



School of Music
University of Missouri

2021-2022 Series | Student Ensemble

Show-Me Opera

Christine Seitz, Director

Masked and Making a Scene

A Program of Opera Scenes

Anthony Hernandez and Nobuko Oba, pianists

David Myers, Audio and Video production

Joel M. Rodriguez, Lighting

Maddie Jenkins, Supertitle cueing

Friday, October 22 and Saturday, October 23, 2021 • 7:00pm

Sinquefield Music Center Choral Room

Program

***Iolanthe* (1882)..... W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan**
Act I Opening Scene (1836-1911) (1842-1900)

Queen – Ayanna Taylor (Chloee Rudolph (cover))

Iolanthe – Vaysia Knust (F) Rebekah Beebe (S)

Chorus of Fairies – Rebekah Beebe (F), Averey Campbell, Brenna Donnelly, Caitlin Kenney, Vaysia Knust (S), Haley Mesz, Amanda Obeso, Chloee Rudolph, Jessica Scearce, Kate Wyman

***Die Entführung aus dem Serail* (1772).....Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**
Act II #9 Duet (1756-1791)

Blonde – Madison Myers

Osmin – Henry Braeske

***The Merry Wives of Windsor* (1849).....Otto Nicolai**
Act II Quartet (1810-1849)

Anne – Kate Wyman (F) Amanda Obeso (S)

Fenton– Zachary Reinert (F) Nathan Le (S)

Slender – Sam Varnon (F) Jourdan Flores (S)

Dr. Caius – Jonathan Crader (F) Carrick Joseph O’Bleness (S)

***Hamlet* (1868)..... Ambroise Thomas**
Act III Trio (1811-1896)

Queen Gertrude – Tara Boydston

Ophélie – Madison Myers

Hamlet – Yonathan T. Astatke

***Così fan tutte* (1790).....W. A. Mozart**
Act I Sextet

Fiordiligi – L. Amelia Lufkin (F) Mariah Dale (S) (Amanda Obeso (cover))

Dorabella – Haley Miller (F) Rachel Misner (S) (Brenna Donnelly (cover))

Despina – Emeline Clay Yorty (F) Vaysia Knust (S)

Ferrando – Zachary Reinert (F) Joel M. Rodriguez (S) (Holden Franklin (cover))

Guglielmo – Connor Cochran (F) Jack Grant (S) (Yonathan T. Astatke (cover))

Don Alfonso – Anthony Blatter (Henry Braeske (cover))

INTERMISSION

***Albert Herring* (1947)** **Benjamin Britten**
Act I, scene i excerpt (1913-1976)

Lady Billows – L. Amelia Lufkin (F) Steffi Roche (S) (Mariah Dale (cover))
Florence – Haley Miller (F) Dani Major (S)
Miss Wordsworth – Emeline Clay Yorty (F) Caitlin Kenney (S) (Rebekah Beebe (cover))
Mayor Upfold – Zachary Reinert (F) Holden Franklin (S) (Joel M. Rodriguez (cover))
Vicar Gedge – Connor Cochran (F) Jordan Ulrich (S) (Jack Grant (cover))
Supt. Budd – Jonathan Crader (Henry Braeske (cover))

***Anything Goes* (1934)** **Cole Porter**
Act I “Friendship” (1891-1964)

Reno Sweeney – Averey Campbell (F) Ayanna Taylor (S)
Moonface Martin – Nathan Le (F) Anthony Blatter (S)

***Serse (Xerxes)* (1738)** **George Frideric Handel**
Act III Recitative and #46 Trio (1685-1759)

Romilda – Haley Mesz (F) Jessica Scearce (S)
Arsamene – Dani Major (F) Rachel Misner (S) (Brenna Donnelly (cover))

***Simon Boccanegra* (1857)** **Giuseppe Verdi**
Act I duet (1813-1901)

Amelia – Aubrey L. Smith (F) Mariah Dale (S)
Simon – Jordan Ulrich (F) Yonathan T. Astatke (S)

***Cavalleria Rusticana* (1890)** **Pietro Mascagni**
Scena e Preghiera (1863-1945)

Santuzza – Aubrey L. Smith (Mariah Dale (cover))
Solo Sextet – Amanda Obeso, Jessica Scearce, Chloe Rudolph,
Holden Franklin, Jack Grant, Carrick Joseph O’Bleness

