

Gail Becker Koppa
2165 Muir Field Rd. #1 Madison, WI 53719
773.612.1799
gail@gailbeckertalent.com / www.gailkoppa.com

Summary of Qualifications
PROFESSIONAL:

Academic -

- 2009 – 2011** Producing Director
Madison Creative Arts Program, A National Guild of
Community Schools of the Arts
Madison, WI
- 2011 – Summer** Musical Theatre Instructor / Choreographer
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp
Twin Lake, MI
- 2009 – present** Instructor, Movement / Musical Theatre
Children's Theatre of Madison
Madison, WI
- 2009 – present** Certified Adjudicator
Wisconsin School Music Association
- 2004 – present** Private Voice Instructor / Vocal Coach
- 1997 – 2009** Co-Artistic Theatre Director / Choreographer
Batavia High School
Batavia, IL
- 2005 – 2009** Instructor / Musical Director / Administrator
Wunder Studios
Park Ridge, IL

Performance -

Theatre

Madison Opera Chorus 2009 – present
Forward Theatre, Madison WI
Children's Theatre of Madison Family Theatre, WI
Four Season's Theatre, Madison, WI
Madison Savoyards, Madison, WI
Theatre at the Center, Munster IN
Little Theatre on the Square, Sullivan IL
American Family Theatre, National Tour 1995
Pegasus Players, Chicago, IL
Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago, IL
Circle Theatre, Chicago, IL
(full theatrical resume available upon request)

Cabaret

Davenport's Chicago, IL
Park West, Chicago, IL
Drury Lane Water Tower, Chicago, IL
Skokie Theatre, Skokie, IL
Plush Room, San Francisco, CA

Workshops -

Audition Technique

Preparing monologues for actors using proper age, appropriate cuts, and Michael Shurtleff technique

Monologue and Scene Work

Intensive study and character development using Sanford Meisner technique, Stanislavski Method, and Feldenkrais Method

Musical Theatre Auditioning

Preparing songs with proper excerpts, musical markings, vocal range, and acting intentions for various musical styles and genres

Cabaret Technique

Concentration on full song performance techniques, acting the song through lyric interpretation, microphone use, audience intimacy, and creating personal connection rather than character presentation

Workshops

Credentials - Four Seasons Theatre Madison, WI

CTM Nancy Thurow Acting Academy Madison, WI

Overture Center Tommy Awards Madison, WI

UW Continuing Studies Madison, WI

UW Summer Music Clinic Madison, WI

Batavia High School, Batavia, IL

AWARDS and HONORS:

Top Ten Cabaret Shows, Cabaret Scenes 2002

Joseph Jefferson Citation, Best Musical,

Sunday in the Park with George, Pegasus Players 2001

Alpha Lambda Delta, Miami University 1989

EDUCATION:

B.F.A. Theatre Performance, Miami University 1992

Cum Laude

PRODUCTIONS:

Directed / Choreographed over 20 fully produced musicals utilizing ages ranging from 6 years to adult

Musically directed show choirs, cabaret groups, and large casts for public performances and competitions

(directing resume available upon request)

RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS:

1999 – present

3Girls3 professional cabaret trio group

2009 – present

Wisconsin Chamber Choir, Bob Gehrenbeck director

2008 – present

Prohibition Orchestra, Lead Singer

2002 - 2009

Chicago Cabaret Professionals, Assistant Treasurer

2007 - 2009

Apollo Chorus of Chicago, Stephen Alltop director

REFERENCES:

Roseann Sheridan

Artistic Director Children's Theatre of Madison

608.255.2080 ext. 105

Page McCloud

Former director of Batavia High School Theatre

630.779.1351

John Heath

President of Illinois Music Educators Association

630.406.1575

MaryMonica Thomas - MaryMonica Music, INC.

