



DUŠAN GRUBIŠIĆ, DMA

FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR · MAISON GRUBA

Tenor · Voice & Piano Pedagogue · Arts Leader



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01 ARTISTIC & PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Doctor of Musical Arts, operatic tenor, and voice pedagogue who founded **Maison Gruba — The House of Music, Poetry & Arts** in 2025 as an intimate, European-style salon studio in Houston. Conservatory-trained at Oberlin, Carnegie Mellon, and the University of Houston, with additional study at The Royal Danish Academy of Music. Fifteen years of stage experience across opera, art song, musical theatre, and sacred music — still singing weekly in church — and more than a decade teaching voice and piano to children, teens, and adults — including 50–70 private lessons weekly at the height of studio practice. Also an active singer-songwriter, releasing his first original single and music video, "**Balkanski Kauboj**," in August 2026. Combines conservatory-level artistry with formal training in arts leadership, strategic planning, and marketing to build a studio where artistry, community, and an exceptional client experience are inseparable.

02 FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTION

Founder, Artistic Director & Lead Educator

Maison Gruba, LLC — The House of Music, Poetry & Arts | Houston, TX

2025 – Present

- **Conceived and launched** a boutique voice, piano, and performance studio in the River Oaks / Upper Kirby corridor — positioned deliberately as an artistic salon rather than a franchise music school.
- **Direct all artistic programming:** private instruction, studio recitals, salon evenings, masterclasses and workshops, and community karaoke socials that turn students and families into an audience for one another.
- **Lead the teaching faculty** as principal voice instructor and coach, serving families with young children, teens preparing for auditions and conservatory entrance, and adults from complete beginners to returning amateurs.
- **Recruited and mentor a conservatory-trained faculty** in voice and piano, including graduates of the University of Houston and the American Institute of Musical Studies (Graz, Austria); set pedagogical standards, repertoire policy, and studio culture.
- **Established the studio's public teaching residency** at the Piano Gallery (Miles, Sturch & Westbrook Pianos) on West Alabama Street, negotiating a multi-exhibit co-location and partnership agreement with the ownership group.
- **Designed the enrollment model** — month-to-month tuition, no contracts, and nothing owed for lessons not yet taken, with packages and semester terms available by preference; a direct response to families burned by prior school closures and now the studio's leading market differentiator.
- **Own the full brand system:** identity and palette, website, studio management and CRM platform, authenticated email infrastructure, social channels, print collateral, and audience-segmented enrollment campaigns for families, teens, and adults.
- **Handle business operations end to end:** entity formation, partnership negotiation, media-release and consent policy, pricing architecture, referral programs, and institutional outreach to Houston independent schools and arts organizations.

03 TEACHING & FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Voice & Musical Theatre Voice Instructor, Faculty

Stephen F. Austin State University | Nacogdoches, TX

Sept 2025 – June 2026

- Taught undergraduate applied voice and musical theatre voice — individualized technique, repertoire coaching, and performance preparation.
- Developed student-centered curriculum supporting juries, recitals, and degree requirements; mentored students in audition preparation and career development.
- Contributed to departmental service, student evaluation, and collaborative faculty initiatives.

Director of Vocal Studies · Voice & Piano Instructor · Summer Camp Director

Vivaldi Music Academy | Houston, TX

May 2020 – June 2025

- Taught **50–70 private voice and piano lessons weekly** across classical, opera, musical theatre, jazz, and contemporary commercial styles, for students of every age and level.
- Directed the academy's annual summer vocal camps (2023, 2024) — immersive, performance-based curriculum culminating in final showcases.
- Produced studio-wide recitals; designed inclusive, student-centered curricula; mentored hundreds of youth and adult learners.
- Provided pedagogical guidance and community-building leadership to fellow instructors as head of the vocal department.

Private Voice & Piano Studio — Children, Teens & Adults

Independent Practice | Houston, TX

2020 – 2025

- Independent studio preceding Maison Gruba; competition and audition coaching, college and conservatory preparation, and adult beginner instruction.

Voice Instructor, High School Program

Oberlin College & Conservatory of Music | Oberlin, OH

2019

Section Leader & Tenor Soloist — Sacred Music

Churches in Houston, Pittsburgh, Chicago & Ohio | ongoing weekly service in Houston

2015 – Present

Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA), Voice Performance — Minor in Arts Leadership

University of Houston | Houston, TX

2022 – 2025

Master of Music (MM), Voice Performance

Carnegie Mellon University | Pittsburgh, PA

2019 – 2021

Bachelor of Music (BM), Voice Performance

Oberlin College & Conservatory of Music | Oberlin, OH

2016 – 2019

Exchange Semester — Vocal Studies, European Culture & Cinema

The Royal Danish Academy of Music (DIS) | Copenhagen, Denmark

Aug – Dec 2018

Voice Performance (transferred to Oberlin)

Roosevelt University, Chicago College of Performing Arts | Chicago, IL

2014 – 2016

International Economics & Business (two years completed)