CHORUS – ALL CLASS MEMBERS

Thank you:
Peter Miyamoto
Lucy Urlacher

Cast Biographies

Ethiopian-American baritone **Yonathan T. Astatke** is from Kansas City, MO. Yonny is in his third year of Voice study at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is the student of Professor Kyle Stegall. This past summer, he performed as Alex the Lion in *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure* with Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theatre at the University of Missouri. He sang the role of Ford in the Show-Me Opera's production of Verdi's *Falstaff* last spring. Yonny was slated to perform as Samuel in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* with the Show-Me Opera in the spring of 2020. He has appeared in scenes with the Show-Me Opera from Heggie's *Moby Dick*, *L'amant anonyme*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, and *Don Giovanni*. He has received accolades in competition at both the local and national level. Yonny placed 3rd at Central Regional NATS in the Musical Theatre category in 2019. He was a semifinalist in Classical and he received 1st in Musical Theatre in 2020. Yonny was a semifinalist in the Musical Theatre category at the National NATS competition in 2021. Yonny is a member of the University of Missouri University Singers, and was the recipient of the University Singers Award in 2021. He also is a scholarship singer at Missouri United Methodist Church. He currently serves as the Music Director of the Zeta Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia at Mizzou, and has served in other leadership capacities within the chapter.

Rebekah Beebe, soprano, is from Liberty, Missouri and is now studying as a Freshman at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and studying under Christine Seitz. In High School, she worked with Dr. Rika Heruth and was a section leader in Liberty High School's Chamber Choir and Concert Choir. She was also heavily involved in theatre at Liberty High School, featuring in several of the department's musicals.

Anthony Coleman Blatter, baritone, comes from St. Louis Missouri and is a senior at the University of Missouri-Columbia working towards a B.M. in vocal performance and a B.A. in theater performance by the spring of 2022. He studies voice with Professor Steven Tharp and is a proud member of the Show-Me Opera program on campus. He serves as the vice president for the School of Music inclusion, diversity and equity cohort. He is also a member of the Zeta chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and a current member of the Alpha Zeta Delta Chapter of Alpha Psi Omega. Anthony recently played the role of Falstaff in Verdi's opera *Falstaff*. He also recently played the role of King Julien in *Madagascar: a Musical Adventure* through the Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theatre company.

Tara Boydston, mezzo soprano, is from Kansas City, Missouri. She is a Senior attending the University of Missouri-Columbia for Vocal Performance and Psychology, studying under Prof. Christine Seitz. She is also a past member of Mizzou's University Singers, with director Paul R. Crabb, as well as being in the Show-Me Opera program. She has sung many roles, including the Second Lady in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, and Bradamante in Handel's *Alcina*. Tara has also done solo work including *Efteraaslied* by Hans Abrahmsen with the Mizzou New Music Ensemble, and Mozart's *Requiem* Movement IV: *Domine Jesu* performed at St. Stevens in Vienna, Austria. She also qualified as a semi-finalist in the NATS regional competition both her freshman and sophomore years. Tara served as Stage Manager in the Show-Me Opera's Spring 2021 production of Verdi's *Falstaff*.

Henry Braeske, bass, is a student in Chemical Engineering and Vocal Performance at the University of Missouri-Columbia who has been singing with Show-Me Opera for several years, performing the roles of Sarastro in *The Magic Flute*, the Sergeant at Arms in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and Pistola in *Falstaff*. He is currently studying voice under Kyle Stegall.

Averey Campbell, mezzo soprano, is from Saint Louis, Missouri. She is currently a senior at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She will graduate with a Bachelors of Arts in Theatre Performance and a minor in Music.

She primarily focuses on Musical Theatre performance, but has recently ventured outside of her comfort zone to explore classical music. Some of her notable credits include: Fiona in *Shrek the Musical*, Ensemble in *All the Spaces*, and Woman with Furs in *Marisol*. She also serves as Vice President of Alpha Psi Omega, a theatre fraternity that seeks to provide service for the community of Columbia.

