



Argine Safari is passionate about transforming the lives of her students through the power of music. In 2005, she came to Pascack Valley High School district and developed a nationally recognized vocal program. Under her direction, Pascack Valley choirs earned numerous awards and accolades, traveling nationally from Washington, D.C. to Los Angeles, CA and internationally to Canada and Ireland, where their renditions of Irish songs were played on the Irish national radio. Argine's students are consistently accepted to top universities, conservatories and honor ensembles around the country. Argine is the Director of Music and Organist at Christ Lutheran Church, and is active as a clinician and chamber musician, having performed at Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden, and Zankel Hall, among others.

In 2013, Argine co-founded a non-profit youth theater arts company, Stage Scene and Song Performing Arts, 3sPA, open to any New Jersey students in grades 6-12, and has since been serving as its Artistic Director, with a mission to transform and empower its participants, foster a tremendous sense of community and an appreciation for contribution. Argine believes that through strong art programs in our public education, our students who are educationally, culturally and linguistically diverse, develop confidence, leadership qualities, and discover their unique talents.

Prior to Pascack Valley, Argine shared her gifts with the Grammy award-winning Brooklyn Youth Chorus. A Grammy-Award nominated music educator, Argine is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2010 Princeton University Distinguished Scholar, 2017 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year, the 2017 Evangelina Menendez Trailblazer, named by the U.S. Senator Bob Menendez, 19th Congressional district inaugural Hometown Hero award recipient, NEA Foundation 2018 Teaching Excellence Award recipient, 2018 Lowell Milken Fellow, and the NJEA 2018 Arts Educator of the Year. Argine is fluent in three languages and holds degrees from Brooklyn College, Rutgers University, Yerevan State Musical College in Armenia, Moscow State Conservatory named after Tchaikovsky in Russia, and is currently a PhD candidate researching best online music education practices around the world. A recipient of the 2019 Fulbright Distinguished Teaching Scholar Award, Argine spent six months in Finland, hosted by the Sibelius School of Music at the University of Arts in Helsinki, Finland, and conducting educational research. As a result, Argine developed a ground-breaking global arts collaborative project with Finnish and American students titled: *Connecting Communities Through Arts Collaboration and Phenomenon-Based Design*, and have implemented several global multidisciplinary projects during COVID-19 that highlighted the value of the arts in the holistic education and in social-emotional learning. For more information on this global collaboration, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTn-LBC-X64