

Greeley Chamber Orchestra



Featuring Nicholas Kerna, Tenor

October 3, 2025, 7:30p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church

3800 West 20th Street

Greeley, Colorado

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Charles Moore was not able to perform with Greeley Chamber Orchestra the night of the October 3rd concert. Nicholas Perna, Associate Professor and Director of Vocal Pedagogy at the University of Colorado Boulder, stepped in last-minute for the performance. He had 30 minutes of rehearsal with the Orchestra prior to the concert that evening, and to his credit, delivered an amazing performance. His bio is below.

Tenor Nicholas Perna's voice has been hailed by the Houston Chronicle as "an impressive sound," and the South Florida Sun Sentinel praised his "emotionally driven performance." Perna has appeared multiple times in recent seasons with Opera Mississippi and was a recent finalist for the American Prize for Men in Opera. Perna was twice selected as a Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Artist singer. Equally adept on Operatic and Musical Theater stages, roles to his credit include Don José in *Carmen* and Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, as well as Ravenal in *Show Boat* and Archibald Craven in *The Secret Garden*. Symphonic appearances include Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* and Beethoven's *Symphony no. 9*.

One of America's most in-demand vocal cross-trainers, his students have appeared on various stages throughout the world. Student successes include appearances on Broadway (*Wicked, Waitress*) and regional theaters as well as national and international tours (*My Fair Lady, Shrek, The Sound of Music*). Perna's clients have won prestigious competitions including the Lotte Lenya Foundation grand prize and the International Chinese Art Song Competition. His students have been apprentice artists with prestigious summer festivals including The Santa Fe Opera and Glimmerglass Opera. Additionally, he is honored to teach many fellow voice teachers. Those clients have earned tenure track positions at universities and are running successful private studios of classical and musical theater singers.

Dr. Perna is Associate Professor and Director of Vocal Pedagogy at the University of Colorado Boulder. There he runs the Berton Coffin Voice Lab and supervises graduate theses and dissertations in voice pedagogy. Perna is the 2025 Van Lawrence Fellowship Winner, for research focusing on velopharyngeal opening in treble musical theater singers. He has publications in *Journal of Singing, Journal of Voice, and VOICEPrints*. A Presser Music Foundation awardee he has presented research on four continents at events such as the Voice Foundation's Symposium, the International Congress of Voice Teachers, NATS National Conference, and Physiology and Acoustics of Singing (PAS). Dr. Perna's research areas include voice acoustics, nasality and the singing voice, online voice teaching, and vocal cross training. Perna is a Pan American Vocology Association (PAVA) Recognized Vocologist.

Dr. P is the creator and co-host of the *VocalFri Podcast*, <http://www.vocalfri.com>. He holds graduate degrees from the University of Miami & the University of Houston. Previous faculty positions include Mississippi College, West Virginia University, and New World School of the Arts. Additionally, Perna has been a voice research associate at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He has previously served on the faculty of notable continuing education programs such as Donald G. Miller's Singing Voice Science Workshop and the Acoustic Vocal Pedagogy Workshop. Perna is currently Vice President for Outreach for the National Association of Teachers of Singing (2022-2026).