## ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

2023 2024 Playbill



Photo By John Kish IV

### DEAR FRIENDS,

This season, I am thinking about our future makers and ways to make art together. The stories on our stages, both inside and beyond the building, offer an opportunity to hear new voices and diverse perspectives from world-class artists and talented Lehigh students.

Sphinx Virtuosi opens the Presenting Series with an exciting program highlighting the excellence of Black and Latinx performers and

composers. The San Diego Symphony graces our stage to premiere a new work by Carlos Simon, the Kennedy Center's composer-inresidence, the night before they debut it in Carnegie Hall.

The imaginative Momix celebrates its 40th anniversary with a fantastical version of *Alice in Wonderland*. The Vienna Boys Choir rings in the holidays with traditional songs in Packer Memorial Church. Mermaid Theater's *The Rainbow Fish* is a delight for audiences of all ages. Lehigh Music Department Chair Paul Salerni conducts a live orchestra for Nimbus Dance's contemporary interpretation of Copland's *Appalachian Spring*.

The university's music and theatre departments continue to amplify students' talents with the artistic vision of our esteemed faculty. See the future makers share their creativity this season.

We understand the importance of building our future audiences. Our Family Series partnership with the Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital ensures engagement continues with our second annual fun-filled Family Day.

Strike Anywhere Performance Ensemble joins us for a year-long residency, building dialogue and collaboration in the community beyond our building. The ensemble activates spaces with art by listening to individuals and turning their stories into a devised play that will be seen throughout Bethlehem's South Side neighborhood, weaving the campus and community together with a beautiful performance.

How excited I am that Zoellner Arts Center's 2023-2024 season adds to the vibrant arts scene in the Lehigh Valley and is a conduit to bring the area's rural, suburban and urban communities together. Thank you for your continued support. Arts have an impact in our community because of you.

Mark Fitzgerald Wilson

**Executive Director** 

## THANK YOU

### Leadership Funding: Victoria E. and Robert E. Zoellner '54 '15GP



Curtain Warmers: **The Arnan and Marlene Finkelstein Endowment Fund** School Shows: **Richard H. Johnson '73G** Music Initiatives: Supported in part by the **Klees Family Instrumental Ensemble Endowed Fund** Creative Campus Initiative: Supported in part by the **Anne R. Kline '81 Endowed Fund for Creatively Integrated Programming** Notations: **Lehigh University Creative Writing Program** and **Zoellner Arts Center** 

### SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Zoellner Arts Center receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.





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GIOACHINO ROSSINI (1792-1868)

# Il barbiere di Siviglia

ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

Zoellner Arts Center receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. MAY 12 Sun | 4:00pm Baker Hall

2023.2024 S E A S O N





### GIOACHINO ROSSINI (1792-1868)

# II barbiere di Siviglia

### Richard Raub, Conductor Jeffrey Buchman, Stage Director

This production is generously sponsored by Victoria Eckert Zoellner

The Young Professionals performance is generously sponsored by Charlotte H. Watts

Scott Guzielek President and Artistic Director

Christofer Macatsoris Jeannine B. Cowles Music Director Chair

### CAST

Opera in two acts Libretto by Cesare Sterbini

In order of vocal appearance

APR 25, 30 | MAY 4, 12

APR 27 | MAY 2, 7

Fiorello	Geoffrey Schmeltzer	
Count Almaviva	Angel Raii Gomez	Matthew Goodheart
Figaro	Kevin Godínez	Benjamin Dickerson
Dr. Bartolo	Yue Wu	Nan Wang
Rosina	Ethel Trujillo	Loella Grahn
Don Basilio	Dylan Gregg	Cumhur Görgün
Berta	Veronica Richer	Ariana Maubach
Ambrogio	Ariana Maubach	Veronica Richer
Officer	Shawn Roth	
Notary	Luke Norvell	

#### CHORUS

Tenors: Joshua Berg, Luke Norvell, Shawn Roth Baritones: Geoffrey Schmelzer Bass-Baritones: Cumhur Görgün, Dylan Gregg

IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA // ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS

### SYNOPSIS

### ACT I

#### Scene 1. The square in front of Dr. Bartolo's house.

A poor student named Lindoro serenades the window of Rosina, to no avail. He is really the young Count Almaviva in disguise, and he hopes to make Rosina love him for himself and not his money. Figaro, a barber who knows all the town's secrets and scandals, explains to Almaviva that Rosina is Bartolo's ward, not his daughter, and the doctor intends to marry her. Figaro devises a plan: the Count will disguise himself as a drunken soldier with orders to be billeted with Bartolo so that he may gain access to Rosina. For his aid, Figaro is to be richly rewarded.