Connor Cochran, high baritone, is from West Plains, Missouri. He is currently a fifth-year student at the University of Missouri-Columbia pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. He is a proud voice student of Professor Steven Tharp. He has performed in multiple musical theatre productions including portraying Cornelius Hackl in *Hello Dolly*; Will Parker in *Oklahoma*; Judas in *Godspell*; Watson in the world premiere of Hans Bridger Heruth's chamber opera, *A Certain Madness*; the cover for Ruggiero in the Show Me Opera's production of *Alcina*; Marco in the Southern Illinois Music Festival's production of *Gianni Schicchi*; Papageno in the Show Me Opera's production of *The Magic Flute*; Ford in the Show Me Opera's production of *Falstaff*; and was to perform Major-General Stanley in the Show Me Opera's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Connor competes annually at the regional level of NATS and has placed 1st in Musical Theatre twice, 2nd in Musical Theatre, and 3rd in Classical. Recently, Connor competed in NATS at the national level and won first place in Musical Theatre. Connor is one of the founders and the President of Canticum Novum, Mizzou's Premier, Student-Led, Chamber Ensemble. Connor is also the President and co-founder of Mizzou's SNATS chapter as well as the Vice President of Mizzou's ACDA chapter. Recently, Connor helped co-found InterviewsWithMusicians.com which aims to provide a database of information regarding the world of classical music spoken directly from the professionals themselves.

Jonathan Crader, bass, is from Columbia, Missouri, and studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is currently completing a double program in Information Technology and Music, while studying voice under Dr. Steven Baker Jepson. He is currently adding Operatic work to his repertoire in the MU Opera Workshop scenes production, where he will perform excerpts as Dr. Cajus in Nicolai's *Merry Wives of Windsor*, and Superintendent Budd in Britten's *Albert Herring*. He has performed frequently in the realm of musical theatre, appearing as Professor Callahan in 'Legally Blonde: The Musical', Edna Turnblad in 'Hairspray', among other roles. Jonathan has worked regularly in first-rate choral ensembles such as MU's University Singers for several years, and sings often in a choral setting. He will be competing in NATS under Dr. Jepson's direction, and further developing his work as a solo performer.

Mariah Dale, soprano, from Columbia, Mo, is currently a senior at the University of Missouri-Columbia, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in voice performance under Christine Seitz. She is a member of Show-Me Opera and a past member of University Singers, has previously worked with the Missouri Symphony Society in their annual *Hot Summer Nights* concert series, and performed with Dr. R Paul Crabb's Bach Collegium Choir in February 2020. In her time at Mizzou, Mariah has studied and performed characters including Alice in Verdi's *Falstaff*, Edith from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*, First Lady and Pamina (cover) from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Susannah from Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* (scenes), Clorinda from Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (scenes), Blanche de la Force from Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites* (scenes), and Donna Elvira from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* (scenes). Mariah was recently a finalist in the School of Music Emerging Artist Competition.

Brenna Donnelly, mezzo soprano, is from Wichita, Kansas. Currently a junior at the University of Missouri-Columbia, she is pursuing a double bachelor's degree in Journalism and Music. Brenna is studying voice with Steven Tharp, participating in MU's treble choir, and is a member of Show Me Opera under the direction of Christine Seitz. She has performed parts such as: Miles from *Turn of the Screw* and Suor Osmina from *Suor Angelica* in Opera Scenes 2020, as well as a policeman in a production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. She also played the role of Toffee in a high school production of *Zombie Prom*. Donnelly performed with the South-Central Kansas District Honor Choir for four years, as well as the Kansas State Honor Choir for two years during her time in high school.

Jourdan Flores, tenor, from Warrenton MO, is a junior at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is pursuing a BM in Vocal Performance and is studying with Prof. Kyle Stegall. He is currently enrolled in The University Glee Club and Choral Union. Jourdan currently has no college level theatre experience, but he was in several performances during his high school years.

Holden Franklin, tenor, is from Perryville, Missouri and is currently studying music composition at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is studying composition with Dr. Stephan Freund, and voice with Professor Steven Tharp. He is a member of the Show-Me Opera under the leadership of Professor Christine Seitz. He has performed in *The Magic Flute* and *The Pirates of Penzance* as a chorus member. He has also performed in Verdi's *Falstaff* as Bardolfo. He has composed for numerous prestigious ensembles such as The Saint Louis Symphony, Quatour Diotima, and the Khemia Ensemble.

Jack Grant, baritone, is a Sophomore at the University of Missouri-Columbia studying music education and vocal performance. He is currently a member of the University Singers and Mizzou Glee Club, directed by Dr. Paul Crabb and Dr. Brandon Boyd respectively, and was previously a member of the Fort Zumwalt South chamber choir led directed by Jason Martin and asst. Christopher Loftin. Over the course of his high school career, Jack was a member of the Metro 8 All-District Choir 3 times and has been a member of the Missouri All-State Choir twice. As well as being a member of those choirs, Jack has also received gold and silver ratings in both solo and ensemble categories at the Missouri State Solo & Ensemble Festival held at the University of Missouri. A dedicated member of his high school theatre program, Jack was the lead in both *Footloose* and *Once Upon a Mattress*, and also directed shows such as *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged* and *I Hate Hamlet*. In college, Jack was in the chorus ensemble in the Show-me Opera's production of *Falstaff*.

