

Dr. Vance Reese

Performing Artist & Concert Pianist



Vance Reese has been working as a musician in the greater Asheville area since 1996, and strangely has only been downsized thirteen times, nevertheless maintaining his snow-topped altitude of 6046. Currently he warms the pavement by working in the Brevard College music department (as accompanist and teacher), the Asheville Symphony Orchestra (as co-principal double bassist) and at Christ School, Arden (as chapel organist), and warms the neighborhood when he practices the accordion. He has served as interim music director in several area churches: St. Mark's Lutheran Church; Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church; and First, Grace Covenant, and New

Hope Presbyterian churches. Since 2013, he has served as the principal cantor for the High Holiday services at Congregation Beth Ha Tephila.

Dr. Reese has also been connected to the wicked stage, working with the Asheville Lyric Opera and other companies. He is also a co-founder of Opera Creations, known among other things for comedic musical events, and Gilbert & Sullivan operettas. He has worked with un-costumed singers (yet clothed) as the accompanist for the Asheville Symphony Chorus and Asheville Choral Society. On a more bucolic note (usually known as öFö), this year marks the fifteenth year of his accompanying flute recitals at Wildacres Flute Retreat (near Little Switzerland).

He has degrees from Southern Methodist University, Scarritt College (Nashville), and Indiana University (DM in ö7) in the areas of organ, sacred music, and music history. If you went to any of these schools, come say hello to him, and he can talk about the olden days with teachers Robert Anderson, Wilma Jensen, Larry Smith and Marilyn Keiser. At the Haden Institute, he is undergoing training as a Dream Leader of projective dream work with groups. The people at Westwood Cohousing Community see him occasionally. His wife Jean, and son Jonathan keep him from getting too mental by watching musicals, *Star Trek* episodes and hiking or bicycle riding.

