

# IN-HOME CONCERT SERIES SINGER BIOS



**COURTNEY ALBERS** graduated from Simpson College with a degree in music education in 2015. She currently teaches general music at Meadow View Elementary in Adel, Iowa where she enjoys teaching her students how to be lifelong musicians. Courtney has been a member of the Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble since 2016 and currently serves on the board as the Marketing Co-Chair. As part of the ensemble, she has performed with the Des Moines Symphony, Ballet Des Moines, and Des Moines Metro Opera. She also sings with the Des Moines Early Music Ensemble. Courtney lives in West Des Moines, Iowa with her spouse and daughter.



Alto **LORI FENTON** has been singing in the Des Moines area for over 25 years in both sacred and secular ensembles. She currently sings with the Chancel Choir at Plymouth Congregational. Other sacred ensembles have included the Howells Scholars at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church Chorale. She has been a member of the Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble since 2007 for which she has performed as a soloist in both their regular concert season as well as during their annual Cabaret event. She has served on the ensemble board as President and currently serves as Treasurer. Ms. Fenton is an accomplished handbell ringer and has participated in several auditioned groups across the county. She is currently the Chair Elect for Area of the 8 Handbell Musicians of America.



**COURTNEY KAYSER** is a lyric mezzo soprano who regularly performs in both opera and musical theatre around Iowa and Wisconsin. She has been seen onstage with Madison Opera, Fresco Opera Theatre, RSO, and the Des Moines Symphony. Courtney can also be found performing as a singing aerialist, under the guidance of Iowa Circus Arts



**EMMA KRULL** is a soprano currently residing in Des Moines, IA with a background in opera and musical theater. She graduated from Simpson College in 2014, where she performed roles in Die Fledermaus, Cendrillon, Street Scene, and The Beggar's Opera. While there, she also sang in the Chamber Singers and Madrigal Singers. She has been a member of the Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble since 2015 and regularly performs solos in their concerts and annual Cabaret. She is a founding member of the Des Moines Early Music Ensemble and works as a music teacher in Carlisle Community Schools.



**ALEX REDDING** is a bass-baritone hailing from Des Moines, Iowa. His first steps into the world of classical music didn't begin until 11th grade; the idea of "free lessons" from joining high school choir seemed in-line with a desire to bring healthier vocal technique to his rock band. A passion for choral music grew nonetheless and led him to Luther College in Decorah, where he obtained a B.A. in Music. While at Luther, Alex sang in the Nordic Choir and participated in yearly opera productions/scenes workshops which included the role of Bartolo in Le nozze di Figaro. He resides in Des Moines and works for Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Alex is involved with a number of ensembles in the metro area including Vox Men's Ensemble, the Howell's Scholars, and St. John's Lutheran Cathedral Choir.



**EVAN SCHESSLER** is a baritone from Breda, Iowa, currently living in Des Moines with a background in musical theatre and opera. He graduated from Simpson College in 2021 with a degree in Music Education, where he performed in shows including Acis and Galatea; Little Women; Kiss Me, Kate; The Magic Flute; and The Pirates of Penzance. He was also involved in The Chamber Singers and Madrigal Singers while at Simpson. He has performed in shows at various Iowa theatres, including The Pirates of Penzance at Cedar Rapids Opera and Guys and Dolls at the Des Moines Community Playhouse. He is a member of the Des Moines Early Music Ensemble and the Plymouth Church Chancel Choir and currently works as a substitute with Waukee Community Schools.



**LEXIE THIESSEN** is a 2015 graduate of Central College in Pella, Iowa. She has since spent time teaching various levels of general and vocal music. She currently teaches 9-12 Vocal at Carlisle High School. Lexie participates regularly in area community theatre, and sings at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral downtown. She lives in Des Moines with her husband, Nathan.



**KIRSTEN VANDER LINDEN** is a 2018 graduate of Luther College. She currently works as a Project Manager at Strategic America in West Des Moines, where she has worked for three years. Kirsten currently sings as a soprano with the Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble, and at Luther she sang in several choirs including the Luther College Nordic Choir. She has been married to her college sweetheart for about a year and a half and enjoys biking all throughout the Des Moines metro and going on walks with her husband and dog, Kora.