Anthony Hernandez is a collaborative pianist, organist, composer, and teacher who earned his Bachelor of Music in Music Composition from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2009. He has worked as music director, rehearsal accompanist, assistant music director, and/or pit keyboardist for over 20 musical productions with numerous production companies. He has performed extensively as a collaborative and solo pianist throughout Missouri, the Midwest, Southern California, and Brasília, Brazil. As a composer, he premiered orchestral works with the Columbia Civic Orchestra and the 9th Street Philharmonic Orchestra and continues to compose.

Hernandez was a regular on-staff collaborative pianist for Stephens College of the Performing Arts and Columbia College of Missouri. He was a ballet accompanist with Columbia Performing Arts Center, playing for their summer intensive programs from 2015 to 2018. He served as pianist and organist at First Church of Christ, Scientist of Columbia from 2012 to 2018, and at Missouri United Methodist Church for 11 years. Hernandez also has maintained a full piano studio, teaching students of all ages, all styles of music from pop and rock to classical, musical theatre, and jazz.

In the summer of 2018, Hernandez moved to Los Angeles, CA, where he was a piano and beginning violin instructor at Sunset Learning Studio in Manhattan Beach. He provided service music for the Twentieth Church of Christ, Scientist in Venice on Sunday mornings and was a piano accompanist for the Culver City Middle School choirs, and was a regular ballet pianist at the Pasadena Dance Theatre. Due to the global pandemic, he returned to Missouri, in St Louis, where he taught lessons virtually and has also returned to his alma mater to pursue graduate studies in Collaborative Piano.

Missouri native **Maddie Jenkins**, soprano, has been fascinated by music her entire life. As a vocal music education student at the University of Missouri-Columbia, she has had the pleasure of singing at conferences on a national scale and at music festivals abroad. Maddie had multiple roles in musicals when she was growing up featuring Mrs. Banks in *Mary Poppins* and Dolly Gallagher Levi in *Hello, Dolly!* and has been active in the Show-Me Opera program at Mizzou. Maddie just finished a year as the president of the University Singers at Mizzou and her first year as an accompanist for Columbia Youth Choirs. She has experience teaching both piano and voice lessons and has been praised for her hard work and reliability. Maddie is currently studying under the directions of Professor Kyle Stegall, Dr. Richard P. Crabb, Professor Emily Edgington-Andrews, and Professor Christine Seitz.

Caitlin Kenney, soprano, is from Kansas City, Missouri. She is a Junior at the University of Missouri-Columbia working towards her Bachelor of Arts in Music as well as a Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education. She is a vocal student studying under Professor Kyle Stegall. This is her third year as a member of the Show-Me Opera with roles including Flora in a scene from *The Turn of the Screw*, Beth in a scene from *Little Women*, Isabel in the *Pirates of Penzance*, and Augusta's friend in a scene from *The Ballad of Baby Doe*. Caitlin has also been in several choruses including one in last year's *Falstaff*.

Vaysia Knust, soprano, is originally from Kansas City, Missouri, but is now a freshman earning a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Music Education at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is a proud Vocal student of Professor Christine Seitz. Vaysia is also a proud member of University Singers and is a volunteer for the Citizenship@Mizzou program. In high school Vaysia did many musical theatre performances with roles such as Brooke Wyndam in *Legally Blonde the Musical*, Madame De La Grande Bouche in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Rona Lisa Paretto in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and she hopes to continue her singing and acting with Show Me Opera. Vaysia was also a Section Leader in Blue Springs South Chamber choir and would go on to be an All-State vocalist in MMEA choir as well as All-State Solo and Ensemble.

Nathan Le, tenor, is from Kansas City, Missouri and is currently a Junior at the University of Missouri-Columbia where he is pursuing a BM in Vocal Music Education. He currently studies with Kyle Stegall and is a member of the Show-Me Opera where he has performed the role of Bardolfo in *Falstaff* and a Pirate in *The Pirates of Penzance*. He has also performed roles such as Angel in *RENT*, Charlie Brown in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and The Baker in *Into the Woods*.

