Ashleigh Gordon

Arts Administrator | Creative Director | Teaching Artist | Violist

About

Experienced arts producer/designer with 13 years of non-profit leadership. Skilled in managing seven-figure budgets, overseeing project logistics, supervising small teams, and fostering strong artist relationships through effective communication. A highly organized and detailed oriented project manager, problem solver, and collaborator having worked on stage and off with artists from around the globe.

Skills: Microsoft Office; Google Workspace; PowerPoint/Keynote; Canva; Wix/Weebly website builders; various CRMs (Bloomerang, Little Green Light); AirTable; Mailchimp; GiveButter; Zoom

Select Arts Administration Experience

Artistic/Executive Director & Violist, Castle of our Skins, Boston, MA, 2013-2026*

- Planned/produced annual performance schedule of approx. 30-35 concerts, residencies, art installations, outdoor festivals, community performances, lectures, and more
- Served as direct report for employees, volunteers and interns, leading hiring and performance evaluation processes
- Attracted, recruited and retained high-caliber artistic talent by fostering authentic relationships with dancers, musicians, artist managers, and creatives of various disciplines
- Developed marketing assets, messaging, communications strategy, and post event reports in collaboration with Marketing team
- Determined strategic direction/growth, including staff expansion and acquisition of a 2,500 sq. ft space, in collaboration with Board of Directors
- Wrote federal and foundation grant narratives/reports and managed annual and activity-specific fundraising campaigns and budgets up to $500,000
- Managed human resource needs of employees, contractors, and artists including payroll, 1099s distribution, and contract negotiations

**In 2023, my title shifted to Artistic Director upon the organization's hiring of an Executive Director.*

Steering Committee Member, Boston Cultural Leaders Coalition, 2021-2026

- Established vision and direction of the 35+ membered, non-profit arts leader coalition
- Developed a Theory of Charge and Organizational Charter
- Oversaw $250,000 in grant dispersals to members and managed a $1,000,000 budget
- Managed the national search and hiring process for a strategic consultant firm
- Co-Chaired the Political Action & Advocacy Committee

Coordinator, Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras' Intensive Community Program, 2013-2015

- Maintained lesson, class, concert, summer camp and evaluation schedules
- Served as primary point of contact for students, families, faculty and partners
- Assisted in the management of rehearsals, performances and annual events
- Managed annual recruitment, including scheduling, communications, and interviews

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Selected Student Centered Experience

Teaching Artist, Castle of our Skins concert and educational series, 2013-2026

- Organized multi-day high school/college residencies and student engagement activities
- Coached undergraduate/graduate chamber music ensembles in public masterclasses
- Created educational forums/lectures focused on history, culture and entrepreneurship
- Designed "edu-tainment" concerts focused on Black culture, history, music and arts

Mentor, Castle of our Skins concert and education series/independent, 2021-2026

- Served as music coach, advisor, and co-producer in Castle of our Skins' annual Intercollegiate Black Student Union Fellowship

Mentor, Castle of our Skins concert and education series/independent, 2021-2026

- Served as creative director, program advisor and thought partner for New England Conservatory's Black Student Union's annual Coretta Scott-King tribute concert, working closely with BSU leadership, faculty and staff to develop and produce creative initiatives

Teaching Artist, Longy School of Music at Bard College, 2020-2023

- Designed syllabus and taught graduate level course on the music of Black composers from 16th century to present
- Faculty advised/co-taught the student-led African American Spirituals Ensemble
- Coached graduate-level string trios/quartets
- Consulted each department around repertoire diversity and generated an action-focused report to promote greater inclusion, student belonging, and pedagogical success

Selected Performing Experience

- Boston Ballet, Boston, MA 2021-
- Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Boston, MA 2017-
- Odyssey Opera, Boston, MA 2017
- A Far Cry (Grammy-nominated), Boston, MA 2015-
- Boston Modern Orchestra Project (Grammy-award winning), Boston, MA 2015-
- Ensemble Modern, Frankfurt, Germany Auxiliary violist, 2011-2013; 2015
- Castle of our Skins, Boston, MA 2013-

Selected Solo & Chamber Music Venues

North America

Carnegie Hall, NYC
Symphony Hall, Boston, MA
Jordan Hall, Boston, MA
DiMenna Center for Classical Music, NYC

International

The Royal Albert Concert Hall, London, England
Konzerthaus, Berlin, Germany
Garde du Nord, Basel, Switzerland
IRCAM at Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