#### Scene 2. A room in the house of Dr. Bartolo.

Rosina reflects on the voice that has enchanted her and resolves to use her considerable wiles to meet the man it belongs to—a poor student named Lindoro, as the Count has led her to believe. Bartolo appears with Rosina's music master, Don Basilio. Basilio warns Bartolo that Count Almaviva, who has made known his admiration for Rosina, has been seen in Seville. Bartolo decides to marry Rosina immediately. Basilio suggests slander as the most effective means of getting rid of the Count. Figaro, who has overheard the plot, warns Rosina and promises to deliver a note from her to Lindoro. Bartolo suspects that Rosina has indeed written a letter, but she outwits him at every turn. Bartolo warns her not to trifle with him.

The Count arrives, creating a ruckus in his disguise as a drunken soldier, and secretly passes Rosina his own note. Bartolo is infuriated by the stranger's behavior and noisily claims that he has an official exemption from billeting soldiers. Figaro announces that a crowd has gathered in the street, curious about the argument they hear coming from inside the house. The civil guard bursts in to arrest the Count, but when he secretly reveals his identity to the captain he is instantly released. Everyone, except Figaro, is amazed by this turn of events.

### INTERMISSION

### SYNOPSIS

### ACT II

#### Scene 1. The music room of Dr. Bartolo's house.

Bartolo suspects that the "soldier" was a spy planted by Count Almaviva. The Count returns, this time disguised as Don Alonso, a music teacher and student of Don Basilio. He has come to give Rosina her singing lesson in place of Basilio, who, he says, is ill at home. Don Alonso then tells Bartolo that when visiting the Count at his inn, he found a letter from Rosina. He offers to tell her that it was given to him by another woman, seemingly to prove that Lindoro is toying with Rosina on the Count's behalf. This convinces Bartolo that Don Alonso is indeed a student of the scheming Basilio, and he allows him to give Rosina her lesson. With Bartolo dozing off, the Count and Rosina declare their love.

Figaro arrives to give Bartolo his shave and manages to snatch the key that opens the doors to Rosina's balcony. Suddenly Basilio shows up looking perfectly healthy. The Count, Rosina, and Figaro convince him with a quick bribe that he is in fact ill and must go home at once. While Bartolo gets his shave, the Count plots with Rosina to meet at her balcony that night so that they can elope. The doctor overhears them and realizing he has been tricked again, flies into a rage. Everyone disperses. The maid Berta comments on the crazy household. Bartolo summons Basilio, telling him to bring a notary so Bartolo can marry Rosina that very night. Bartolo then shows Rosina her letter to Lindoro, as proof that he is in league with Count Almaviva. Heartbroken and convinced that she has been deceived, Rosina agrees to marry Bartolo. A thunderstorm passes.

#### Scene 2. Rosina's room. Dr. Bartolo's house.

Figaro and the Count climb a ladder to Rosina's balcony and let themselves in with the key. Rosina appears and confronts Lindoro, who finally reveals his true identity as Count Almaviva. Basilio shows up with the notary. Bribed and threatened, he agrees to be a witness to the marriage of Rosina and Count Almaviva. Bartolo arrives with soldiers, but it is too late. He accepts that he has been beaten, and Figaro, Rosina, and the Count celebrate their good fortune.

### ORCHESTRA

Violín 1

Igor Szwec, concertmaster Donna Grantham Luigi Mazzocchi Joseph Kauffman Alexandra Cutler-Fetkewicz Yoori Kim Williams

#### Violín II

Elizabeth Kaderabek Russell Kotcher Gregory Teperman Kate Suk Mary Loftus

Viola Yoshihiko Nakano Julia DiGaetani Scott Wagner

**Cello** Vivian Barton Dozor Lynne Beiler

### Bass Anne Peterson

Stephen Groat

Guitar Shawn Roth Flute Edward Schultz

Flute / Piccolo Kim Trolier

Oboe Geoffrey Deemer

> **Clarinet** Joseph Smith Allison Herz

Bassoon Zachary Feingold Maria Buonviri

French Horn Karen Schubert Ryan Stewart

**Trumpet** Brian Kuszyk Thomas Cook

**Timpani** Martha Hitchins

Harpsichord Richard Raub

### RICHARD A. RAUB MUSICAL DIRECTOR, PIANIST AND CONDUCTOR



For 40 years, Mr. Raub has called Philadelphia and AVA, home. His pianistic skills and musical intuition coupled with guidance, teaching and collaboration with some of the world's greatest artists, spanning several operatic generations, such as Birgit Nilsson, Sherrill Milnes, Renata Scotto, Luciano Pavarotti, Aprile Millo, Jerry Hadley, Denyce Graves, Stuart Neill, Angela Meade, Latonia Moore, Ailyn Pérez and Joyce DiDonato, have helped shape his musical vista.

In addition to working with many Philadelphia musical organizations, as well as music festivals in the U.S. and Canada, he has been the official pianist for the Metropolitan Opera Philadelphia District Auditions for 35 years and Regional Auditions at The Kennedy Center for 10.