L. Amelia Lufkin, soprano, is from Knoxville, Tennessee. She is a current Graduate Student at the University of Missouri-Columbia with a completed Masters in Choral Conducting, and she will complete her Masters in Voice Performance in Spring 2022. Her previous studies were done at Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelors in Voice Performance. Her collegiate voice instructors include Dr. Christine Isley-Farmer from 2015-2019 at MTSU, and she currently studies with Dr. Steven Jepson at the University of Missouri. Her previous operatic roles include: Mademoiselle Silberklang in *Der Schauspieldirektor*, Phyllis in *Iolanthe*, and she covered the role of Alice in *Falstaff*. She has also portrayed notable roles in scene works such as: Yum Yum in *The Mikado*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Susannah in *Susannah*, Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus*, Ilija in *Idomeneo*, and Jeannette in *L'amant anonyme*. Amelia has placed third in NATS in the category of Senior Women in 2019 and recently placed first in MMTA in the category of Collegiate Voice-Graduate in 2020. Amelia aims to continue her musicianship by directing, teaching, and performing.

Dani Major, mezzo soprano, comes from Platte City, Missouri. They are a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in vocal performance at the University of Missouri-Columbia. They study with Kyle Stegall and are a member of Mizzou's University Singers, Show-Me Opera, and Canticum Novum in addition to being a scholarship singer at Trinity Presbyterian Church. They have appeared as Emma Goldman in the Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theatre's production of *Ragtime* and as Mistress Quickly in Mizzou's production of *Falstaff* by Verdi.

Haley Mesz, soprano, is from Lee's Summit, Missouri and is currently a sophomore at the University of Missouri-Columbia pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Music Education. She is studying with Christine Seitz and is just starting out with the Show-Me Opera, being in the chorus of Verdi's *Falstaff* most recently. In high school, Haley performed in a few shows including portraying the role of Urleen in *Footloose*; Miss Phillips in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*; and was involved in the pit orchestra in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Along with that, Haley sang in the soprano section for the Kansas City All-District Choir three years in a row. She also had the chance to intern and sing soprano in the Collegiate age Choral Scholars Choir at the Kantorei Summer Choir Institute of Kansas City.

Haley Miller, mezzo soprano, is from Saint Louis, Missouri, and is currently a junior at the University of Missouri-Columbia pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in music and studying with Christine Seitz. She is currently a member of The University Singers and Choral Union, where she has performed ensemble parts in Bach's *Magnificat*. Additionally, she performed in the Show-Me Opera's production of *Falstaff* as part of the ensemble. In high school, Haley also performed with the Missouri All-State Choir during MMEA.

Rachel Misner, mezzo soprano, is from Chesterfield, Missouri, and is currently a junior at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is pursuing a B.M. in Music Education, as well as a Minor in Musical Theatre. She studies voice with Professor Kyle Stegall, and under his guidance, received honorable mentions in both the Classical and Musical Theatre divisions in the NATS competition in 2020. She has participated in Show-Me Opera since her freshman year, but has also been a member of many other ensembles at Mizzou, including University Singers, Concert Chorale, Hitt Street Harmony, and Canticum Novum. This past summer, she was cast in Mizzou's Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theatre, her first musical theatre endeavor. Through this experience, she performed as Private and Mort in *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure*, as well as various roles in the *Blame It on the Summer Night Benefit Concert* in honor of Marcia Berry. In opera, she has had the opportunity to perform in the Fall Opera Scenes for three years, and she was a member of the chorus in *Pirates of Penzance*. She performed the role of Meg Page in *Falstaff* as a sophomore.

Madison Myers, soprano, comes from Troy, Missouri. She is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Music (Vocal Performance) at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she studied with Julia Bentley, and now with Christine Seitz. She is a member of Show-Me Opera and a past member of University Singers. In April 2021 she sang the role of Nannetta in Verdi's *Falstaff*. In spring 2020, she prepared the role of Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance* before the show was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19. She sang the role of Papagena in *The Magic Flute* in Spring 2019. She has sung many roles in opera scenes program like Gianetta, Constance, Eurydice and more. She was also in the chorus of *Carmen*, in a production for the Missouri Symphony's *Hot Summer Nights Festival*, directed by Christine Seitz.

Nobuko Oba, Collaborative pianist, has been Adjunct faculty with the MU School of Music MU since 2016. Originally from Mexico City, she started studying piano at the age of 5 in the Yamaha Academy, and began professional piano studies at the School of Music Vida y Movimiento Ollin Yolitzli with the pianist Manuel Gonzalez. She graduated with a degree in piano in 2004 from the Faculty of Music of the National University Autonomum of Mexico (UNAM), studying with Maria Teresa Frenk and Monique Rasetti, and earned the Gabino Barreda Medal (the most distinguished award conferred for graduated students of the generation every 4 years). She also studied piano from Irina Shishkina. Ms. Oba has participated in numerous master classes, with Jorge Federico Osorio and Bernard Flavigny (in Mexico and France), as well as Jorge Luis Prats and Naoya Seino.

