



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.



Stefanie Weigand (she/her) is on the voice faculty at UVM where she also serves as Voice Area Coordinator and collaborative pianist in the music and theatre departments. She enjoys working as a presenter,

clinician, and guest conductor across the region, working with hundreds of students across Vermont each year. Stefanie is passionate about music education, working to support teachers in the nonprofit sector through Music-COMP and the VT Music Educators Association. While teaching grade 7-12 music at Harwood Union MS/HS, she was the 2014 recipient of the VMEA's Outstanding New Music Educator Award and received a Masters of Music Education from Castleton University. After completing her BFA in Musical Theatre from Ithaca College, Stefanie toured nationally with a Children's Theatre Company and worked on stage and off as a performer, pit musician, and music director in New York. Since moving to Vermont, she has appeared as a vocalist, pianist, and music director for various organizations

including TURNmusic, the Vermont Philharmonic, the VSO, Lyric Theatre, Apex Ensemble, the Green Mountain Mahler Festival, The Champlain Philharmonic, Burlington Civic Symphony Orchestra, Opera Vermont, and more. Stefanie's work as a studio vocalist can also be heard on a number of albums released through Lane Gibson studios, Lovetown Recording, and Tank Recording Studio, including the 2022 release of The Saturn People's Sound Collective self-titled album.



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.



Lyric tenor **Kartik Ayysola** is quickly establishing himself as a skilled and expressive performer in the Greater Boston Area. This season, he will be singing the roles of Brighella in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with Lowell House Opera, Alfred in *Die Fledermaus* with Opera51, and Alferes, Gobernadorcillo, and Suitor 3 in *Noli Me Tangere* with

Opera Brittenica. He has also been seen as Borsa in *Rigoletto*, Don Basilio and Don Curzio in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, as well as Monostatos, Zweiter Priester, and Erster Geharnischter Mann in *Die Zauberflöte*. He was also the tenor soloist in Saint-Saëns *Oratorio de Noël* this past December with the Philharmonic Society of Arlington. He currently holds the Master of Music degree from Boston University, studying with Jerrold Pope, as well as the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, studying with Joseph Baunoch.



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 Solonnelle* 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*.