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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VALUED BY AUBURN UNIVERSITY'S MATTHEW HOCH



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BY: LAUREN ALTEMARI

Dr. Matthew Hoch is an alumnus of the Auburn University Academy for Civic Professionalism. He attended in May 2013.

Hoch spent three days in the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center listening to guest speakers and engaging in discussions. Outside of lectures, members of the Academy took excursions to observe community engagement projects in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Loachapoka, Ala.

“Community engagement and civic professionalism has always been at the core of what I do as an active performing musician, but the Academy helped me to broaden my horizons and think of new ways in which I can engage my community through music,” Hoch said. “I was also introduced to new possibilities and ideas with regard to how to dovetail civic professionalism activities with my creative activity and research portfolio.”

After attending the Academy for Civic Professionalism Hoch was awarded a Community Engagement Grant from the College of Liberal Arts.

Giving Back to the Community

“With this grant money, I partnered with an already existing organization, the Civic Chorale of the East Alabama Arts Association,” Hoch said. “Our capstone project was a community performance of the *Oratorio de Noël (Christmas Oratorio)* by the French composer Camille Saint-Saëns in December 2013. Auburn University faculty and students joined forces with community members to bring this concert to the Auburn-Opelika community. It was a successful and fulfilling venture.”

Hoch values community engagement and knows it is key to the work of a professional musician.

“It (community engagement) means connecting to people through my area of expertise, which is performance,” Hoch said. “Being a tenure-track applied music specialist at a tier-one land-grant research (university) presents unique and rewarding opportunities to engage in civic professionalism. I am grateful to have these experiences through my position at Auburn University.”

Hoch is assistant professor of voice in the department of music at Auburn University. He holds a Bachelor of Music (summa cum laude) from Ithaca College, Master of Music degree from the Hartt School and a Doctoral of Musical Arts from the New England Conservatory.

To see more on Hoch’s profile and list of extensive achievements visit <http://www.matthewhoch.com/>.

About the Academy

According to the Academy’s website, “The Community and Civic Engagement Initiative is based on Auburn University’s historic commitment of service and the College of Liberal Arts’ mission to foster an intellectual community.”

For more information on the Academy for Civic Professionalism, which is being held May 11-14, please visit <http://www.cla.auburn.edu/cla/cce/acp/>.

Images courtesy of Matthew Hoch and A.C.P

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