As a soloist, she has also performed with the Filarmonic of UNAM (OFUNAM), Sinfonica Carlos Chavez, under the conducting of Zuohuag Chen and Juan Carlos Zuohuang Lomonaco, respectively, with the Concerto No.1 of Shostakovich, Animal Carnival for 2 pianos and orchestra by Saint-Saens and Concerto No.2 for piano and orchestra by Johannes Brahms. She has also collaborated with leading performers such as violist Mikhail Tolpygo, the string quartet Cuarteto de la Ciudad de Mexico, and with the voice coach and pianist Angel Rodríguez.

In Mexico City, Nobuko worked as accompanist at the Faculty of Music of UNAM during 8 years, collaborating with many voice faculty such as Alfredo Mendoza, Rufino Montero, Zulyamyr Lopezrios and Irasema Terrazas. With the professor Alfredo Mendoza she opened a new curriculum and optative elective for students in the singing degree: Russian vocal music. She took part of the edition of a Russian Anthology of Vocal music, the first edition of the Compilation of representative Russian Romances songs edited by the UNAM.

Amanda Obeso, soprano, is from Nixa, Missouri and is currently a junior studying at the University of Missouri-Columbia, pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Music Education. She proudly studies voice with Kyle Stegall and is Vice President of Mizzou's University Singers. She also performs in Hitt Street Harmony and

Show-Me Opera, and is an active member of ACDA. Amanda has held numerous roles in her college career, including Edith in *Pirates of Penzance*, Léontine in *L'amant anonyme*, Anne in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and cover for Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*. Additionally, her musical theatre experience includes playing Wednesday in *The Addams Family*, Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, and Rusty in *Footloose*. She holds the title of National Quarterfinalist in the 2021 NATS Competition in the Lower Treble Musical Theatre category.

Carrick Joseph O'Bleness, baritone, is from Kansas City, Missouri and has been participating in vocal music since his junior year of high school. Now a third-year student at the University of Missouri-Columbia, he is focusing on International Studies and Music. He has been a part of the University Singers, Hitt Street Harmony, and the Tenor-Bass Glee Club, as well as both large and chamber ensembles during high school. There, he sang Tenor in the premiere of Eugene Butler's *Two Teasdale Songs*. While currently a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia's Zeta Chapter, he hopes to become more involved in the School of Music through student-led ensembles, theatre productions, and vocal studio.

Zachary Reinert, tenor, is a trained vocalist with a background in Musical Theatre, currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice performance at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He has been involved in over 20 productions by the Robidoux Resident Theatre, as well as many leading roles throughout his High School acting career. The highlights of his endeavors include Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, William Bloom in *Big Fish*, and Lord Evelyn Oakley in *Anything Goes*. He has been a part of multiple district, state, and national level ensembles and has significant experience in speech and debate as well. He has participated in multiple Opera Scenes Programs and full opera productions with the Show-Me Opera Company. Last year Zachary sang the role of Dr. Caius in *Falstaff*, and in Spring 2020 he sang the role of Major General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance*. In 2018 he took first at the MTNA Vocal Contest Lower College TTB Classical division. In 2019 He attended his first young artist program at the University of Southern Illinois, Carbondale. Zachary won Third place in the Lower Undergraduate TTB Classical division at the Central Region NATS competition in 2019.

Steffi Roche, soprano, is from Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan. Roche is currently a junior at the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia pursuing a degree in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Political Science. Roche is also MU's vocalist for the Concert Jazz Band and jazz combos. At age 10, Roche performed in five operas with the Michigan Opera Theatre, including *La Bohème*, *Pagliacci*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Carmina Burana*. Starting at age 10, Roche began performing at the Detroit International Jazz Festival, and at age 14, Roche was awarded the titles of "Youth Jazz Diva" and "Youth All-Star" for the DIJF. At age 12, Roche was the opening act for Regis Philbin in his nightclub show in Detroit.

Roche attended Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills, Michigan. At DCDS, Roche was the lead in many school productions, including portraying Vivienne in *Legally Blonde*, Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, lead vocalist in *Ain't Misbehavin'*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Velma in *Hairspray*, Molly in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and Janet in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. While in high school, for three years in a row, Roche was awarded Superior Medals at the Michigan Thespian Festival for Musical Theatre Solo, Duo, and Trio categories.

