has also been engaged as the official collaborative pianist for the Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions for a number of years and has also collaborated and recorded with renowned singers such as Richard Margison, Quinn Kelsey, Audrey Luna, Barry Banks, Mark Doss, Leslie-Ann Bradley & Martha Senn. Maika'i is currently the official pianist for Disney Entertainment for the State of Hawai'i and works with the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, Manoa Valley Theatre, Diamond Head Theatre, the I'm a Bright Kid Foundation, Gridiron, and is a vocal coach and collaborator La Sorellanza, a community women's choir in Honolulu.

An avid educator, Maika'i has been on faculty at festivals in Europe, Canada, Colombia, and the US. He has a small studio of students in Honolulu and continues to teach and coach privately while working to expand HI Arts Lab to offer traditional arts and music courses alongside innovative new course offerings not offered currently in Hawaii.

Maika'i has performed in a number of renowned masterclass series with international artists that include: Christine Goerke, Barbara Bonney, Elly Ameling, Joan Dornemann, Julius Drake, Edith Wiens, Cynthia Hoffman, Helmut Deutsch, Rudolf Jansen, Robert Holl, Wendy Nielsen, Laura Claycomb & Denise Massé, among others. Growing up in Hawaii, Maika'i studied with Ernest Chang and continues his collaboration with the legendary teacher by teaching at his school in Makiki.

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