

**ADRIAN A. DURLESTER, M.T.S.**

Longform Resume with Judaic, Music & Theater Credits

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**EDUCATION**

Master of Theological Studies, Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, TN 2000  
BFA, North Carolina School of the Arts (School of Design & Production) 1977  
Bronx High School of Science, Bronx, NY 1973  
Manhattan School of Music, Preparatory Division (1969-1973)  
The Juilliard School, Pre-College Division (1960-1969)

**Current Employment**

Sept 2016-present **Substitute Teacher, K-12**, Simsbury Public Schools, Simsbury, CT  
Aug 2014-present **Choir Director, Religious School Teacher, Music Specialist, B'nai Mitzvah Tutor, Audio Consultant**, Farmington Valley Jewish Cong., Simsbury CT  
2001-present Freelance Jewish Educator; Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tutor;  
1972-present Theatrical Production Generalist; Musician, Arranger, Accompanist, Musical Director; Technology Consultant; Audio Systems Consultant; Editor; Presenter

**Previous Employment (Jewish Education/Music)**

Oct 2016-Mar 2019 **Hebrew Teacher**, Hartford Regional URJ Intro to Judaism Class  
Aug 2014-July 2016 **Musician-In-Residence**, Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford, CT  
(full time music teacher, EC2-4, K-8. Hebrew learning and t'filah specialist)  
Sep 2013-Aug 2014 **Music Director**, Shir Hadash Synagogue, Wheeling, IL  
Feb 2013-Aug 2014 **Bnai Mitzvah Tutor**, B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim, Deerfield, IL  
Sept 2012-Aug 2014 **Early Childhood Music Specialist**, JCC of Chicago (various locations)  
July 2012-Aug 2014 **Bnai Mitzvah Tutor**, Beth Emet-The Free Synagogue, Evanston, IL  
June 2012-Aug. 2012 **T'fila and Shira Specialist** Ramah Day Camp, Wheeling, IL.  
Aug. 2011-June 2012 **Music Teacher, Lower School**, A.J. Heschel School, NY, NY  
Sep. 2010-Mar. 2012 **Religious School Music Specialist**, Temple Israel of New Rochelle, NY  
Summer 2011 **Jewish Music Specialist/Songleader**, 92<sup>nd</sup> St Y Camp Yomi, New York, NY.  
Jan.-Apr. 2011 **Religious School Music Specialist**, (temporary position)  
Society for the Advancement of Judaism, New York, NY  
Mar.-May 2010 **Acting Religious School Principal**, Jewish Community of Amherst, MA  
2008-2010 **Teacher, Music Specialist**, Jewish Community of Amherst, MA  
2008-2009 **Religious School Teacher**, Beit Ahavah, Northampton, MA  
2008-2009 **Director of Youth & Family Education**, Congregation B'nai Israel,  
Northampton, MA  
2003-2008 **Director of Education and Congregational Life**, Bethesda Jewish  
Congregation, Bethesda, MD. *Administrative & educational oversight of  
supplemental school with 120 students and all educational and  
congregational programs, Music/Choir Director, Service leader, IT  
support*  
2001-2003 **Director of Education**, Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Alexandria, VA.  
*Administrative and educational oversight of a supplemental school with  
600 students.*  
1997-2007 **Editor**, C.Ha and Bim Bam, Torah Aura Productions, Los Angeles, CA.  
2000-2001 **Instructor**, Akiva School, Nashville, TN.  
*Private elementary school Judaics, Hebrew, Music.*

1998-2001

**Director of Music**, Congregation Micah, Brentwood, TN.

*Administrate and direct musical program for a synagogue with 300 member families. RS teacher.*

**Previous Employment (Theatrical & Musical)**

1988-1998 **Production Manager**, Festival Concert Hall, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND *Multi-venue university and community performing arts facilities administration and operations including management, artistic, technical, front-of-house services, booking and scheduling, contracting, negotiation, budgeting, policy development, personnel, in house scenic, lighting audio design and technical direction. Also worked concurrently as a freelance lighting, scenic, and audio designer and consultant.*

1981-1988 **Resident Stage Manager/Technical Director**, Beickman Performing Arts Center, Concord Community Schools, Elkhart, IN. *Community/school system performing arts facilities administration and operations including management, artistic, technical, front-of-house services, booking and scheduling, contracting, negotiation, budgeting, policy development, personnel, training of student staff, in house scenic, lighting audio design and technical direction; technical advisor to music program, marching band, drama program. Concurrently served as Co-Producer of summer musical theatre program, responsible for promotion and publicity, casting, overall administrative supervision and operations including budget/payroll, personnel, production manager, scenic, lighting and audio designer, musical director. Also worked concurrently as a freelance lighting, scenic, and audio designer; musical director; production/stage manager; theater consultant.*

