



School of Music
University of Missouri

2022-2023 Series | Student Ensemble

Show-Me Opera
Christine Seitz, Director

A Program of Opera Scenes

Including the World Premiere of *Sunflower Radio*
Music By MU Student Composer Morima
Libretto by Anna Ralls-Ulrich

Zachary Kierstead and Tenson Liang, collaborative pianists
David Myers, Audio and Video production
Eliza Brooks, Lighting
Zhuoqiong He, Supertitle cueing

Friday, November 11 and Saturday, November 12, 2022
7:00PM
Sheryl Crow Hall

Program

***Love in a Village* (1760)** **Isaac Bickerstaff and Thomas Arne**
Act II Trio (1733-1808) (1710-1778)

Rosetta – Elise Cressey (F), Maya Anand (S)
Lucinda – Brenna Donnelly (F), Kennedy Kinnick (S)
Hawthorn – Jourdan Flores (F), Samuel Varnon (S)

***Ariadne auf Naxos* (1912)** **Richard Strauss**
Act I Trio (1864-1949)

Najade – Caitlin Kenney (F), Wendy Kleintank (S), Maya Anand (cover)
Dryade – Tara Boydston (F), Faith Fullen (S)
Echo – Amanda Obeso (F), Chloe Prewett (S), Vaysia Knust (cover)

***Sunflower Radio* (2022 – World Premier)** **Morima**
Libretto by Anna Ralls-Ulrich (b 2002)

Icarus – Holden Franklin
Apollo – Yonathan T. Astatke

Instrumental Ensemble:
Violin I – Alexandre Negrão
Violin II – Evan Wilde
Viola – Jojo O
Cello – Jiae Lee
Synth Bass – Greg Johnson
Toy Piano and Tapes – Morima
Conductor – Nathan Lange

INTERMISSION

***La clemenza di Tito* (1791)** **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**
Act I #11 & #12 (1756-1791)

Sesto – Lucas Gonzaga da Silva (F), Rachel Misner (S), Tara Boydston and Dani Major (covers)
Annio – Kennedy Kinnick (F), Megan S. Lyon (S)
Servilia – Sophie Heimerl (F), Kate Wyman (S), Angela Colombo (cover)
Publio – Jonathan Crader (F), Henry Braeske (S)
Vitellia – Haley Mesz (F), Jessica Scarce (S), Steffi Roche (cover)
CHORUS – ALL CLASS MEMBERS

Giulio Cesare (1724) **George Frideric Handel**
Act I Duet (1685-1759)

Sesto – Dani Major (F), Rachel Misner (S)
Cornelia – Tara Boydston (F), Faith Fullen (S)
Supers – Jonathan Crader, Ethan Miller

La fille du régiment (1840) **Gaetano Donizetti**
Act II, Trio (1797-1848)

Marie – Caitlin Kenney (F), Kate Wyman (S), Vaysia Knust (cover)
Tonio – Zachary Reinert (F), Nathan Le (S), Jourdan Flores (cover)
Sulpice – Jonathan Crader (F), Ethan Miller (S), Jonathan Edens (cover)

Un ballo in maschera (1859) **Giuseppe Verdi**
Act III sc. i Quartet and Quintet (1813-1901)

Renato – Yonathan T. Astatke (F), Carrick Joseph O’Bleness (S)
Sam – Henry Braeske
Tom – Ethan Miller
Amelia – Mariah Dale (F), Maddie Jenkins (S), Jessica Scarce (cover)
Oscar – Lucas Gonzaga da Silva (F), Rebekah Beebe (S), Amanda Obeso (cover)

Die Fledermaus (1874) **Johann Strauss, Jr.**
Act II Excerpt (1825-1899)

Prince Orlofsky – Brenna Donnelly (F), Rachel Misner (S), Megan S. Lyon and Dani Major (covers)
Eisenstein – Zachary Reinert (F), Jack Grant (S), Jourdan Flores (cover)
Adele – Sophie Heimerl (F), Rebekah Beebe (S), Elise Cressey (cover)
Frank – Jonathan Crader (F), Henry Braeske (S), Ethan Miller (cover)
Falke – Jonathan Edens (F), Carrick Joseph O’Bleness (S)
Rosalinde – Steffi Roche (F), Chloe Prewett (S), Haley Mesz (cover)
Ida – Amanda Obeso (F), Angela Colombo (S)
CHORUS – ALL CLASS MEMBERS

