Erica Breitbarth

Erica Breitbarth is an active vocalist, conductor, clinician, music teacher and education advocate in the Milwaukee area. She holds degrees in music education from the Wheaton Conservatory of Music (BMEd) and Northwestern University (MMEd). Erica served for 14 years as choir director, musical theater director and chair of the Vera J. Zilber Music Department at Reagan IB High School in the Milwaukee Public Schools. Erica and her colleagues built the music program at Reagan High School from 50 students to over 500, garnering local, state and national recognition for excellence in music education instruction to urban youth. Alumni of the Reagan music department have gone on to success as performers, composers, producers, DJs, and music educators in Wisconsin and beyond. Erica maintained vibrant partnerships with the Florentine Opera, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Present Music and many other Milwaukee arts organizations. A strong advocate for music education, Erica served as a founder and President of the Milwaukee Music Educators Association (MMEA), which worked to restore music teacher positions to the Milwaukee Public Schools and continues to fight for equitable access to music education for all Milwaukee students. In addition to teaching, she is an active vocal soloist throughout the greater Milwaukee area, performing choral masterworks with the Bel Canto Chorus, Kettle Moraine Symphony, and contemporary works with Present Music's Hearing Voices Ensemble. Erica served as the Diversity Initiatives Liaison for the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association (WCDA) and was named the WCDA Outstanding Young Choral Director (2018). She also garnered recognition as Civic Music Association's Choral Music Educator of the Year (2013), Grammy Music Educator Finalist (2017) and Herb Kohl Teaching Fellow (2020) and received four Jerry Awards for Outstanding Musical Theatre Direction. She currently serves as the Southeast Regional Vice President of the Wisconsin Music Educators Association (WMEA).