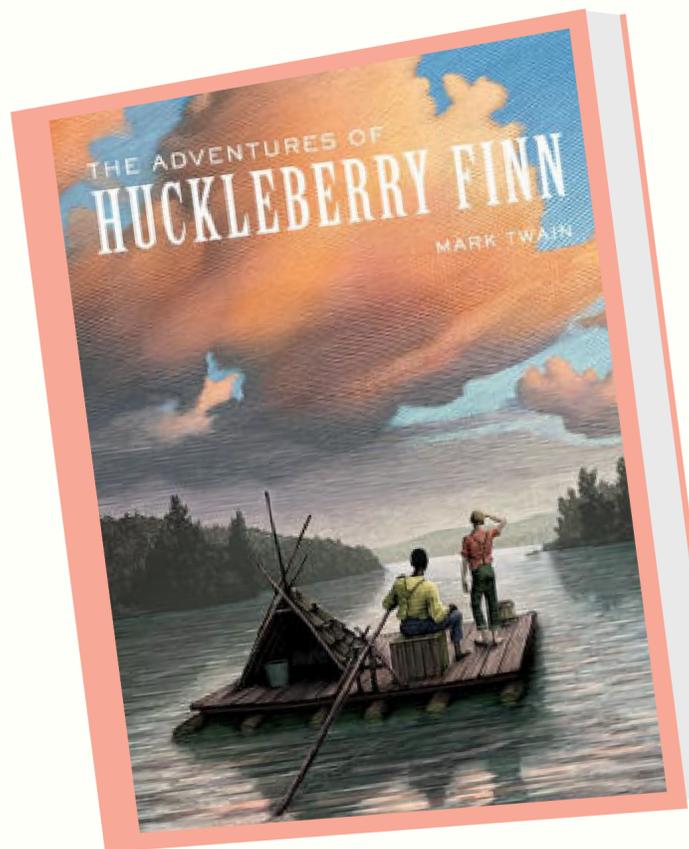




LEXINGTON
LIVE LETTER

A Literary Unmasking: From Page to Stage



NEW SEASON ANNOUNCED

Gearing up for Big River & Into the Woods

Our Board of Directors is *thrilled* to announce our upcoming productions of Big River and Into the Woods.

BIG RIVER

Despite the relatively short past of Big River, the story it tells has had a much longer presence in the world of American entertainment. The characters, plot, and themes of the musical are based on Mark Twain's beloved novel Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, which was first published in January of 1885. The novel has been both popular and controversial for over one hundred years, but the musical adaptation shows us that Twain's unique characters and themes are still relatable to readers and audiences in the 21st century.

Book writer William Hauptman wisely trusted Twain's story and stood back to give Miller the room to work his magic. The best book writers always serve in silence and are the unsung heroes of musical theatre. Still, he constructed an expert cutting of the story, keeping all the important points, vernacular, and atmosphere of the novel without ever letting it become talky, preachy, or portentous.

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NEW SEASON ANNOUNCED

AUTUMN 2021: BIG RIVER

SPRING 2022: INTO THE WOODS

APPLY FOR PRODUCTION POSITIONS



In the end, he remembered that this book is beloved, not because it makes for great essay writing, but because its characters and themes are relatable and universal. The journey on the river ultimately helps Huck and Jim to recognize their similarities and build a friendship that bridges the racial gap between them.

SOURCES

- Hauptman, William, and Roger Miller. *Big River*. New York: Grove Press, Inc. 1986. Print.
- Robinson, Mark. "Broadway Musical Time Machine: Looking Back at Big River." Mark Robinson Writes, *THEATRE TIME MACHINE*, 22 Feb. 2017,

INTO THE WOODS

The musical, whose music and lyrics were written by Stephen Sondheim, incorporated different stories from the Brothers Grimm fairy tales.

The story follows a Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results. Interestingly enough, these characters, among others, intertwined themselves in a story that represented the harsh realities of life in the unrealistic setting of a fairy tale.

SOURCE

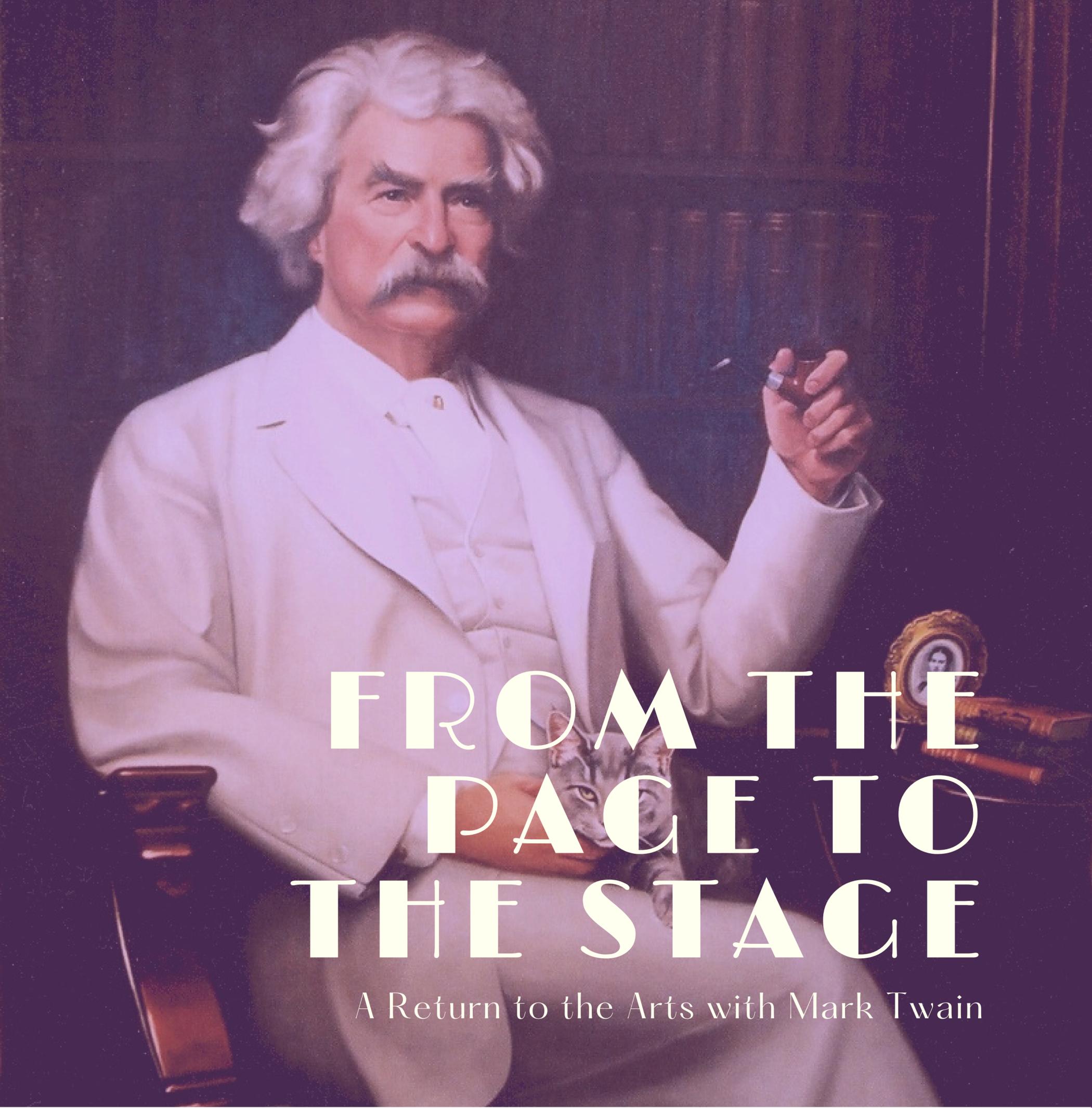
Burditt, Emilie. "Into the Woods' Explores Relationships, Dramatic Themes through Fairy Tales." *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison, 26 Feb. 2019.



SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS

Lexington Live is expanding its board of directors. We are seeking a diverse group of leaders who appreciate the cultural arts and are enthusiastic about promoting and producing live, adult, community theater in the greater Lexington area. Our mission is clear, and the dedicated leadership

and service of a strong board will ensure that it is realized. If you are willing and interested in serving with us, please notify us via email at Neil@LexingtonLive.org, and we will send an application and additional information on board service.



FROM THE PAGE TO THE STAGE

A Return to the Arts with Mark Twain

*Big
River*



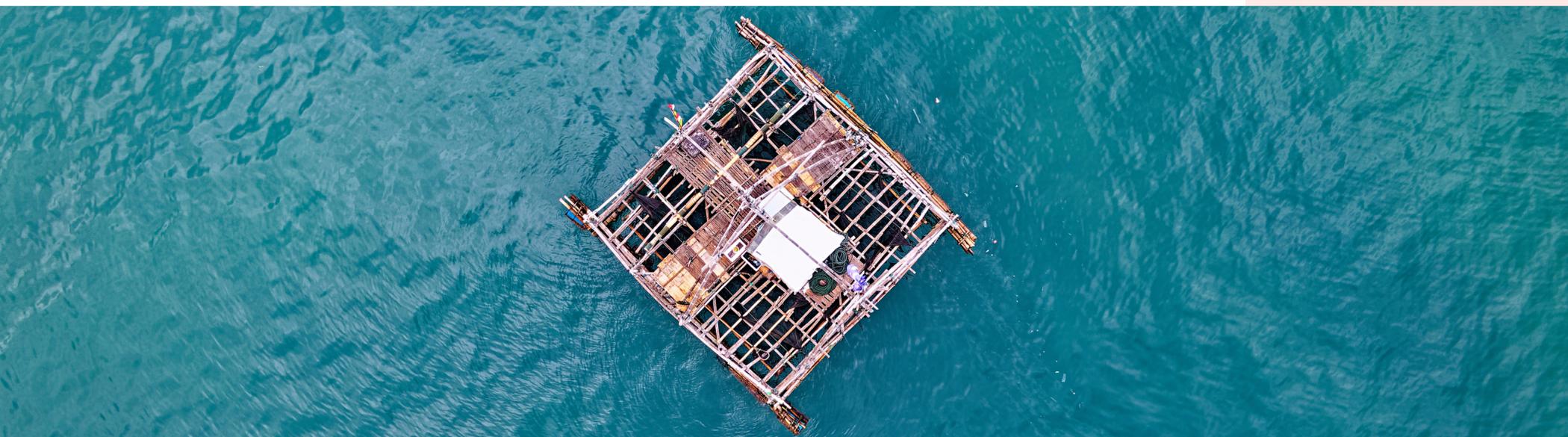
September 24, 25, 26 of 2021
Edward C. Smith Civic Center

THE STORY

MUSIC & LYRICS BY ROGER MILLER
// BOOK BY WILLIAM HAUPTMAN //
ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL BY
MARK TWAIN

Based on Mark Twain's classic 1884 novel, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, this production features music in the traditional Black gospel/spiritual, bluegrass, and country styles, keeping with the setting of the novel.

The 1985 Broadway production ran for more than 1,000 performances and it remained one of the few very successful American musicals in the mid-1980s among the emerging successes coming from Great Britain. *Big River* won 7 Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The story is noted for its colorful description of people and places along the Mississippi River. Set in a Southern antebellum society that had ceased to exist over 20 years before the work was published, it is an often scathing satire on entrenched attitudes.



APPLY NOW

TO NEIL@LEXINGTONLIVE.COM

Lexington Live is now accepting applications for the following production positions...

If you already applied for our 2020 season, please resubmit your information so we can verify you're still available for our new dates!

The following positions will receive a stipend:

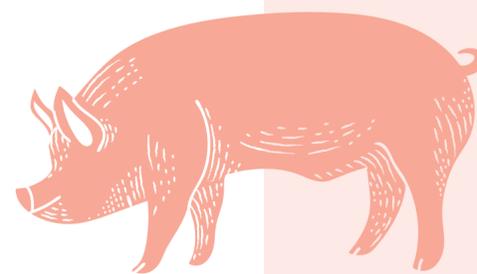
- Director
- Music Director
- Set Designer
- Choreographer
- Lighting Designer

The following positions are volunteer:

- Stage Manager
- Props
- Backstage Crew (no resumé required)
- Light/Spot operator
- House/Concession/Usher staff

Auditions are scheduled to take place in early August. Keep plugged in for exact dates!

To be considered for any of these positions, please submit an email and include a resumé listing theatre experience. Following the mission of Lexington Live, we encourage and will accept submissions from *all* interested parties regardless of race, gender, or age.





FROM THE PAGE TO THE STAGE

A Return to the Arts with the Brothers Grimm



May 13, 14, 15 of 2022
Edward C. Smith Civic Center

INTO THE WOODS

APPLY NOW

TO NEIL@LEXINGTONLIVE.COM

Lexington Live is now accepting applications for the positions listed below.

The following positions will receive a stipend:

- Director
- Set Designer
- Choreographer
- Lighting Designer
- Sound Designer

The following positions are volunteer:

- Stage Manager
- Props
- Backstage Crew (no resumé required)
- Light/Spot operator
- Sound operator
- House/Concession/Usher staff

Auditions are scheduled to take place in late March. Keep plugged in for exact dates!

To be considered for any of these positions, please submit an email and include a resumé listing theatre experience. Following the mission of Lexington Live, we encourage and will accept submissions from all interested parties regardless of race, gender, or age.



THE TALES

MUSIC & LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM // BOOK BY JAMES LAPINE // ADAPTED FROM THE PLOTS OF SEVERAL BROTHERS GRIMM FAIRY TALES

Into the Woods is a musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine. The musical intertwines the plots of several Brothers Grimm and Charles Perrault fairy tales, exploring the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests.

The main characters are taken from "Little Red Riding Hood", "Jack and the Beanstalk", "Rapunzel", and "Cinderella", as well as several others. The musical is tied together by a story involving a childless baker and his wife and their quest to begin a family (the original beginning of The Grimm Brothers' "Rapunzel"), their interaction with a witch who has placed a curse on them, and their interaction with other storybook characters during their journey.





SPOTLIGHT

*As part of Lexington LIVE's mission and desire to give back to the community, we are starting a special section in our newsletter to shine a SPOTLIGHT on Lexington and Davidson County residents who either volunteer, create, or just love the Arts. We shine our first spotlight on a long-time Lexington Arts creator, teacher, and performer, Melonie Rector! Lexington LIVE applauds all she does and **cannot wait** to get Melonie on our stage.*

Melonie Rector



THEN

Melonie received her Bachelor's degree in music from Mars Hill College and her Master's degree in music education from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. In 2011, she was selected as the Lexington Middle School and Lexington City School's Teacher of the Year.

"Melonie Rector is one of the most incredibly talented chorus teachers I have ever met. She and I developed a working relationship years ago directing musicals at Lexington High School. Her leadership, patience, and knowledge has helped me grow as a dance educator. I love watching her create and execute a project. She's committed to her students. She's committed to her art. Melonie, thank you for all you do! Thank you for not only being my colleague but also for being my friend. I love you!"

- Meredith Worley
Lexington Senior High School Dance Education

"Melonie has been a friend and colleague for almost 10 years, and she was a big part of what brought me to Lexington. It has been a privilege watching her every day as she continues to foster relationships with students and families in our community. Those relationships have allowed her to empower our young people and prepare them for life through lessons in choral music."

- Catie Hitzgrath
Lexington Middle School Chorus Director

"Mrs. Rector plays an integral role in the tradition of choral excellence in Lexington City Schools. She spends a large amount of time outside the school day offering musical opportunities for her students. Many of her weekends are spent taking kids to festivals, conferences, competitions, auditions and concerts. I have enjoyed being in her class and have appreciated all of the opportunities her leadership has afforded me. Her dedication to music education and her students is second to none."

Kinsey Calderone
Lexington Senior High School Choral Ensemble Student



NOW

Melonie is currently the Choral Director for Lexington High School, where she is in her 31st year of education - being with Lexington City Schools for 17 of those years. Prior to teaching in Lexington, she taught for both middle and high schools in Virginia and Kentucky. Choirs under her direction have consistently received distinguished ratings both at local and national levels.

Melonie is currently President of the NC Summer Institute for Choral Art and is an active member of the Lexington Choral Society. She currently resides in Lexington with her husband, Phil. Additionally, Melonie is an avid musical theatre supporter and performer, acting as the Music Director for the productions of Lexington High School.