La Rondine (1917) **Giacomo Puccini**
Act II Quartet (1858-1924)

Ruggero – Zachary Reinert (F), Nathan Le (S), Jack Grant (cover)
Magda – Mariah Dale (F), Maddie Jenkins (S), Steffi Roche (cover)
Lisette – Vaysia Knust (F), Wendy Kleintank (S), Kate Wyman (cover)
Prunier – Nathan Le (F), Zachary Reinert (S), Samuel Varnon (cover)
CHORUS – ALL CLASS MEMBERS

Thank you:
Peter Miyamoto
Lucy Urlacher
Christina Ray
Kyle Stegall
Steven Tharp

Cast Biographies

Maya Anand, soprano, is from Saint Louis, Missouri and is currently a sophomore at the University of Missouri. She is a dual major, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Journalism. She studies voice with Christina Ray. Anand has also studied Indian classical voice and has given several concerts in her hometown, as well as in India.

Ethiopian-American baritone **Yonathan T. Astatke** is from Kansas City, MO. Yoni is in his final year of Voice study at the University of Missouri, and is a student of Professor Kyle Stegall. As a member of Show-Me Opera at the University of Missouri, he has sung the roles of Il Conte (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Ford (*Falstaff*), and Samuel (*Pirates of Penzance*). He has also performed in scenes with Show-Me Opera as Hamlet (Thomas's *Hamlet*), Simon Boccanegra (*Simon Boccanegra*), Ophémon (*L'amant anonyme*), Stubbs (Heggie's *Moby Dick*), and Masetto (*Don Giovanni*). For musical theater credits, Yoni performed the role of Alex (*Madagascar: A Musical Adventure*) with Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theater at the University of Missouri. Also, with Bernard Campbell Theater, he performed the roles of Chuck Cranston (*Footloose*), Clopin Trouillefou (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*), and Sebastian (*The Little Mermaid*). Yoni is a 2023 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition District qualifier. Yoni recently won First Place in Classical and Fourth Place in Musical Theatre at the Central Region NATS Competition, and he was a NATS National Student Audition semifinalist for the classical and musical theater categories in 2022 and 2021, respectively. Yoni is very adamant about continuing the decolonization of classical music. He is a fierce advocate for young artists like himself who belong to marginalized identities to be treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve all across the board. He believes that this is the path towards keeping classical music sustainable for future generations.

Rebekah Beebe, soprano, is from Liberty, Missouri and is now studying as a sophomore at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and studying under Christine Seitz. She is a member of the Show-Me Opera under the direction of Christine Seitz. She was a chorus member in *Le nozze di Figaro* in 2022, and she performed "Saper vorreste" by Giuseppe Verdi in The Staged Arias program in 2022. She is a member of the University Singers under the direction of R. Paul Crabb. She was a member of the 2021 Missouri All-State Choir.

Tara Boydston, mezzo-soprano, is from Kansas City, Missouri. She is a senior attending the University of Missouri for Vocal Performance and Psychology, studying under Prof. Christine Seitz. She is also a member of MU's University Singers, with director Paul R. Crabb, as well as the Show-Me Opera program. She has sung many roles, including Marcellina from Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Bradamante from Handel's *Alcina*. She 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 year.

Henry Braeske, bass, is a student in Chemical Engineering and Vocal Performance who has been singing with Show-Me Opera for several years, performing the roles of Figaro in *Le nozze di Figaro*, 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.

Angela Colombo, soprano, is a freshman at University of Missouri from St. Louis, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. She is currently a member of Show-Me Opera directed by Christine Seitz and is now studying voice under Lucas da Silva, previously studying under the direction of Brenda Bailey and Sam Revilla. She has performed the roles of Amy March in *Little Women* and Lily St. Regis in *Annie* and was a member of the 2022 Missouri All-State Choir conducted by Dr. Michael Joseph Barrett.

