

2024 FESTIVAL ADJUDICATORS



SARAH LOCKWOOD (*piano, violin, viola, chamber, orchestra*) received her Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from DePauw University (Greencastle, IN), and her Masters of Music degree in Collaborative Piano at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis). Sarah is also a violinist and violist. In 2013 she accepted a viola position with the Rochester Symphony in Rochester, Minnesota. Sarah has been teaching private piano, violin and viola lessons since 2001. She enjoys working with students of all ages and levels, and encourages adults to study music as well. Sarah has lived in Hastings, MN since 2004. She has worked with the Hastings Schools music programs and has been involved with the summer Black Dirt theater productions in Hastings as music director, assistant music director and orchestra musician. In December of 2014, Sarah and her husband, Travis, purchased the former Guardian Angels Catholic Church and began converting it into the new Hastings Arts Center which houses her school, Blessings Academy of Arts and Music.



DR. BARBARA RHYNEER (*violin, chamber, orchestra*) grew up in Anchorage, Alaska where she was a member of the Anchorage Youth Symphony. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Loyola Marymount University, a Master of Music from Bowling Green State University, and a Doctorate of Arts in Orchestral Conducting and Violin Performance from Ball State University. Dr. Rhyneer has been a faculty at the Northern Michigan Department of Music since 1997 where she directs the NMU Symphony Orchestra, coaches chamber ensembles and teaches courses in string pedagogy, string performance, conducting, orchestration, and literature. She is the Associate Concertmaster of the Marquette Symphony Orchestra, and often a violinist in the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra. She has been the director of the Eastern Central Indiana Youth Orchestra, the Upper Peninsula Youth Orchestra, the Marquette Symphony Orchestra, and was chosen as the 2022 Wisconsin State Honors Orchestra conductor. Dr. Rhyneer has also been an adjudicator for the Michigan Solo and Ensemble Festival, and an ensemble coach for the Upper Peninsula Chamber Festival. Dr. Rhyneer won the 2019 Marquette Area Theatre award for best supporting actress for the role of “Rosie” in the Forest Roberts Theatre production of “Mamma Mia.” She also co-composed the incidental music for their recent premiere production of “Above the Timberline” by Greg Manchess. Outside of her work at NMU, Dr. Rhyneer sings and fiddles in the American Irish folk ensemble The Knockabouts, and enjoys hiking, cooking, and laughing with her husband Tim--and two kids Eamonn and Amelie.



ELIZABETH BERT (*cello, chamber, orchestra*) has enjoyed a distinguished career as an area performer, conductor and teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Education, Secondary Education; Instrumental Music Education and a Master of Education; Guidance and Counseling from the University of Toledo. Elizabeth serves as Principal of the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra, and she frequently performs with the Sault Symphony Orchestra, Benzie Area Symphony Orchestra, and the Alpena Orchestra. She has recently retired from the Traverse Symphony Orchestra, after a 40 year tenure, where she served as Principal Cello. In addition to her position with the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra, Ms. Bert has also performed with the Peninsula Music Festival, and has been a member of the Village Bach Festival, Midland Symphony, the Northwood Orchestra, and the Toledo Symphony. She has also appeared with such notable entertainers as Natalie Cole, Smokey Robinson, John Tesh and other touring groups. She is also on the teaching faculty for the Dorothy Gerber String Program, and is the cellist with the Cummings String Quartet. A native of Wauseon, Ohio, Elizabeth Bert was born into a musical family. She studied piano and violin, and then began her cello studies at the age of 10 in the Ann Arbor, Michigan public school program under the guidance of eminent string educator Elizabeth Green. She also spent six summers at the Interlochen Arts Camp, studying with Oliver Edel and Louis Potter. She continued those studies with Mr. Potter at Michigan State University before moving to Toledo, Ohio. She continued her cello studies at the University of Toledo with Paul Katz, Peter Howard and Sachiya Isomura. Ms. Bert also enjoyed a long association with the Interlochen Arts Academy serving as a guidance and college counselor for over 20 years. Her retirement from that position has allowed her to devote full time energies to performance and her teaching studio. She has also taught beginning strings with the Traverse Area Public Schools, as well as performed with her husband, TSO’s Concertmaster Emeritus, Jack Bert.

She continues to be an active performer, collaborating with her musical colleagues in a variety of ensembles, and enjoys sharing her love of music and the cello.



LYNNE CHURCH (voice) has enjoyed a varied career as a soprano in the worlds of opera and musical theater. A frequent soloist with Traverse Symphony Orchestra, Lynne has been heard in leading roles across the country with opera companies including the Chautauqua Opera, Connecticut Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Kentucky Opera, Lyric Opera of Dallas, and Nevada Opera. While successful as an opera artist, Lynne has also performed the role of “Carlotta” in Sir Andrew Lloyd Weber’s hit musical, *THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA* throughout Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, and in residence for one year in Singapore and Hong Kong. Lynne was recently featured on another National Public Radio with the Dayton Philharmonic as soprano soloist in the Mozart Requiem. With her husband as music director and conductor, she can be heard on the recording of Placido Domingo Jr.s musical, *VLAD*, in the female lead role of “Mina” produced by the great operatic tenor and conductor, Placido Domingo. Together with her husband, Lynne regularly performs aboard the Regent Seven Seas cruise line in a variety of concerts, both in Opera and Musical Theater styles. Lynne most recently served on the Music Faculty at Elon University in Elon, North Carolina, the Musical Theater Faculty at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, the University of Michigan Musical Theater program at Interlochen, and at The Interlochen Center for the Arts Academy and Summer Musical Theater High School Music Production Program, while also maintaining private studios in Traverse City, MI, and New York City year round. Lynne is a proud member of MSVMA (Michigan Schools Vocal Music Association), where she serves as an adjudicator and clinician.

Woodwinds TBA