1977-1981 **Performer and Manager**, New Dixie Zing Kings Dixieland Show band. Mobile, AL; New Orleans, LA; Clearwater, FL

**Musical Credits** (partial listing-some musical director credits found in following theatrical section)

**In the Hartford, CT region**

- Rehearsal and Performance Accompanist, Elementary Music Substitute Teacher, Simsbury Public Schools, Simsbury, CT
- Accompanist at special services and events around the region

**In the Chicago region**

- Accompanist/arranger, Solomon Schechter 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation
- Early Childhood Music Specialist, JCC of Chicago and Apachi Village EC JCC Summer Camp
- Family Shabbat Service Leader, Sukkat Shalom Congregation, Wilmette, IL
- Visiting Music Teacher, B'nai Tikvah, Deerfield, IL
- Shabbat Sing Coordinator, Congregation Hakafa, Glencoe, IL

**In the Metro New York City region**

- Music Teacher, Abraham Joshua Heschel School
- Music Specialist, Temple Israel of New Rochelle
- K-3 Shabbat Service Leader, Congregation Kol Ami, White Plains
- Music Specialist, Society for the Advancement of Judaism, New York, NY
- Accompanist, Musical Services, Chavurat Kol Haneshema, East Brunswick, NJ

**In the Massachusetts Pioneer Valley region**

- Performer, Sweet Harvest Festival, National Yiddish Book Center (October 2008)
- Music Specialist, Jewish Community of Amherst (2009-2010)

**In the DC Area, 2001-2008**

- Pianist, "Simcha B'Shabbat" services at Bethesda Jewish Congregation, Bethesda, MD (2003-2008)
- Musical Director and Pianist, Purim Shpiels at Bethesda Jewish Congregation (2003-2008)
- Pianist, "Kolot Shabbat" monthly services at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Alexandria, VA (2001-2008)
- Accompanist, Kol Nova Youth Choir and NovaShir Choir Festival (2008-2008)
- Performer, CAJE 32, St. Louis, IL (August 2007) Performed with Sam Glaser, Joe Black, Beth Schafer.

- Accompanist at CAJE Conferences for Jewish artists Debbie Friedman, Fran Avni, Sam Glaser, Judy Caplan Ginsburgh, Karen Daniel, Helen Kates, Robbi Sherwood, Carol Boyd Leon, CAJE Idol Competition, CAJE Cantor's Chorale, CAJE Chorale (1995-2008)
- Co-Director, Hazamir/Shir Tze'ir Jewish Teen Arts Institute Choir of Northern Virginia (2001-2008)
- Choir Director, Kol Ami adult synagogue choir, Temple Beth Ami, Rockville, MD (2005-2007)
- Producer/arranger/accompanist, Dayenu CD & Book by Carol Boyd Leon, KTAV Publishing in (2008)
- Producer/arranger/accompanist Gan Shirim CD & Songbook by Carol Boyd Leon, KTAV (2004)
- Musical Director/Accompanist, Broadway Review I & II, Temple Beth Ami, Rockville, MD and Agudas Achim, Alexandria, VA
- Accompanist, Hazamir Jewish Teen Choral Festival, New York, NY (2003, 2004, 2005)
- Freelance pianist

#### **Nashville, TN (1998-2001)**

- Performed with and recorded three Jewish albums with Jewish singer/songwriter Karen Daniel
- Musical Director/Pianist for "After Anatevka" at Congregation Micah (Spring 2001)
- Musical Director/Pianist for West End Synagogue 125th Anniversary Program (Spring 1999)
- Pianist for "Salute to Irving Berlin" at Congregation Micah (Spring 1999)
- Pianist for West End Synagogue Sanctuary Rededication (December 1999)
- Musical Director/Pianist for Nashville JCC Program "Salute to the Yiddish Theatre" (December 1998)
- Recorded Jewish cantorial works with artist Judy Caplan Ginsburg (May 1999)
- Freelance pianist

#### **Fargo, ND (1988-1998)**

- Accompanist and Show Pianist for productions at Fargo-Moorhead Community Theater (Fargo, ND)
- Accompanist for various North Dakota State University musical ensembles, students and faculty recitals (Fargo, ND)
- Freelance pianist

#### **Elkhart, IN (1981-1988)**

- Musical Direction and Accompanist for productions of Elkhart Civic Theatre (Elkhart, IN)
- Musical Direction and Accompanist for productions of Concord Community Theater (Elkhart, IN)
- Accompanist for various musical ensembles of Concord Community Schools
- Freelance pianist

#### **Clearwater, FL; New Orleans, LA; Mobile, AL (1977-1980)**

- Manager/Pianist, New Dixie Zing Kings Dixieland Show Band
- Freelance Pianist

### **Theatrical Credits and Other Experience**

#### **Freelance Work General**

- Powerpoint Presentation Design, Creation, and Operation, Hava Nashira Songleading Workshops, Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute Camp, Oconomowoc, WI (2000-present)