Jonathan Crader is from Columbia, Missouri, and studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is currently completing a second degree, the Bachelor of Arts in Music, while studying voice under Professor Kyle Stegall. He is currently developing his knowledge of opera in the MU Show-Me Opera productions, where he has performed as Bartolo in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, and excerpts as Dr. Cajus in Nicolai's *The 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* and 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 Professor Stegall's direction, and further developing his work as a solo performer.

Elise Cressey, soprano, is from Kansas City, Missouri and is a transfer student at the University of Missouri. She is pursuing a BA in music, as well as double majoring in Communications. She is studying voice with Christina Ray and has also performed in a variety of shows. Some of her favorite roles performed have been Ella in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, the Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Mrs Mayor in *Seussical*. She competed at state festivals for solo and ensemble throughout her high school years, receiving superior "1" ratings throughout, as well as being in the 2019 Missouri All State Choir.

Mariah Dale, soprano, from Columbia, MO is currently a senior music major at the University of Missouri, where she studies with Christine Seitz. She has previously worked with The Missouri Symphony Society in their productions of *Carmen* in 2019 and *La Bohème* in 2018, the university's Bach Collegium Choir, Hitt St. Harmony Jazz Ensemble, University Singers, and the Show-Me Opera. In her time at Mizzou, Mariah has studied and performed a variety of characters including Amelia from Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, Fiordiligi and Despina from Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Susanna from Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Blanche de la Force from Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, First Lady and Pamina in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Clorinda from Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, the title character of Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, and Donna Elvira from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Mariah won first place in the Classical Division at the 2022 Central Region NATS Competition. She was a Mizzou Emerging Artist Finalist in the Spring of 2021, she won the upper division of the MNTA Collegiate Voice Auditions in November 2021, and she was a semifinalist in the Central Regional NATS singing competition in 2019, 2018, and 2017. She previously assisted in leading worship at Missouri United Methodist Church and has been a scholarship singer at First Baptist Church in Columbia since 2020. In April of 2021 Mariah performed Alice Ford in Verdi's *Falstaff* with the university's Show-Me Opera program, and in March of 2022 performed the role of La Contessa Almaviva in the program's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.

Brenna Donnelly, mezzo-soprano, is a senior at the University of Missouri who hails from Wichita, KS. Ms. Donnelly is a double major, pursuing a Bachelor of the Arts in Music as well as a Bachelor of Journalism. Ms. Donnelly is studying voice with Steven Tharp and is a member of Show-Me Opera under the direction of Christine Seitz. Most recently, Ms. Donnelly has been seen in Show Me-Opera's staged arias in 2022, performing the Griserie Ariette from *La Perichole*. She has played roles such as: Miles from *Turn of the Screw* and Suor Osmina from *Suor Angelica* in Show-Me Opera's 2020 Opera Scenes performance. Ms. Donnelly also covered the role of Cherubino in Show-Me Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.

Jonathan Edens, tenor, is currently a junior pursuing a BM in Vocal Music Education at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is originally from Liberty, Missouri. He is a vocal student of Professor Steven Tharp and has been a member of both the University Singers for three years, directed by Dr. R. Paul Crabb, and the University Glee Club for four years, directed by Dr. Brandon Boyd. He serves as President of the University Singers, as well as holding section leader positions in the University Glee Club and his church choir at First Disciples of Christ. He has also been involved with other ensembles in the Columbia area such as Ars Nova, the Columbia Community Chorale and Cambiare Youth Chorus. In the past, he has portrayed the roles of Le Fou in *Beauty and the Beast* and Harry Bright in *Mamma Mia!*, and in the future, Jonathan hopes to build and guide future musicians as a secondary level vocal music educator.

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 has only been in Opera on campus for a short time, but has already been in several performances, including singing the role of Don Curzio in the Spring 2022 production of *Le nozze di Figaro*. Another favorite role was Slender in Opera Scenes in Fall 2021. He was also in several performances during his high school years.

Holden Franklin recently graduated from the University of Missouri in Columbia with his BA in music composition where he studied under Dr. Stefan Freund, Dr. Yoshiaki Onishi, and Dr. Carolina Heredia. He has had pieces performed by many prestigious groups such as the Saint Louis Symphony, Khemia Ensemble, Quatour Diotima, and Mizzou New Music Ensemble. Along with Holden's compositional endeavors, he also studied voice at the university with Prof. Steven Tharp for solo voice, Dr. Paul Crabb for choral singing, and Prof. Christine Seitz for operatic singing. He has performed in operas such as Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*, Verdi's *Falstaff*, and many other roles in opera scenes.

