

Erica Thomas, born in Atlanta, GA and raised in a musical family, gained her love for performing through singing at family functions. She was chosen to sing in the notable Atlanta Public Schools Elementary Honor Chorus and began performing in several elementary talent shows and community stage productions.

Erica was selected as Lead Singer of the Jean Childs Young Middle School Jazz Ensemble with whom she performed in several places around Atlanta, including Atlanta City Hall and the acclaimed Atlanta Jazz Festival at Piedmont Park. Erica also continued to study classical music and musical theater in Young's choral department. Soon, music became her life.

Erica entered Carver High School of the Arts where she furthered her studies in classical music in the vocal department, joined the theater department, and played flute in the marching band. Erica also joined the renowned Youth Ensemble of Atlanta with whom she performed in many shows around Atlanta, including in the 14th Street Playhouse. Through all of these activities, she gained a greater love and technique for performing. Carver is also where Erica discovered her knack for teaching; when she was selected to be a Peer Tutor. Inspired by her experiences as a young musician and the universal need for quality education, Erica decided to put her skill for teaching with her passion for music and become a Music Educator.

Upon graduation from Carver, she began her studies in Music Education at Berklee College of Music. Erica founded a band named M \acute{e} lange, where she sang, arranged pieces, and managed gigs for the band. M \acute{e} lange performed in several venues around Boston. Erica also became an active member of Berklee's NAFME Student Chapter, Berklee's Gospel Choir, Berklee's Musical Theater Department, and served as Treasurer and President of Berklee's Black Student Union. In her sophomore year, Erica was chosen to participate in Berklee's Study Abroad program in Athens, Greece where she studied at the Philippos Nakas Conservatory. During her time in Greece, Erica joined a local band called On Stage The Band and performed with them in several venues around Athens. During her senior year, Erica volunteered with the Berklee City Music Mentorship Program where she directed the Vocal Ensemble. Through her studies at Berklee, Erica learned to play the clarinet, trumpet, and piano.

Erica taught at the Rolland Hayes School of Music in Roxbury, MA where she served as Choral Director for students grade 7- 12th. She also worked at the Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School in Cambridge, MA where she taught general music, chorus, and band to students grades Pre-K- 6th. Erica also teaches private vocal and instrumental lessons. Erica graduated from Berklee College of Music with a secure foundation in music and education and a greater understanding of the importance of music for child development. She believes music is a way to develop students' discipline and connect them to their history and community, all while captivating their creativity.