312.217.0096

GAIL BECKER KOPPA

EMC

PHONE NUMBER: Cell - 773.612.1799

E-Mail: gail@gailbeckertalent.com / www.gailkoppa.com

Director

Vocal Coach

Choreographer

THEATRE

2011 Annie	Stoughton Village Players MD	Village Theatre, Stoughton, WI
2011 Click Clack Moo	MadCAP	The Playhouse, Overture Center, Madison
2010 A Year With Frog and Toad	MadCAP	Promenade Hall, Overture Center, Madison
2010 The Adventures of Beatrix Potter	MadCAP	The Playhouse, Overture Center, Madison
2010 The Berenstain Bears on Stage	MadCAP	Promenade Hall, Overture Center, Madison
2009 A Christmas Carol	CTM Vocal Director	Capitol Stage, Overture Center, Madison
2009 Honk! Jr.	MadCAP	Promenade Hall, Overture Center, Madison
2009 Big River	Batavia High School	Auditorium, Batavia, IL
2008 The Pajama Game	Batavia High School	Auditorium, Batavia, IL
2007 Grease	Batavia High School	Auditorium, Batavia, IL
2006 West Side Story	Batavia High School	Auditorium, Batavia, IL
2006 Footloose	Batavia High School	Auditorium, Batavia, IL
2005 Les Miserables	Batavia High School	Auditorium, Batavia, IL
2005 Fiddler On The Roof	Batavia High School	Auditorium, Batavia, IL
2004 Into The Woods	Batavia High School	Auditorium, Batavia, IL
2003 Damn Yankees	Batavia High School	Auditorium, Batavia, IL
2002 Guys and Dolls	Wheaton Warrenville S. Choreographer	Main Stage, Wheaton, IL
2001 The Music Man	Batavia High School	Auditorium, Batavia, IL
2000 Guys and Dolls	Batavia High School	Auditorium, Batavia, IL
1999 Oklahoma	Batavia High School	Auditorium, Batavia, IL

SHOW CHOIRS - Director and Choreographer

Swingsingers	Batavia High School	3 years
New Dawns Show Choir	Wheeling High School Choreographer	1 year
Trebelaires	Batavia High School	3 years

CABARET

3Girls 3	Musical director	12 years
Can't Stop Talkin' - Tribute to Betty Hutton	2002 Top Ten - Cabaret Scenes	Davenport's, Chicago

TRAINING

Wisconsin Chamber Choir 2009 -

Apollo Chorus of Chicago 2007 - 2009

Lead Vocalist: Chicago Prohibition Orchestra

Producing Director TYA Series - Madison Creative Arts Program

Chicago Cabaret Professionals

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts-Performance, Miami University Oxford, Ohio

GAIL BECKER KOPPA

EMC

PHONE NUMBER: Cell – 773.612.1799

E-Mail: gail@gailbeckertalent.com

HEIGHT: 5'5"

VOICE: Soprano (Legit & Belt)

STAGE

LA TRAVIATA	Chorus	Madison Opera
GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK – Cole Porter	Performer / Cabaret Consultant	Four Seasons Theatre
THE LOVE OF MY LIFE – monologue festival	Girl 1	Forward Theatre
A WONDERFUL LIFE	Mrs. Martini	Children's Theatre of Madison
HMS PINAFORE	Hebe	Madsion Savoyards
THE FLYING DUTCHMAN	Chorus	Madison Opera
AN EVENING OF BROADWAY with Marin Mazzie	Soloist	Four Seasons Theatre
MID-LIFE! CRISIS THE MUSICAL	Woman 3	Little Theatre on the Square
SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE	Frieda, Mrs., Harriet	Pegasus Players
I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT,...	Woman 1 and 2 uds.	Theatre at the Center
HIGH SOCIETY	Sunny, Mother Lord	Theatre at the Center
NUNSENSE	Mother Sup., Robert Ann uds.	Theatre at the Center
BABES IN TOYLAND–National Tour	Jill	American Family Theatre
MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG	Gussie	Circle Theatre
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING...	Narrator	American Eagle Productions
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE	Edith	Circle Theatre
CHICAGO	June	Prologue Theatre
DO BLACK PATENT LEATHER SHOES...	Virginia	Chuck Hoenes Productions

