

## 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. He is the student of Professor Kyle Stegall. This past summer, he performed the role of 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 Thomas's *Hamlet*, *Simon Boccanera*, Heggie's *Moby Dick*, *L'amant anonyme*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, and *Don Giovanni*. He was selected as the cover for the Fall 2021 University of Missouri Choral Union concert. He has received accolades in competition at both the local and national level. Yonny was a semifinalist in the Musical Theatre category at the National NATS competition in 2021, and he was a semifinalist in Classical and he received 1st in Musical Theatre in 2020. He received an honorable mention in the Upper College Classical category at CRNATS in Fall 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. Yonny was also chosen to perform with the Bach Collegium Choir under the direction of Dr. R. Paul Crabb in February 2022. 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.

**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.

**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 recently added Operatic work to his repertoire in the MU Opera Workshop scenes production, performing 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**, of Columbia Missouri, is a soprano currently pursuing a vocal music degree and theatre minor from the University of Missouri. She studies with Christine Seitz and has been a member of the Show-Me Opera program since the fall of 2017. In her time at Mizzou, she has also sung in the University's Women's Choir and Concert Chorale directed by Emily Edgington Andrews and Dr. Brandon Boyd, Hitt Street vocal jazz ensemble directed by Daniel Schaefer, and was both a four-year member and featured soloist of the University Singers, directed by R. Paul Crabb. Mariah competed in the semi-finals of the Central Regional NATS Vocal Competition in 2017, 2018, and 2019 and was a finalist in the University of Missouri School of Music's Emerging Artist competition in 2021. Last fall she was awarded 1st place in the upper college voice level of the Missouri Music Teachers Association Collegiate Honors Auditions. Mariah has performed in choruses of Handel's *Alcina* with the Show-Me Opera in 2018, as well as Giacomo Puccini's *La Bohème* in 2018 and Georges Bizet's *Carmen* in 2019 with the Missouri Symphony Society, led by Maestro Kirk Trevor. With the Show-Me Opera she has performed the roles of First Lady and Pamina (cover) in W.A. Mozart's *The Magic Flute* in 2019, Alice Ford in Giuseppe Verdi's *Falstaff* in 2021, and was set to perform Edith in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* in 2020 before the production was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In scene work she has portrayed a variety of characters from different eras and composers, but some of her favorites include Blanche de la Force from Francis Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Donna Elvira from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, the title character of Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, and most recently, Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* and Amelia Grimaldi in Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*. She has been a scholarship singer and section leader for the choir at First Baptist Church of Columbia since August 2020 under the direction of Amy Johns. Mariah is also a founding member and intermediary for the School of Music's Inclusion, Diversity and Equity committee, which aims to celebrate the diverse identities of musicians within campus spaces and the broader Columbia community, and to invite all musical people within and outside of the School of Music to dismantle the exclusivity of our musical world. Developing the role of Countess Rosina Almaviva has been a joy like no other, and she couldn't be more excited to share this funny, chaotic, and touching story with our community.

**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's only college level theater experience was Opera Scenes during the Fall 2021 semester. He was also in several performances during his high school years.

**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, 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. You can find Maddie teaching voice and piano lessons at Palen Music Center along with accompanying Columbia Youth Choirs and singing in the Sacred Heart Church Choir. Maddie is currently studying under the directions of Professor Kyle Stegall, Dr. R. Paul 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 earning her Bachelor of Arts in Music as well as Minors in Education and Human Development and Family Sciences. 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 Miss Wordsworth in a scene from *Albert Herring*, 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*.

**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 with a completed Masters in Choral Conducting and 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. Amelia worked and studied as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Missouri under Dr. R. Paul Crabb and Professor Emily Edgington-Andrews. She helped organize and direct in University Singers, University Treble choir, and Concert Chorale. As a Scholarship student at Missouri United Methodist Church, she often solos and assists in rehearsals as a section leader and assistant director. She currently teaches private voice through the Community Music Program (CMP). 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*, the title role in *Susannah*, Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus*, Ilia in *Idomeneo*, and Jeannette in *L'amant anonyme*. Amelia has placed third in NATS under the category of Senior Women in 2019 and placed in Semi-finals for Regional NATS 2021 under the category of Advanced Classical Treble. Amelia has placed first in MMTA under the category of Collegiate Voice-Graduate in 2020. In the Fall of 2021, she placed first as Missouri's MTNA state winner and was the overall runner-up in the competition. 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 studying with Kyle Stegall. Dani is 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*, Mistress Quickly in Show-Me Opera's production of *Falstaff* by Verdi, and Maureen Johnson in Mizzou Theatre's production of *Rent*.

**Haley Mesz**, soprano, is from Lee's Summit, Missouri and is currently a sophomore at the University of Missouri-Columbia pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She is studying voice with Christine Seitz and is just starting out with the Show-Me Opera, with the role of Romilda from Handel's *Serse*, along with being in the chorus of *Iolanthe* by Gilbert and Sullivan, and the chorus of Verdi's *Falstaff*. 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 soprano in the Kansas City All-District Choir three years in a row. She also had the chance to intern and sing soprano in the Collegiate Choral Scholars Choir at the Kantorei Summer Choir Institute of Kansas City. Haley competed in the NATS competition this past fall, receiving honorable mention, and is involved in ensembles here at Mizzou including singing alto in Dr. R. Paul Crabb's University Singers and singing soprano in Nathan Lang's Ars Nova ensemble.

