

## ADJUDICATOR

### Ryan Billington, Jazz/Pop Vocal and Singer/Songwriter

Ryan Billington is a versatile vocalist, arranger and conductor. Since 2004, he has taught private voice, choral/vocal jazz ensembles and various classes in the music department at St. Francis Xavier University including Vocal Improvisation, Songwriters and their Songs, Songwriting Workshop, Women and Popular Music. His main areas of interest are jazz/pop vocal performance, vocal pedagogy, choral ensemble direction and arranging for small vocal ensemble settings. In 2011, his student vocal ensemble EXTRA from St. FX was featured nationally on CBC Radio 2 Choral Concert with host Peter Togni.



Ryan completed a Master of Music in Voice performance and Jazz at Western Michigan University in 2002. Prior to his appointment at St. FX, Ryan performed as a professional choral singer in Toronto with the Nathaniel Dett Chorale and other choral ensembles. In more recent years, Ryan has performed across Atlantic Canada in jazz, oratorio, musical theatre and choral settings.

Recent original compositions of Ryan's include "Atacama, Gateway to the Stars" written for Toronto mezzo-soprano Ali Garrison and piano (2015), and original music for plays by American playwright Sarah Ruhl – Eurydice (Theatre Antigonish, 2017), and Stage Kiss (Festival Antigonish, 2017).

Ryan has been serving as Artistic Director and Conductor for the Cape Breton Chorale since 2017.