



Daniel Bruce is a professional pianist and conductor who holds degrees from the Hartt School of Music and Northwestern University. Widely sought after as a performer and teacher, Mr. Bruce is Director of Music at Peoples Academy in Morrisville, and has been on the faculties of Hobart and William Smith Colleges as well as in the Northfield and Barre (Vermont) school systems.

Mr. Bruce is a highly versatile musician, with experience that ranges from solo and collaborative piano to music direction in nearly every genre, from classical to Broadway to jazz. His performing credits include an acclaimed

performance of Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor with the Vermont Philharmonic, as well as two-piano concertos by Mozart and Poulenc (with Alison Cerutti). He has also performed Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue with the Montpelier Chamber Orchestra and with the Vermont Jazz Ensemble, as well as with the Burlington Civic Symphony, the latter two performances conducted from the keyboard.

Mr. Bruce is the founding music director of the Burlington Civic Symphony, and was music director of the Amateur Musicians Orchestra in Burlington for twelve years. He has conducted several readings of orchestral masterworks with the Green Mountain Mahler Festival, and since 2011 has conducted the GMMF in annual New Year's Day performances of Beethoven's epic Ninth Symphony, as well as Mahler's Second Symphony in a joint performance with the Burlington Civic Symphony. He is past conductor of the Vermont Philharmonic and Barre Choraleers, and has taught students of every age from preschoolers to retirees. Mr. Bruce has also worked extensively in music theatre, having directed music and played piano or percussion in over 100 school, amateur, and professional musical theatre productions in Vermont, Illinois, and New York. Bruce makes his home in East Montpelier.



Bailey Hoar, soprano, is thrilled to mark her debut performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with GMMF. In concert, Ms. Hoar has appeared as soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, Britten's *Hymn to St. Cecilia*, and Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, while operatic highlights include *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *L'elisir d'amore*. Equally at home across many musical stages and genres, she has also appeared in *Candide* (Paquette), *Sweeney Todd* (Joanna), Sondheim's *Putting It Together* (Young Woman), and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Narrator). For five years, she was the Director of Immutable, a Boston-based vocal band with

repertoire spanning from Ray Charles to Adele. Ms. Hoar graduated with degrees in Music and Philosophy from Dartmouth College, where she received the Eugene M. Roitman Memorial Award in Music.



Nessa Rabin, mezzo-soprano, has performed in numerous theaters over the last four and a half decades. Favorite appearances include singing in the annual Gilbert & Sullivan productions at the Unadilla Theater in Calais, VT, singing Bach and Gluck in Bread & Puppet shows in New York and Chicago, performing in the first run of *Hadestown* in Vermont and Boston, and originating the role of Maritza in Doug Anderson's new musical *Welcome to Paradise* at The Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. Recent concert appearances have included the alto solos in Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Beethoven's *Mass in C* and *Choral Fantasy*.



American lirico-spinto tenor **Joshua Collier** regularly performs the romantic tenor repertoire in companies throughout the country in opera and concert. He also is the founder and artistic director of BARN OPERA in Brandon, Vermont, and is spearheading the statewide project “Opera Vermont” to bring opera to every corner of the Green Mountain State. More information about Mr. Collier’s personal performing can be found at www.jrctenor.com, and information about his producing and the work he is doing promoting opera can be found at www.barnopera.com and www.operavermont.com.



Erik Kroncke has been described as “engaging...a bass of astounding depth and warm timbre...an important voice and artist...” He is in demand as Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte*, Philip II in *Don Carlo*, Baron Ochs in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Ramphis in *Aida*, and Gremin in *Eugene Onegin* at opera companies around the world such as Sarasota Opera, Opera San José, Chautauqua Opera, Opera Colorado, New Jersey Verismo Opera, Green Mountain Opera, and Austin Lyric Opera. He was an award winner of the Gerda Lissner Wagner competition in 2010, the American Wagner and St. Bonaventura award winner from the Liederkranz competition in 2008, and a winner of the 2002 and 2003 Friedrich Schorr Vocal Competition. He has performed as a soloist with the Sarasota Opera Orchestra, Chautauqua Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Korean Philharmonic and the American

Classical Orchestra, as well as appearances in “The Three Basses” concerts. Erik recently sang the bass soloist in the Beethoven 9th with the National Choral at Lincoln center, sang the role of Tackleton in the North American premier of *Il Grillo del Focolare* with Teatro Grattacielo, and opened the 27th season of the Capriccio concert series in recital with pianist Mary Jane Austin. This year he sings the role of Rocco in *Fidelio* with St. Petersburg Opera and Opera Company Middlebury, Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* with Gulf Shores Opera, Salieri in *Mozart and Salieri* with Vermont Theater Festival, Hunding in *Die Walküre* with Green Mountain Mahler Festival, Schalendrian in Bach’s *Coffee Cantata*, bass soloist in Beethoven 9th, various Messiah concerts, and recitals across New England. Next year he will sing Timur in *Turandot* with St. Petersburg Opera and will perform Schubert’s *Winterreise* at various venues throughout New England. He has performed in opera concerts in Oderzo and Feltre, Italy as part of the Ezio Pinza Council for American Singers of Opera (EPCASO). A more complete biography at <https://www.erikkroncke.com>



Mary Jane Austin is enjoying a rich musical life in Vermont and abroad, where her interests range from recital work and full-scale opera productions to teaching and choral conducting. She has been the conductor of the Mad River Chorale since 2018 after a long tenure as a collaborative pianist for the organization. Discovering a love for opera while studying with opera legends Claudia Pinza, Maurizio Arena, Enza Ferrari, and Warren Jones, she worked at the summer Italian opera program EPCASO (1994-2016). She is the keyboardist of the Vermont

Symphony, and in 2016 was awarded the title of “Honorary Conductor” by the VSO. She is chorus master and rehearsal pianist for the Opera Company of Middlebury (OCM). Currently on the faculty at the University of Vermont, she is also the organist at the Waterbury Congregational Church and serves as rehearsal pianist for the South Burlington Community Chorus and the Handel Society at Dartmouth College.