



2020 Star Power - Meet the Judges



Daniel Greco

Baritone Daniel Greco is a Minneapolis based singer, actor, voice teacher, music director, worship leader, and songwriter. Daniel's career as a multi-disciplined performing artist has earned him a reputation for authentic expression, powerful presence, and truthful storytelling within classical and non-classical circles alike. Mr. Greco has sung and soloed with many distinguished ensembles including the St. Olaf Choir, VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, Fifth Ave Presbyterian Church Chamber Choir in New York City, and most recently for the opening concert of the 17th International Festival of Sacred Music and Art in Rome with the Together in Hope Project, a collaboration with renowned Norwegian composer Kim André Arnesen. Stage credits include projects with Nautilus Music-Theater, Yellow Tree Theater, MN Opera, Opera Theater Oregon, and Theater Latté Da with whom he performed on tour in *All Is Calm*, and originated the role of Hugh O'Neil in the world premiere production of *Five Points*.

Mr. Greco is a sought-after pedagogue, clinician, and music director. He currently serves on the voice faculty of Lutheran Summer Musical Festival and Academy at Valparaiso University and is also the newly appointed director of musical theater. Daniel has held faculty positions at NYU Steinhardt, St. Olaf College, and McNally Smith College of Music, and has guest instructed at Grinnell College, St. Thomas

University, and Inver Heights Community College, and maintains a large private voice studio at his "wee cottage" in S. Mpls.

On a more personal note, Daniel is a coffee snob. The only thing he likes less than bad coffee is no coffee. He likes his family a bunch too, but doesn't get to see them as often as he'd like as they are spread out across the globe in the US, Sweden, Spain, and Lebanon. danielgrecomusic.com



Reid Larsen

Reid Larsen is a choir director at Apple Valley High School and Valley Middle School of STEM. In addition to his teaching duties, Reid is an adjunct professor at the University of St. Thomas, freelance arranger, and adjudicator. In 2017 Reid was awarded the Outstanding Young Choir Director award from ACDA of Minnesota. An active member in ACDA, he co-chairs the annual 7th -8th Grade TTB Honor Choir and previously served as the Repertoire and Resources Chair for Middle School/Jr. High Choirs in the state of Minnesota. Previously, Reid presented at the ACDA National Conference, the North Central ACDA Regional Conference and served as guest clinician for the University of Minnesota-Duluth's Middle Level Honor Choir Festival. Reid holds a Masters in Music Education from the University of St. Thomas where he studied with Dr. Angela Broecker and a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. While attending UW-Eau Claire, he acted as assistant director to Dr. Alan Rieck and a student conductor of The Singing Statesmen under the direction of Dr. Gary Schwartzhoff. Reid and his wife, Laura, are the proud parents of two beautiful boys, Kai and Eli.



Steven Albaugh

Steven Albaugh is currently the head of the choral/vocal program at Rosemount High School located in Rosemount, Minnesota. Steven received his Educational Specialist Degree in School Administration from Concordia University in Saint Paul, MN, his Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona and his Bachelor of Music Degree in Choral Music Education from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. A native Iowan in his 34th year of teaching, he has held teaching and conducting positions in schools and churches in Center Point and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as well as his first Minnesota positions at Eagan High School, Eagan, Minnesota and Shepherd of the Valley Church in Apple Valley, Minnesota. At Rosemount High School, Steven serves as Arts Department Chair, conducts numerous curricular and co-curricular ensembles and directs the school's annual musical revue show.

Active in the American Choral Director's Association in both Iowa and Minnesota, Steven served as President of ACDA of Minnesota. Steven was chosen as a finalist for the Minnesota Teacher of the Year in 2013 and selected as a contributor to "Brothers, Sing On! Conducting the Tenor-Bass Choir" published by Hal Leonard Corporation. He served as a member of the ACDA-MN 50th Anniversary Taskforce in charge of conceptualizing, developing, and implementing the 50th Anniversary celebration of the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota. Steven was the conductor of the ACDA-MN 2016 7th-8th Grade TTB State Honor Choir, served as Coordinator of ACDA-MN's 2020@2020 Initiative and the recipient of the 2019 Choral Director of the Year award for the state of Minnesota.

