



**Lou Kosma** received his degree in music education with applied double bass from Temple University. During the summers of 1967 and 1968, he was a fellowship student at Tanglewood. Mr. Kosma performed with Metropolitan Opera Orchestra bass section from 1978 – 2014, serving as Acting Assistant Principal in the 2009 – 2010 and 2011 – 2012 seasons. Lou teaches privately and was adjunct double bass instructor at New Jersey City University for 29 years. While freelancing from 1976 to 1986, Lou assumed other affiliations for which he performed as Principal Bassist for the American Ballet Theatre, Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, acting-principal for the New Jersey Symphony, and recently performing with the New York Philharmonic. He was also a member of the Chautauqua Symphony for 17 years and is currently a member of the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra at Lincoln Center.

Lou is Music Director and conductor of the Junior Orchestra of the Youth Orchestras of Essex County and has guest conducted many district, regional and all-state festival concerts in New Jersey, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Vermont and Austria. From 1995 to 2004 he conducted the adult and intermediate orchestras for the New Jersey Summer String Conference at Rowan University, and served as Director of the Adult Division of the conference. Lou was appointed Music Director of the Vermont Philharmonic in May of 1999. He was Music Director and Conductor of the Thurnauer Symphony Orchestra at the JCC in Tenafly, New Jersey, from 2003 to 2014. He has been affiliated with the Stokes Forest Music Camp and Festival from 2004 – 2017 and was appointed Artistic Director in 2006. Mr. Kosma was Music Director of the New Jersey City University Orchestra from 2011 to 2019.

In February of 2014, Lou received the New Jersey Music Educators Distinguished Service Award in New Brunswick, NJ.



**Annalise Shelmandine** is a classical vocalist from Northern Vermont. They have performed as a soloist and with choruses and local opera companies throughout Vermont as well as in Europe. Annalise is also a drag and burlesque performer bringing opera to unconventional situations.



**Alan W. Schneider** has appeared in opera, operetta, and music theatre productions with many companies in his native New England and elsewhere, including Odyssey Opera, Opera Boston, Sarasota Opera, Opera Delaware, Florida Grand Opera, The Huntington Theatre Company, Opera New England and Boston Bel Canto Opera. With Boston Lyric Opera, he has appeared in *Katya Kabanova*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *La Traviata*, *Lucie de Lammermoor*, *Salome*, *Don Carlos*, *Carmen*, *La rondine*, and *Rigoletto* over the course of eight seasons with the company. In July of 2010 he made his international debut as Idomeneo with IVAI in Tel Aviv, Israel.

In addition to stage works, Mr. Schneider has given a number of recitals, in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Georgia, and St. Thomas, USVI. He has also appeared in concert with the Kalamazoo, Springfield (MA), Chautauqua and Omaha Symphonies, The Bellingham (WA) Festival of Music, Providence Singers, Albany Pro Musica, and the long-running Mohawk Trail Concerts in Charlemont Massachusetts.

A proponent and frequent performer of new music, he has created roles in world premieres of works by composers Eric Sawyer, Daniel Pinkham, Paula Kimper and others. Recordings of several of these works have been released on the Albany, Arsis, and BMOP/sound labels.

In the summer of 2001, he took part in the Glimmerglass Opera Young American Artists Program, appearing in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Chabrier's *L'Etoile*. The summer before, he performed roles in *La rondine*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and Street Scene with the Chautauqua Opera, and was chosen by that company to receive a Shoshana Foundation Richard F. Gold Career Grant. He has also been the grateful recipient of career support grants from Boston Lyric Opera and the Wagner Society of New York.

He is an alumnus of The University of Massachusetts at Amherst and received his Master's Degree from Boston University, where he appeared as Acis in *Acis and Galatea*, Reverend Pollard in Stephen Paulus' *The Village Singer*, the Mayor in *Albert Herring*, Harlekin in Ullmann's *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*, Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, and Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*. In May 2003, he finished the program at Boston University's Opera Institute with the title role in Mozart's *Idomeneo*, which was the subject of a feature article by Richard Dyer of the Boston Globe.



**Erik Kroncke** has been described as “engaging...a bass of astounding depth and warm timbre...an important voice and artist....” He is in demand as Fiesco in *Simon Boccanegra*, Philip II in *Don Carlo*, Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*, Ramphis in *Aida*, and Gremin in *Eugene Onegin* at opera companies around the world such as Sarasota Opera, Opera San José, Chautauqua Opera, Opera Colorado, New Jersey Verismo Opera, Green Mountain Opera, and Austin Lyric Opera. He was an award winner of the Gerda Lissner Wagner competition in 2010, the American Wagner and St. Bonaventura award winner from the Liederkrantz competition in 2008, and a winner of the 2002 and 2003 Friedrich

Schorr Vocal Competition. He has performed as a soloist with the Sarasota Opera Orchestra, Chautauqua Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Korean Philharmonic and the American Classical Orchestra, as well as appearances in “The Three Basses” concerts. Erik recently sang the bass soloist in the Beethoven 9th with the National Choral at Lincoln center, sang the role of Tackleton in the North American premier of Zandonai’s *Il Grillo del Focolare* with Teatro Grattacielo, and opened the 27th season of the Capriccio concert series in recital with pianist Mary Jane Austin. This year he sings the role Rocco in *Fidelio* with St. Petersburg Opera, the bass soloist in Beethoven 9th, various Messiah concerts, and recitals across New England. He has performed in opera concerts in Oderzo and Feltre, Italy as part of the Ezio Pinza Council for American Singers of Opera (EPCASO). A more complete biography at [www.erikkroncke.com](http://www.erikkroncke.com)