

Singers Companye and VoxMix Collective

(*) denotes Section Leaders
(+) denotes Section Rehearsal Monitors
(<) denotes Associate Conductors

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Sopranos



Amanda Cobes-Miller, she/her ; soprano

A native of Lakewood, Ohio, Amanda sang with Lakewood High School's Roadshow vocal jazz ensemble under the direction of John Drotleff. John also conducted the Westshore Chorale, of which Amanda was a member from 1993-2024.

From 1995-1999 while earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in gender studies and writing at Hiram College, Amanda sang in various ensembles, including Hiram's mixed choir, the Madrigals ensemble, and in Opera Workshop. She was active in the theater department as well, performing in several shows.

Amanda completed her first season with the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus in 2003, before going on to earn her master's degree in education from the University of North Dakota. She returned to the COC in 2021 to sing 4 more seasons. Always on the lookout for new opportunities to sing with intention, Amanda has also participated in several of the Community of Hope charity benefits as a member of the gospel choir, and is a member of Windsong, Cleveland's feminist chorus.

Amanda is a special education intervention specialist by day, working with the elementary population in Solon Schools. Outside of formal choirs, Amanda enjoys participating monthly in Cleveland Cocktail Choir, and can count herself amongst its inaugural attendees. She loves to spend time in nature, whether hiking, kayaking, swimming, or taking long walks with her dogs.

She considers herself a photo archivist, vigilantly documenting life's big events, and capturing the beauty in the everyday.



Ashley Hafler, she/her ; soprano

Ashley Hafler is a native of Akron and currently lives and performs in Northeast Ohio. Ashley is a graduate of Kent State University where she obtained her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance under the tutelage of Dr. Lara Troyer.

Ashley has been a soloist and chorus member with Singers Company since 2017, including their 2017 Ireland Tour. She has also recently been seen performing with the Video Game Symphony (VGS) and the Cinematic Symphony Orchestra (CSO).

Ms. Hafler has performed with The Cleveland Opera in the chorus of *L'amico Fritz* (Mascagni), as Annina in *La Traviata* (Verdi), and in the choruses of *Manon Lescaut* (Puccini), *Straszny Dwór* (Moniuszko), *La Bohème* (Puccini), and *Don Giovanni* (Mozart). Ashley sings at various churches throughout Northeast Ohio, and has been teaching voice lessons to all ages for the past 14 years.

By day, she is a Senior Data Consultant for Allstate. Ashley and her husband AJ are avid travelers and love to find unique places to adventure to, always looking for the best foodie spots.

"I would like to thank my friends and family for their amazing support and encouragement throughout my vocal career. A special thanks to Dr. Gordon (Doc) for always believing in me, challenging me, and sharing his music with all of us."



Brittany Smith, she/her ; soprano

"I really enjoy singing in SC. It's fun to sing unique repertoire by various composers. I always look forward to performing in our concerts. It's wonderful to sing in an ensemble with people who are just as passionate about music and singing as I am. I love all of the friends I have made since becoming a member and I love how music brings us all together."

Brittany attended the University of Akron, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Music. She studied voice with Elisabete Almeida, Jean Blair, and Dr. Frank Ward. She sang in many ensembles such as University Singers, Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, Women's Chorus, Studio Recitals and SNATS Halloween Recitals. Additionally, she performed in the University of Akron Opera Scenes Productions such as *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Susannah*, *Little Women*, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and *the Impresario*.

In 2008-09, she performed in the musical *Man of LaMancha* with her dad under the direction of the late Dr. Alfred Anderson. Brittany was also an alumna and former Assistant Music Director of Kanga Blue A Cappella, the all women's a cappella group on UA's campus, singing in the group for 6 years. Brittany has sung with Singers Companye for 9 years.

Outside of singing, she works for the Acme Corporation as a daytime stocker at Acme 15 with her sister, in the Frozen and Organics Departments. She enjoys playing handbells at church, watching and playing basketball, walking on trails, walking her two dogs, going to the movies, and spending time with family and friends.

"Thank you to all who support Singers Companye. I'm so grateful, and a special thank you to my family for all of their love and support."



Emily Hallock, she/her ; soprano

Emily graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Science degree, with a major in Biology: Pre-Medicine and a minor in Music.

Emily studied under Dr. Lara Troyer for four years. She was a member of the ensemble in the Kent Opera Program's production of *The Harpies* by Marc Blitzstein. Emily was also a member of the Kent Chorus and Women's Chorus at KSU.

Outside of singing, Emily works for Cleveland Clinic as Lead Technologist for the Molecular Microbiology and Virology Laboratory. Emily is passionate about researching ways to optimize clinical testing and providing accurate results to aid in patient diagnosis and treatment. Her research on Hepatitis C viral load reflex testing received an award from the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology for displaying excellence in the field of Clinical Virology.

Emily cherishes spending time with her significant other, Jason, and their two cats, Simba and Archie. She enjoys going to concerts, playing video games, and listening to audiobooks.



Jocelyn Grant, she/her ; soprano

A native of Akron, Ohio, Grant began her love affair with music in her home, as her mother was a concert and studio session pianist and organist and the musician at their family church for over five decades. Also serving for decades, her father was a popular singer in the community and Senior Pastor. After beginning her tenure with the formally named Magnet Arts Program within Akron Public Schools, Grant began formal classical vocal training with the West Side Vocal Academy. She continued sporadic training with Ron Hazlette in adulthood.

Grant is a graduate of the University of Akron with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Creative Writing. Grant continued her education at Ashland Theological Seminary in pursuit of a Master of Divinity degree in Pastoral Care.

While pursuing both undergraduate and graduate education, Grant worked as a traveling background vocalist and studio session singer for national gospel artists, appearing live in concerts, national and local television and radio programs. Grant has appeared as musical director and several times as a principal actor in regional theatre productions.

Grant served as the chair person for the Arts and Culture Inclusion Council of Summit County from 2023-2025. The council is a committee of Arts Now.

Grant, also an independent vocal artist, has presented several concerts and participated in music festivals in northeast Ohio spanning genres from folk to jazz. Jocelyn writes and produces her own music and shares it with the world.

Kathy Sees, she/they ; soprano, Operations Collective (Projects)

In 1999, Kathy earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Akron, focusing on Music Education and Voice--this began many years of working with Dr. Samuel Gordon. She later returned to the University of Akron to pursue a Master's degree in Choral Conducting, and continued her vocal training with Dr. Frank Ward.

Kathy is a vocalist and pianist at Church of the Western Reserve (CWR), and a vocalist for Fairmount Temple's High Holiday services, both under the direction of Alexandre Marr. Kathy has performed as a soloist on the stages of [BLU Jazz+](#) and [NightTown Cleveland](#), and the Akron Civic Theatre. She has performed alongside Diva Pat Harris as a background singer and conductor for performances at Cain Park, The Bop Stop, and on the CWR Concert Series.

