



School of Music
University of Missouri

2021-2022 Series | Special Event

MU School of Music presents
Show-Me Opera

A Program of Staged Arias

**Christine Seitz, Stage Director,
Production Manager, and Supertitle Translation**
Anthony Hernandez and Nobuko Oba, Pianists
David Myers, Audio and Video production
Joel Rodriguez, Lighting Design
Eliza Brooks, Lighting Assistant
Jessica Scarce, Supertitle cueing

Saturday, April 16, 2022 | 7:00pm
Sheryl Crow Hall

PROGRAM

(Characters in each scene are listed in order of vocal appearance)

Mass (1971) **Leonard Bernstein**
Text by Leonard Bernstein with additional text and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz (1918-1990)

Aria – “Simple Song”
Celebrant – Jack Grant
Congregation – All singers in the program

In the opening song of this ground-breaking staged oratorio, the Celebrant calls his congregation and encourages them to worship in their own way, and in peace and harmony.

Orfeo ed Euridice (1762) **Christoph Willibald Gluck**
Libretto by Ranieri de' Calzabigi (1714-1787)

Aria and Scene – “Che fiero momento”
Euridice – Kate Wyman
Orfeo – Haley Mesz

The gods have allowed Orfeo to bring Euridice out of Hades and back to earth, but he must not look at her before they reach the surface. Eurydice, newly restored to life, asks desperately for Orfeo to turn to look at her. Not understanding his reticence to do so, she sings of her desperation, and wishes to die again.

Il burbero di buon cuore (The Good-Hearted Curmudgeon) (1786) **Vincente Martin y Soler**
Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte (1754-1806)

Aria – “Ho fini i lavori”
Valerio – Jourdan Flores
Ferrando – Samuel Varnon

Valerio, a young man of means, sings to the old curmudgeon Ferrando, describing the worth of all his possessions, including the jewels he buys and sells. However, he is eager to win the hand of his beloved, Angelica (Ferrando's niece), who he describes as the most beautiful jewel in Peru.

The Ballad of Baby Doe (1956) **Douglas Moore**
Libretto by John Latouche (1893-1969)

Aria – Willow Song
Baby Doe – Vaysia Knust
Horace Tabor – Zachary Reinert

Baby Doe has just arrived in Leadville, Colorado, after leaving her first husband, Harvey Doe. She sings this song in the lobby of the Tabor Hotel, knowing that Horace Tabor is sitting just outside.

***Bastien und Bastienne* (1768) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**
Libretto by Friedrich Wilhelm Weiskern (1756-1791)

Aria – “Grossen Dank”
Bastien – Samuel Varnon
Colas – Jourdan Flores

Bastien has enlisted the help of the magician and soothsayer, Colas, to concoct a plan to get Bastienne to love him again. At this point, Bastien thinks the plan is working, and enthusiastically thanks Colas for his help.

***Linda di Chamounix* (1842) Gaetano Donizetti**
Libretto by Gaetano Rossi (1797-1848)

Aria – “O luce di quest’anima”
Linda – Wendy Kleintank

Linda has arrived to keep a rendezvous with her beloved Carlo, an impoverished artist. She is too late, but finds a bouquet of flowers that he has left for her. She sings ecstatically of her love and her hope for a happy future with him.

***Le docteur Miracle* (1857) Georges Bizet**
Libretto by Léon Battu and Ludovic Halévy (1838-1875)

Aria – “Je sais monter”
Pasquin (also Capitaine Silvio/Docteur Miracle)
The Mayor – Zachary Reinert
Laurette – Madison Myers

Captain Silvio is in love with the Mayor’s daughter, Laurette, but her father has an aversion for anything or anyone military. Silvio disguises himself and arrives as Pasquin, man of all trades, to assist in the household. The Mayor is impressed with Pasquin’s talents, and hires him on the spot.

