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PRESS BIO

Baritone **Brian von Rueden** has served as Artistic Director of VOX 3 Collective since 2006. As such, he has programmed over 60 and appeared on over 40 recitals in the company's six seasons to date, each with a different cultural or thematic focus. With the company, he recently presented a lecture recital exhuming rare operatic works from Germany in the 1830s. His concert introductions and notes provide welcome background on the featured composers, poets, and historical context of each concert.

As a singer, Von Rueden has appeared in various opera roles, including Count Almaviva in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Louis in Holst's *The Wandering Scholar*, Melibeo in the U.S. premiere of Cimarosa's *L'infedeltà fedele*, and Tarquinius in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*, all with Chicago's Millennium Chamber Players. He also played the title role in Krása's *Brundibár*, and has been seen in productions of *The Love for Three Oranges*, *The Mikado*, *The Impresario*, *The Scarf*, and *The Face on the Barroom Floor*.

While living in Dresden, Germany, he sang in the chorus of the Sächsische Staatsoper Dresden and presented recitals with Christoph Heinig at the Pianosalon Dresden and Schloss Siebeneichen in Meissen. He will be making return recital appearances in Germany in May 2013 with soprano Erika Buchholz. Von Rueden has also often appeared in concert repertoire, having sung the title role in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, bass solos in Handel's *Messiah*, Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*, and several cantatas and masses of J.S. Bach, most notably with Ars Musica Chicago and the Chicago Bach Ensemble.

Von Rueden can be heard on VOX 3 Collective's recordings "New Song" and "Spirit Within," singing Eric Reda's *Iconic Waltzes* and Frank Ferko's *Merton Songs*. The recordings also feature excerpts from his song cycle on women of the Bible, called *Nameless*. He is also active as a composer and a stage director, having directed plays, musicals, and operas throughout the Midwest and in Dresden, Germany. Von Rueden earned his Master of Business Administration from National Louis University, his Master of Music from Roosevelt University and his Bachelor of Music from Valparaiso University.