



Daniel Bruce is a professional pianist and conductor with experience in many diverse styles, from classical to jazz, from Broadway to rock and pop. He is Director of Music at Peoples Academy in Morrisville, and is the music director of the Montpelier Chamber Orchestra, as well as conducting annual performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Green Mountain Mahler Festival and Handel's *Messiah* in Stowe. He has music directed over 100 school, amateur, and professional musical theater productions in Vermont, Illinois, and New York. In his free time he can be found running or cycling on the back roads of East Montpelier and beyond.



Annalise Shelmandine is an artist living in Vermont's Upper Valley. Born and raised in Vermont, Annalise performs across the state in Classical, Musical, Burlesque and Drag performances. They studied in Johnson at Northern Vermont University before training in Italy at The Ezio Pinza Council for American Singers of Opera. Annalise strives to make opera accessible to all by bringing this artform to unexpected places.



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 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*, Beethoven's *Mass in C* and *Choral Fantasy*, and Part 1 of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*. She is a member of Counterpoint Vocal Ensemble and a frequent soloist with the Mad River Chorale.



Tenor **Adam Hall** has returned to Vermont after studying voice at George Washington University and opera at University of Maryland College Park. He has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, and St. Petersburg Opera, among others. As recipient of an Encouragement Award from the Marilyn Horne Foundation, Mr. Hall studied and worked with Marilyn Horne and Warren Jones at Music Academy of the West. Mr. Hall resides in Burlington where he sings locally and abroad, heads the music program at Williston Federated Church, and maintains a limited private voice studio.



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 Liederkrantz 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 Chorale 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. Last year he sang the role of Rocco in *Fidelio* with St. Petersburg Opera (SPO) 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, Schlendrian in Bach’s *Coffee Cantata*, bass soloist in Beethoven 9th, various *Messiah* concerts, and recitals across New England. This year he sang Timur in *Turandot* with SPO, was the bass soloist in Rossini’s *Petite Messe Solennelle* with Onion River Chorus, Pooh-Bah in *Mikado* at Vermont Theater Festival, and An Old Hebrew in *Samson et Dalila* with SPO. He will reprise Schlendrian and the bass solos in the *Messiah* and 9th, as well as sing the bass solo in Bach’s *Christmas Oratorio* with Mad River Chorale and Enrico in *Anna Bolena* with St. Louis Winter Opera plus recitals 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 principal keyboardist of the Vermont Symphony, and in

2016 was awarded the title of “Honorary Conductor” by the VSO. Currently on the faculty at the University of Vermont, she is also the organist of the Waterbury Congregational Church, the music director of Vermont Youth Opera of OCM, and serves as rehearsal pianist for the Vermont Symphony Chorus and the South Burlington Community Chorus. She has also recently composed/arranged ballet music for Moving Light Dance’s production of *Mary Poppins*.