Steven serves as guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator for numerous choir festivals, workshops, conferences, and competitions at various academic levels. His professional affiliations include ACDA, MENC, and The Voice Care Network.



Jake Jackson

Jake Jackson has been a lover of music for his entire life. Air guitar was his primary instrument until his parents started him on piano at the age of 7. In junior high, he picked up cello and saxophone, as well as guitar and bass. He found the latter two to be his passion, and decided to pursue them further at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. From there, he moved back in Minnesota and began touring with the Johnny Holm Band from 2011-2016. Currently he teaches at the Blue Tree Music Education center in Minneapolis, giving private lessons in guitar, bass, ensemble work and songwriting. He is honored and excited to be a part of today's festivities and is looking forward to watching and listening to all the fantastic groups.



Adam Peters

Adam Peters is a freelance show choir clinician, show designer, collaborator, and adjudicator based out of Iowa City, IA. Over the last decade, he has worked in clinic settings with numerous award winning show choirs and adjudicated competitions in fifteen states. Adam is extremely proud of his 6 years as co-director of "River City Rhythm", the varsity show choir at Muscatine High School in Muscatine, IA where he created innovative award winning story/concept shows. In 2014, Adam was honored to receive the "Spirit of Service" ASPIRE award at the FAME National Championships in Chicago, IL.

Adam enjoys performing and most recently starred as "Sky Masterson" in New Era Theater's "Guy & Dolls". He also has stepped behind the scenes stage managing The Green Room Theater's production of "Angels In America" (Part 1 & 2). Adam just finished up a year living in Los Angeles where he was a production assistant for various webisodes, an assistant director for an indie film, and a background actor

on hit tv shows. He is currently a proud Tenor II in the Eastern Iowa LGBTQ+ "Quire". In 2007, Adam performed "Amazing Grace" on The Oprah Winfrey Show. Adam and Alex Hall co-hosted SHOW CHOIR LIVE- an online talk show (www.showchoirlive.com) for three seasons and occasionally host live stream events for competitions. In his spare time, Adam enjoys running, following politics, and storm chasing in Tornado Alley. Adam is proud of his decade of involvement at Showchoir Camps of America and urges all to join the fun!



Debora Utley

Debora Utley graduated from Elmhurst College, receiving a Bachelor of Music Education Degree, with a double major in Theatre and a Certificate in Vocal Performance. She received her Master of Music from Northern Illinois University in 2000 and Master of Education from Olivet Nazarene University in 2010.

Debora received the "Outstanding Music Educator of the Year 2000" award from the Music Educators National Conference (MENC). She has been a clinician and guest conductor for various schools across the nation and Canada and was on the adjunct faculty of Elmhurst College as the Director of Women's Chorus. In 2011, she earned the "Outstanding Contribution to Education" award from Buffalo Grove High School. Debora has served as the ACDA Show Choir Repertoire and Standards Chair for the Midwest and ILMEA District 7 Vocal Jazz Representative.

Debora's responsibilities as Director of Vocal Music at Buffalo Grove High School currently include Beginning Treble Choir, Advanced Treble Choir, Men's Chorale, Chamber Singers, Vocal Director of the Spring Musical, 2 Vocal Jazz Ensembles, 5 competitive A Cappella Ensembles and the community A Cappella ensemble, ACute ACappella for 6th, 7th & 8th graders. Debora's ensembles have been selected to perform at the Illinois Music Educators Conference in 2016 and 2018 and travel to Europe every three years to perform and visit sister school, Kundmanngasse Gymnasium in Vienna, Austria. As a performer, Debora has appeared in lead roles in over 30 theatrical productions, was a featured performer at Worlds of Fun Amusement Park in Kansas City, and was a National Anthem performer for the Kansas City Royals and Kansas City Comets.