For 30 years, he has played for The Voice Foundation, the world's oldest and leading organization dedicated to voice research, medicine, science, and education. Their master classes and galas have included the singing scientists, as well as famous guest artists. Mr. Raub was honored to receive a surprise V.E.R.A. Award in recognition of his contribution to the field of vocal communication in 2010.

As conductor, he participated in AVA's A Celebration of Opera! in November 2021, Donizetti's La favorite in 2020, and the world-premiere of Margaret Garwood's The Scarlet Letter at The Merriam Theatre in 2010. Critic Michael Caruso has written, "Raub's conducting highlighted the specific beauty and overarching structure of Rossini's stunning score. He elicited sterling playing from the AVA Opera Theatre Orchestra and scintillating singing from his cast."

### JEFFREY BUCHMAN DIRECTOR



*Opera News* calls Director Jeffrey Buchman "a formidable talent." Constantly pushing the limits of the performing arts, Mr. Buchman's versatility leads him to a variety of venues to explore some of opera's classics while also producing and premiering new works. His innovation puts him at the forefront of a new era in directing. Together with renowned conductor Gerard Schwarz, he recently created a televised production of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* which is scheduled to be aired on over 225 PBS stations nationwide.

In addition to directing this season's production of *II Barbiere si Siviglia*, his previous productions for the Academy of Vocal Arts have included *La bohème*, *La traviata*, *Don Giovanni*, *Roméo* 

*et Juliette* and *Die Zauberflöte*. A favorite with Florida Grand Opera, he has directed their productions of André Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Handel's *Agrippina La bohème*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Rigoletto*, *Tosca*, *Pagliacci*, *Eugene Onegin*, Jake Heggie's *Three Decembers*, Daron Hagen's *New York Stories*, and a double bill of Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* & Pasatieri's *Signor Deluso*.

Recent productions have also included *Carmen* for Atlanta Opera, Opera Carolina, Toledo Opera; *As One* for Opera Colorado and Hawaii Opera Theater; Ricky Ian Gordon's 27 for Michigan Opera Theatre; *II barbiere di Siviglia* for Lyric Opera Baltimore and the Orlando Philharmonic, *Tosca* for Opera Tampa; *II Trovatore* for Toledo Opera; *La tragédie de Carmen* and *II barbiere di Siviglia* for Syracuse Opera; *Turandot* and *Manon Lescaut* for Mobile Opera; a double-bill of *Gianni Schicchi/Suor Angelica, Roméo et Juliette* and *La fille du régiment* at Intermountain Opera Bozeman; *Die Zauberlöte* and *Così fan tutte* at Brevard Music Center; *Rigoletto* and *South Pacific* for Anchorage Opera; *Hänsel und Gretel* for Sarasota Opera; *La Cenerentola* at Green Mountain Opera Festival; *L'elisir d'amore* for Toledo Opera; *La Cenerentola* at Green Mountain Opera Festival; and the world premiere of *TESLA* for the SoBe Arts Festival. He also created the world-premiere of Michael Dellaira's new opera *The Leopard* with Maestro Gerard Schwarz conducting. With Opera Naples he has directed productions of *La traviata, La bohème, Carmen, Die Zauberlöte, Le nozze di Figaro, Madama Butterfly, Faust, Turandot, Don Pasquale, and <i>II trovatore.* 

Mr. Buchman has a long history of fostering the artistic growth of young artists throughout the country, including directing for the Young Artist Programs at Seattle Opera, Tulsa Opera, Sarasota Opera, Brevard Music Festival, Florida Grand Opera, Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Opera Bootcamp, Tokyo International Vocal Arts Academy, Brancaleoni International Music Festival, and the Herb Alpert School of Music at UCLA. He has also created productions of Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar, Carmen, La bohème* and *La Traviata* for Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music in recent years.



Joshua Berg, *tenor* – 1<sup>st</sup> Year Resident Artist Gladstone, New Jersey Rice University (BM)

*Recent:* Hervey in *Anna Bolena* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Abraham Kaplan in *Street Scene* (Rice University). Bardolfo in *Falstaff* (Aspen Opera Theater), Soldat in *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* (Rice University).

*Awards:* Atkinson Memorial Scholarship Award (Rice University - Shepherd School of Music), National YoungArts Foundation (Winner), Paul Guido and Steve Blain Scholarship Award (Music Academy of the West).



#### Manli Deng, soprano – 1<sup>st</sup> Year Resident Artist

Chongqing, China John Hopkins University Peabody Conservatory (MM), Central Conservatory of Music, China (BM)

*Recent:* Anna in *Anna Bolena* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Mimi in *La bohème* (Rutgers University), Huniu in *Rickshow Boy* (China Now Festival), Dama di Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* (Maryland Lyric Opera), Helene in *Hin und Zurück* and Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* (Peabody Opera Theater).

