

Kristi Brown-Montesano – Long Bio (296 Words)

Kristi Brown-Montesano, Chair of Music History at the [Colburn Conservatory of Music](#), received her Ph.D. in musicology from UC Berkeley, with a specialization in 18th-century western European music. A trained vocalist, studying with Stephanie Friedman and Jeffrey Thomas, Brown-Montesano was a long-time member of the American Bach Soloists. Her book, [Understanding the Women of Mozart's](#) (UC Press, 2007) offers a detailed study of the female characters in *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte* and *The Magic Flute*, re-evaluating critical assumptions about these fascinating roles; the first paperback edition will be released in November 2021.

Brown-Montesano's other research areas include music in film and television, postwar reception of J.S. Bach in American popular culture, gender politics in classical music, and musical aspects of Sherlock Holmes stories and adaptations. In 2014, she was honored to participate in the UCLA Musicology Department's Distinguished Lecture Series; in 2017, she was a panelist and presenter at the first "Women in Music Festival" at Mount Saint Mary's University. In 2020, Brown-Montesano was the keynote speaker for Opera Wilmington's fifth annual symposium, exploring issues of gender, race, and power in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. More recently, she recorded a podcast on composer Ethel Smyth for The Da Camera Society, for which she also created the script. She also serves as the specialist consultant for an in-development television series about young Mozart in Vienna.

As a public musicologist, Brown-Montesano is especially passionate about connecting with a larger community—students of all ages, fellow teachers and musicians, experienced audience members, and curious newbies. She has collaborated as a scholar-educator with the Los Angeles Opera, Los Angeles Philharmonic, La Jolla Music Society, Opera League of Los Angeles, Orange County Philharmonic Society, Mason House Concerts, and Salon de Musiques. For more information visit kristibrownmontesano.com.