

## Performer Biographies

**Susan Hurley** has performed 25 principal operatic roles and sung as a concert soloist in Germany, Austria, and throughout the U.S. She is the founding Artistic Director of Phoenix Arizona's *AIDS Quilt Songbook* benefit concert series, which will present its eleventh concert this November. Dr. Hurley has presented numerous performances, lecture recitals, masterclasses, and talks for the *International Congress of Voice Teachers* (Vienna, 2022 and Stockholm, 2017); Southern Regional NATS; Mississippi NATS; *Music Teachers National Association*; *College Music Society*, and at universities throughout the South and midwest. Dr. Hurley also authored the chapter on Tomatis listening in the book, *So You Want to Sing with Awareness* which was published in 2020 by Rowman and Littlefield.

She serves as Professor of Voice at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, MS, where she teaches Applied Voice, Opera Workshop, and Voice Pedagogy. Current and former voice students have won top prizes at national, regional, and state competitions and have advanced to masters level study at competitive graduate programs. She earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Vocal Performance from Arizona State University.

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**Dr. William Reber** has been Music Director for more than 150 productions of operas and musicals and has been conductor of the Corpus Christi (TX) ballet since 1986. As a collaborative pianist, he has performed recitals with singers and instrumentalists in Germany, Austria, Macedonia and throughout the United States. He is the pianist and music director for the annual *AIDS Quilt Songbook* benefit performances in Phoenix. Dr. Reber earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Opera and Conducting at The University of Texas at Austin.

He is currently Director of Choirs and Staff Pianist at MUW, Professor Emeritus of Opera and Music Theatre at Arizona State University where he was on the faculty for 24 years and served as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Lyric Opera Theatre. He is former vocal coach, pianist and conductor for the Mittelsächsisches Theater in Germany, was head of the vocal coaching program for the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria (12 years) and was Music Director of the German Opera Experience in Freiberg, Germany (10 years). In summer 2019, he joined the faculty of Spotlight on Opera as conductor and collaborative pianist and was appointed music director from 2020-2023.