Neal D. Long (he/him/his) enjoys a diverse career as a singer, pianist, and educator. Originally from Nevada, Neal is now based in the greater Kansas City area.

As a tenor, Neal has been described as “totally at ease” and providing a “sonorous tenor” (KC Arts Beat). His roles performed include Nemorino, Pedrillo, Ferrando, Bénédict, Candide, Lysander in Britten’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, and Laurie in Adamo’s *Little Women*. For his portrayal of Laurie with Opera in the Ozarks, Neal received the company award for Best Performance by a Male in a Leading Role. Concert credits include the tenor solos in Bach’s *Magnificat* and Handel’s *Messiah*.

A new music champion and enthusiast, Neal has premiered works by several composers. He sang the Voice of the Architect in Forrest Pierce's *Resonant Vessels*, a multi-location work celebrating architecture and place commissioned by the Spencer Museum of Art and *The Burning Harp*, an epic song-cycle also composed by Pierce. As co-founder and executive director of The Meadowlark Project, a vocal ensemble dedicated to contemporary works, Neal toured the Midwest with their recital program entitled *Sounds of the Plains*. The recital featured new art songs by Kansas-based composers using the texts of Kansas-based poets. Their most recent recital series, *Changing the Tides*, featured works mostly by female composers and poets on topics of womanhood, mortality, and progress. In 2021, The Meadowlark Project premiered *There Will Come Soft Rains* by Allison McIntosh.Co-commissioned by the Spencer Museum of Art and Reach Out Kansas, the piece illuminates Sara Teasdale’s poem in conversation with the exhibition entitled *Audubon in the Anthropocene*. Audience members have described The Meadowlark Project as "powerful over a very wide landscape of emotions, places, memories, states of being," "breathtakingly beautiful," and "musically explosive."

With a particular interest in new American opera, Neal is delighted to record the titular role in Frank Nawrot’s chamber opera entitled *Don Henry* scheduled for release in 2022. He will sing the role of Charlie in a workshop production of Allison McIntosh’s *The Murderess* in 2021 and, donning a new hat, recently directed a double-bill production featuring the Kansas premiere of *As One* and the world premiere of Bonnie McLarty’s *Snow Angel* for the University of Kansas.

As a pianist, Neal frequently accompanies recitals and serves as a vocal coach. He has music directed productions such as *Little Women*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Don Giovanni*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Oklahoma*, *Chess*, and *Newsies* and was honored to work with Disney on a pilot production of *Descendants*.

A passionate educator, Neal maintains an active private voice studio and has taught at institutions including the University of Kansas and Missouri Western State University. He holds a BM in piano from the University of Nevada, Reno and both a MM and DMA in voice from the University of Kansas. His thesis was entitled “Songs of Nature and the Human Experience: A Performance Guide to Bonnie McLarty’s *Weather-telling*.” Additional areas of research include vocal music exploring LGTBQ+ topics and the process of learning and teaching contemporary repertoire. Neal enjoys co-hosting a video series, Operatic Trash, with his best friend, Jamie LaVonne. He currently serves as a soloist and section leader at Westport Presbyterian Church in Kansas City.