

AJ Raggs



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Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, **AJ Raggs** - Angelo Raghianti - has been performing for 12 years. From the time he was 8 years old, AJ was cultured with some of the greatest music of all time. He dreamed of becoming a professional singer and those dreams are beginning to take shape. AJ performs year-round as a cantor in his local church and at Saint Paul Cathedral in Oakland, at weddings, restaurants, retirement living homes, bars, and church festivals in the Pittsburgh area. Some of AJ's career achievements thus far include:

Prestigious Performances: **3rd and Lindsley Nashville -- Carnegie Mellon University 4th of July Celebration and Freshman Orientation – Cattivo -- Guinness Book of World Records Largest Wedding Cookie Table Featured Artist -- Smiling Moose Bar and Concert Venue -- Steamworks Creative Listening Room -- The Bluebird Café Nashville -- The Cinderella Ball at the William Penn Omni Hotel -- The Local Nashville -- The Penn Hills Coffee House -- With the Rick Purcell Big Band at The Medallion Ball at the Wyndham Hotel and The Cinderella Ball at the William Penn Omni Hotel -- with Norman Nardini at the Starlite Lounge**

Classical Training: In May of 2017, AJ graduated from **Carnegie Mellon University** with **University Honors** and a **BFA in vocal performance**, where he studied under baritone **Daniel Teadt**.

Live Performance: Experience: At **Carnegie Mellon**, AJ was a member of the **CMU Originals**, an award winning all male a cappella group that placed 2nd in the world in the 2016 Inter-Collegiate Championship of A Cappella.

Theater Experience: At CMU, AJ was an active member in **Scotch and Soda Theatre** where he performed in the roles of Gomez Addams in *The Addams Family Musical*.

Opera Experience: On the **CMU Opera Stage**, AJ performed in Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* as Alfred, and as Pane in Francesco Cavalli's *La Calisto*.

Pro-Co-Writing Experience: *Brady Seals, Clayton Jones, Emily Haber, Jay Brunswick, Jeffrey East, Keesy Timmer, Lo Miller, Victoria Banks*

Internet Visibility: AJ's **YouTube Channel** has over **57,000 views** and **hundreds of subscribers**. His Facebook page has over 1,200 likes, and his Instagram has nearly 1,000 followers.

Private Training: Private Voice Lessons under **Melody Molinaro**, who studied under Seth Riggs (*Speech Level Singing*). Private Guitar Lessons under **Mark Strickland**. Student at the **Afro American Music Institute (AAMI)** in, PA for eight years. There he studied Jazz piano under **Howard Alexander III**, and Jazz voice under **Dr. James Johnson II**. AJ attended the **Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts High School (CAPA) 6-12** as a vocal major. AJ studied there under **Mark Spondike** and was a member of the CAPA Concert, Jazz and Chamber Choirs. As a vocal student, AJ participated in both the required Opera Workshop productions, and the All School Musical extra-curricular for all four years. His roles in these productions included Ralph Rackstraw in *HMS Pinafore*, The Letterbox in *Griffelkir*, Mr. Bumble in *Oliver!* and Usnavi de la Vega in *In the Heights*.

Awards: For his role in *In the Heights*, AJ won the **Gene Kelly Award - Best Actor 2013**. He then moved on to New York as a nominee in the **2013 National High School Musical Theater Awards (The Jimmy's)**. While at CAPA, AJ received an award for **Outstanding Vocal Student 2013**, and also received the **Superintendent's Excellence For All Award** for Pittsburgh CAPA Class of 2013. In 2014, AJ was also the winner of the **FamilyLinks Just Jazz II: Brass and Steel Up and Comer Contest**.

AJ's current goals include his desire to be a touring, performing artist and developing his craft of songwriting, as well as building strong relationships with music publishers, and increasing his pro-writing circle, and fan base. Thank you for your support of his gifts and talents.