Musical Theater for Classical Singers

Resources compiled by Peabody LAUNCHPad, Updated Aug. 2018

Advice Articles

Musical Theater Singing for the Classical Voice
Neil Semer on how musical theater can help classically trained singers

Transitioning from Opera to Broadway
Advice on building a musical theater career. Published on Backstage.com

Differences btwn Opera and Musical Theater
By composer/librettist Mark Adamo

Kelli O’Hara
5 Tony nominations and a thriving Broadway career. Interview: Broadway World

Case Examples: Contemporary

Kristen Chenoweth
“Training is the most important gift you can give yourself.” Interviews: PhillyMag | Amazon

Andriana Chuchman
Roles include Magnolia in Show Boat & Adina in L’elisir d’Amore. Interviews: Camelot | L’Elisir

Victoria Clark
Performances include Margaret in The Light in the Piazza & Ma Joad in The Grapes of Wrath. Interview: Broadway World | WSJ

Nathan Gunn
Roles range from Lancelot in Camelot to Billy Budd. Interview: MusicalCriticism.com

Audra McDonald
Classically trained, Tony winner: Bess in a Porgy and Bess revival; Billie Holiday in Lady Day. NPR Interviews | Bio

Lauren Molina
Coloratura, belter, rocker. Interview: NPR

Case Examples: 20th Century

Eileen Farrell
Dramatic soprano; jazz & pop singer. Her advice: “Tell a story in song.” Videos | Bio

James Melton
Switched to opera in the 1930s after tenor voices went out of style in pop music. Bio

Marni Nixon

Janet Pavek
Played Guenevere in Camelot & Musetta in La Boheme at the MET. Obituary: Playbill.com

Frederica von Stade
Originally wanted to sing musical theatre; gained fame for opera. Interview: Opera Lively

From Johnson’s Kids to Lemonade Opera: The American Classical Singer Comes of Age
Book by Victoria Etnier Villamil on the 1930s-50s