

Arlo J. Banta

Curriculum Vitae
Updated August 22, 2025

(they/he)
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EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

In Process Ph.D. candidate in historical musicology. Dissertation: “Reading Against the Golden Age: Queer Tactics in Musical Theatre (1934–2022).”

In Process Rackham Graduate School Certificate in LGBTQ Studies.

2025 Center for Research on Learning and Teaching Graduate Teacher Certificate.

Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA

2021 B.A. with highest honors, music & theatre double major. Honors thesis: “Pushing Back Against the ‘Place for Us’: The Intersections of Gendered and Racial Hierarchies within Leonard Bernstein’s *West Side Story*.”

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

2025 “Adaptation as an Act of Witness: Jeanine Tesori and Lisa Kron’s Contributions to *Fun Home*’s Archive of Feeling,” *Open Access Musicology* Special Volume on Musical Theater, under review.

2021 “From Culture to Novelty: The Blurring of the Lines Between Inclusion and Whitewashing in Caroline Shaw’s *Partita for 8 Voices*,” *Muhlenberg Academic Review*.

Book Reviews

2025 Review of *Queer Opera* by Andrew Sutherland (Rowman & Littlefield, 2023) in *Notes: the Quarterly Journal of the Music Library Association* 81, no. 4 (June 2025).

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

2025 American Musicological Society Summer Institute: “Music of the United States: Telling Our Stories,” University of Maryland.

2025 Community of Scholars Writing Workshop Fellowship, Institute for Research on Women & Gender Studies/Rackham at the University of Michigan.

2025 Rackham Humanities Research Candidacy Fellowship, University of Michigan.

2024 Musicology Department Summer Research Funding, University of Michigan.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS (CONT.)

2023 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan.

2021–22 Graduate Student Fellowship, University of Michigan.

2020 Mazur Research Fund for Musical Inquiry, Muhlenberg College.

2020 Dean of Academic Life Student Summer Research Grant, Muhlenberg College.

HONORS & AWARDS

2025 Oxford University Press Student Prize for best student paper at Song, Stage and Screen 2025, for “Mythologies of the American Mid/Southwest in *The Outsiders* (2024).”

2025 Glenn McGeoch Memorial Scholarship in Musicology, University of Michigan. Given to an outstanding graduate student instructor of undergraduate music non-majors.

2021 The Class of 1969 Graduate Study Award, Muhlenberg College.

2021 The Lillian and Anthony Fiddler Memorial Award in Music, Muhlenberg College.

2021 Iota Iota Iota (Women's and Gender Studies Honors Society) member.

2020 Phi Beta Kappa member.

2019 Second place winner, Lehigh Valley National Association of Teachers of Singing competition, Junior/Senior Classical Performance division.

2018–21 Lentz Scholarship, Muhlenberg College.

2017–21 Dana Scholars, Muhlenberg College.

2017–21 Presidential Merit Scholarship, Muhlenberg College.

2017–21 Theatre Talent Scholarship, Muhlenberg College.

2017–21 John Nace '32 Scholarship, Muhlenberg College.

TEACHING

Course Instruction (University of Michigan)

2025 Instructor of record, Gender and Sexuality in American Musical Theatre.

2024 Teaching assistant, Introduction to the Art of Music (non-major survey).

2024 Grader, History of Western Music from the Middle Ages to ca. 1750.

2023, 2024 Teaching assistant, History of Western Art Music II (music major survey).

2022, 2023 Teaching assistant, History of Western Art Music I (music major survey).

Guest Lectures (University of Michigan)

2024 “Early Electronic Music,” Introduction to the Art of Music.

2024 “Musical Theatre’s Operatic Roots,” Introduction to the Art of Music.

2024 “Mahler: The Symphony Gets Massive,” History of Western Art Music II.

2024 “Nation, Class, and the Opera,” History of Western Art Music II.

2023 “Allegories of Music,” History of Western Art Music I.

2023 “Gender and the Piano in the 19th Century,” History of Western Art Music II.

2022 “The Birth of Opera,” History of Western Art Music I.

Invited Pedagogical Lectures

2025 Remarks on *The Soldier’s Tale* by Igor Stravinsky. SMTD Scholarship Showcase, University of Michigan.

2020 Lecture-recital presentation of “Difficulties” by Adolphus Hailstork. Celebration of African-American Composers and Poets, Muhlenberg College.

2018 Pre-concert lecture, Allentown Symphony Orchestra’s “Bernstein at 100, Copland, and Gershwin” concert.

Other (Muhlenberg College)

2019–21 Tutor for Music Theory I–III, Western Music History II, and Performance & Society.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025 “Mythologies of the American Mid/Southwest in *The Outsiders* (2024).” Annual Song, Stage and Screen conference, International Society for the Study of Musicals.