Faith Fullen, mezzo-soprano, is from Columbus, Ohio, and is currently a first-year graduate student at the University of Missouri. Having received her Bachelor's of Music in Music Industry from Capital University, Ms. Fullen is now pursuing her Master's in Vocal Performance. Ms. Fullen is a current section leader of the University of Missouri's University Singers, and studies voice under Kyle Stegall. Most recently, Ms. Fullen has been seen in the roles of Joy from Roger's and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, Dr. Alexander Manette in Jill Santoriello's *A Tale of Two Cities*, and she covered the role of Lucille in Jason Robert Brown's *Parade*.

Lucas Gonzaga da Silva, soprano, is from São Paulo, Brazil and is currently a graduate student at the University of Missouri. Gonzaga holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and is pursuing a Master of Music in vocal performance. He studies voice with Steven Tharp and is a member of the Show-Me-Opera under the direction of Christine Seitz. He is a former singer at São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra (OSESF) Academic Choir at Sala São Paulo, Brazil.

Jack Grant, tenor, is in his third undergraduate year at the University of Missouri-Columbia studying Music Education. An active member in the School of Music, Jack is the music director for the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity, as well as director of the Canticum Novum chamber choir, a premier student-led undergraduate chamber ensemble in the state of Missouri. He is currently a member of the University Singers and Mizzou Glee Club, directed by Dr. R. Paul Crabb and Dr. Brandon A. Boyd respectively. He was previously a member of the Fort Zumwalt South chamber choir led directed by Jason Martin and asst. Christopher Loftin, which was a featured performing ensemble at MMEA in January of 2020. Over the course of his high school career, Jack has been 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 these high-level ensembles, Jack has also received gold and silver ratings in both solo and ensemble categories at the MSHSA state solo/ensemble festival held at the University of Missouri-Columbia. 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*. Since beginning college, Jack has transferred this passion for performance onto works in the Show-Me Opera program, performing in choruses for opera scenes and a full-length production of *Falstaff*. He also has held scene rolls as Laurie in *Little Women*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, and Antonio in a full-length production of *Le nozze di Figaro*. Jack intends to finish his degree and perform for a few years, and then teach as a high school music teacher in the public school system.

Sophie Heimerl, soprano, comes from Naperville, Illinois, and is presently a junior vocal music education major at the University of Missouri. She sings in Show-Me Opera under the direction of Christine Seitz and University Singers, the school's auditioned choir, and she studies privately with voice professor Steven Tharp. She has performed in the chorus of the opera program's productions of *Falstaff* and *Le nozze di Figaro*.

Previous achievements include being in the 2020 ILMEA Honors All-State Choir, and performing in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's *Merry, Merry Chicago!* Annual Christmas concert.

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 including 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 season as a scholarship singer for Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Columbia, Missouri and just finished a run as the music director for a production of *Cinderella* in the Black Hills of South Dakota. You can find her teaching voice and piano lessons at Palen Music Center along with accompanying Columbia Youth Choirs. Maddie is currently studying under the directions of Dr. R. Paul Crabb and Professor Christine Seitz.

Caitlin Kenney, soprano, is from Kansas City, Missouri. She is a senior at the University of Missouri-Columbia working towards earning her Bachelor of Arts in Music as well as minoring in Education and Human Development and Family Sciences. She is a vocal student studying under Professor Kyle Stegall. She has spent three years as a member of the Show-Me Opera with roles including Barbarina in *Le nozze di Figaro*, 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*, and Isabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*. Her choral work includes The University Singers under Dr. R. Paul Crabb and the Mizzou Treble Choir under Professor Emily Edgington Andrews.

Zachary Kierstead is a collaborative pianist working within the Columbia area. After receiving his Master of Music in Piano Performance at the University of Missouri-Columbia, he is now an adjunct instructor at MU and accompanies several ensembles: University Singers, Choral Union, and the Show-Me Opera. He also works with numerous vocal and instrumental students, playing for undergraduate and graduate degree recitals, competitions, as well as any other of the various needs of the school's music students. Zachary works outside of MU as well and will be traveling with the Central Methodist University Chorale in their Fall Tour around Missouri, as well as playing several additional concerts with the ensemble. Outside of his work with college institutions, he regularly performs with area high schools in district competitions and individual concerts, accompanies local instrumental studio recitals, and performs with traveling guest artists in professional recitals. Additionally, he plays for Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and is an associate accompanist at Missouri United Methodist Church.