#### **Freelance Work - Hartford, CT region**

- Director, Lighting and Set Designer, Havdalah, Emanuel Players, West Hartford, CT
- Director, Lighting Designer, Philosopher King, Emanuel Players, West Hartford, CT
- Lighting Designer, Rabbi of the Stars, Emanuel Players, West Hartford, CT
- Powerpoint Presentation Design, High Holidays, PICO Union, Los Angeles, CA
- Director, Musical Director, Set/Lighting/Audio/Projection Design, Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford Eighth Grade Musical, West Hartford, CT (2015, 2016) (You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown and Snoopy!!!; James and the Giant Peach)

#### **Freelance Work - Chicago, IL region**

- Director/Musical Director, Annual Purim Shpiels, Beth Emet-The Free Synagogue, Evanston, IL

#### **Freelance Work - Amherst/Pioneer Valley Region of Massachusetts (9/2009-2011)**

- Lighting Designer, Falsettos, produced by PACE Theater (Pioneer Arts Center Easthampton) and presented at the Academy of Music Theatre, Northampton, MA; May 2009

#### **Freelance work in the Washington, DC Area, 2001-2008**

- Book and Lyrics for "Shushanalot", a Purim Shpiel parody of "Monty Python's Spamalot"

- Co-Producer, Production Manager, and Technical Liason, Libi B'Mizrach-My Heart is in the East – Strathmore Music center, Bethesda, MD March 2008
  - *Mass synagogue/community choir concert with over 500 participants on stage at once*
- Co-Producer, Production Manager, and Technical Liason, 350 Years of Jewish Music in America – Strathmore Music center, Bethesda, MD March 2005
  - *Mass synagogue/community choir concert with over 500 participants on stage at once*
- Entertainment Coordinator, Jewish Folk Arts Festival of Greater Washington (2003-2007)
- Powerpoint Presentation Creation
  - Let My People Sing Concerts, Los Angeles, CA (March/April 2006, 2007)
  - CAJE 31 Opening and Closing Programs, Duke University, Durham, NC (8/2006)
  - CAJE 31 Opening and Closing Programs, Washington University, St. Louis, MO (8/2007)

#### **Freelance work in Nashville, TN 1998-2001**

- Musical Theater Camp, Gordon Jewish Community Center Camp Davis
- Theatrical Facility Consultant, Gordon Jewish Community Center

#### **Freelance work in Fargo, ND (1988-1998)**

- For Red River Dance and Performing Company, Fargo, ND (1988-1998)
  - Lighting/Audio Design "Christmas Holiday '89, '90, '91, '92"; "Here's Love" (11/95)
  - Lighting Design/TD "Damn Yankees"
  - Lighting Design Student Recitals (1990-96)
  - Audio Design/TD "New Works in Jazz", "Christmas Holiday '88, '92", "West Side Story", "Annie"
- For Fargo-Moorhead Civic Opera Company, Fargo, ND (1988 to 1998)
  - Lighting Design "The Mikado", "The Tender Land", "Dessert Song", "The Student Prince", "Trial by Jury", "Gianni Schicchi", "Hansel & Gretel", "Dessert Song", "I Pagliacci", "Elixir of Love", "Pirates of Penzance", "Ballad of Baby Doe", "Cavalleria Rusticana", "HMS Pinafore"
  - Set & Lighting Design "The Merry Widow"
- For Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre, Fargo, ND (1990-1998)
  - Lighting Design "Little Shop of Horrors", Silver Follies '92, '93
  - Light & Set Design "Paint Your Wagon", "Road to East L.A.", "The Seven Year Itch"
- Freelance Designs
  - Carousel Dance Theatre "The Pageantry of Christmas" (12/97)
  - Lighting Instructor, Trollwood Performing Arts School (Summer '96)
  - Lighting Design, Sweet Adelines Regional Competition (4/96)
  - Lighting & Audio Design - North Dakota USA Triple Pageant (8/92)
  - Lighting Design "Into The Woods" - NDSU Theatre Department (Guest Designer) (4/92)
  - Lighting Design "Fame" - Moorhead High School Drama Program (5/91)
  - Lighting Design "King of Hearts" - NDSU Theater Department (Guest Designer)(2/91)
  - Lighting Design "Narnia" - Gwynner Junior Players, Gwynner, ND (7/89)
  - Lighting Design - Orchesis Dance Company, Fargo, ND (2/89)