2025 “Gossip Aesthetics in Musical Theatre Scholarship.” Annual meeting of the Society for American Music.

2024 “Gossip in Musical Theatre History and Scholarship.” LGBTQ Study Group Online Symposium.

2024 “Singing ‘Out’: Radicalism and Assimilation in Washtenaw County’s Queer Community Choir, Out Loud Chorus.” Biennial Feminist Theory & Music conference.

2023 “Singing ‘Out’: Radicalism and Assimilation in Queer Community Choirs.” Annual meeting of the American Musicological Society.

2021 “Shark Girls: The Dramaturgical Impact of Exoticization on the Puerto Rican Women in *West Side Story*.” Southern Graduate Music Research Symposium.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (CONT.)

2021 Ilham Tohti Advocacy Group Presentation, Scholars at Risk Undergraduate Student Conference on Human Rights Advocacy in the Time of COVID-19.

2020 “Gender and Race in Leonard Bernstein’s *West Side Story*.” Celebration of Student Research and Scholarship, Muhlenberg College.

SELECTED EMPLOYMENT

2025–present Student research mentor, Lumiere Research Scholar Program, Lumiere Education.

2025–present Research associate, Inclusive History Project, University of Michigan’s National Center for Institutional Diversity. Project supervisor: Juan Florencia.

2024 Research associate, Inclusive History Project, University of Michigan’s National Center for Institutional Diversity. Project supervisor: Mark Clague.

2023–present Editorial assistant, The Gershwin Initiative, University of Michigan.

2020 Research associate and member of Changing Lenses (ensemble developing embodied exercises for online teaching), Muhlenberg College Theatre & Dance Department.

2020 Administrative Intern, Allentown Symphony Association.

2019 General and Company Management Intern, La Jolla Playhouse.

2018 Education & Outreach Intern, La Jolla Playhouse.

2018–21 Hall Director and Resident Advisor, Muhlenberg Housing & Residence Life.

2017–21 House manager and box office associate, Muhlenberg College Theatre & Dance Department.

2017–21 Office Assistant, Muhlenberg College Theatre & Dance Department.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2024–present SMR Forum Co-Chair, Society for Music Research, University of Michigan.

2023–24 SMR Social Planning Co-Chair, Society for Music Research, University of Michigan.

2021 Contributing editor and peer referee, Muhlenberg Academic Review.

2021 Muhlenberg Theatre & Dance Student & Alumni Coalition, Muhlenberg College.

2020–21 Dana Scholars Anti-Racism Initiative, Muhlenberg College.

2018–19 Dana Scholars Student Advisory Board, Muhlenberg College.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for American Music
 American Musicological Society
 International Society for the Study of Musicals
 American Musicological Society, Midwest Chapter

LANGUAGES

French (advanced reading and writing, intermediate speaking).
 Spanish (intermediate reading, writing, and speaking).

SELECTED ARTISTRY

Creative Team Experience

- 2025 Script writer, Out Loud Chorus's *Going Viral: From TV to TikTok* concert.
- 2025 Audio collage designer and producer, Out Loud Chorus's *Coming Out and Coming Together* concert.
- 2024 Dramaturg and script supervisor, The Gershwin Initiative's *Of Thee I Sing* concert production.
- 2024 Script writer, Out Loud Chorus's *Queers! Queers! Queers!* concert.
- 2021 Writer, *10x10 or The Decameron*, Mnemonic Theatre Festival, Muhlenberg College.
 Directed by Ethan Philbrick.
- 2018 Dramaturg, *Machinal*, Muhlenberg College. Directed by Lou Jacob.
- 2018 Dramaturg, *Ubu Roi*, Muhlenberg College. Directed by Francine Roussel.

Performance Experience

- 2021 Performer, *10x10 or The Decameron*, Mnemonic Theatre Festival, Muhlenberg College. Directed by Ethan Philbrick.
- 2020 Vocalist, *Women Composers Project*, Muhlenberg College.
- 2020 Vocalist, Marcía Porter masterclass for Celebration of African-American Composers and Poets, Muhlenberg College.
- 2020 Scholarship quartet member, Allentown Symphony Orchestra Chorus.
- 2019 Vocalist, Dan Taylor early music masterclass, Muhlenberg College.
- 2017–20 Actor, miscellaneous productions, Muhlenberg College.

SELECTED ARTISTRY (CONT.)

Ensemble Experience

2022–present Section leader, Out Loud Chorus, Ann Arbor, MI.

2022–23 Section leader, First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, MI.

2019–21 Vocalist, Collegium Musicum, Muhlenberg College.

2017–21 Member, the Artist Collective devised theatre and performance art ensemble, Muhlenberg College.

2017–21 Chorister and section leader, Chamber Choir, Muhlenberg College.