***Un ballo in Maschera* (1859). Giuseppe Verdi**
Libretto by Antonio Somma (1813-1901)

Aria – “Saper vorreste”
Oscar – Rebekah Beebe
Renato – Carrick O’Bleness
Partygoers – All singers in the program

Renato, the king’s Prime Minister and a secret conspirator against the government, is trying to find the king so he can assassinate him. Oscar, the king’s page, knows nothing of the plot, and is having a great time at the masked ball. When Renato asks Oscar what costume the king is wearing, Oscar sassily tells him he cannot reveal the secret.

INTERMISSION

La Périchole (1868)**Jacques Offenbach**
Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy (1819-1880)

Aria – “Ah! quel diner!”

La Périchole – Brenna Donnelly

The Three Cousins

Guadalena – Vaysia Knust

Berginella – Rebekah Beebe

Mastrilla – Denise Weigand

First Notary – Zachary Reinert

Second Notary – Nathan Le

Don Pedro de Hinoyosa (Mayor of Lima) – Carrick O’Bleness

Don Andrés de Ribera (Viceroy of Peru) – Jack Grant

Wedding Guests – All singers in the program

The Viceroy, enchanted by Périchole’s beauty, has offered her a position as a Lady-in-Waiting in his court. She has agreed, even though she suspects his ulterior motive. As the law states that all Ladies-in-Waiting must be married, a marriage ceremony is quickly organized. All the hangers-on in the court gather for the wedding, saying they wish to be entertained (and not have to pay for their drinks). The two notaries enter with great pomp, and everyone waits for the bride to appear. Périchole enters, completely tipsy (having been plied with drink by the Viceroy).

A Midsummer Night’s Dream (1960)**Benjamin Britten**
Libretto by the composer and Peter Pears, after Shakespeare (1913-1976)

Aria – “Asleep, my love?”

Thisbe (Flute, a bellows-mender) – Nathan Le

Pyramus (Bottom, a weaver) – Carrick O’Bleness

The play-within-a-play, *Pyramus and Thisbe*, is part of the wedding celebration for the marriage of Duke Theseus of Athens to Hyppolyta, Queen of the Amazons. The local tradesmen have re-written the story and created their own costumes, props, etc. In this aria, Thisbe arrives, and discovers her lover, Pyramus, already dead, and so kills herself.

È morta (1842)**Gaetano Donizetti**
Text by Carlo Guaita

Song – “È morta”

Soprano – Haley Mesz

This song is a short, dramatic scene. The singer describes their grief at losing their beloved. “Yesterday she was there, her eyes flashing. Today she is dead, and heaven has gained a new angel.”

Le nozze di Figaro (1786)**W. A. Mozart**
Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte

Aria – “Se vuol ballare”

Figaro – Carrick O’Bleness

Figaro has just learned from his fiancée, Susanna, that Count Almaviva desires to make her his secret mistress. Figaro declares that he will teach the Count how to dance to Figaro's tune.

Mignon (1866) **Ambroise Thomas**
Libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré (1811-1896)
Based on Goethe's *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre*

Aria – “Adieu, Mignon”
Wilhelm Meister – Zachary Reinert
Mignon – Kate Wyman

Mignon has come to this German village with a band of gypsies, who have taken her from her family and homeland. Wilhelm has been exceedingly kind to Mignon, and she in turn, has begun to truly love him. Wilhelm has decided to leave the village with Philine, a traveling actress, and he says good-bye to a tearful Mignon.

Peter Grimes (1947) **Benjamin Britten**
Libretto by Montagu Slater (1714-1787)

Aria – “Embroidery”
Ellen Orford – Denise Weigand

Ellen Orford is one of the only people in the seaside village who is kind to the fisherman Peter Grimes. Grimes takes on young boys to apprentice with him, and the previous one has recently died at sea. The townspeople suspect Grimes of cruelty and mistreatment. Ellen has assisted in getting him a new apprentice, and she has helped provide clothing for the boy, including an embroidered sweater she made. On this morning, Ellen discovers the sweater washed up on the shore, and she knows the boy is dead.

