



Dean Southern

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs & Dean of the Institute
Voice Faculty, Conservatory

Dean Southern, DMA, is vice president of academic and student affairs & dean of the institute at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He is also a member of the voice faculty and has a diverse musical background as a singer, pianist and stage director.

Venues at which he has given master classes in the US and abroad include Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Central Conservatory of Music and China Conservatory of Music (Beijing, China), Wuhan Conservatory of Music (Wuhan, China), Shenzhen Art School (Shenzhen, China), Kungliga Musikhögskolan (Royal College of Music, Stockholm, Sweden), Conservatorio Profesional de Música (Valencia, Spain) and Interlochen Arts Academy (Michigan), as well as chapters of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) across the country. His students have been accepted to prestigious young artist programs and graduate schools and awarded the Fulbright grant, and they have gone on to successful careers as performers and voice teachers.

Southern was a master teacher at the 2020 NATS Intern Program, where he mentored early career professional voice teachers. He serves as executive director of the Art Song Festival at CIM, which was founded in 1985 to promote art song and cultivate its performance by hosting international artists in recitals and master classes. He spent eleven years on the faculty of the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, and he has since taught at summer programs in Italy, China, California and Massachusetts. Southern was a jury member of the Bologna International Vocal Competition in Italy and he has served as an adjudicator for competitions in Austria, China and across the US.

Classical Singer magazine has published his “Distant Voices” column, as well as his articles “Breaking Barriers: Four Pioneering African-American Singers in Opera,” “Practicing 101: Ten Tips for Making the Most of Your Time between Lessons,” “Practicing with your Mouth Shut” and his interview with legendary mezzo-soprano Christa Ludwig. He has given his “Distant Voices” and “Breaking Barriers” lectures, which are multimedia guided tours to singers of the past, at many colleges, universities and NATS chapters. *Classical Singer* featured him in a teacher spotlight on their website in 2019 and he was interviewed for the Chinese-language magazine *Art of Singing* in 2015.

After graduating from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, he earned master’s degrees in piano performance from the University of Missouri and in voice performance from the University of Akron. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in voice performance from CIM.

Prior to his appointment at CIM, he taught voice and was stage director of opera at the University of Miami Frost School of Music in Coral Gables, Florida.