Kathy is extremely proud to be a part of the piano faculty at the newly opened [Akron Music Institute](#), owned by Alexandre Marr, with a studio of 30 students.

She has played in professional orchestra pits throughout NE Ohio including *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Porthouse Theatre, 2023), the regional debut of *The Prom* (Porthouse Theatre, 2023), *Cabaret* (Kent State University, 2023), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Orville High School, 2024), *Little Women* (Walsh Jesuit High School, 2024), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Porthouse Theater, 2024), *Annie* (Porthouse Theater, 2024), and *Godspell* (Walsh Jesuit High School, 2025).





Kathy has been performing with Singers Companye for the past 14 years, as well as its newly formed select chamber choir. "It is such a gift to be a part of the beautiful music and wonderful people of Singers Companye."

Laura Williams, she/her ; soprano/mezzo-soprano

As a pastor's kid, Laura was exposed to church music from her infancy. Her love of music was nurtured by a supportive and loving family. She has been involved in childrens' productions, plays, special music, and choirs as long as she can remember. Growing up rural, she took to any available musical or artistic endeavor, enjoying Marching Band (playing Tuba), choir, and several art classes and competitions.

Laura attended Asbury University for Vocal Music Education. During her time there, she discovered an enduring love of music theory. It was also there she met her best friend and now husband, David. After moving to northeastern Ohio, Laura completed a Master's degree in Music Theory at the University of Akron. With a passion for vocal music, Laura made her debut in Singers Companye in 2013, and has been an enthusiastic member ever since, including during short maternity periods. With three creative and intelligent kiddos, Laura's life is full of love, laughter, and a fair bit of chaos.

In a major pivot, Laura enjoys Lifeguarding, teaching water aerobics and swim lessons at her local YMCA. Additionally, Laura enjoys several artistic pursuits including: baking, sewing, painting, composing music and sketching. Outside of the arts, she enjoys swimming, gardening, camping, reading and hiking. She's always looking for new trails--bonus points if they're fairly local!



***Merissa Coleman, she/her ; soprano,
Operations Collective (Projects)**

Merissa earned a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance and a Master's degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Akron. She has performed in 8 European countries on tours with numerous ensembles, including the University of Akron choirs, Singers Companye, and the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus (COC).

Merissa is no stranger to stage productions--she has performed with the Akron Symphony Orchestra (ASO), Players Guild, and the Aurora Community Theater as a soloist, ensemble singer, and cast member, in shows such as *South Pacific*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Westside Story*, *Into the Woods*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, and *Avenue Q*. She has also been seen on the stage of EJ Thomas Hall for productions including Jason Robert Brown's *Songs for a New World* and the world premiere of the musical, *Tuning In*.

She works for Akron Public Schools as a K-12 Music instructor, and teaches private voice lessons at the [Akron Music Institute](#). Outside of school, she is the Co-Director/Producer of The Cabaret Project, having performed at [BLU Jazz+](#) and [NightTown Cleveland](#), as well as a vocalist and instrumentalist for both the Church of the Western Reserve in Pepper Pike, OH (choir, children's choir director, music meditation) and the Congregation Mishkan Or in Beachwood, OH.



Some of her favorite U.S. performance venues include the Lincoln Center and the National Gallery of Art. In addition to singing, Merissa enjoys playing Djembe, auxiliary percussion, and other instruments.

Eternal thanks to the Lord almighty

Mikhaila Noble-Pace, she/her; soprano

Mikhaila began her vocal training with Lucy Joffe at the Westchester Conservatory of Music in White Plains, New York, eventually specializing in coloratura soprano repertoire. Over a decade of training, she performed in dozens of recitals and concerts, and toured to Europe multiple times with chamber groups. She earned her BA in French Studies with a minor in Italian at Colby College, Maine, where she sang in the Chorale, Collegium Musicum, and her beloved Megalomaniacs a cappella group. Following graduation, Mikhaila joined her family in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where she became involved in international health work. Upon her return to the US, she earned a Master's degree in Public Health from Case Western Reserve University, Ohio, and returned joyfully to singing by joining the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, under the direction of Robert Porco. During her eleven-year tenure with the COC, she performed at Carnegie Hall, Severance Hall, Cincinnati Music Hall, and the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami, FL, among many other venues.

Mikhaila has been a member of Singers Companye since the spring of 2023, and she remains thrilled and grateful to learn and grow as a singer as she finds herself amongst this incredibly talented group of musicians.

She spends her free time with her family and their three cats, typically watching movies, reading, baking, and trying new restaurants. She is incredibly grateful to Doc Gordon, and she sends her love to her family and her friends for their love and encouragement.

Thank you for coming out to support Singers Companye!

Olivia Beal Newcomb, she/her ; soprano

Olivia Beal Newcomb is an alumna of Akron School of the Arts at Firestone High School (now Firestone CLC) and Baldwin Wallace Conservatory in Vocal Performance, graduating magna cum laude.

She is a professional soprano in Northeast Ohio, and has been a featured soloist with the Akron Symphony Orchestra, Voices of Canton, Baldwin Wallace Women's Chorus, and Singers Companye. Olivia has also previously been seen performing in musicals and operas on the stages of Firestone High School, Baldwin Wallace, and The Hanna Theatre in Cleveland's Playhouse Square.

She is an avid traveler, and studied Voice and the Italian language while abroad in Siena, Italy. Her professional career path has led her back to her roots in Akron, OH, where she is event manager, Goodyear Theater manager, and booking assistant at the Akron Civic Theatre.



+Valerie Stewart, she/her ; soprano, Operations Collective (Projects)



Originally from Leipsic in northwest Ohio, Valerie moved to Akron, Ohio to attend the University of Akron (UA), obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Music Education (Vocal) cum laude in Spring 2007. While at UA, she studied voice with Jean Blair, and was highly involved in the choral program under the direction of Dr. Samuel Gordon, including traveling overseas for a choral competition in Italy. She participated in Ohio's Pride marching band on the trumpet and with OCMEA (Ohio Collegiate Music Education Association) and ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) while attending UA. In her final semester, she student taught with cooperating teacher Ann Edwards at Woodridge Primary School and Basil Kochan at Copley High School.

After college, she started performing with Singers Companye, singing with them gratefully for the past 17 years, as well as taking some voice lessons with Dr. Gordon. Val has been teaching music in NE Ohio for the past 18 years with her first year of teaching out of state in Rural Retreat, and Wytheville, Virginia. Over the years she has gained certification in John Feierabend's *First Steps in Music for baby on up* and she will be taking her third and final level for *Orff Schulwerk* this summer. She has prepared elementary students for countless performances throughout NE Ohio, from Cleveland down to Canton, and for a few years, worked with middle schoolers prepping and accompanying solos for solo and ensemble adjudicated events.

