



**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 performed Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Montpelier Chamber Orchestra, the Vermont Jazz Ensemble and the Burlington Civic Symphony—the latter two performances conducted from the piano.

Mr. Bruce is founding music director of the Burlington Civic Symphony, Burlington's premier auditioned community orchestra, and is also music director of the Amateur Musicians Orchestra in Burlington, which welcomes musicians of all levels of ability and experience. He is past conductor of the Vermont Philharmonic and Barre Choraleers, and has taught students of every age from pre-schoolers 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. Before returning to Vermont in 2005, he was Coordinator of Music for Syracuse (NY) Children's Theatre and Syracuse Civic Theatre. Mr. Bruce has led several readings of orchestral masterworks with the Green Mountain Mahler Festival including works by Mahler, Richard Strauss, and Stravinsky, as well as a 2017 performance of the Brahms *Requiem*. Since 2011 he has conducted the GMMF in annual New Year's Day performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. He lives in East Montpelier with his children, Leni and Danny.



**Matt LaRocca** is a composer, performer and educator living in Burlington, Vermont. He teaches theory, composition and conducting at Saint Michael's College and directs the Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra and the South Burlington Community Chorus. He is also the assistant director of Music-COMP, an organization that teaches composition to Vermont students and facilitates live performances of their music by professional musicians. As a composer, much of his inspiration is drawn from the natural world, the environment, and historic events. Matt's work has been commissioned

by groups such as the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, the New Jersey Youth Symphony and the Great Falls Symphony Orchestra. In addition to composing, Matt is an active performer as a guitarist and violist.

Soprano **Melissa Dickerson** performs extensively as a soloist and collaborative pianist throughout Vermont. She is delighted to solo again with the Green Mountain Mahler Festival in their April performances of Gustav Mahler's 2nd Symphony. Recent vocal appearances include singing with pianist Sylvia Parker in the 2018 University of Vermont faculty scholarship recital, her eclectic "First I'll Try Love" vocal recitals with pianist Samuel Whitesell and Duo Toivo performances with Finnish-Canadian soprano, Emili Losier. She also joined the Burlington Choral Society conducted by



Richard Riley in *Grande Messe des Morts* by Francois-Joseph Gossec, Händel's *Messiah* with the Vergennes Community Chorus under the direction of Wayne Hobbs, Mozart's *Mass in C minor* with Oriana Singers, and Mahler's 2nd and 3rd symphonies with the Green Mountain Mahler Festival. As a pianist, Ms. Dickerson collaborates with area vocalists and instrumentalists in recitals, competitions, festivals and special events. Ms. Dickerson assisted last season with the newly founded Vermont Chamber Artists as their rehearsal pianist. She has accompanied the Vermont Symphony Chorus and also worked closely with the young artists of the Opera Company of Middlebury. Ms. Dickerson received her Bachelor of Arts in voice performance from North Greenville University in South Carolina. An avid church musician, Ms. Dickerson leads the music ministry at Faith United Methodist Church in South Burlington. She maintains a teaching studio for voice and piano at the University of Vermont as well as her private studio in Milton, Vermont.

A Vermont native, mezzo-soprano **Wendy Hoffman**'s career has spanned the range of concert, oratorio, and opera. After receiving both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in vocal performance, Wendy performed nationally with several opera companies, including the Atlanta Opera and the Southeastern Savoyards. Regionally, Wendy has been heard as a soloist with many Vermont-based organizations including the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, the Vermont Mozart Festival, Opera Company of Middlebury, the Green Mountain Mahler Festival, the Vermont Youth Orchestra, the Oriana Singers, and Vermont Virtuosi. She has premiered the work of several living



composers, including Vermont's own Erik Nielsen. Wendy practices law in Burlington and spends the rest of her time snowboarding, sailing with her husband, and traveling west to visit their three children.