*Awards:* The Sylvia Green Voice Competition (3rd Prize), The Metropolitan Opera National Council Upper Midwest Region (Finalist), MONC Atlantic Region (Finalist), MONC Philadelphia District (Encouragement Award ), The Cossotto International Vocal Competition (Special Award), The Gut Immling International Vocal Music Competition (3rd Prize ).



Benjamin Dickerson, *baritone* – 4<sup>th</sup> Year Resident Artist Burlington, Vermont Manhattan School of Music (BM)

*Recent:* Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Don Giovanni in *Don Giovanni*, Germont in *La traviata* and Onegin in *Eugene Onegin* (AVA), MAN in *The Extinctionist* (Heartbeat Opera), Albert in *Werther* (Florida Grand Opera).

*Awards:* Jensen Awards (Finalist), Loren L. Zachary Awards (4th Place), Giargiari Bel Canto Competition (2nd Place), Joan Taub Ades Vocal Competition (1st Place), Marilyn Horne Song Competition (1st Place).



#### Jenny Anne Flory, *mezzo-soprano* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Resident Artist-Dayton, Virginia University of Maryland Opera Studio (MM), James Madison University (BM)

Recent: Lucretia in *The Rape of Lucretia* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Giovanna Seymour in *Anna* Bolena and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* (AVA), Siebel in *Faust* (Detroit Opera), Romeo in *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* (Palm Beach Opera).

*Awards:* American Institute of Musical Studies, Meistersinger Competition (4th Place), The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, North Carolina District (Winner).



**Monique Galvão,** *mezzo-soprano* – 4<sup>th</sup> Year Resident Artist Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Florida International University (BA), Miami Dade College (AA)

*Recent:* Giovanna Seymour in *Anna Bolena* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Carmen in *La Tragédie de Carmen* (Chautauqua Opera), Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* and Flora in *La traviata* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Carmen in *Carmen* (Miami Music Festival).

*Awards:* Loren L. Zachary National Competition (Semifinalist), Linus Lerner International Singing Competition (Second place), Maria Callas Competition (Semifinalist), NATS Category Winner.



Kevin Godínez, *baritone* – 4<sup>th</sup> Year Resident Artist Alajuela, Costa Rica University of Costa Rica (BM)

*Recent:* Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Ford in Falstaff (Knoxville Opera), Young Artist (Merola Opera Program, San Francisco Opera); Giovanni (cover) *Don Giovanni* (AVA), Conte d'Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Annapolis Opera); Dottore Malatesta *Don Pasquale* (AVA).

*Awards:* Career Bridges (Grant Winner), Cooper-Bing Competition (Third Prize and Audience Prize), Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Pittsburgh and Tennessee District (Winner), The Gerda Lissner Foundation, Zarzuela Division (Second Prize); The Giargiari Bel Canto Competition (Second Prize), Linus Lerner International Voice Competition (Third Prize).

*Upcoming:* Bass Soloist, *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, National Symphonic Orchestra of Costa Rica; Masetto in *Don Giovanni* (Opera Philadelphia).



Angel Raii Gomez, *tenor* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Resident Artist McAllen, Texas University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

*Recent:* Percy in *Anna Bolena*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Ernesto in *Don Pasquale* and Gastone in *La traviata* (The Academy of Vocal Arts).

*Awards:* American Institute of Musical Studies, Meistersinger Competition (1st Place), The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, New Orleans District (Encouragement Award), Giargiari Bel Canto Competition (Audience Favorite).



Matthew Goodheart, *tenor* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Resident Artist Binghamton, New York Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (BM)

*Recent:* Riccardo Percy in *Anna Bolena* (Academy of Vocal Arts), Ruben Iglesias in *Bel Canto* (Aspen Opera Theater and Voca-IARTS), Alfredo in *La traviata* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* (Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music).

*Awards:* Opera Index Encouragement Award, Mario Lanza Competition (3<sup>rd</sup> Prize)

*Upcoming:* Deacon 3/Young Aide in *The Righteous* (Santa Fe Opera)



**Cumhur Görgün,** *bass* – 2<sup>nd</sup> **Year Resident Artist** Istanbul, Türkiye Istanbul University State Conservatory (MM)

*Recent:* Collatinus in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Enrico VIII in *Anna Bolena*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, Don Pasquale in *Don Pasquale* and Marchese d' Obiginy in *La traviata* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Schlendrian in *Kaffeekantate* (Süreyya Opera House), Antonio in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Wiener Konzerthaus).

*Awards:* Mario Lanza Competition (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Meistersinger Competition (5th Prize), National Soloist Competition (Edward Berkeley Award), National Soloist Competition (Special Award).