Currently, Val is teaching music and beginning band at Helen Arnold Community Learning Center at Akron Public Schools and this is her 3rd year with the district and at this school. In the 2023-2024 school year, she was nominated for Teacher of the Year from her building and then went further to be a finalist for the entire district. She is so proud of the work she does at her school with PreK-5th graders! She enjoys putting on performances with her students and preparing them for auditions at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts where her husband of 15 years, Paul, and fellow Singers Companye member, is the vocal teacher.

In the area, she is a soprano Choral Scholar at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Akron, as well as directing the Children's Choir there (aged 2-12). Valerie and Paul's 9 year old son, Desmond, is a part of the choir and it brings them joy knowing their child is growing up musically! In Val's spare time, you can find her reading or taking a dance class at the gym.

Altos



Holly Cobes-Miller, she/her ; alto

Originally Holly is a graduate of Olmsted Falls High School, where she sang with the Chorale, as well as the vocal-jazz-turned-vocal-acapella ensemble, Golden Expressions.

At Bowling Green State University, she earned her bachelor's degree in music and was a 4-year section leader in the university's elite Collegiate Chorale. In the University Choral Society, she performed large works like *Carmina Burana* and Handel's *Messiah* with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. Holly has a long history with the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus—first beginning during a Christmas season with the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus (2006-2010), her first opportunity of many performing with the orchestra and chorus. She continued singing holidays until she became a full-time adult chorus member, completing seven full seasons between 2018 and 2025.

Holly is currently a member of Windsong, Cleveland's feminist chorus, and takes great pride in the mission of the ensemble, as well as the social justice work she is privileged to be a part of as a result. She credits this group with helping build her confidence as a singer, and their support with helping her live as her truest self.

Outside of music, Holly works as a cash verification specialist for a large restaurant franchisee. She enjoys home renovation, spending time with her dogs, spouting movie trivia that no one asked for, and taking in the beautiful views of Lake Erie from her street's beach club.

Jen Young ; alto



Originally from Stamford, CT, Jen was interested in piano as a toddler but was told she had to wait until she was 4 to be given piano lessons. Upon entering college at Lafayette, in Easton, PA, Jen's father strongly advised against taking a music major—his comment was, "If you don't make music your job, then you will always love it." Dutifully, Jen majored in I/O Psychology, minored in British Literature, and kept her music in hobby status. While at Lafayette, Jen was exposed to quality choral music and participated in choir and chorale. She also had the opportunity to participate in an intensive workshop with The Western Wind, an a cappella group out of New York—they made her sing Soprano 1, and by the end she actually felt that she could!

Jen's path led her to settle in Akron, OH in 1996. She has worked for FirstEnergy since 2010. She has held pianist/organist positions at various churches, was a pianist for the Akron Big Band, singer with Summit Chorale Society, and singer with Crooked River Chorale. Jen also has a long-standing relationship with a handful of area retirement homes where she serves as an entertainer. In this capacity she has teamed with singers, as well as various instrumentalists, to provide a variety of themed programming. Jen also conducts sing-a-longs in retirement homes and hymn sings in churches with herself as song-leader/accompanist. Jen has recorded and composed some original music with guitar accompaniment and tight

three-part treble harmonies. She is currently learning the celtic harp.

Fun facts on Jen: Jen is a landlady, she has jumped out of an airplane, writes poetry, and is an avid kayaker. Jen's favorite musical group is Apollo's Fire. Jen's favorite restaurant is Chez Francois in Vermillion. She is currently working on a children's book project and hoping for publication.



Jennifer Calhoun, she/her ; alto

Jennifer Calhoun is an elementary music teacher for the Akron Public Schools. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Akron, where she studied voice with Dr. Frank Ward and Dr. Lara Troyer. She loved singing with Dr. Gordon at the University and she is thrilled to be singing with him again in Singers Companye.

Outside of music, Jennifer enjoys spending time with her husband and two children, building Legos, and baking increasingly complex desserts. She would like to thank you all for supporting Singers Companye.

**Jenna Stolarik, she/her ; mezzo-soprano,
Operations Collective (Social Events & Outreach)**

Jenna earned her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Kent State University (KSU), where she studied under soprano Dr. Lara Troyer.

A versatile performer, she enjoys blending her classical training with contemporary projects. Jenna is an active chorus member with the Video Game Symphony (VGS) and the Cinematic Symphony Orchestra (CSO), and recently performed with The Cleveland Opera Chorus. Her favorite past roles include Ernestine in *A Musical Evening at the Choufleuris'* (Offenbach) and Sally in *A Hand of Bridge* (Barber) at KSU, as well as covering Gertrud in *Hansel and Gretel* (Humperdinck) with Nightingale Opera Theatre. You can also catch her lending her voice at various local churches.

When she's not performing, Jenna is likely tending to her garden, chatting with her ever-growing collection of houseplants, or thrifting for hidden treasures. She cherishes time with her sweet pets Hazel, Buster, and Winnie. Jenna sends special thanks to her biggest fan and best friend, her husband Travis, for his unwavering support, and she feels incredibly lucky to have the most wonderful friends and family cheering her on.

A heartfelt thanks goes to Dr. Gordon for welcoming her into Singers Companye, where she continues to find joy and growth as a singer. With opportunities to collaborate and even shine as a soloist, being part of this vibrant musical family is a true source of inspiration.





**+ Kellie Ramirez, she/her ; alto,
Operations Collective (Ensemble Manager)**

Kellie is a lifelong lover of music, blasting endless hours of *Phantom of the Opera* and Billy Joel in the car with her mom as a kid. She was active in band and choir throughout middle and high school, going on to study Music at the University of Akron. There, she played clarinet in Marching Band, University Band and Concert Band, as well as saxophone and flute in University Band. She served in many roles as an active member of Tau Beta Sigma. Kellie sang in University Singers, Concert Choir, and Chamber Choir. One of her greatest pleasures was singing at the National Gallery of Art with the Concert Choir in 2008. She sings in the worship band at her home church, First Congregational Church of Akron, and joined Singers Company in 2021.

Kellie has the joy of working at the Living Water Association, United Church of Christ, where she is the Information Management and Media personnel, resourcing churches and clergy for vital ministry locally, nationally, and worldwide. In her free time, Kellie loves cooking, reading, going to concerts, spending time with family, and volunteering at Feeding Hope Food Pantry—but most of all, probably watching movies with her cats.

