



Bio: Mary Jane Austin



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 began working at the summer Italian opera program EPCASO starting in 1994. She is principal keyboardist of the Vermont Symphony, and in 2016 she was awarded the title of "Honorary Conductor" by the VSO. She is a rehearsal pianist for the Opera Company of Middlebury (OCM), and also frequently collaborates with the Craftsbury Chamber Players, TURNmusic, Eleva Chamber Players, and Vermont Virtuosi. She co-founded Vermont Italian Opera with bass Erik Kroncke, and together they direct opera and operettas at the Unadilla Theatre in Calais every summer, as well as produce outdoor concerts at the State House in Montpelier. She currently teaches at the University of Vermont and Northern Vermont University, works as a collaborative pianist/vocal coach at Dartmouth College and has conducted musicals at Middlebury College. She is also the organist at the Waterbury Congregational Church, and serves as rehearsal pianist for Upper Valley Baroque, the South Burlington Community Chorus, and the Handel Society.