University of Novi Sad | Novi Sad, Serbia

2012 – 2014

05 SELECTED PERFORMANCE CREDITS

OPERA & OPERA SCENES

Béatrice et Bénédict	<i>Bénédict</i>	Carnegie Mellon University	2020
Eugene Onegin	<i>Lensky</i>	Oberlin Conservatory	2019
Dialogues des Carmélites	<i>First Commissioner</i>	Oberlin Conservatory	2019
Songs from Liquid Days	<i>Dante</i>	Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland	2017
Orlando Paladino	<i>Licone</i>	Oberlin Conservatory	2016
L'oca del Cairo	<i>Biondello</i>	Oberlin Conservatory	2016
Don Giovanni	<i>Don Ottavio</i>	Oberlin Conservatory	2016

CONCERT & RECITAL

Doctoral Recitals	<i>Tenor Soloist</i>	University of Houston	2022–23
Recital Appearance	<i>Tenor Soloist</i>	Carnegie Hall, New York City	2022
Master's Recitals	<i>Tenor Soloist</i>	Carnegie Mellon University	2019–21
Bachelor's Recitals	<i>Tenor Soloist</i>	Oberlin College & Conservatory	2016–19
DIS Concert	<i>Tenor Soloist</i>	The Royal Danish Academy of Music	2018
IVAI Concert	<i>Tenor Soloist</i>	International Vocal Arts Institute, NYC	2018
Messiah — Handel	<i>Tenor Soloist</i>	Ars Vocalis Academy, Rome, Italy	2017
Aria & Art Song Concerts	<i>Tenor Soloist</i>	Oberlin College & Conservatory	2017
Rising Young Opera Stars	<i>Tenor Soloist</i>	Chicago, IL	2016

MUSICAL THEATRE

Sondheim on Sondheim	<i>Euan / Matthew</i>	University of Houston	2023
Show Boat	<i>Flappers / Ravenali</i>	Roosevelt University, Chicago	2016
The Yeomen of the Guard	<i>Colonel Fairfax</i>	Roosevelt University, Chicago	2015
The Pirates of Penzance	<i>Frederic</i>	Roosevelt University, Chicago	2015
Kismet	<i>Kismet</i>	Roosevelt University, Chicago	2015
Song of Norway	<i>Edvard Grieg</i>	Roosevelt University, Chicago	2015

ORIGINAL MUSIC & RECORDING

"Balkanski Kauboj"	<i>Composer / Performer</i>	Debut original single & music video — released	Aug 2026
Original songwriting catalogue	<i>Composer / Lyricist</i>	Independent artist project	Ongoing

SACRED MUSIC

Weekly liturgical service & concert repertoire	<i>Section Leader / Tenor Soloist</i>	Churches in Houston, Pittsburgh, Chicago & Ohio	2015–Pres.
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ENSEMBLE & CHORUS — SELECTED

The Bartered Bride — Smetana	<i>Ensemble</i>	Moore's Opera Center, Houston	2022
Carmina Burana — Orff	<i>Ensemble</i>	Symphony Center, Chicago	2015
Cendrillon — Massenet	<i>Ensemble</i>	Hall Auditorium, Oberlin	2017
Les Mamelles de Tirésias — Poulenc	<i>Ensemble</i>	Hall Auditorium, Oberlin	2016
Nabucco — Verdi	<i>Ensemble</i>	Ganz Hall, Chicago	2016
Additional	<i>Ensemble</i>	Threepenny Opera, Mikado, The Gondoliers, Der Zigeunerbaron	2015–16

06 AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Graduate Travel Research Grant — Denmark & Serbia (2024)
- **First Place**, NATS Student Auditions, Chicago Chapter — College Classical (2016)
- Second Place, Lazar Jovanović International Opera Competition, Serbia (2011)
- Second Place, Mita Topalović National Opera Competition, Serbia (2011)
- Second Place, Lazar Jovanović International Opera Competition, Serbia (2010)
- Third Place, Open Europe Music Competition, Russia (2008)

07 ARTS LEADERSHIP & INSTITUTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Strategic Initiatives Team Member

University of Houston | Houston, TX

June 2023 – May 2025

- Contributed to execution of the university's 2022–2027 Strategic Plan, aligning academic, administrative, and community engagement goals.
- Conducted data-driven analysis of institutional operations and collaborated with cross-functional teams to implement solutions.
- Represented graduate student perspective and advocacy in strategic decision-making processes.

Audio Engineering & Production

Carnegie Mellon University & Oberlin Conservatory Audio Services

2016 – 2020

- Engineered archival- and broadcast-quality concert recordings for faculty and guest artist performances at one of the nation's leading conservatories; mastering and repair in iZotope.
- Mixed live sound for theatrical and multimedia productions; managed microphones, playback, and signal routing under performance conditions.
- Supported interdisciplinary arts-and-technology projects as an iDeATe lab assistant (AV installation, prototyping, sound design).