**Loella Grahn,** *soprano* – 4<sup>th</sup> **Year Resident Artist** Köping, Sweden Operastudion Kapellsberg

Recent: Lucia in The Rape of Lucretia and Norina in Don Pasquale (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Soprano Soloist in Haydn's *The Creation* (Philadelphia Sinfonia), Musetta in La bohéme (AVA).

Awards: Camille Coloratura Awards (Semi-Finalist).



**Dylan Gregg**, *bass-baritone* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Resident Artist Salisbury, Maryland Rice University (MM), Boston University (BM)

*Recent:* Collatinus in *The Rape of Lucretia* and Enrico VIII in *Anna Bolena* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Jailer in *Tosca* (Santa Fe Opera), Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, Don Pasquale in *Don Pasquale* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Dottore Grenvil in *La traviata*, Cuno in *Der freischütz* and Elder Ott in *Susannah* (Wolf Trap Opera).

*Awards:* The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition (Encouragement Award).



#### Lydia Grindatto, soprano – 3rd Year Resident Artist

Tijeras, New Mexico University of New Mexico (BM)

*Recent:* Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* (Opera Columbus), Anna Bolena in *Anna Bolena* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Second Sprite/ Rusalka Cover in *Rusalka* (Santa Fe Opera) Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* (The Academy of Vocal Arts) Violetta in *La traviata* and Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* (AVA).

*Awards:* The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition (2024 Grand Finals Winner), Opera Index (Winner), The Loren L. Zachary Society Competition (5th place), The Gerda Lissner Foundation International Vocal Competition (Grant Winner), The Giargiari Bel Canto Competition (1st Place).

*Upcoming:* Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* (Arizona Opera and Merola Opera).



Emily Margevich, soprano – 5<sup>th</sup> Year Resident Artist Chicago, Illinois DePaul University (MM and BM)

*Recent:* Tatyana in Eugene Onegin (Opera Baltimore and Heartbeat Opera), Female Chorus in *The Rape of Lucretia* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Violetta in *La traviata*, Musetta in *La bohème* (AVA), Suor Angelica in *Suor Angelica*, (Opera Festival of Morelia), Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette* (Janiec Opera Company).

*Awards:* The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Kansas City District (1<sup>st</sup> Place), Meistersinger Competition, Austria (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), American Institute of Musical Studies, Meistersinger Competition (3rd Place), The Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition (2nd Place), The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Central Region (3rd Place), The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Illinois District (1st Place).

Upcoming: Young Artist at Music Academy of the West



#### **Ariana Maubach, mezzo-soprano – 1**<sup>st</sup> **Year Resident Artist** Toronto, Canada

University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music (MM), Eastman School of Music (BM).

Recent: Bianca in The Rape of Lucretia and Smeton in Anna Bolena (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Linette in The Love for Three Oranges (Des Moines Metro Opera), Mère Marie in Dialogues des Carmélites (Cincinnati Conservatory of Music), Filippyevna (cover) in Eugene Onegin (Music Academy of the West), Dorothée in L'amant anonyme (CCM).

*Awards:* Isabella Dorothy Webb Grant (Glenn Gould School), Graduate Incentive Award Full Tuition Scholarship (University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music), Howard Hanson Merit Scholarship (Eastman School of Music).



Luke Norvell, tenor – 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Resident Artist Tacoma, Washington The Master's University (BM)

*Recent:* The Male Chorus in *The Rape of Lucretia* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Rodolfo in *La bohème* (Music Academy), Werther in *Werther* (Act 3), Afternoons at AVA (Opera Philadelphia), Anatol (cover) in *Vanessa* (Spoleto Festival USA), Alfredo in *La traviata* and Lensky in *Eugene Onegin* (The Academy of Vocal Arts and Music Academy).

*Awards:* Vincerò World Singing Competition (Grand Finalist), Opera Index Vocal Competition (Emerging Artist Award), Giargiari Bel Canto Competition (2nd Place), The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, South Carolina District (Winner) and Southeast Region (Encouragement Award).

*Upcoming:* Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* and *Buoso's Ghost* (Utah Festival Opera).



#### Veronica Richer, soprano – 1<sup>st</sup> Year Resident Artist Bryan, Ohio Mannes School of Music (MM), Boston Conservatory (BM)

*Recent:* The Female Chorus in *The Rape of Lucretia* (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Angelica in *Suor Angelica* and Nella in *Gianni Schicchi* (Bay View Music Festival), Rusalka in *Rusalka* (LAH-SOW), Angelica in *Suor Angelica* (International Summer Opera Festival of Morelia).

*Awards:* The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Connecticut District (Encouragement Award).



Shawn Roth, *tenor* – 4<sup>th</sup> Year Resident Artist Johnstown, Pennsylvania Oberlin Conservatory (BM)

*Recent:* The Male Chorus in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Hervey in *Anna Bolena*, and Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* (The Academy of Vocal Arts). Bacchus in *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Mousaverse Opera), Mr. Upfold in *Albert Herring* (The Princeton Festival), Don José in *La tragédie de Carmen* (Velaa Island Opera).