TRAINING

Wisconsin Chamber Choir 2009 –

Apollo Chorus of Chicago 2007 – 2009

Lead Vocalist: Chicago Prohibition Orchestra

Producing Director TYA Series – Madison Creative Arts Program

Chicago Cabaret Professionals

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts–Performance, Miami University Oxford, Ohio

SPECIAL SKILLS

Singing (Range G–D), Cabaret, Voice Over, Piano, Alto Sax, Oboe
Rollerblading, Water/Downhill Skiing, Horseback Riding, Gymnastics
Spanish, Tap, Dog Obedience and Agility

Education Philosophy – Gail Becker Koppa

What makes a student's education successful? In what capacity are our teachers responsible for directing our artistically talented? Educating young minds in the Arts is much more involved than say teaching traditional academics. Seeing where the Arts have declined to in our school systems is devastating. Programs first on the chopping block are usually Music and Drama departments. Without these influences we are grooming our youth for an existence without freethinking, widened emotions, unbridled expressions, a sense of intimately sharing of ideas, and language. As a professional actress and singer I want to prepare these young talented individuals to explore their gifts and find the balance of working and living as an artist.

A teacher can provide a plethora of information, drill it home, give technical advice, but without the passion behind the words, the student will falter. The "education" involves getting them excited about propelling their growth as an artist. "You can never imitate, only emulate!" is one of my favorite mantras. Guiding a student to discover that they will become the best artist, singer, actor, musician, etc., that they alone can become is one of the most difficult lessons to teach. Only after living and learning through the rigors of college did I figure it out. Coming from Jr. High and High School, where I was a big fish in a small pond, I thought I had all the answers, all the techniques. In college I had those chips systematically removed from my shoulders and really got down to the basics. Only through hard work, discipline, and honest self-analysis was I able to become the best singer and actress I was capable of; not a copycat of others I admired. This is most evident in my musical theatre and cabaret career. There are many incredible singers, but not many truly incredible performers. It is those who draw upon their own personal truths who are the most captivating. Had I learned that lesson at a younger age, I feel as I may have excelled to even greater heights. Through teaching those basics, I intend to bring these vital lessons to my students now, so they may be prepared for greater lessons in the future.

Another one of my favorite quotes is, "It's not called show-party, or show-fun-times, it's called show-business." I like to give my students the real life information to making the arts a livelihood. Treating them as peers and expecting an equal level of respect is my way of creating a bond with my students. They are challenged to produce high quality results when working with me, and seeing them strive to do so is thrilling and rewarding. When I get excited, they get excited.

And ultimately isn't that what we all are looking to achieve? A sense of excitement and exhilaration when working? I understand the importance of hard work and responsibility, but without fulfillment in your career, I believe you are not living to work, just working to live. Adapting this path in life begins early, before the overwhelming flood of owning more stuff, technological toys, excess, over consumption, and greed begins to taint the road we travel. These distractions are everywhere, and giving the best mentoring to my students will influence their choices forever. Some of the most moving artistic experiences I have witnessed have been in a plain black box, with one small microphone, and a piano. I hope to inspire such future experiences.

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Gail Becker Koppa. While I was Artistic Director for Four Seasons Theatre in Madison, I watched Gail work as an actor, singer, teacher, coach, and director. I can tell you with full confidence that she excels at each and every one of these skills.

In attending Gail's productions at Madcap Productions, it was clear to me that not only did Gail possess an amazing gift for working with kids but as the director she had a clear vision of what she wanted with each piece and the product was quite polished. She also worked with the actors on their singing and presentation giving them invaluable skills at a very young age. I also attended a production of Christmas Carol at the Overture Center last year where Gail had worked with the cast on their singing of various songs and carols. The result was the best singing Christmas Carol I have heard from that company.