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Select Honors/Awards/Conference Presentations

Alumni Merit Award, Baldwin-Wallace University, 2024
Honoring outstanding contributions to profession, community and alma mater

Guest writer, Chamber Music America "Future" Magazine, 2020
"We Want to be Human, Too" essay contributor on intersectionality and classical music

"Americans for the Arts Johnson Fellowship for Artists Transforming Communities" nominee, 2020

Named as one of the "ARTery 25" millennials of color by WBUR The ARTery, 2019

Guest Lecturer, Keene State College, 2019
Citizen artistry, creating new canons and embracing diversity as practicing artists

Guest Panelist, Sphinx Connect Conference, Detroit
Small in Size But Mighty in Force: Using Chamber Music as a Tool for Social Change

Guest Panelist, Chamber Music America Conference, NYC
How today's musicians expand boundaries/opportunities through chamber music

Charles Walton Diversity Advocate Award from the American Federation of Musicians, 2016
In recognition of work performed/organized through Castle of our Skins

Select Community Service

Board Member, Project STEP, 2021-2026
- Chaired the Artistic Advisory Committee, 2022-2026
- Served on inaugural DEI Task Force, 2021-2022

Community Engagement Committee Member, Vivo Performing Arts, 2018-2026
- Assisted in program development review and community engagement efforts

Education

Berklee Music and Health Institute at Berklee College of Music - Boston, MA
Community Health Musician Certificate Training, anticipated 2026

M.M. *Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Frankfurt* - Germany
International Ensemble Modern Academy Contemporary Music Performance, 2011-2012

M.M. New England Conservatory - Boston, MA
Viola Performance, 2006-2008

B.M. Baldwin-Wallace University Conservatory of Music - Berea, OH
Viola Performance, 2002-2006

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Artist Bio

Described as a "charismatic and captivating performer," Ashleigh Gordon has recorded with Switzerland's Ensemble Proton and Germany's Ensemble Modern; performed with Grammy-award winning BMOP and A Far Cry; and appeared at the prestigious BBC Proms Festival with the Chineke! Orchestra, Europe's first majority Black and ethnic-minority orchestra. Comfortable on an international stage, she has performed in such venues as the Royal Albert and Royal Festival Halls (London), Konzerthaus Berlin and Oper Frankfurt (Germany), *Gare du Nord and Dampfzentrale Bern* (Switzerland), Centre Pompidou (Paris), and the Lee Hysan Concert Hall (Hong Kong).

A passionate educator, Ashleigh served as viola instructor for the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra's Intensive Community Program, an Instructor of Teaching Artistry at the Longy School of Music at Bard College, and guest lectured at Peabody Institute, New England Conservatory of Music, Juilliard School of Music, and Oberlin Conservatory among other institutions. She has presented lectures on citizen artistry and entrepreneurship, led culturally responsive educational workshops for fellow educators, and served as guest panelist at the Sphinx Connect, League of American Orchestras, and Chamber Music America Conferences discussing topics of diversity in classical music. Committed to advancing equity within the arts, she served on the Board of Directors for Project STEP, a rigorous string training organization for Black and Latino youth, and on the Steering Committee for the Boston Cultural Leaders Coalition, a near 40-member strong arts and cultural movement dedicated to intersectional racial justice and equity in the City of Boston.

Ashleigh is Co-Founder & Artistic Director Emeritus of Castle of our Skins, a Boston-based concert and educational series dedicated to celebrating Black artistry through music. In recognition of her work, she has presented at IDEAS UMass Boston Conference and 180 Degrees Festival (Bulgaria); has been featured in the International Musician and Boston Globe; and was awarded the 2016 Charles Walton Diversity Advocate Award from the American Federation of Musicians. She is a 2015 St. Botolph Emerging Artist Award recipient, a 2019 Brother Thomas Fellow, a nominee for the 2020 "Americans for the Arts Johnson Fellowship for Artists Transforming Communities," and named one of WBUR's "ARTery 25", twenty-five millennials of color impacting Boston's arts and culture scene.

Ashleigh can be heard on chamber music and orchestral recordings under the Mode, Siemens, BMOP/Sound, Navona, and *Musiques-Suisse* record labels. Her most recent recording *Homage: Chamber Music of the African Continent and Diaspora*, can be purchased on the London-based Lorelt record label and features pianist-musicologist Dr. Samantha Ege and Castle of our Skins.

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