Many thanks to my family and friends for always supporting my musical endeavors, showing up at every performance, and being generally awesome! Thank you also to my fellow choir nerds—it's a true privilege to sing with such a talented group.



Laurel Harstine, she/her ; alto

Laurel is a graduate of The University of Akron (2018-2021), earning a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. During her time in undergrad, she sang with the University's Concert Choir (2018-2021) and Chamber Choir (2018-19) with Dr. Marie Bucoy-Calavan, who is now an artist in residence in Washington D.C. with the Choral Arts Society of Washington.

While with the University choirs, Laurel had the opportunity to perform with the Akron Symphony Chorus, the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, and Voces 8. In 2019, she was in the UofA's production of Rogers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*.

Prior to living in Akron, Harstine grew up in New Philadelphia and was in several choirs growing up, including the Tuscarawas County Philharmonic and Delphian Chorale. After finishing her undergrad in 2021, she went on to pursue a Masters Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, completed in the summer of 2025. She now practices as a licensed counselor in Summit County.

"I love spending time with my friends and family. I spend a lot of time crafting, going on walks and trying to provide for my cat, Nando. I am so glad to be finished with school so that I can have time to sing in a chorus again!

Thank you to my friends and family who are travelling to watch our chorus sing! I am so excited to be able to invest in a group that cares so much about music and am grateful for the opportunity to make music again."



**Mackenzie Henry, she/they ; alto,
Operations Collective (Digital Content Manager)**

A northeast Ohio native, Mackenzie attended Kent State University (KSU), obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Studies for Music and Sociology. While at KSU, she studied with renowned tenor Timothy Culver, and GRAMMY award winning artist Dr. Jay White. She appeared in numerous Kent State University Opera productions, including the world premiere of *Story of an Hour* by Scott Little. Mackenzie was the alto soloist with the Kent Chorus for Handel's *Messiah* and Dr. Bryon Black II's premiere of *Hold on Just a Little While Longer*.

Regionally, Mackenzie was a Young Artist for Nightingale Opera Theatre from 2015–2019, performing as Vera Boronel in *The Consul* (Menotti), and Alma March in *Little Women* (Adamo), as well as appearing in several scenes and ensembles. She has also performed with the Cleveland Chamber Choir (CCC), the KSU Chorale, Cleveland Opera Theatre, Video Game Symphony (VGS), and The Cleveland Opera. Mackenzie also currently sings as a Choral Scholar at The Bath Church, United Church of Christ in Bath, OH.

Outside of singing, they work for Allstate as a Business Process Analyst, and enjoy painting, film photography, volunteering, and is a Steering Committee member of the [Music at Bath Concert Series](#), assisting with social media planning.

"Thank you everyone for supporting Singers Companye, and a special thank you to my friends & chosen family for your encouragement!" IG: [@mackenzieahenry](#)

Natalie Mallis, she/they ; alto

Natalie Mallis is thrilled to be back in Northeast Ohio and is eagerly engaged in our community as a fiercely committed arts advocate who believes that singing is for everyone. With over twenty years of experience as Director of Choral Activities, Natalie has led undergraduate and graduate choral ensembles and music education programs at Reed College, Linfield University, Muskingum University, the University of South Florida, Bluffton University, and Kent State University at Stark.

With an unbridled passion for creating community through music, Natalie served as Executive Artistic Director of the Bay Ocean Community Chorus, West Linn Community Chorus, and The Singers' Club of Cleveland. Additionally, Mallis is the founder of MuseToMe L.L.C., an arts consulting company curating strategic and creative goals to energize community impact for choirs, music groups, and arts education programs. As a professional choral singer, Natalie has performed seasons, concerts, and recordings with the San Antonio Chamber Choir, the Cleveland Chamber Choir, and has appeared at the Boston Early Music Festival.

Mallis studied music education and choral conducting at Bowling Green State University, Kent State University, and the University of North Texas. Natalie holds an End-of-Life Doula certification, is pursuing an MS in Gerontology from the University of North Carolina Greensboro, and is completing certification in Intuitive Arts. *Embrace each day with awe & wonder.*





*** Sarah Hutchins, she/her ; mezzo-soprano/alto**

Originally from Texas, Sarah has called northeast Ohio home for the past 20 years. Sarah has a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance (Voice) from Mount Union (studying with AJ Abbott), and completed graduate work at the University of Akron in Voice Performance (studying with Dr. Laurie Lashbrook). Currently, Sarah is a member of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus (COC) and Chamber Chorus, the Alto Choral Scholar at Bath United Church of Christ, a member of Singers Companye, and works full-time as a project manager.

She has sung lead roles with Nightingale Opera Theatre, Canton Comic Opera, University of Akron Opera Theatre, Mount Union Opera program, McLennan Community College Opera Theatre, and the Waco Civic Theatre. Sarah has appeared locally as a soloist with the Akron Symphony Orchestra and Canton Symphony Chorus, and as an ensemble member with Cleveland Chamber Choir, the Cleveland Opera, Blossom Festival Chorus, and City Music Cleveland. Sarah is scheduled to make her operatic debut with The Cleveland Orchestra this May with a featured role in the upcoming performances of Janáček's *Jenůfa*.

As a musician, Sarah values the passion and intensity that can be felt during live performances. Whether participating in a large-scale opera or small jazz ensemble, a 300 person Mahler chorus or a 20 person chamber choir, the act of sharing a live experience with audiences drives Sarah to continue to seek out performing opportunities.

Being a member of Singers Companye and the Select Ensemble have provided opportunities to perform music that is seldom heard away from collegiate choir programs. Being a part of an ensemble that provides a spotlight on the music of our day, with so many living composers and poets being represented, is a source of inspiration for Sarah and her continuing growth as a musician.



Stephanie Childers-White, she/her ; alto

Originally from Nashville, Stephanie Childers-White is a consummate praise and worship leader and accomplished musician. She is a career music professional and educator with over twenty seven years of progressive experience as a music director, praise and worship leader, choral director, and mass choir director. Stephanie is an ordained worship minister, vocal coach, and music instructor with undergraduate and post-graduate education.

Stephanie was born and raised in the Church of God M.P.G.T. of Akron, Ohio where she began to develop her musical skills and her walk with Christ. She accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior at the age of eight and received the Holy Spirit at the age of 13. She attended the performing arts schools within the Akron Public School District where she sharpened her musical abilities. She continued her education at the University of Akron to study piano and choral music education where she received her Bachelor's degree and certified teaching credentials in 2010.

For the past 27 years, Stephanie has served in ministry as a minister of music and various supporting musical roles. She was a former Music Director at the Allegheny Center Alliance Church (ACAC) in Pittsburgh, PA, and currently serves as the organist, youth orchestra ensemble director and worship leader at the Arlington Church of God and as the minister of music at New

Millennium House of Prayer. For the last 13 years, she has been a music educator in the Akron Public School District and is the CEO of True Sound School of Music (TSSM).

