Faculty Spotlight
Meet Kevin Short, School of Music

Kevin Short comes by his affinity for music honestly. A native of Charles County, Maryland, music was a fixture in Short’s life growing up, thanks in part to his four uncles, all talented vocalists and musicians. Their early influence eventually led Short to the undergraduate music program at Morgan State University, where his voice teacher encouraged him to pursue a career in opera. A chorus spot in the Baltimore Opera’s performance of Porgy and Bess sealed the deal: “[It was] because of that experience that I needed and wanted to perform opera desperately.”
Now a critically-acclaimed, award-winning operatic bass-baritone, Short brings his vast experience and versatile talents to UMD as an associate professor of voice. Short’s formidable resume includes hundreds of national and international credits with world-renowned opera companies, orchestras, and festivals, including more than 100 appearances at the Metropolitan Opera in such performances as La Boheme, Don Giovanni and Tosca. This past summer, Short returned to Porgy and Bess in Seattle—this time as Porgy—in a performance hailed by The Seattle Times for its “deeply-felt production” and “brilliant cast.” He also released a new CD with the Marseille Philharmonic, Mephistopheles and other Bad Guys, available on iTunes, Spotify and Amazon. Below, Short talks about coming home, the joys of teaching, and the binge-worthy appeal of British television:

What brought you back to Maryland and UMD? Coming to UMD gave me the opportunity to join
a world-class faculty at a university not too far from my aging parents. My dear friend and colleague at UMD, Gran Wilson, was instrumental in my decision to teach at the university level and eventually in joining UMD's School of Music. I had always enjoyed helping and mentoring young singers through master classes as well as a few private lessons from time to time; but it was Gran who suggested that if I enjoyed teaching as much as I said, then I needed to begin building a resume just as I did as a singer. Upon his wise counsel I subsequently accepted a position at the University of Miami, where I taught for five years prior to accepting the UMD position.

What do you like about working at UMD? I very much enjoy and respect my colleagues and really appreciate their support, their positive dispositions, and their commitment to the wellbeing and development of the students. It makes it an absolute joy to go to “work” every day.

What is your favorite part about the teaching/coaching experience? I consider myself a dream facilitator, so I very much enjoy assisting my students as they explore, discover, and hopefully begin to realize their own possibilities and dreams.

What is your secret to keeping your voice in tip-top form? I work to employ vocal drills on a regular basis and take care not to overuse it when practicing or performing. I also work to read my throat and body for the slightest bit of abnormality and address anything immediately.

What’s an interesting fact not many people know about you? I am in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

What’s the last great book you read or TV show you binged? The last good book I read was Thom Harmann’s The Crash of 2016. The last great TV shows I binged are dramas and sitcoms on Britbox such as Poirot, Midsomer Murders, Eastenders, and Coronation Street.

Article by Maggie Haslam

Recognition & Awards
DST Lecture Series
See Full Lecture Schedule

Policy & Procedures
UMD and Social Media
Did you know that the university has a social media policy? While social media is a great way to get involved, stay in touch and express your views, as a faculty member you should follow certain guidelines. Read more for information on best practices for your posts, tweets and messages.

Faculty Policies
An excused absence is an absence for which the student has the right to receive, and the instructor has the responsibility to provide, academic accommodation. Students are expected to take full responsibility for their own academic work and progress. Students, to progress satisfactorily must meet all of the... Read more.
Faculty Development
2018 New Faculty Members

New Faculty Members: We want to hear from you! Let us know how we can provide ongoing assistance to make your transition successful. Visit our website to review the university Teaching Policies & Guidelines. Incorporating these items into your classroom procedures will help you set the groundwork for a productive school year.

First Faculty Forum

Mental Health and Higher Education was the topic of the first Faculty Forum on October 2. Speakers Sharon Kirkland-Gordon; Jeff Franke and Mary Ann Hoffman discussed mental health challenges faced by faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduates, and provided strategies for how to address this growing problem.
Seven Bricks to Lay the Foundation for Productive Difficult Dialogues

By Annie Soisson EdD

There are three basic ways that I hear faculty talk about difficult dialogues—in-class dialogues that were planned but did not go particularly well; in-class hot moments that were not anticipated and that the faculty member did not feel equipped to handle; and difficult dialogues that happen... Read more.

A Self-Care Strategy for Beleaguered Academics
By Pam Whitfield

Ten years ago, I taught a literature unit on the Vietnam era. We read T.C. Boyle’s Drop City and Tim O’Brien’s The Things They Carried, and I invited my colleague Bob to speak to my class. He brought his guitar and sang a song he’d written about serving in the Army. Then he looked at my students... Read more.

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### News & Events

**Big Ten Academic Alliance News**

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**Events**

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*Registration opens soon. Check our [website](#) to register and for more details.

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