While a student at MU, Roche is a reporter and anchor for mid-Missouri's NBC affiliate station, KOMU 8 News.

Joel M. Rodriguez, lyric tenor, is from Kansas City, Missouri and is currently a senior at the University of Missouri-Columbia pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music & Theatre Performance and a minor in Musical Theatre. He currently studies voice with Kyle Stegall. He is a member of Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Society, Show-Me Opera, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the IDE Student Collective. He is employed as a Lead Vocalist at Community United Methodist Church and also as a Production Assistant in the Recording Studio for the MU School of Music. Joel starred in this past summer's production of *Dolly Parton's 9 to 5* and *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka* portraying the roles of Franklin Hart Jr. and The Candy Man with the Minot State University Summer Theatre Company.

Chloee Rudolph, mezzo soprano, is from St. Charles, Missouri. She is currently a freshman at the University of Missouri-Columbia working towards a degree in Vocal Music Education. She currently studies with Kyle Stegall, tenor. This is her debut in Show-Me Opera, but some of her significant previous roles include Kim Macafee in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Gabrielle in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, and Mae Tuck in *Tuck Everlasting*. Chloee also has been a member of many choirs at different levels for ten years including District and Collegiate levels.

Jessica Scearce is a soprano from Gower, MO. Currently she is a sophomore at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality Management, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Music. She is studying with Christine Seitz and is currently a member of the University Treble Choir. She is also in the Show-Me Opera, where she has performed in the chorus of *Falstaff* and the Fall 2020 scenes program. She also did several productions with the East Buchanan High School Theater, and performed in the Missouri All-State Choir during high school.

Christine Seitz, Stage Director, Teaching Professor of Music, joined the faculty at the University of Missouri-Columbia in the fall of 2008, where she is Director of Show-Me Opera. She was the Director of the Resident Opera Artist program with the Missouri Symphony from 2016 through 2019, directing productions of *Die Fledermaus*, *La Traviata*, *La Bohème*, and *Carmen*. She was a member of the stage directing staff for the Apprentice Artist Program at Des Moines Metro Opera from 2006 through 2013, and she was the founding Opera Director for the Pine Mountain Music Festival in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, directing and producing operas there from 1992 through 2002. She has been a guest director for the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre, the Florentine Opera of Milwaukee (educational outreach productions), the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Luther College. She has created original translations and supertitles for productions at the Florentine Opera of Milwaukee, the Pine Mountain Music Festival, the University of Wisconsin Madison, the Dubuque Symphony and the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Christine Seitz is an established dramatic soprano, and she most recently appeared with the Des Moines Metro Opera, singing the role of Madame Larina in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*. She has also sung operatic roles with the Seattle Opera, the Dallas Opera, Madison Opera, the Los Angeles Opera, the Toledo Opera, Kentucky Opera, the Florentine Opera of Milwaukee, Central City Opera, and in Europe with the Wuppertaler Bühnen and the Stadttheater Bern. She sang the leading role of Anna Clemenc in the world premiere of *The Children of the Keweenaw*, by composer Paul Seitz and librettist Kathleen Masterson, at the 2001 Pine Mountain Music Festival. She has also sung in concert with the MU Choral Union, the Waukesha Symphony, the Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestra, the Caramoor Festival, the Germanfest Symphony in Milwaukee, the Cincinnati May Festival and the Las Vegas Philharmonic. She has sung in numerous recitals in New York City and throughout the Midwest, collaborating with pianists Steven Blier and Jessica Paul, and she has presented voice workshops and master classes in Houghton, Michigan, and the University of California-Irvine. Professor Seitz is the past Central Region Governor of the National Opera Association. She received B.Mus. degrees in both applied voice and music education and an M.Mus. in applied voice from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. A native of Madison, Wisconsin, she was a two-time winner of the Eastern Wisconsin Metropolitan Opera District Auditions.

