

**BENJAMIN ALLEN** (*Voice*) received the B.M.Ed. from Wartburg College. He has studied with C. Robert Larson, Donna Pegors, Lawrence Weller, and, in New York, with Bernard Taylor. He has performed as a soloist with numerous regional and national organizations including the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra, and the Minnesota Opera. He has taught at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, the Minnesota Center for Arts Education, and is currently on the voice faculty of the International Music Camp and at Bethel University and Macalester College. He serves as choral composer and arranger as well as choir director at Peace Lutheran Church in Robbinsdale, MN. His current academic interest is in the study of the "cultural voice" to develop teaching techniques to serve the needs of international students who don't have experience with Western Vocal concepts. Ben is involved in the East African community in Minneapolis where he sings in the Minnesota Swahili Choir and is Board Chair for a non-profit agency, Compassionate Solutions for African Development (COSAD) which undertakes enterprise development using the African choir as the target community within which to develop and sustain enterprise projects.