Awards: The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Pittsburgh District (Winner), The Houston Grand Opera Eleanor McCollum Competition (Semifinalist), The Meistersinger Competition (Honorable Mention), The Marilyn Horne Song Competition (Winner), The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition Great Lakes Region (Encouragement Award), MONC Michigan District (Winner).



#### **Geoffrey Schmelzer**, *baritone* – 1<sup>st</sup> Year Resident Artist Skokie, Illinois Northwestern University (MM), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (BM)

*Recent:* Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia* (The Academy of Vocal Arts) and Grégorio in *Roméo et Juliette* (Central City Opera), Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* (Finger Lakes Opera), Schaunard in *La bohème* and Mr. Gobineau in *The Medium* (Northwestern Opera Theater).

*Awards:* Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Iowa District (Encouragement Award), Northwestern University 2023 Concerto Competition Winner, Central City Opera Cady Young Artist Award, Casa Italia Chicago Muccianti Scholarship Award.

*Upcoming:* Mr. Greatorex/George Gissing/Etcher/Witness #6 in *Elizabeth Cree* (The Glimmerglass Festival), Major-General Stanley (cover) in *The Pirates of Penzance* (The Glimmerglass Festival).



#### Ethel Trujillo, soprano – 4<sup>th</sup> Year Resident Artist Puebla, Mexico Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BM)

*Recent:* Lucia in *The Rape of Lucretia* (The Academy of Vocal Arts) and Micaëla in *Carmen* (St. Barts Music Festival). Juliette (cover) in *Roméo et Juliette* (The Glimmerglass Festival), Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* and Norina in *Don Pasquale* (AVA).

*Awards:* The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition (New York District Winner), Opera Index Vocal Competition (Emerging Artist Award), The Giargiari Bel Canto Competition (3rd Place),

The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition (Encouragement Award), Annapolis Opera Competition (Encouragement Award), Shreveport Opera Competition (Encouragement Award), The Gerda Lissner Foundation International Vocal Competition, Operetta and Zarzuela (1st Place).



#### Nan Wang, bass-baritone – 1<sup>st</sup> Year Resident Artist Handan, Hebei, China Manhattan School of Music (MM), Central Conservatory of Music, China (BM)

Recent: Junius in The Rape of Lucretia and Lord Rochefort in Anna Bolena (The Academy of Vocal Arts), Colline in La bohème and Count Capulet (Cover) in Roméo et Juliette (The Glimmerglass Festival), Harašta in The Cunning Little Vixen and Des Grieux in Le Portrait de Manon (Manhattan School of Music), Masetto and Leporello (cover) in Don Giovanni (Chautauqua Opera Conservatory), Bartolo in Le nozze di Figaro (Manhattan School of Music).

*Awards:* The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, New England Region (Encouragement Award), The Stan Sesser Award in Voice at Manhattan School of Music.



#### Yue Wu, bass-baritone – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Resident Artist Tianjin,China Mannes School of Music (MM), Tianjin Conservatory of Music (BM)

*Recent:* Lord Rochefort in *Anna Bolena* (The Academy of Vocal Arts). Katsumi Hosokawa in *Bel Canto* and La Voce in *Idomeneo* (Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS), Masetto in *Don Giovanni* and Dottore Grenvil in *La traviata* (The Academy of Vocal Arts) Rotnyi in *Eugene Onegin* (Music Academy of the West), Charlie Soong in *Dr Sun-Yat Sen* (Mannes School of Music).

*Awards:* The Gerda Lissner Foundation International Vocal Competition (Encouragement Award), The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition Michigan District (Encouragement Award), Opera at Florham International Vocal Competition (5<sup>th</sup> Place).

*Upcoming:* Figaro (Cover) in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS)



### Alla Yarosh, *mezzo-soprano* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Resident Artist Tal'ne, Ukraine

Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University (BM)

Recent: Lucretia in The Rape of Lucretia and Smeton in Anna Bolena and Annina in La traviata (The Academy of Vocal Arts), The Queen of Fairies in Iolanthe and Hippolyta in A Midsummer Night's Dream (Queensland Conservatorium), Olga Olsen in Street Scene and Ursule in Beatrice et Benedict (Queensland Conservatorium).

*Awards:* The Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Oratorio Aria (2nd Place), Elizabeth Muir Postgraduate Prize (Queensland Conservatorium), John and Sue Thompson Vocal Accompaniment Prize in collaboration with Samuel Choi (Queensland Conservatorium), Linda Edith Allen Award (Queensland Conservatorium), Jim Massie Memorial Prize at the Brisbane Club.

### ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS



Founded in 1934 by Helen Corning Warden and headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, the Academy of Vocal Arts (AVA) is dedicated to giving voice to opera's future. Regarded by many as the premier post-graduate opera training school in the world, AVA provides four years of tuition-free training. It is dedicated exclusively to the study of voice. The student body is intentionally small and admission is highly competitive. More than 200 singers from across the globe audition each year for the fewer than eight spots available in each class. The

program is limited to fewer than 30 total Resident Artists, who are immersed in a uniquely intensive and highly personalized program where they learn from world-renowned faculty. They receive training in voice, vocal repertoire, acting, stage combat, opera history, several languages, and each year are presented in fully-staged opera productions accompanied by the professional AVA Opera Orchestra. They are cast in leading roles that they will in all likelihood continue to perform for the rest of their careers.

No other opera training program in the world rivals AVA's success in developing individual artists whose extraordinary voices inspire millions on international stages. AVA alumni have received five of the past eight Richard Tucker Awards and five of the eleven Beverly Sills Artist Awards presented by The Metropolitan Opera. Over 90% of AVA alumni since 2000 continue active singing careers. AVA proudly counts among its alumni such distinguished international stars as Stephen Costello, Ellie Dehn, Joyce DiDonato, Joyce El-Khoury, Michael Fabiano, Nancy Fabiola Herrera, Bryan Hymel, Luis Ledesma, Angela Meade, Latonia Moore, James Morris, Corinne Winters, Stuart Neill, Ailyn Pérez, Ruth Ann Swenson, Taylor Stayton and Richard Troxell, and currently making their mark in the opera world, recent graduates Piotr Buszewski, Dominick Chenes, Scott Conner, Marina Costa-Jackson, André Courville, Othalie Graham, Alasdair Kent, Zachary Nelson, Musa Ngqungwana, Nicole Piccolomini, Vanessa Vasquez.

In recent years, AVA Resident Artists took Top or First prizes in many competitions, such as from the Belvedere Competition, Elizabeth Connell Competition, the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation, Giulio Gari Foundation International Vocal Competition, and the Loren L. Zachary Society. Since 2000, 12 AVA Resident Artists have been named National Winners in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

### **PRODUCTION BIOS**

#### ROSA MERCEDES, choreographer/assistant to the director

Born in Barcelona, Spain, Rosa Mercedes is an internationally acclaimed dancer and choreographer whose work The New York Times called "sexy and hypnotically precise". Featured by dance companies, dance festivals and symphony orchestras throughout the United States and Europe, her extensive work in opera has been seen on the stages of companies such as The Metropolitan Opera, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Seattle Opera, Dallas Opera, Atlanta Opera, Washington National Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Cincinnati Opera, Opera Lyra Ottawa, Florentine Opera, Austin Lyric Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Tulsa Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Opera Carolina, Toledo Opera and many others.

Rosa has worked with notable stage directors such as Franco Zeffirelli, Tito Capobianco, Chris Alexander, Tomer Zvulun, Renata Scotto, Bernard Uzan, Jeffrey Marc Buchman, Sandra Bernhard, Peter Kazaras, Bliss Hebert and Michael Ehrman in a vast repertoire that includes such works as *Salome*, *Samson et Dalila*, *Aïda*, *La traviata*, *Carmen*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Faust*, *Rigoletto*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Don Giovanni*, *II barbiere di Siviglia*, *Turandot*, *Don Quichotte*, *II trovatore*, *The Bartered Bride*, *La bohème*, *Così fan tutte*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, *Un ballo in maschera*, *The Merry Widow*, *La Gioconda*, *Die Fledermaus*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, and *Roméo et Juliette*.

In addition to her work as a choreographer, Ms. Mercedes has been invited to give masterclasses and workshops of Movement for Singers with young artist programs, universities, and festivals around the world to help singers acquire an even better physical vocabulary and understanding of the body as an expressive tool, in any repertoire they sing. Her specialty is in roles that require the technique, flavor and beauty of Spanish dance and flamenco.

#### BECCA SMITH, stage manager

Becca Smith is a Philly based theater and circus artist. She is happy to be returning to AVA! Select credits include - [Stage Management] *Anna Bolena* (Academy of Vocal Arts), *An American Dream* (Opera Idaho), *The Hook* (Spiegelworld), *Legally Blonde*, *Junie B. Jones the Musical, Miss Nelson is Missing* (Ocean City Theatre Company), *BABEL* (Theatre Exile), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Temple University), [Directing] *A Piece of My Heart, Just Right!* (Temple Theaters Side Stage), *Little Shop of Horrors* (South Philadelphia High School), [Acting] *As I Was, Not As I Am* (Moxie Arts Incubator Program), *The Exception and the Rule* (Penn Theatre Arts), *Genie's Secret Bazaar* (Fever Productions).