**Ethan Miller**, bass-baritone, is locally raised in Columbia Missouri. He is currently a Junior working towards



a BM in vocal performance with a minor in Health Wellness at the University of Missouri-Columbia. This will be the second Show-Me Opera production he will be taking part in. He was involved in the chorus of *Falstaff*, and he has been in the University Glee Club for many semesters. He has studied under Dr. Steven Jepson for the bulk of his semesters at Mizzou. Ethan was a hardworking member of his high school's music program. He was part of his school's show choir ensemble Battalion, the men's ensemble Apollo, and the student formed acapella group Odyssey.

**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. She is pursuing a B.M. in Music Education and will be graduating in May 2023. She has studied voice with Professor Kyle Stegall, and under his guidance, received Honorable Mentions in both the Classical and Musical Theatre divisions of Regional NATS in 2020. This year, she is studying with Professor Steven Tharp. 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, Ars Nova, and Canticum Novum. She has worked as a Scholarship Singer at Trinity Presbyterian Church since Summer 2021. During that same 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, was a member of the chorus in *Pirates of Penzance*, and performed the role of Meg Page in *Falstaff* as a sophomore. She is honored to perform the role of Cherubino this year, and has grown to have a deep appreciation for this character and the rest of her cast in the process.

**Nobuko Oba**, Collaborative pianist, has been Adjunct faculty with the MU School of Music (2016-2020). Originally from Mexico City, she began professional piano studies at the School of Music Vida y Movimiento Ollin Yolitzli with the pianist Manuel Gonzalez. Graduated with a degree in piano in 2004 from the Faculty of Music of the National University Autonomum of Mexico (UNAM), with Maria Teresa Frenk and Monique Rasseti, 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 and master degree with Kristina Deli. Ms. Oba has participated in numerous master classes, constantly 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) and the Sinfonica Carlos Chavez. She has also collaborated in chamber music with leading performers such as violist Mikhail Tolpygo, string quartet "Cuarteto de la Ciudad de México", and with the voice coach and pianist Angel Rodríguez. Nobuko worked as accompanist at the Faculty of Music of UNAM during 8 years (2008-2016), collaborating with many voice faculty (Alfredo Mendoza, Rufino Montero, Zulyamyr Lopezrios and Irasema Terrazas). With the professor Mendoza she opened a new curriculum and optative elective for students in the singing degree: Russian vocal music (2015). 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.

**Joel M. Rodriguez**, lyric tenor, is from Kansas City, Missouri and is currently a senior at the University of Missouri-Columbia pursuing two Bachelor of Arts degrees, one in Music and one in Theatre Performance, with a minor in Musical Theatre. 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 Inclusion, Diversity, Equity Student Collective. He is employed as Lead Vocalist at Community United Methodist Church and also as a Production Assistant in the Recording Studio for the University's School of Music. Recently, Joel performed as a featured vocalist for the Symphony of Toys concert hosted and performed by the Missouri Symphony. Joel also 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. In Columbia, Joel has performed with the Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theatre Company and Mizzou Theatre as Tateh in *Ragtime The Musical* and The Wiz in *The Wiz: A Super Soul Musical*. He is also very grateful to have received the opportunity to originate the role of Bryce Kincaid in *All The Spaces: A New Musical* by Murphy Ward & Shawn Campanini. In the Show-Me Opera scenes program, Joel has portrayed the roles Ferrando from *Così fan tutte* (Mozart), Don Curzio from *Le nozze di Figaro* (Mozart), along with many others. Most recently, he performed the role of Dr. Caius in the Spring 2021 production of *Falstaff* (Verdi). Joel currently studies voice with Kyle Stegall.

**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*, Gertrude 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.

**Sam Varnon**, tenor, is from Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He is a current sophomore at the University of Missouri, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music and studying voice with Christine Seitz. As a member of Show-Me Opera, he has sung the roles of Slender in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Colin in *L'amant anonyme* in opera scenes programs, and he sang in the chorus in last year's production of *Falstaff*. He is also a member of University Singers, Hitt Street Harmony, and Canticum Novum. Recently, he was a semifinalist in the 2021 Central Region NATS lower classical division and winner of the 2021 MMTA voice competition in the undergraduate lower category.

**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 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. With the Show-Me Opera Company she has portrayed Nannetta in *Falstaff*, was to portray Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and is so excited to perform as Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* tonight. In the Fall of 2021, she was a soloist in Fauré's *Requiem* with the Choral Union and the University of Missouri Concert Series. In 2020, 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 a scholarship singer at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, co-founded *InterviewswithMusicians.com*, and was a Young Artist at New York University's Classical Voice Intensive.