Minister Stephanie is happily married to Eric M. White, a noted business executive and conference speaker. She also has a son named Judah. Stephanie is not ashamed of the gospel and she proclaims it at every opportunity in order to win souls for Christ and convey the kingdom standards of holiness, consecration, and love. Website: <https://www.stephaniechilders.org/>



Stephanie Corbin, she/her ; alto

Originally from Nashville, Ohio, Stephanie went on to receive a Bachelor of Education, Choral/Vocal emphasis, from Bowling Green State University. At BGSU she was fortunate to be a member of the Collegiate Chorale and study under the choral direction of Dr. Richard Mathey.

After college, Stephanie moved to the Akron area and joined the Masterworks Chorale (1998 – 2007). Her short foray into community theater had her singing in the cast of *The Cotton Patch Gospel* (Chapin) with the North Canton Playhouse. Presently she also sings with the [722 Singers](#) and is the Alto section leader for the Chancel Choir at Akron First Congregational Church.

Outside of singing, she works at Allstate as an Underwriter, enjoys baking, crocheting, listening to audio books, playing in the church handbell choir, playing ukulele, and watching scary movies. She would like to thank her family for their continued support in all her musical ventures.

Tenors



*** < Anthony Bianchi ; tenor, Operations Collective (Communications Manager)**

Anthony was born in Canton, Ohio, and currently resides in Uniontown, Ohio. He graduated from the University of Akron with both a Bachelor of Music Education (2007) and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting Performance (2010) degree.

Anthony's principal mentor is also the Director of Singers Companye, Samuel Gordon, but he has also studied under other choral and vocal instructors, including Dr. Ann Usher and Dr. Laurie Lashbrook. Additionally, he is currently attending Liberty University online, where he is studying for their Doctor of Music Education program and should finish in the summer of 2026.

Anthony also has a background in instrumental music, where he previously studied under well-respected instrumental music instructors Dr. Galen Karriker and Tucker Jolly.

Anthony has spent most of his musical career holding several Director of Music positions throughout Northeast Ohio, where his focus was on church and community chorus organizations. He currently serves as the Director of Music and Technology at Christ Church of Louisville (formerly Christ United Methodist Church) in Louisville, Ohio.

He has held other music director positions at Firestone Park Presbyterian Church, United Presbyterian Church of Cuyahoga Falls (collaborating with organist Terry Harsney), and United Methodist Church of Macedonia (collaborating with organist Joanne Taylor). Additionally, Anthony has served as the Artistic Director of Chagrin Valley Choral Union, formerly of Solon, Ohio, and the Interim Artistic Director of Master Singers Chorale of Northeast (Stow), Ohio. In addition to hundreds of performances in Ohio, he has performed choral music in New York City, Baltimore, Washington D.C., Chicago, and Battle Creek (Michigan) as well as Austria, Germany, and Italy.

Apart from his choral music activities, Anthony changed his full-time career path over the pandemic and obtained an Associate of Applied Science in Network Administration and Cybersecurity (2024) degree from the accredited career school, My Computer Career, which has supported him in a full-time Information Technology role at Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown, Ohio. He is also a casino dealer for private parties, as well as a baseball umpire and a volleyball official for the state of Ohio and other private organizations. Anthony enjoys spending his free time with friends and his family, including his parents, Susan (Sonny) and Paul (Jacqui), and his brother, Michael.

Thank you for your support of Singers Companye and choral music in Northeast Ohio.



**Brian Medellin, he/him ; tenor (Singers),
Clarinet and Saxophone (VoxMix)**

Brian attended the University of Akron (UA) as a double-major in Music Education and Instrument Performance. He has played in numerous bands, ensembles, and pit orchestras.

After college, he decided to try his hand on the stage singing in a local production of Two by Two, which kickstarted his vocal music journey. He joined Singers Company in the winter season of 2021, and began playing with the VoxMix Collective in 2024.

Brian works as a band and orchestral instrument repair technician and is the Repair Shop Manager at Music & Arts in Cuyahoga Falls, OH. He enjoys spending time with his family outdoors: camping, hiking, kayaking, and competing on the archery range along with his kids who are club members of the Crooked River Archers.



+ Daniel Schneck, he/him ; tenor

Growing up in Richfield, Ohio and now residing in Stow, Ohio, Daniel attended the University of Akron obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Music Education; he is currently completing a Master's degree in Music Education through Kent State University.

While at the University of Akron, he studied voice with Dr. Alfred Anderson and Frank Ward. Daniel has directed a variety of adult and children's choirs with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Tallmadge, Ohio and enjoys being able to perform with Singers Company.

Outside of singing, he enjoys teaching Elementary (K-4) General Music with the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District and spending time with his wife, three daughters, and puggle Teddy. He also enjoys exploring technology/gadgets, playing video games, baking, and watching or playing sports.



< Jesse Lange, he/him ; tenor

Jesse Lange holds a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Akron (UA), as well as a Bachelor of Music in Music Education (Magna Cum Laude) awarded by the same institution. While attending UA, he served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant, founded and directed both the Internationally Award-Winning ensemble A Cappella Nuance, and the University of Akron Men's Chorus.

Mr. Lange is currently the director of choirs at Cleveland Heights High School, a teacher at Music Together Summit, an Associate Conductor of the Singers Companye, the artistic director of the Derbytown Chorus, and the music director at Bethany English Lutheran Church.

He would like to thank his wife Marissa and his daughters, Wilhelmina, Matilda, and Cordelia, for their love and support.



Michael Lada, he/him ; tenor

Michael Lada studied with renowned tenor Timothy Culver and is a 2017 Vocal Performance cum laude graduate of Kent State University.

His prior accolades include numerous performances with the Kent State Opera Program, including Olaf the Terrible in *Gisela in her Bath tub* (Neil Weisensel) and Monostatos in *The Magic Flute* (Mozart), as well as several ensemble performances and holiday caroling through Cleveland Opera Theatre.

During his time in Kent, he maintained a five-year position as the tenor section leader for the Kent United Church of Christ church choir, and after graduation, was selected as the tenor section leader in the Fairmount Presbyterian Church church choir for a season. He has been seen most recently on stage as a member of Singers Companye, part of the choral premiere of the Video Game Symphony (VGS) at the Maltz Performing Arts Center, with The Derbytown Barbershop Chorus, and as the Tenor Choral Scholar for The Bath Church, United Church of Christ.

Outside of singing, Michael enjoys collecting and playing records, playing TCGs & video games, cooking, learning about computers and fixing electronics.