Aubrey L. Smith, soprano, comes from Springfield, Missouri. She has a Bachelor of Music Education-Vocal Emphasis from Drury University in Springfield, MO (2016). She recently completed a teaching assistantship in Choral Conducting with Dr. R. Paul Crabb at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and is continuing her graduate degree in Vocal Performance. She studies voice with Steven Tharp, head of voice faculty at MU. Most recently, she sang the role of Pamina in the Show-Me Opera production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and performed as the soprano soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*. Also while at MU, she sang the role of Madame Desroches in the world premiere performances of *A Certain Madness* by MU student composer Hans Bridger Heruth, and she sang the title role in Handel's *Alcina*. She has also played the roles of Erzulie in *Once On This Island*, Ger-

trude in *Seussical: The Musical*, the Narrator in *Children of Eden*, and Shelby Thorpe in *The Spitfire Grill*. She has been in the chorus of a number of musicals and one-act operas: the Rodgers and Hammerstein *Cinderella*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, a second production of *Children of Eden*, *Cats*, both *High School Musical* and *High School Musical 2*, and an annual production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (4 years). She also placed 1st and 2nd at both local and regional NATS competitions in 2012, 2013, and 2014. Miss Smith also received vocal scholarships at both Missouri State University and Drury University for her undergraduate education and has served as a paid soloist at both National Avenue Christian Church and Christ Episcopal Church in Springfield, MO for the last 8 years.

Ayanna Taylor, mezzo soprano, is from Saint Louis, Missouri and is currently a junior at the University of Missouri-Columbia pursuing a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree in Theater and Communication. She is currently a member of The Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Society. She performed in many musical theater performances portraying Mrs. Luce in *Little Shop of Horrors*; Donkey in *Shrek the Musical*; Teen Ensemble/Dancer in *The Music Man* and Giant/Sleeping Beauty in *Into the Woods*, as well as a multitude of plays. In her freshman year, she was a member of her previous university's Chorale.

Baritone **Jordan Ulrich** graduated with his B.A. in Music from Columbia College, and recently graduated from University of Missouri-Columbia with an M.M. in Voice Performance, studying with Christine Seitz. Jordan recently won First place in the Missouri State MTNA Voice competition. A third prize winner of the 2018 NATS Central Region Graduate Classical competition, a 2019 National NATS national semi-finalist, and the winner of the MFMC McClure Vocal Award, Jordan has performed in several musicals and opera scenes, such as Dr. Craven in *The Secret Garden*, and Sparky from *Forever Plaid*. He has also performed as Alcindoro/Benoit in *La bohème* with the Missouri Symphony Society, as well as Papageno in *The Magic Flute* with Show-Me Opera. He recently prepared the role of Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*, but did not perform due to COVID-19.

Sam Varnon, tenor, is from Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He is a current sophomore at the University of Missouri-Columbia, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music and studying voice with Christine Seitz. As a member of Show-Me Opera, he has performed in scenes from *L'amant anonyme* and *Moby-Dick*, as well as in last year's production of *Falstaff*. He is also a member of University Singers, Hitt Street Harmony, and Canticum Novum.

Kate Wyman, soprano, is from Dexter, Missouri. She is currently a junior at the University of Missouri-Columbia pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music in addition to a Bachelor of Journalism degree with a Strategic Communication emphasis. Kate is a proud voice student of Professor Kyle Stegall, and she is currently a member of University Singers and the Show-Me Opera workshop. In high school, she was a member of the Missouri All-State Choir and the Southeast Missouri All-District Choir, and was selected as Top Vocalist in her district by the National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) during her senior year. Kate has also been involved in a number of musical theater productions, including *High School Musical 2* at the Sikeston Little Theater, where she played the lead role of Gabriella Montez. Last year, Kate was named as a semi-finalist in the Mid-Missouri Central Region NATS competition in the art song category.

Emeline Clay Yorty, soprano, is from West Plains, Missouri and a senior at the University of Missouri-Columbia pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. She is honored to be a student of Professor Steven Tharp and is a member of Mizzou's University Singers as well as the Show-Me Opera Company. Last spring, she made her opera debut as Nannetta in the Show-Me Opera's performance of *Falstaff*. The year prior she was to portray Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, before it was cancelled due to Covid-19. This past year, she received Honorable Mention in the Classical division of Regional NATS, and the year before placed third in both the Classical and Musical Theatre divisions. She has also received first place in the Classical division of Mid-Missouri NATS, second place in the Musical Theater division of Mid-Missouri NATS, and Honorable Mention in the MMTA competition. Emeline is the vice president and co-founder of Mizzou's SNATS chapter, treasurer of Canticum Novum, a scholarship singer at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and was a Young Artist at

New York University's Classical Voice Intensive. She co-founded InterviewsWithMusicians.com in 2019, which is a platform that aims to create a unique forum exploring the perspectives of professional artists across the industry with the objective to assist in the musical development and growth of young musicians.