#### PETER HARRISON, set designer

Set designer Peter Harrison has designed sets for AVA since 1989. He has also designed for Connecticut Opera, Kentucky Opera, Cleveland Orchestra, Blossom Festival Opera, Skylight Opera, American Music Theatre Festival, Opera Theatre of Rochester (NY), and The Julliard School. Additional credits include *Orfeo* and *Bluebeard* with Christopher Alden for Long Beach Opera, and *Mambo* for HBO.

### **PRODUCTION BIOS**

#### ALLEN G. DOAK, JR., technical director/lighting design

Lighting designer Allen G. Doak, Jr. heads his own set construction company, Midnight Productions, and does a great deal of freelance work in lighting and set design throughout the Delaware Valley. He has worked with the Bucks County Playhouse, the Pocono Playhouse, and the Falmouth, Massachusetts Playhouse, and has designed scenery for *Sweeney Todd*, The *Pirates of Penzance, The Best* 

*Little Whorehouse in Texas, Brighton Beach Memoirs, and Amahl and the Night Visitors.* Mr. Doak has produced *Jesus Christ Superstar, Murder Mystery Weekends,* and the special effects for the Haunted House in Newtown, PA.

#### VAL STARR, costume designer

Val Starr joined The Academy of Vocal Arts as staff costume designer in 1977. Since joining the AVA production staff 46 years ago, Ms. Starr has costumed almost 200 productions, including world premieres of *The Scarlet Letter* and *Matteo Falcone*, the American premiere of Schubert's *Fierrabras*, and ten regional premieres. Val has also provided costuming services to the Lake George Opera Festival, The Boheme Opera Company, Yale University and Opera at Florham.

### **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Music Director – Richard Raub Stage Director – Jeffrey Buchman Choreographer/Assistant to the Director - Rosa Mercedes Assistant Conductor/Chorus Master – Robert Kahn Rehearsal Pianist – Elise Auerbach/Gabriel Rebolla Musical Preparation - Danielle Orlando/Luke Housner/ David Antony Lofton/Michael Lewis Italian Diction - Ennio Brugnolo Producer – Scott Guzielek Set Designer - Peter Harrison Lighting Designer/Set Construction – Allen J. Doak Jr. Production Stage Manager – Becca Smith Costume and Wig Design – Val Starr Wigs – Kate Casalino Make-Up - Natalie Kidd Costumes - Costume Collection Props – Janice Manser House Manager – Kelly Rial Box Office - Bill Buddendorf/Laura Avellino Program Design – Leslie McGeoch

### AVA AND OUR RESIDENT ARTISTS WELCOME YOU TO TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE

### ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

The Academy of Vocal Arts does not tolerate harassment of any kind on its campus or at any related event. This policy applies to AVA's faculty, staff, Resident Artists, volunteers, patrons and audience members. Any instance of harassment, be it physical, sexual, bullying or other inappropriate behavior, is to be reported immediately to a representative of the Academy of Vocal Arts.

### **ETIQUETTE**

We'd like to preface these rules of etiquette by assuring you that they are for the benefit of those people behind you. This may be their first venture into an opera, and they may actually welcome some pointers about how they can let you enjoy the music.

#### Applause:

Learning when it is proper to applaud is often tricky. If nobody claps when the piece is over, it probably isn't. If you are not sure, take a cue from those around you. Shouting is generally acceptable only during applause. The word "shouted" is often the Italian word bravo or a variation (brava in the case of a female performer, bravi for a plural number of performers, bravissimo for a truly exceptional performance). The word's original meaning is "skillful" and it has come to mean "well done."

#### Electronic devices:

Cell phones, watch alarms, pagers, cameras, and other electronic devices should be turned off prior to performances in the concert hall. These devices could cause a disturbance and are a distraction to musicians and other patrons.

#### Photography & Video:

Photography and video capture by the audience is not allowed during the performances. It is a distraction to musicians and other patrons.

#### Noise:

Even the quietest whispers can be heard in the concert hall and can prove to be a distraction to patrons and musicians alike. Save your comments until intermission or after the concert – it will give you and your friends much more to discuss. Thanks to the wonderful acoustics in today's concert halls, the sound of crumpling cellophane can be heard by everyone. Plan ahead, pop that hard candy in your mouth before the music starts.



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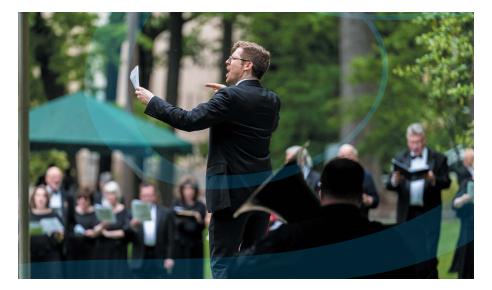
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FEB 16, 17
FEB 23-MAR 2
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