

THE CHRISTMAS ORATORIO
SUNDAY DECEMBER 11, 2022 @10AM
WE WELCOME OUR GUEST MUSICIANS



Lillian Broderick (soprano) is hailed as a "lovely, lyric soprano" (VT Times Argus), has performed roles including Adina in *L'elisir d'Amore*, Konstanze in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* and Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*. She recently made her debut as the soprano soloist in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with one hour's notice. Other favorite concert works include Handel's *Messiah*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, and Mozart *Coronation Mass*. Lillian holds an M.M. in Opera Performance from the University of Kentucky where she was a Phyllis Jenness Vocal Scholar. Lillian is also an alumna of the Ezio Pinza Council for American Singers of Opera (EPCASO). Attending for two years, she studied Italian Bel Canto repertoire with Mo. Maurizio Arena, and the late soprano Claudia Pinza. Lillian has performed many Gilbert & Sullivan roles including Mabel (*The Pirates of Penzance*), the title role in *Princess Ida*, and Josephine (*HMS Pinafore*). In addition to performing, Lillian teaches voice at the Monteverdi Music School in Montpelier.

Jami Rhodes (mezzo-soprano) is a native of North Carolina and Associate Professor of Voice at East Carolina University where she teaches applied voice. Conducts the ECU Concert Choir and is coordinator of vocal pedagogy. She holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in vocal performance and pedagogy from Louisiana State University, a Master of Music in vocal performance from the University of South Carolina, and a Bachelor of Music in music education from East Carolina University. Dr. Rhodes regularly serves as masterclass clinician and adjudicator in both solo and choral capacities, and her students have garnered top prizes in competitions at the state, regional, and national NATS competitions, the Classical Singer Vocal Competition, and the Orpheus National Vocal Competition, and have gone on to pursue advanced degrees at prestigious institutions throughout the country. Dr. Rhodes is also an active recitalist and appears regularly in both opera and concert works with symphonies and opera companies throughout the United States.

Lily Merchant (alto) is a student at the University of Vermont, was raised in Fairfield, Connecticut. She is in her junior year, studying English, Sociology, and Music in the College of Arts and Sciences. She has grown up singing from the time she could speak, beginning in a Congregational Church, not unlike this one. Most recently, she has been taking vocal lessons with Amy Shortt, and singing at open mics and small events around Burlington and Fairfield.

James E. Taylor (tenor) is a North Carolina native who resides in the Port City of Wilmington. He attended East Carolina University where he studied Business and Liberal Arts. While at ECU, James sang with the critically acclaimed ECU Chamber Singers, performed with the ECU Opera Theater, and studied voice with Dr. Daniel Shirley. James is a well-known soloist and collaborative artist in Eastern North Carolina. He is also an active and enthusiastic choral musician, having performed with The Raleigh Bach Soloists, Carolina Choral Artists, The Rocky Mount Chamber Singers, and Wilmington Voices. In addition to his choral experience, James performs regionally in a variety of solo & oratorio performances, and has also been professionally contracted by the North Carolina Opera and Opera Wilmington. When not performing, James can be found in the Cultural Arts Department at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, where he serves as the Business Services Coordinator for the Office of the Arts. He is currently a voice student of Dr. Nancy King, and serves as a Choral Scholar at First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington.

John Kramar (baritone) is Associate Professor of Music at the East Carolina University School of Music where he is Chair of the Vocal Studies Department. He holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music and the Eastman School of Music, where was a student of Jan DeGaetani. His extensive performance experience includes participation in numerous festivals; solo engagements at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Kennedy Center, and City Center Encores Series; and appears with a variety of opera companies. For eight seasons he performed exclusively with the New York Vocal Arts Ensemble, with whom he recorded albums of Beethoven, Schubert, and Brahms for the Arabesque label. His critically acclaimed production of *Carmen* was a highlight of Chautauqua Opera's 2007 season.

Jane Kittredge's (violin) solo performance engagements, orchestral tours and chamber festival appearances have brought her across the US, Mexico, Italy, Canada, and France. Based in Shelburne, she can be seen and heard with a variety of ensembles including the Vermont Symphony, Springfield Symphony, Opera Company of Middlebury, and the Burlington Choral Society. An avid arts advocate and educator, Jane is the violin professor at the University of Vermont and maintains a small private studio.

Laura Markowitz (violin) is a longtime member of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, plays in various local groups, and teaches violin at her studio in Richmond. She loves fiddling as well, delving into styles from New England and beyond. In her spare time, she's a community activist and avid nature observer.

Ana Ruesink (viola) enjoys exploring musical styles and traditions. An active freelance musician, she performs with the Vermont Symphony and other regional ensembles, as well as the string quartet Eclectica and the English country dance band Improprity. Based in Burlington, Ana teaches viola at UVM and from her home.

John Dunlop (cello) has been playing and teaching cello in Vermont for over 30 years. Raised in Burlington, he received degrees from Oberlin College and the San Francisco Conservatory. John teaches cello at Dartmouth College and shares a Richmond studio with his partner, Laura Markowitz.

Rebecca Kauffman (harp) is currently the principal harpist with the Harrisburg (PA) Symphony Orchestra, a position she has held since 1979, and with whom she has been featured soloist on several occasions. A Burlington resident, she is grateful for the performance opportunities she has experienced in Vermont including concerts with Capital City Concerts, Scrag Mountain Music, Opera Company of Middlebury, and Bella Voce and Solaris with whom she has recorded.

Lennie Collins (continuo) recently retired to Wilmington, NC after twenty years as director of music and organist at St. James United Methodist Church in Raleigh, NC. During his 40+ years in music ministry, he has served churches in Georgia and North Carolina. While in Raleigh, he sang tenor with the North Carolina Master Chorale. Additionally, he served as co-artistic director for the Triangle Gay Men's Chorus from January 2018 until June 2019. During that time, the chorus performed on stage for the Unison Festival in Calgary, Alberta and, most recently, joined forces with Common Woman Chorus of Durham to present the commissioned work, "Quiet No More", at the Carolina Theatre in Durham to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. In his retirement, he enjoys gardening, fishing, and kayaking.