

# Erin McGaughan Basics

current 10/16, see full CV [here](#).

## Standard Program Bio

Erin McGaughan is a performance coach, worship director, arts network manager, and singer/songwriter of nationally recognized music. Her background covers theatre, business presentation, dance, and especially music, from solid classical to gritty roots styles. "I'm not snobby about genre." Erin is the music director at Seattle Unity, and also maintains a teaching and consulting practice, serving private students as well as clients including Unity NW Region, Women Presidents Organization, Centers for Spiritual Living, TEDx Rainier (now TEDx Seattle) among others. She's a rabidly proud mom and damn fine wife, according to credible sources.

[www.erinmcgaughan.com](http://www.erinmcgaughan.com)

## Education

Public elementary, Catholic middle school, Mormon-backed girls' high school - Maryland/DC region.  
BA (music emphasis) Sarah Lawrence '89; MFA in acting, U of WA, '95  
Lots of study abroad – (London, Oxford Univ, Nairobi)  
Constant continuing ed in arts, admin, performance presentation and organizational development

## Work

Currently: active voice and presentation coach, studio/event vocalist, and worship arts consultant.  
Music Director for Rev. [Karen Lindvig](#), [Seattle Unity](#) – 2004-present  
Assistant music director for [Eric O'del](#) – [CSL Seattle](#) 1998-2001  
Choir conductor for [Beverly Daugherty](#) - [Unity of Bellevue](#) 2001 – 2004  
AEA union actor, 35+ shows, teaching at UW - 1989-99

## Family

Husband Jonathan Hochberg, sons Ben, 15 and Sam, 12

## Favorite Causes

Gay Rights: [www.allout.org](http://www.allout.org), [www.itgetsbetter.org](http://www.itgetsbetter.org), <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>  
Women's and Reproductive Rights: [www.globalfundforwomen.org](http://www.globalfundforwomen.org), [www.plannedparenthood.org/](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/)  
Innovations for Poverty Action: <http://www.poverty-action.org/>  
Gun Regulation <http://csgv.org/>

## Random skills, interests, secret mutant powers

Cooking dinner for large crowds  
Choral conducting (member ACDA and Am Musicology Soc.)  
History and Philosophy of Science, Behavioral Ecology (Oxford U)  
Horse sports, flute, tap, baton twirling, volleyball, roller coasters, a bionic hip, dialects, British sci-fi, feminist comedy (shut up), terrible urban fantasy noir, Hildegard Von Bingen, classical art song.

*[Narrative bio, with quotes]*

If ***That Good Thing*** is your introduction to Erin's music, then you know plenty about her already - she's got a deep love for 60's soul, R&B, and jazz, and her messages are joyful, inclusive, and uplifting paths for practical praise. But of course there's more.

Born in Texas and raised in the mid-Atlantic, Erin moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1989. She's been a highly sought-after soloist in the Seattle New Thought scene for years, for her soulful and super charged live performances across a wide range of styles. She's the rare singer who's as at ease with classical as with pop and gospel. She says it's about diversity:

*"For somebody as pink and pointy as me, I got a real thing about diversity - spiritual, social, political, musical."*

That could stem from a diverse education including public and parochial schools, many trips abroad, Sarah Lawrence College studying writing and music (BA), Wadham College, Oxford University for anthropology and the philosophy of science (Assoc. Fellow), Nairobi Kenya for wildlife ecology, and the University of Washington (MFA in Acting). She and her husband both made their names as union stage actors in Seattle years ago before starting their family.

*"Theatre taught me to look stupid and survive it."*

"I learned to risk my identity and my pride, in order to grow," she says, "Performance isn't brain surgery -- nobody actually dies if we screw it up." It was in theatre that she met Eric O'Del, who hired her to sing at the Center for Spiritual Living. "What a gift - he started me on a really productive path." Erin worked as his assistant there before spreading out into voice coaching and choral conducting (member ACDA), then into songwriting and recording.

She is currently on staff music directing at [Seattle Unity](#), ("perfect job, the best staff") in addition to teaching, directing, writing, and soloing at many other venues. She also leads a network of more than 200 artists serving in dozens of spiritual communities. Lately Erin has been expanding her presentation coaching, from the audition prep and TEDx coaching into areas of homiletics and even competitive speaking contexts.

More than anything, Erin is family centered. She says parenting unleashed her artistry and burned off a lot of illusions. Now, every endeavor leads back to the love of her husband and two boys. "My boys often find me embarrassing, but I tell them ***All the best things in life are embarrassing.***"