I've also had the pleasure of working with Gail as an actor. Not only does she give a 100% on stage but she can also take a small supporting role and make it noticed by the audience, merely by adding her own character arc and following it through to its natural conclusion.

Gail is also a wonderful musical theatre coach. Her understanding of repertoire as it pertains to character type, age, etc is spot on. She knows what schools are looking for in auditions and what directors will look for in casting. She also teaches a well-produced clean clear tone. In fact, when I left Madison to move to London, I had a studio of over 25 musical theatre students. I trusted Gail enough that I passed along all my students to her upon my departure.

In addition to all of these skills, Gail is one of the nicest, funniest, easy to work with people I have ever met. She keeps me constantly laughing and she takes direction with ease. She is truly one of those actors you look to cast when working on a show. I simply cannot recommend Gail enough for this position. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at andrew@andrewabrams.net

Sincerely,
Andrew Abrams
New York Vocal Coach
Former Artistic Director of Four Seasons Theatre



Batavia High School

1200 West Wilson Street, Batavia, IL 60510
Phone: (630) 879-4600 - Fax (630) 879-4698
www.bps101.net

A caring community where everyone engages in challenging and meaningful learning for continuous growth.

June 22, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

For over ten years Gail Koppa has been a valued member of our musical production team at Batavia High School. As our choreographer, she has teamed with our conductor, vocal, technical, stage directors and stage manager to create many special moments for the Batavia theatre program.

Cooperation, respect, creativity and enthusiasm are just a few of the attributes Gail brings to the program. From our first production team meeting her knowledge of the professional theatre blends perfectly with the enthusiasm of the high school theatre scene. Working closely with all of our team, Gail has always provided production possibilities that will allow our students and adults to grow. As the curtain falls on the last night of a performance, I always look forward to Gail coming to me and saying, "Hey, how about . . . for next year?" We begin preparing immediately.

Gail's audition sessions and rehearsal times are energetic, efficient and fast-paced. Each count of her choreography is plotted in detail and she is ready to teach. There is no down time; each minute is filled. Her expectations are high, but so is the respect she gives each student as well as the production. The quality she expects in performance is apparent from day one.

As a team player Gail is top shelf. As we move into tech week and fine tune the big picture, our five member team will confer, modify, delete and add effortlessly. There are no egos interfering as Gail joins us in providing the best experience for our students and audience.

Finally, and most importantly, Gail has been the major factor in leading our musical theatre program to a higher level. While we enjoy doing the old standards, Gail can always provide the creativity that raises the stakes. And the more challenging works are the ones we really enjoy because we know that Gail is there to lead the charge.

It is without reservation that I recommend Gail Koppa as a musical choreographer. She is our team's most valued member. I trust you will experience the same.

Sincerely,

Page McCloud
Drama Director

Doug Drexler
Principal

Lisa Hichens
Assistant Principal
Curriculum & Instruction

Chip Hickman
Assistant Principal
Student Services

Rebecca Sulaver
Assistant Principal
Student Activities

David M. Jones
Assistant Principal

A Letter of Recommendation for Gail Becker Koppa

I have known Gail for more than a decade, in many differing working capacities – as her employee, and her employer, as a co-worker, as a performing artist, and as a director. In each of these working situations, Ms. Koppa has presented herself as a born leader.

As an instructor, I have observed her to be insistent that her students deliver only their very best. She demands their respect, and works carefully to coax the actors to the next level. As a performer, she is particular about polishing her own work, and making sure everyone involved is clear on the task at hand. As an employer and an employee, she is organized, timely, true to her word, and always fair.

I have also shared a friendship with Ms. Koppa through the years, and I have always found her to be honest and forthright. She is also incredibly hard-working, dedicated and driven. She has given me inspiration as friend and human being. I highly recommend Ms. Koppa to work in any capacity that demands a bright, responsible, articulate professional.

Sincerely,
Pamela Sue Fox
Performing Arts Educator and Performer
(Music and Dance)
pamelasuefox@hotmail.com
773.991.2985