



# ABIGAIL BEERWART

Abigail Marie Beerwart has been praised for her “wonderfully crafted theatrical characterizations and purity of vocal tone” (The Republic) and performs actively as a soloist and in roles throughout the United States.

Recent solo appearances include Bach’s BWV 21 with the University of Maryland’s Bach Cantata Series, the Salute! 2019 Concert with the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, guest soloist in the Michael W. Smith Benefit Concert at Wheaton College, the Wheaton College Honor’s Concert, and the guest vocalist with the Columbus (IN) Symphony Orchestra.

Her latest stage credits include the World Premiere of *Four Freedoms* by Joseph C. Phillips, Jr., *La Musica (L’Orfeo)*, *Rosalinda (Die Fledermaus)*, *Pamina (The Magic Flute)*, and the *Gossip (Noye’s Fludde)*.

Born and raised in Columbus, Indiana, Abigail received her bachelor’s degree in Vocal Performance from Wheaton College (IL) and is currently pursuing her master’s degree in Opera Performance at the University of Maryland through the Maryland Opera Studio.

When she is not performing, Abigail enjoys spending time with her family, playing with her dogs, hiking riding her horses, and doing any activity at beautiful Crystal Lake, Michigan.



# SAMANTHA JOHNSON-HELMS

*clarinet*

Hailed for her “great dynamic sensitivity and exquisite phrasing,” Samantha Johnson-Helms is a sought-after collaborative musician and teacher. She currently serves as Principal Clarinet of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic where she has been a featured soloist on numerous occasions.

Growing up in Columbus, Sammy had many musical opportunities. She received her Bachelor of Music degree at Butler, then completed her MM at the Jacobs School of

Music at Indiana University where she is currently a DM candidate. Her dissertation is entitled *Creating New Career Paths in Music: A Graduate Level Minor Field Curriculum in Entrepreneurship for Musicians* and anticipates completion of the document and her doctorate in December 2021.

Sammy also holds the position of Principal Clarinet with the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra and is a frequent substitute for ensembles across the midwest. She can be heard on recordings for Naxos and Hal Leonard and is a founding member of the award-winning clarinet quartet, the Novacane Quartet.

When she is not performing, Sammy and her husband love to cook, spend time with their two dogs, and enjoy local craft breweries.

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## RUTH E. DWYER

### *artistic director*

Ruth E. Dwyer is internationally recognized as a treble and children's choir specialist and Kodály educator. She has been the guest conductor for the OAKE National Children's Choir, numerous ACDA All-State Choirs and NAFME. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Hoosier Hills Choral Festival in Southern Indiana. She founded and directed Philanthropy Through Song, which presented choral festivals supporting anti-drunk driving education. Mrs. Dwyer is a frequent guest conductor with Texas International Choral Festival, MidAmerica Productions, the New England Symphonic Wind Ensemble and guest lecturer in São Paulo, Brazil where she conducts the GRAN FINALE Festival Nacional de Corais Infantis e Jovens.

Mrs. Dwyer has been a conductor and Director of Education with the Indianapolis Children's Choir for 33 years. She recently added the title of Composer in Residence to her ICC honors. She is celebrating nearly 30 years as the Founder and Artistic

Director of the Columbus Indiana Children's Choir, a co-operative effort of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra and the Indianapolis Children's Choir. Her ensembles have performed for the Indiana Music Educators Association, the AOSA National Conference, in New York City's Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall, across North America and throughout Spain and Central Europe. She has prepared ensembles for performances with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Butler Ballet, the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, Indianapolis Opera and numerous other organizations.

Mrs. Dwyer served the State of Indiana for 19 years as a public school music educator. Her teaching experiences include all levels of music instruction from 3-year-olds to post graduate students. She has received the Organization of American Kodály Educator's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Golden Baton Award, the IMEA Elementary Music Teacher of the Year, the Hoosier Musician Award and the Indianapolis Public Schools' Rising Star award. She is an accomplished choral composer, arranger and the editor of the *Ruth Dwyer Choral Series* with Colla Voce Music, LLC ([collavoce.com](http://collavoce.com)) distributed by Canticle Distributing Company.

Mrs. Dwyer has authored and published three curriculum books for ICC and is a frequent guest author for the Hal Leonard choral textbooks series. She also teaches at Butler University and works as a studio conductor for a variety of national and international music publishers.

Ruth E. Dwyer is a graduate of Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. She enjoys traveling, reading, crocheting and gardening.



## COLUMBUS INDIANA

### *children's choir*

The Columbus Indiana Children's Choir is a cooperative effort between the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic and the internationally renowned Indianapolis Children's Choir.

CICC is known for its excellence in music education and performance. CICC has shared its musical artistry as frequent guests for local schools, community organizations and beyond. Members of CICC have performed and toured across the continental United States, in Hawaii, Alaska and throughout Central Europe.

The CICC also performed in New York City's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. CICC is a tuition-based, educational program. CICC consists of three treble voiced choirs of children and youth in the first through the ninth grades.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT CICC ON PG. 21**





## MOLLY HOTEK *soprano*

Molly Ann Hotek, soprano, is currently a Junior at Columbus North High School, where she is very active in both the choral and drama departments. She sings locally with Columbus North Vocal Pointe Mixed Show Choir, the Philharmonic Chorus and is a regular soloist at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church.

Molly has benefited greatly from the Philharmonic children's educational programming. She is a graduate of the Philharmonic's own CICC (2014-2020) and continues her choral singing with the Indianapolis Children's Choir- Master Chorale. In addition, Molly was a violinist with the Philharmonic Youth Orchestra from 2015-2020.

Molly is an avid learner and has participated in Master Classes presented by recent Philharmonic guest artists Ronan Tynan and Tony DeSare as well as many others offered regionally. In 2019, Molly was selected for the DePauw University Vocal Arts Immersion Program and was recently chosen as an alternate for the Schmidt Summer Vocal Institute at Miami (OH) University (2021). She studies voice locally with Jenny Heichelbech and this past summer was awarded first place, ages 14-16 treble voice, in the Great Lakes Region for the National Association of Teachers of Singing- National Student Auditions vocal competition.

When not performing, Molly enjoys reading, drawing, writing novels, water sports and going on drives with her grandfather in his '65 Corvette.



## GRANT JACKSON

Grant Jackson graduated from Columbus North in 2020 and has been the recipient of the Anna Newell Brown Award for Vocal Excellence for three years in a row.

He has taken part in numerous performances throughout his life, most notably: in many of Dancer Studio's performances since he was 5, as well as performing in CNHS Concert Choir, Debuteens and Music Men, and Vocal Pointe.

Grant Jackson is currently studying at DePauw University, where he is pursuing degrees in German and Vocal performance. In his free time, he enjoys Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Historical European Martial Arts.



### ANNA NEWELL BROWN AWARD FOR VOCAL EXCELLENCE

Celebrating its 33rd year, the Anna Newell Brown Award for Vocal Excellence has become one of the most highly regarded scholarship competitions in Indiana. The award was established in honor of Anna Newell Brown, an accomplished vocalist, patron of the arts and grandmother of Jeff Brown, fifth generation of the Brown family to lead Home News Enterprises.

The Betty F. Brown Award for instrumental Excellence, established by Jeff's father, Bob, honors Jeff's mother, an accomplished musician and a guiding force behind the establishment of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic in 1987.

Administered by the Heritage Fund - The Community Foundation of Bartholomew County, the competitions encourage formal music training for students and help to strengthen the school and community music programs.