He would like to thank his parents and brothers for their continued support over the years. Very excited for this opportunity and excited to share music with you all!



Paul Martucci ; tenor

Paul is a native of Akron and has made Akron his home ever since, with the exception of a very brief residency in Waveland, Mississippi. Paul received a BSBA from the University of Akron and a MBA from Baldwin Wallace College with an emphasis on healthcare administration.

With a career in Federal Government contracting and healthcare supply chain spanning over 40 years, Paul filled his remaining time with membership, on and off, in the Akron Symphony Chorus, 15 years with the Summit Choral Society's Masterworks Chorale and 20 years singing and cantoring in the Saint Hilary Church choir. He received voice lessons from Catherine Robison. His one and only musical theatre performance was in the role of Thomas Jefferson in a production of 1776 with the Waveland Community Theatre. This is Paul's first season with Singers Companye.

Outside of singing, Paul enjoys the Blessings of his wife Laura and daughter Marissa, doing yardwork, spending time with extended family, friends and man's best friend, his Golden Retriever Chester. He is thankful for all those individuals over the years who encouraged him to embrace, train and exercise his voice and who introduced him to so many exquisite harmonies and choral experiences along the way!



Steve Lord, he/him ; tenor

"Making music with Singers Companye is an absolute joy for me. Dr. Gordon and all these other musicians are a big part of my life." Steve is a tenor, and first joined the group in 2012. His choral journey started at Red River High School in Grand Forks, ND, where he also played trumpet. Steve received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at North Dakota State University, and sang there under the direction of Edwin Fissinger.

After college, he sang for a season with the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus (COC), and then took a hiatus while raising a family. He has sung with the Master Singers Chorale, and a couple of other community choruses in the Akron and Cleveland area. He was a founding member of the Cleveland Chamber Choir (CCC) and sang with them for their first 3 years.

Currently, Steve sings with the Akron Symphony Chorus in addition to Singers Companye.

He lives in Akron with his partner of 15 years, Dawn. Both are now retired and enjoy traveling at home and abroad. Visiting with their 6 children and 12 grandchildren also keeps them busy.



Timothy Eck, he/him ; tenor, Artistic Advisor

Tim is the Director of Music Ministry and Co-Manager of the [Music at Bath Concert Series](#) at The Bath Church - UCC in Bath, OH. Tim has been a member and Artistic Associate of Singers Company since September 2023.

Tim has been conducting choirs for over 35 years – festival choirs, honor choirs, community choirs, and church choirs. Tim has previously served as interim/guest conductor of the Voices of Canton in Canton, and Worship Arts Coordinator and Director of Chancel Music at Faith United Methodist Church in North Canton, Ohio. He also served as Director of Music at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania prior to moving to Ohio.

Tim received his Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education and Vocal Studies from Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pennsylvania. He received his Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Penn State University where he was fortunate to study with Lynn Drafall, Anthony Leach, Stephen Zopfi, and D. Douglas Miller. While at Penn State, Tim conducted the Penn State Chamber Singers and the all-male ensemble Hi-Lo's. Tim was previously the Director of Choral Music at Lebanon High School in Lebanon, Pennsylvania for 22 years. While there he conducted 7 choirs, taught musical elective courses, and directed the Spring Musical.

Tim's choirs have been featured at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Annual In-service Conference, State Board of Education Events, and have appeared in concert with Kenny Rogers and Bob McGrath.

Tim has served as guest conductor for high school choral festivals, invitational festivals, and has been a choral clinician, adjudicator, and panelist.

Tim is the father of Jeremy, a Leadership in Healthcare major at Mount Aloysius College, and starting catcher for the baseball team. Tim resides in Parma, Ohio with his partner Rich.

Many thanks to Dr. Gordon for the incredible musical opportunities, and thank you to Rich for his patience during very busy concert seasons!



Scott Williams ; tenor

Basses



+Brian Klinect, he/him ; baritone, Operations Collective (Projects)

Brian attended the University of Akron, earning a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics, and is now working professionally as a Software Developer.

Brian is a long-term member of Singers Companye, joining in the fall of 2013.

"I have been involved with band and choir programs since middle school, but when I reached college I met Dr. Gordon, and joined the choir at UAkron--upon graduating I then took the opportunity to join Singers Companye. That unplanned audition freshman year of college completely changed how I approach choral music and have loved making music with Dr. Gordon."

Dave Aberth, he/him ; bass

Dave is an Akron native who studied music at Bowling Green State University and the University of Akron. He holds a Master's degree in Music Education and taught K-12 choral and general music over a 22 year period. While at the University of Akron, Dave studied classical piano with Marian Lott, jazz piano with Pat Pace, and voice with Tana Alexander. He also worked with Dr. Alfred Anderson, who was the director of Opera studies. Some of the numerous works Dave has performed in include *The Bartered Bride* (Krushina), *Gianni Schicci* (Gianni Schicci), *Dido and Aeneas* (Aeneas), chorus in *Aida*, *Fidelio*, and *The Barber of Seville*, *Guys and Dolls* (Sky Masterson) and *Grease* (Danny Zuko). Dave has filled the role of music director and pianist for several other shows.

Currently he works as a firefighter/paramedic at Macedonia Fire Department, where he functions as a lieutenant. Dave is also a certified fire and EMS instructor, teaching in his department as well as an instructor for the University of Akron's Training Center for Fire and Hazardous Materials. Other responsibilities are assisting with the training curriculum and maintenance of records for the hydrant inventory.

He has enjoyed his time with Singers Companye, having sung with the group since 2012. The repertoire has been challenging and rewarding. It's been fun to sing with so many other talented musicians. There have been so many wonderful pieces we've performed that it's difficult to pick a favorite.

During his time away from work, Dave enjoys being outdoors, more so in warmer weather. Hobbies include playing piano (of course), walking, hiking and cycling. He also keeps busy accompanying in some area schools and is always in search of a good plate of spicy wings.

Dave appreciates your support of Singers Companye and looks forward to seeing you again.





Durrell LeGrair ; bass

Durrell LeGrair, a native of Akron, Ohio, is an accomplished vocalist, composer, and conductor whose musical journey began in childhood. Early on, he displayed a natural talent for leadership, directing his first vocal group alongside his two younger brothers.

Durrell studied Music Composition at the University of Akron under Dr. Daniel McCarthy. During his time at the university, he composed and conducted a piece for choir and orchestra for the renowned Gospel Meets Symphony series at E. J. Thomas Hall. He was also featured as a composer in the university's annual Jingle Jazz concert, where he and his colleagues performed a double SATB a cappella arrangement of "Silent Night."

