

Denise Hoff, Piano

Denise Hoff, originally from Wisconsin, began her musical career in NYC where she earned a Master's Degree from Manhattan School of Music. While in NYC, she spent ten years as principal clarinet with the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, three years with New York City Opera, and on shows including Phantom of the Opera, Beauty and the Beast, Scarlett Pimpernel, and The Secret Garden with Mandy Patinkin. An avid traveler, Denise spent a summer teaching at the Altenburg Music Festival in Germany with faculty from Manhattan School of Music and has lived in Hong Kong and Singapore while on tour with the International tour of Phantom. Denise has recorded on multiple labels and was active in the contemporary music scene in NYC performing at Threadwaxing Space, The Kitchen, Merkin, and Weill Recital Hall. Following her graduate degree, Denise also spent three years studying music composition at Columbia University where she won a competition allowing her chamber orchestra composition to be recorded by the Riverside Symphony.

Currently, Denise is on faculty at Out-of-Door Academy, where she is musical director of theater, choirs, and AP Theory. In addition to teaching, she recently edited and authored lessons for the two main competing music programs used across the US public school system—Pearson's Silver Burdett Interactive Music and McGraw-Hill's iMusic Studio.

Thanks to an interesting career, Denise has been fortunate to live in Singapore, Hong Kong, and India. Having taught piano and woodwinds for over twenty years, she is thrilled to join SMC's faculty team this Fall!