

## Karen Hughes Beacom – Director of Music

Karen Hughes Beacom is the Director of Music at Little Stone Church on Mackinac Island. Karen is a graduate of DePauw University where she earned her Bachelor of Music Degree in Harp Performance. After studying voice in New York City under Metropolitan Opera singer Ariel Bybee, Karen went on to earn a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Her musical studies and career as an opera singer and harpist have taken her all over the world. From a student residency in Vienna, Austria to performances in China, Italy, England, Scotland, and Wales, as well as the United States and Canada, Karen includes the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, China and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, NY as a few of the highlights. Regionally Karen has performed with the Sault Symphony Orchestra, Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra, Little Traverse Choral Society, Marquette Symphony Orchestra, Algoma Chamber Singers, Soo Theatre and Traverse Symphony Orchestra.

An avid accompanist for her private vocal studio and university chorus, Karen has been active at the keyboard and in church music from the very beginning of her musical studies.

In addition to her performance career, Karen currently serves as the Artistic Director of Soo Theatre Project in Sault Ste. Marie, MI where she founded the Soo Opera in 2006. The Soo Opera brings fully staged productions with orchestra annually to the Upper Peninsula. The restoration and performance season of this beloved 1930's historic theatre has been a devoted passion of hers from its conception in 2005 as a school of performing arts and subsequently as a performance venue presenting a full season of shows each year. Karen has been an integral part of creating and executing this first-rate performance season. She also maintains a private vocal studio and is an adjunct professor of music at Lake Superior State University.

Karen is Metropolitan Opera National Council Regional Finalist and a Classical Singer Certified Singer Award winner. Karen resides in the Upper Peninsula in Pickford, MI with her husband Curt Beacom and spends as much time as she can squeeze in during the summer months in the Les Cheneaux Islands at her family cottage in Hessel.