Throughout his career, Durrell has served as a guest conductor and featured composer for workshops and classes at schools, colleges, and churches throughout the region and beyond. For over 20 years, he has been an instructor and co-choir director at the Youth Excellence Performing Arts Workshop (YEPAW), where he has taught music, led classes, and, from 2017 to 2019, directed the Youth Orchestra.

Outside of the choral and classical world, Durrell has produced and performed in numerous concerts featuring his original works. His performances span genres from hymns and spirituals to jazz, and he has shared the stage with artists such as Tank, Sandi Patti, and Dan Wilson.

In addition to his musical endeavors, Durrell is passionate about interior design and architecture, enjoys traveling, and is a devoted father to his daughter, Timia.



James Irvine ; baritone

James Irvine, originally from Springfield OH, attended The University of Akron where he studied music. While there, he was a 4 year member of Ohio's Pride The University of Akron Marching Band and a 3 year member of the Akron men's chorus.

Currently, James resides in Akron where he works for PNC bank. In his spare time James enjoys hiking along the towpath trail, playing video games, cheering for the Reds and Guardians, and spending time with his fiancée Sara.

This is James's first year as a member of Singers Companye. "Thank you to all my friends, co-workers, and my Mom for always supporting me. I would also like to thank my fiancée Sara for always being my guiding light and for pushing me to do this!"



Jason Howie, he/him ; baritone

Jason grew up in Macedonia and attended Kent State University, graduating in late 2016 with a Bachelors of Music with a concentration in Vocal Performance. There he studied with Tenor Timothy Culver. At Kent he participated in multiple choral ensembles, including the Men's Chorus and the Kent State Chorale. He also appeared in a number of opera productions at Kent State, such as Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* as The Lord Chancellor and Aaron Copeland's *The Tenderland* as Grandpa Moss.

Outside of Kent, he also performed in Nightingale Opera's Young Artist program, performing in Mark Adamo's *Little Women* as John Brooke and Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Consul* as John Sorel. He also was a member of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus between 2017 and 2021. With them he performed at Severance Music Center and Carnegie Hall in New York City.

During the onset of COVID-19, Jason began making a change into software development. He attended a local coding bootcamp and currently works as a Senior Software Engineer at National General Insurance. He lives in Cuyahoga Falls with his girlfriend Emily (also a member of Singers Companye), with their two cats Simba and Archie. In his free time he enjoys video games, spending time with the cats, and going to Guardians games.



Paul Stewart, he/him ; baritone/bass

Paul Stewart is very proud to have been singing with Singers Companye since its beginning 25 years ago. He is currently the director of the vocal program at the Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts in Akron, OH, previously directing choirs for 6 years in the West Geauga School District. He is also a member of the Cleveland Chamber Choir (CCC).

He has an M.M. in Choral Conducting and a B.M. in Vocal Music Education from the University of Akron. While at UA, he was a graduate assistant in the Department of Choral Studies; directed the all-volunteer University of Akron Men's Chorus; helped to found the international award winning men's a cappella group *Nuance*; was the baritone soloist for the Mozart Festival in Salzburg, Austria; and was a two-time winner of the Tuesday Musical Association Scholarship for Male Voice. He studied voice with Dr. Alfred Anderson, Dr. Laurie Lashbrook, and Dr. Samuel Gordon.



**Simon Beck, he/him ; baritone/bass
Operations Collective (Finance & Facilities Manager)**

Nurtured by a family of singers, instrumentalists, directors, and educators, Simon performed with school and community ensembles throughout early life. While pursuing Bachelor degrees in Economics and French at the University of Akron (UA), he performed with the UA Men's Chorus and "Ohio's Pride", the UA Marching Band.

Simon focused the next decade building a career in continuous improvement and project management, leading to a Master in Business Administration from Saint Louis University in Missouri.

After moving back to Akron in 2023, Simon's passion for music was reignited by an invitation to join the Akron Symphony Chorus (ASC) for their performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. He is proud to continue singing with ASC and has since performed with the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, Blossom Festival Chorus, Akron Derbytoun Chorus, Akron Harmony Project, and Gospel Meets Symphony Chorus.

Offstage, Simon enjoys hiking, gaming, and being in the audience for other ensembles in the fantastic northeast Ohio music scene.

"I'm grateful to Doc Gordon and all the experienced voices of Singers Companye for the continued opportunity to learn and make music together. To do my part, I am strengthening my vocal skills and knowledge by taking private lessons at the [Akron Music Institute](#)."



Spencer Kieft, he/him ; bass

Spencer was born and raised in Ashland, Ohio and has always had opportunities to hone his musicality with church choirs, handbell choirs, piano lessons, Ashland Symphony Youth Chorus, High School Choir, and playing viola in orchestra.

He became interested in music composition after he played an original piece in a piano recital at age 10. From there, his creativity exploded and led him to study Composition at the University of Akron, where he also joined the University Choir directed by Dr. Samuel Gordon.

"All of these years later, I am now singing in Doc's very own choir, Singers Companye, and am grateful to have the opportunity to sing with such a talented group and to be challenged continually."



*** < Zack Richards, he/him ; bass/baritone**

A native of Ashtabula, OH, Zack received a B.M. in Trumpet Performance with a Minor in Jazz Studies and a M.M. in Choral Conducting with extensive graduate studies in Music Composition from the University of Akron. Zack has performed in some of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious venues across Europe, the United States, and Canada.

At home with modern music as much as he is with classical, Zack has played and sung with groups specializing in Renaissance motets, Classical masterworks, Jazz Big Band, Neil Diamond, Video Game and Cinematic music, and much more.

Zack runs his [own website](#) where he sells his compositions, poetry, novels, and other creative endeavors. He is the Director of Music Ministries at First Lutheran Church of Strongsville where he directs the Adult Choir, Bell Choir, Brass Choir, Children's music program, and the First Church Alive! Concert Series.

To pay for his music addictions, Zack also works for PNC Bank as a Certified IT Security Lead. He spends his free time with his beautiful wife, Becky, and their four cats, Milo, Maizey, Ember, and Poppy.

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Instrumentalists

NOTE: This section is not all inclusive, but showcases the most frequent VoxMix players.

Alexandra Piepenbrink, she/her ; Oboe/English Horn



Alexandra Piepenbrink is a performer and an educator based in Richfield, Ohio. Alexandra's resume boasts a wealth of orchestral, pit orchestra, chamber ensemble, and church music work. She performs frequently with the Tuscarawas Philharmonic and Singers Companye VoxMix Collective, and has subbed in many area orchestras.

As an educator, Alexandra maintains a private piano and woodwind studio in Richfield. Alexandra has worked for Bocal Majority Bassoon and Oboe Camps, Wooster Music Camp, Royalton Music Center, and currently teaches general music to grades K-8 at St. Leo the Great School in Cleveland, Ohio. Additionally, Alexandra serves on the Western Reserve Music Teachers Association board as the Secretary. Alexandra is a graduate of The College of Wooster, where she studied with Cynthia Warren and received degrees in both Oboe Performance and Music Education.