08 RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

"A Journey Through Serbian Art Song, Folk Influence & National Identity: Konjović, Bajić, Milojević." *Doctoral research, University of Houston — Dr. Kathryn L. Caton (2025)*

"Grant Proposal Submission for Project Art Harmony." *University of Houston — Dr. Assata Richards (2024)*

"Integrated Marketing and Communications Plan — Ramanda & The Supernovas." *University of Houston — Joel Luks (2024)*

"Gian Carlo Menotti's Three Major Contributions to American Opera." *University of Houston — Dr. Kathryn L. Caton (2024)*

"Strategic Planning and Marketing — Pilot Dance Project." *University of Houston — Prof. Fleurette Fernando (2023)*

"Strategic Planning of Community MusicWorks and the American Musicological Society." *University of Houston — Prof. Fleurette Fernando (2023)*

"Unveiling Inequality: The Arts, Privilege, and Social Justice." *University of Houston — Dr. Amanda Cachia (2023)*

"Opera Cuts and Modifications: Mozart's Don Giovanni." *University of Houston — Dr. Paul Bertagnolli (2023)*

Analytical studies: Philip Glass, *Glassworks I* · Chopin, *Ballade No. 1 in G minor*, Op. 23. *University of Houston — Dr. Timothy Koozin (2023)*

09 EXPERTISE, TRAINING & LANGUAGES

PEDAGOGY

Vocal technique across classical, opera, musical theatre, jazz, and CCM; piano instruction; audition, competition, and conservatory preparation; curriculum design; Alexander Technique, body mapping, and yoga applied to singing.

ARTISTIC DIRECTION

Recital and salon programming; concert and event production; masterclass and workshop design; faculty mentorship.

ORIGINAL MUSIC

Songwriting and lyric writing; original repertoire development; music video production and release.

STUDIO & BUSINESS

Arts leadership and strategic planning; brand development; digital marketing and audience development; partnership negotiation; studio management systems and CRM.

PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL

Live sound, AV mixing, concert recording, iZotope, Ableton.

CERTIFICATIONS

Google Ads Search Certification · HubSpot Inbound Marketing · Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) · Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) · Cambridge First Certificate in English · CPR / First Aid.

LANGUAGES

Fluent: English, Serbian, Montenegrin, Bosnian, Croatian · *Conversational:* Macedonian · *Studied:* Italian, German, French, Spanish, Russian, Bulgarian.

STAGE & MOVEMENT

Acting (5+ yrs) · folklore, hip-hop and stage dance (10+ yrs) · piano and accordion.

10 PRINCIPAL TEACHERS & ARTISTIC MENTORS

VOICE

Salvatore Champagne · Daniel James Shigo · Allan Glassman · Dr. Jan Lund · Dr. Zachary Averyt · Joseph Evans · Maria Spacagna

VOCAL COACHING

Djordje Nešić · Dr. Jocelyn Dueck · Dr. Daniel Michalak · Ellen Rissinger · Dr. Shannon McGinnis · Dr. Andreea Muț · Valéry Rivkin · Philip Highfill

CONDUCTORS & DIRECTORS

Joan Dornemann · Paul Nadler · Christopher Larkin · Dr. Raymond Harvey · Dr. Cheryl Frazes Hill · Fredrik Malmberg · Laura Bergquist · Jonathon Field · Joshua Major · Candace Evans · Lawrence Edelson

DOCTORAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Kathryn Caton (Chair) · Dr. Damjan Rakonjac · Dr. Zachary Averyt · Cynthia Clayton

REFERENCES AND FULL ACADEMIC CURRICULUM VITAE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



MAISON GRUBA

THE HOUSE OF MUSIC, POETRY & ARTS · HOUSTON, TEXAS · ESTABLISHED 2025

A boutique voice and piano studio conceived as an intimate European-style salon — a house where students, families, and audiences gather around music rather than simply pass through it. Instruction is artist-led, the calendar is built around performance, and enrollment is month-to-month by design.

INSTRUCTION

Private voice and piano for children, teens, and adults · classical, opera, musical theatre, jazz, and contemporary commercial styles · audition, competition, and conservatory preparation · complete beginners genuinely welcome.

PROGRAMMING

Studio recitals · salon evenings · masterclasses and workshops · karaoke social nights · seasonal performance projects.

FACULTY

Conservatory-trained artist-teachers, each personally selected and mentored by Dr. Dušan Grubišić, DMA — Founder, Artistic Director, and Lead Educator.

ENROLLMENT

Month-to-month. No contracts. Packages and semester terms available by preference.

LOCATIONS

Piano Gallery Studio — 3637 W Alabama St, Suite 380, Houston, TX 77027 · private studio in the River Oaks / Upper Kirby area.

"We're small on purpose. Every teacher here is someone I selected and mentor personally, and enrollment is month to month — no contract, and nothing owed for lessons you haven't taken. Packages and semester terms are available if you prefer them, but nobody is ever asked to pay a year ahead."

DR. DUŠAN GRUBIŠIĆ, DMA · FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

maisongruba.com · studio@maisongruba.com · [@maisongruba](https://www.instagram.com/maisongruba)

Founded and directed by Dr. Dušan Grubišić, DMA