

Did You Know...



...that S2 Katie Jagielski first met and worked with Bob Shafer at Shenandoah University when she was a music education major there? “I sang in the conservatory choir and the chamber choir,” said Katie, “and was on the Italian tour of the conservatory choir the year I graduated. Because of Bob’s encouragement, I went on to Catholic University and achieved a master’s in vocal pedagogy. Bob has been a huge influence on my career as a singer and music educator.” Katie is currently a music teacher at Trailside Middle School in Ashburn, Virginia.

In her last semester at Shenandoah, Katie joined the Washington Chorus in 2005, and she followed Bob to City Choir when it began in 2007. “Singing in City Choir brings me joy, challenges me, makes me a better musician, and helps me develop my passion for music and singing, which I share with my students. It is important to me to continue performing music, and I rely on City Choir to help me do that.” City Choir will soon rely on Katie for more than her participation as a chorister because, starting this fall, she will be the new Assistant Conductor of City Choir, which includes leading City Singers. “I am honored to be given this big responsibility and am now working with [former Assistant Conductor] Rachel [Binger] to learn the ropes of the job.”

Katie began performing music in elementary school when she studied clarinet. “But I always wanted to be a singer. Since young girls often want to be singers, my parents just thought I was going through a phase and didn’t take my yearning to sing seriously. So I carried on with clarinet in middle school and also studied the piano. Finally, in high school, my parents realized how important singing was to me and I began voice lessons. Maybe that’s because they heard me sing and said to themselves, ‘There is something there.’ No one else in my family is a musician, so they were completely unfamiliar with the process of becoming one. They have been very supportive and have learned about that process along with me.”

Katie’s music activities outside City Choir include being the choral director at Our Savior’s Way Lutheran Church in Ashburn and the music director of this year’s musical at Trailside Middle School, *The Little Mermaid*. Somehow, she still has the time and energy to work on her 18th (!) marathon. Her goal is to participate in at least one marathon in every state. “I’m also trying to keep up my German, which I learned in graduate school. But,” she acknowledges, “that effort has taken a back seat for now.”

This profile, written by Al Bradford (and lightly edited for context), appeared in TCCW’s internal weekly newsletter, *Singer News and Notes*, in April 2019. Since then, Katie has ably taken up the mantle of Assistant Conductor and Director of the City Singers, and has a few more marathons under her belt! (June 2020)