Hamlet (1868) **Ambroise Thomas**
Libretto by Michel Carré and Jules Barbier

Aria – “À vos jeux, mes amis... Partagez-vous, mes fleurs”
Ophelia – Madison Myers

Ophelia, having gone mad after Hamlet spurned her, lives out a fantasy scene and ends by drowning herself.

Special Thanks To:

Nancy Lamb
Lucy Urlacher
Peter Miyamoto

MU Voice Faculty:
Steven Jepson
Christine Seitz
Kyle Stegall
Steve Tharp

MU School of Music
Dr. Julia Gaines, Director

Staff:
Brooke Danielsen
Patricia Garmon
Joanna Griffith
Ben Harting
David Myers

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

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. Rebekah recently sang in the chorus in Show-Me Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.

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. Brenna recently sang the role of Second Woman in Show-Me Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.

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. Jourdan recently sang the role Don Curzio in Show-Me Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.

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 sang the role of Antonio in Show-Me Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*, and he 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.

Wendy Kleintank, soprano, is originally from North Manchester, Indiana, and her current home is in Sedalia, Missouri. She has been playing the violin for 14 years and started taking vocal lessons in her last two years of high school. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in violin and voice at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she studies violin with Eva Szekely and voice with Christine Seitz. She is currently a member of the University Philharmonic under the direction of Stephen Rogers Radcliffe, and she is also a member of the University Singers, under the direction of R. Paul Crabb. At age 12 Wendy joined the Manchester University Orchestra in North Manchester, Indiana, and three years later, she joined the Huntington University Orchestra in Huntington, Indiana. After attending the Esterhazy String Quartet Seminar for two years, she was offered the opportunity to study with Eva Szekely. At 16 Wendy started studying at the University of Missouri, taking violin lessons with Eva Szekely, participating in studio class, taking chamber music, and becoming a member of the Mizzou University Philharmonic Orchestra. She has performed with the Mizzou University Philharmonic Orchestra at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, has presented a solo recital at The Honeywell House, and her string quartet has participated in a masterclass with Michael Stern at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. She has also won first place for the senior strings division at the MMTA State Competition, and she has performed with many orchestras and ensembles including the Missouri Symphony Orchestra, The Columbia Civic Orchestra, and The Chamber Soloists. Wendy founded the Alainn Ceol Quartet, which has performed at various locations in Sedalia. In the summer of 2021, she was accepted to the National Youth Orchestra, playing concerts with them at Carnegie Hall.

Vaysia Knust, soprano, is originally from Kansas City, Missouri, but is now a freshman earning a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance 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. Vaysia recently sang in the chorus in Show-Me Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.

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 roles of Basilio in *Le nozze di Figaro*, 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*.

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 has appeared with the Show-Me Opera, singing 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 Universi-

ty Singers and singing soprano in Nathan Lang's Ars Nova ensemble. Haley recently sang the role of Second Woman in Show-Me Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.

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 (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 Rasetti, and earned the Gabino Barrera 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 Rodriguez. 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.

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.

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 Basilio in the Spring 2022 production of *Le nozze di Figaro* (Mozart), and he sang Dr. Caius in the Spring 2021 production of *Falstaff* (Verdi) as well. Joel currently studies voice with Kyle Stegall.

Samuel 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 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. Sam recently sang the role Don Curzio in Show-Me Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.

Denise Weigand, soprano, is from Winston, Missouri. She is currently a student at the University of Missouri-Columbia pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music studying voice with Prof. Christine Seitz. She has previously received a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Central Methodist University. She is a past member of the University Singers and current member of Show-Me Opera. She sang the role of First Lady in *The Magic Flute*, and she has been in the chorus of *La bohème*, *Alcina*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Die Zauberflöte*, and many other past operetta productions. Denise recently covered the role of the Countess and served as Stage Manager in Show-Me Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.

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. Kate recently sang the role of First Woman in Show-Me Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.