Outside of music, Alexandra serves as the Director of Operations for five Cold Stone Creamery locations in Northeast Ohio, and decorates ice cream cakes and caramel apples for these locations. Alexandra is also the Marketing Coordinator for 3 Kids Candy, which specializes in freeze dried candies. Personally, Alexandra enjoys collecting antiques, including radioactive Uranium Glass and Radium Dial Clocks, and listening to music from Pink Floyd, The Beatles, and Frank Zappa.

Alexandra extends a thank you to her mother, Elizabeth, her grandparents, Patti and Ross, her favorite concert companion, Chris, and everyone who supports Singers Companye.

Amy Sauriol, she/her ; Piano, Artistic Advisor



Amy Sauriol enjoys a varied musical career, primarily in Northeast Ohio. After earning two degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Akron (B.M. 2005, M.M. 2007), she was hired as a teacher and accompanist there as well as at Kent State University. In addition to her work at the university level, Amy has worked consistently as a freelance accompanist and church musician for over twenty years.

More recent projects include: Partnerships Director for Steinway Piano Gallery Cleveland, Collaborative Pianist with Singers Companye, Faculty at Western Reserve Suzuki School, Pianist with Trio Levain, and Instructor for Playground Sessions Interactive Piano App. Recognized as a Steinway Top Teacher, she currently maintains a full schedule of private students and is an active member of Western Reserve Music Teachers Association, Ohio Federation of Music Clubs, National Guild of Piano Teachers, and Piano-a-thon for Akron Children's Hospital.



Brendon Phelps, he/him ; Cello

Brendon Phelps has been described by *The Strad* as having a “rich but clear sound, and beautiful shaping and leading.” His credits include a chamber music recital in Weill Recital Hall, a world music concert at Princeton University, and chamber music recitals in both Casa de la Musica in Quito, Ecuador and the International Mendelssohn festival in Hamburg, Germany.

As a collaborator, he has performed the Mendelssohn Octet with the Shanghai Quartet at the Tilles Center of Long Island University Post in Greenvale, New York. He is a core musician with the salon chamber music series M.U.S.i.C. Stars in the Classics, cellist for Singers Companye VoxMix Collective, and has performed events for Tuesday Musical and Apollo's Fire.

Brendon holds an Artist's Diploma, a Master of Music, and Bachelor of Music degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music, Montclair State, and the University of Akron. He is cello instructor at the [Akron Music Institute](#). In March 2025, Brendon will be collaborating with Cleveland Ballet for the world premiere of a work entitled *Guernica* for cello and piano, which will be performed at the Cleveland Museum of Art Gartner Auditorium.



Daniel Fackler ; Horn

Daniel Fackler holds a Bachelor of Music Education(1980) from the Wheaton College Conservatory, listing Dale Clevenger, Verne Reynolds, Melanie Cottle and Norman Schweikert among his principal teachers. He is an alumnus of the Chicago Civic Orchestra, former principal horn of the Elgin Symphony, Elmhurst Symphony, New Philharmonic Orchestra, Woodstock Mozart Festival and Illinois Chamber Symphony.

He has appeared as soloist, performing works by Arboleda, Bach, Britten, Cherubini, Dukas, Hovhanness, Mozart, Saint-Saëns, Schumann, Strauss, Whitaker, and Vivaldi. In 1986 Mr. Fackler was hornist of Woody Herman's Thundering Herd, participating in the group's Silver Anniversary Tour. He has performed with the Moody Blues, Pepe Romero, Peter Nero, Victor Borge, Richard Stoltzman, Luciano Pavarotti, Judy Collins, Roger Daltrey, the Canadian Brass, Andy Williams, Nancy Wilson, and Rich Little. He has been featured soloist on multiple concert tours throughout Germany, Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary as well as the United States.

He is an accomplished orchestrator, arranger, and recording engineer, and has participated in recordings made by the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, Elgin Symphony, Millar Brass Ensemble and radio/television commercials. Additionally, Dan held adjunct faculty positions at Concordia University Chicago (1993-2013) and Moody Bible Institute (1995-2013), where he taught applied horn, coached chamber ensembles and presented classes in music technology, instrumental methods, orchestration, music performance literature and music theory.

Dan and his wife, Barbara, form the horn and harp duo Musikwerke Fackler. He is currently principal horn with the Akron Pops Orchestra and plays viola in the Stow Symphony.



Ian Wenz, he/him ; Flute

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, flutist Ian Wenz enjoys an active career both in performance and music education. Ian holds both undergraduate and graduate music degrees in Flute Performance and attended Bowling Green State University and the University of Akron, respectively. A dedicated teacher, Ian is currently the professor of Flute at Ashland University and teaches at the Trillium Schools of Music and Lakewood City Schools as a private flute instructor. He also serves as a woodwind coordinator for the Contemporary Youth Orchestra, often coaching woodwind sectionals and chamber music. In addition to performing with the VoxMix Collective, Ian has performed as a soloist and currently as principal flute with the Cleveland Repertory Orchestra, in the Cleveland Winds, the Cleveland Pride Band, and as a substitute flute/piccolo player in the Ashland symphony.

Ian would like to thank all of you audience members for supporting the arts, and his parents/teachers for their endless and generous support over the years. Endlessly grateful for you.

Outside of music, Ian enjoys running, backpacking, yoga, basically anything outdoors, and exploring local coffee shops with his best friends.



Jeffrey Sonoda, he/him ; Keyboards

Jeff Sonoda has a Bachelor of Arts degree in German from Ohio University and a Bachelor of Arts in Music from the University of Akron. He studied organ with Barbara MacGregor and voice with Richard Anderson and took piano lessons with Pat Pace. He has played keyboard for shows at the Salem Community Theatre including *Les Miserables*, *The Mikado*, *The Little Sweep* (Benjamin Britten), *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Into the Woods*, *Evita*, *The Dreaming* (Howard Goodall), and *Pirates of Penzance*.

Jeff has sung with many choirs, including the University of Akron Concert Choir, Voci, the Salem Youth Chorus, Master Singers Chorale, Singers Company, and the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus. Jeff has been an organist at Nativity of the Lord Jesus Catholic Church for 21 years and The Bath United Church of Christ for 17 years.



**Amy Glick, Kristen Van Dyck, Hadar Zeitel, Sarah Husak;
Violins**

Jerri Lou Lugo; Viola

Gregory Fiocca; Cello

Jeremy Poparad ; Bass

Andy Flanagan ; Percussion