#### **Freelance work in Elkhart/South Bend, IN 1981-1988**

- For Elkhart Civic Theater, Elkhart, IN 9/81-8/88:
  - Sets & Lights, Staging & Musical Director - "Villainy 'N Vaudeville" review
  - Musical Director - "Once Upon A Mattress"
  - Lighting Design - "The Mikado", "Talley's Folly", "Haunting of Hill House", "Pippin", "The Odd Couple"
  - Set & Lighting Design, TD - "Brigadoon", "My Fair Lady", "Annie", "Music Man"
  - Set, Lighting & Audio Design, TD - "West Side Story", "Fiddler on the Roof"
  - Set & Lighting Design, Musical Director - "Snoopy!"
- For Concord Community Theater, Elkhart, IN. 9/85 - 3/88:
  - Set & Lighting Design, Co-Musical Director - "...Charlie Brown" & "Snoopy!", "Godspell"
  - Set & Lighting Design, Musical Director - "How to Succeed in Business..."
- For Concord Community Schools, Elkhart, IN.
  - Set, Lighting & Audio Design, TD for all, 9/81 3/88: "South Pacific", "No, No, Nannette", "Anything Goes", "...Charlie Brown", "Sound of Music", "Fiddler on the Roof", "Finnian's

Rainbow", "Up the Down Staircase", "Feiffer's People", "Spoon River Anthology", "If A Man Answers", "Our Town", "Christmas Spectacular '81-'88"

- Other Freelance Design Credits:  
Lighting Designer, Miss Elkhart County Pageant ('82-'87)
  - Lighting Designer, "Nutcracker", Michiana Ballet ('81-'83)
  - Lighting Designer/TD, Elkhart Concert Club Season ('81-'88)
  - Lighting Designer, Patchwork Dance Company ('83-'86)

### **Earlier Theatrical Credits**

- Lighting Director, Golden Apple Dinner Theater, St. Petersburg, FL (January-April 1981)
- Stage Manager, Live Shows Dept., Kings Dominion, Doswell, VA (Summer 1976)
- Stage Manager, Education Department, City Center of Music & Drama/NYC Opera/NYC Ballet, New York, NY. Internship for credit at NCSA, January-May 1976
  - *Responsible for stage, company, and touring management of touring educational opera productions with personnel from New York City Opera and Ballet productions with personnel from New York City Ballet.*
- Assistant Stage Manager and Production Assistant, Manhattan School of Music, New York, NY. 1969-1975, Preparatory Opera program and College Division John Brownlee Opera Theater.

### **Skills**

- Performance facilities administration/management, theatrical production management, stage management, technical direction; design & execution of lighting/scenery/audio; stage direction, musical direction; theatrical producing; promotions and publicity
- Jewish Religious school administration, programming and curriculum development
- Accomplished pianist, musician, accompanist, musical director, conductor (choral and orchestral)
- Competency in Biblical and Modern Hebrew
- Digital music recording and creation using Sonar;
- Musical notation and transcription using Finale
- Musical arranging and producing
- Book, textbook, and article editing
- Design and creation of PowerPoint presentations
- Advanced computer skills—network installation/administration, web page design, desktop publishing, computer-aided drafting and design, computer maintenance and repair
- Audio/Sound Reinforcement System consulting

### **Software Skills**

- Google Apps
- Microsoft Office—all versions Word, Excel, Outlook, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher
- Microsoft Expression Web, Dreamweaver
- Adobe Acrobat
- Open Office
- Quicken/Quickbooks
- Davkewriter (Hebrew/English Word Processing)
- Finale (music transcription)
- Sonar (digital recording)
- Google Sketch-Up
- Digital design and drafting software (Softplot, Generic CADD, AutoCAD)

### **Professional Affiliations:**

- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
- Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (1990-2009)
- Guild of Temple Musicians
- National Association of Temple Educators/Assn of Reform Jewish Educators
- United States Institute for Theatre Technology (1974-1998)

**Other Community Service Activities:**

- Presenter, Volunteer, AV Coordinator, Limmud Chicago
- Member, Amherst Town Meeting
- Vice President, Education Directors Council, Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning (2007-2008)
- Hava Nashira Jewish Songleaders website and List (1992-present)
- Jewish Folk Arts Festival of Greater Washington Organizing Committee (2002-2006)
- Co-producer, Washington Jewish Community Israel@60 Celebration Concert (2008)
- Co-producer, Washington Jewish Community 350 Years of Jewish Music in America Celebration Concert (2005)
- Worship Committee, Vanderbilt Divinity School (1999-2000)
- Cultural Arts Committee, Gordon Jewish Community Center, Nashville, TN (1998-2001)
- Panelist, Grants Program Selection Committee, North Dakota Council on the Arts (1995-1996)
- Member, Internet Subcommittee, UAHC Communications Committee (1990-1997)
- AIDS Memorial services, Fargo, ND (1992-1997)
- Technical advisor, State of North Dakota Centennial Kickoff Celebration (1988)
- Technical assistant, Seventh International Special Olympics Summer Games (South Bend, IN 1987)

REFERENCES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST