

Be Steadwell

Composer • Filmmaker • Performer
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EDUCATION

Howard University • Film MFA • 2011-2014
Oberlin College • May 2009 • Honors
Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies and Visual Art

WORK EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor and Lecturer • Howard University • DC • 2022-2026
Showcase Your Sound with Be Steadwell (5/2025): Apple Carnegie Library
Actor • Parable Opera • National Tour • 2021-2023
Writer, Director: A Letter to My EX Musical • DC and Oakland • 2019
Artist-in-Residence • The Clarice Performing Arts Center • MD • 2019
Artist-in-Residence • Strathmore • MD • 2015-2016
Graduate Teaching Assistant • Howard University • DC • 2012-2014
Film Teacher • Arena Stage • DC • 2012-2013
Writer and Film Editor • Empower D.C.'s Grassroots Media Project • DC • 2011-2012

FESTIVALS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

The Maryland Film Festival • Black Tea • 2025
The Washington Post Top 10 Plays of 2025 • Composer: Twelfth Night
The Bush Film Festival • Black Tea • 2025
NAMT Festival Winner • National Alliance for Musical Theatre • 2024
Barrymore Award for Composition • Rose: You Are Who You Eat • 2024
Artist Fellowship Grant • DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities • 2018, 2020, 2022
Best Pop Album • Washington Area Music Awards • 2019. Music
Issa Rae Short Film Sundays • Featured Short: *Vow of Silence* • 2016
HBO Outfest • 2016 Original Music. The Revival: Women and the Word
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture • *Vow of Silence* • 2015
BlackStar Film Festival • Best experimental short • *Vow of Silence* • 2015
Inside Out: Toronto LGBT Film Festival • *Vow of Silence* • 2015
Filmmaker of the Month • DC Office of Motion Picture and Television
Development • 2014

SELECTED MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Olivia Travels • Tulum MX, Amsterdam NL, Reykjavík IS • 2018-2025

NAMT Festival • NYC • 10/2024

Wolf Trap's Out & About Festival • DC • 2024

The Kennedy Center Millenium Stage • DC • 2022, 2023, 2024

Oregon Shakespeare Theater • Ashland, OR • 2023, 2024

Freight & Salvage • Berkeley, CA • 2024

Parable of the Sower Strathmore Music Center • DC • 2022, 2023

L'Astral • Montreal, Canada • 2019

Lincoln Center • NYC • 2018

The Kennedy Center • Smithsonian Folklife Festival • DC • 2018

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Jami Ramberan: Howard University Chair School of Communications. (202) 212-9822

Betty Scott: Director of Education, Strathmore Music Center. (301) 318-0826

Toshi Reagon: Folk composer, Director of Parable of the Sower Opera. (718) 506-2677

ARTISTIC CREDITS

Chocolate Chip City (2025): Fiction novel author

Black Tea (2025): Writer, director, cinematographer

Twelfth Night (2025): Composer, Folger Shakespeare Theater

Dear Ex The Musical (2024): Composition, lyrics, book

Rose: You are Who you Eat (2024): Composer

Parable of the Sower (2022-2023): Company member, actor 2022-2023 tour

Nashville Ballet (2022): Original composition for Alia Kache choreography

Capella Clausura Presents Troubadours (2021): Original Composition

Succulent Album (2020): Composition, production

The Gone (2020): Alvin Ailey. Composer for Alia Kache choreography

A Letter to My Ex, the Musical (2019): Writer, director

Queer Love Songs Album (2018): Writer, producer, singer

Intrinsic (2017): Writer, co-producer. Climbing Poetree, Toshi Reagon

Vow of Silence (2014): Writer, director

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

[Chocolate Chip City. Foreword Reviews. 2025](#)

[Play on!: An interview with Twelfth Night composer Be Steadwell.](#)

[Folger Theater. 2025](#)

[Meet Be Steadwell. Canvas Rebel. 2023](#)

[Best of the Listening Room: Be Steadwell. Sofar Sounds. 2021](#)

[Out singer/songwriter Steadwell passionate about queer music. Blade. 2020](#)

[This D.C. musician was heartbroken after a breakup, so she made a musical about her ex. Washington Post. 2019](#)

[Be Steadwell Explores Humanity on “Queer Love Songs”. Bandcamp Daily. 2018](#)

[Be Steadwell’s New Music Video Will Put A Spell On You. Autostraddle. 2017](#)

[“Organic and Beautiful and Imperfect”: An Interview with Queer Pop Musician Be Steadwell. Columbia University Library](#)