



Denise Abbott Daverso moved to Olympia, Washington from Chicago, Illinois in 1994. She began her vocal training at the age of 15 and by 18 had sung her first solo with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She received both Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Vocal Performance from the University of Illinois-Urbana, where her most important teachers were John Wustman (vocal music), David Lloyd (opera) and Nicolas Temperley (music history). Ms. Daverso has performed operatic roles with the Illinois Opera Theater, Chamber Music Chicago, the Federal Way

Chorale, and Olympia Chamber Orchestra. Favorite roles have been Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible* (Ward), Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro* (Mozart), Hansel in *Hansel & Gretel* (Humperdinck), Meg Page in *Falstaff* (Verdi), and Der Trommler in *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* (Uhlman). She created the role of Mother Marie in *Mudhoney*, by Timothy Brock. Ms. Daverso has also enjoyed singing in professional choral groups such as The Lyric Opera of Chicago Chorus, under the batons of Bruno Bartoletti and Marek Janowski, and The Carnegie Hall Choral Workshop with Charles Dutoit conducting. Ms. Daverso also spent many years as a church soloist for several prominent Chicago churches, including Second Presbyterian Church and Rockefeller Chapel and has been a frequent soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah* in the Olympia area.

From 1986-1989 Ms. Daverso was soprano and founding member of The Rookwood Trio, a professional chamber ensemble specializing in non-operatic music for soprano, tenor, and keyboard. In addition to concerts and master classes, the Trio commissioned new music which resulted in four world premieres. Her love of newly-composed music led to performances with Steve Reich, Edwin London, and collaborations with David N. Baker, of Indiana University. Always interested in expanding her skill and repertoire, she recorded an album of jazz standards with pianist Joe Baque which was released on CD in 2010, named for the titled track, "When the Sun Comes Out."

Ms. Daverso is a devoted teacher of both private and class voice. She enjoys many styles of music and believes that healthy vocal technique will benefit any style of singing. Her students have won many contests and scholarships, attend music colleges across the country, and are enjoying professional music careers as singers and teachers. Denise retired in 2017 from the voice faculty of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma after 12 years there. She has also taught at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, Triton College in River Grove, Illinois, and Saint Martin's College in Lacey, WA. She frequently adjudicates voice contests and presents voice workshops and master classes. She is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Tahoma and is past president (and all other offices) over the past 20 years.

Community service is very important to Ms. Daverso and she has been active in the local arts community as an Olympia Arts Commissioner, and founder of the Olympia Youth Chorus. Denise Daverso resides in Olympia, WA with her husband, David and enjoys a prominent voice studio there.