Kennedy Kinnick, mezzo-soprano, is from Raymore, Missouri and is a freshman at the University of Missouri. Kennedy is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. They are also involved in University Singers and currently study voice with Kyle Stegall. They recently won first place in Classical at the Fall 2022 Central Region NATS Competition. Kennedy has performed the roles of Winnifred the Woebegone in *Once Upon A Mattress* and Ariel Moore in *Footloose The Musical*. They also received superior "1" ratings on all of their solos at the state solo and ensemble festival and were a two-year member of the Missouri All-State Choir.

Wendy Kleintank, soprano, is originally from North Manchester, Indiana, and her current home is in Sedalia, Missouri. She has been playing the violin for 15 years and started taking vocal lessons in her last year 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, as assistant concertmaster. 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, playing with the Chamber Soloists, 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, an Honorable Mention at the Odyssey Concerto and Aria competition on voice, and an Honorable Mention at the MMTA State Competition on voice. Wendy also founded the Alaiinn Ceol Quartet, which has performed at various locations in Sedalia and Columbia. In the summer of 2021, she was accepted into the National Youth Orchestra, playing concerts with them at Carnegie Hall. Wendy was soprano soloist for the Farnham and Byas Playhouse production of Handel's *Messiah* and was asked to sing with the Manchester Symphony Choir at Carnegie Hall in the Spring of 2022. She was also asked to perform for a masterclass at Carnegie Hall for members of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in the fall of 2022.

Vaysia Knust, soprano, is a sophomore at the University of Missouri-Columbia and hails from Kansas City, MO. Vaysia is currently pursuing her Bachelors in Music with a focus in Vocal Performance. She has been a member of the University of Missouri's Show-Me Opera, University Singers, Concert Chorale, and University Treble Choir. Vaysia currently studies voice under Professor Christine Seitz, with previous instruction from Lori Pinnell and Sarah Haskins. In recent years, Vaysia has performed as *Baby Doe* from *The Ballad of Baby Doe* in the Show-Me Opera's Staged Arias performance, and was as a chorus member in Show-Me Opera's *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*.

Tenson Liang, collaborative piano, was born in Taipei, Taiwan, and began his piano studies at the age of five. After he got a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in Taiwan, his passion for piano then brought him to Peabody Conservatory in 2016. He has won several awards, which include 1st prize of the National Taiwan Mandarin Daily News Piano Competition, Gold medal of the National Taiwan Young-Artist Piano Competition, Finalist of the International Wideman Piano Competition and West Virginia International Piano Competition. He has studied piano with Gwhyneth Chen, Brian Ganz and Alon Goldstein. Now he is studying at Mizzou with Peter Miyamoto, where he is pursuing a Master's degree in Piano Performance.

Megan S. Lyon, mezzo-soprano, is from Independence, Missouri. She is in her fourth year at the University of Missouri, pursuing a B.M. in Vocal Music Education and a minor in Spanish. She is a proud student of Steven Tharp. In high school, she was a member of the auditioned chamber choir and played Little Red in *Into the Woods*. Since coming to Mizzou, she has participated in many choral ensembles, including University Singers, Concert Chorale, Ars Nova, Canticum Novum, and Hitt St Harmony. Megan has been working as a Scholarship Singer at Missouri United Methodist Church since Fall 2021, under the direction of Nathan Lange. This semester, she is excited to begin her position as Administrative Assistant for Columbia Youth Choirs to further her conducting experience and work with amazing people in the area. This is her first semester in the Show-Me Opera program, and she is looking forward to learning about this genre of classical music, and most importantly, performing with her friends.

Dani Major, mezzo soprano, comes from Platte City, Missouri. They are a first-year master's student pursuing an MA in Theatre at the University of Missouri. Dani recently graduated with a BA in music from Mizzou in August, and during their time at the university they have been a member of Mizzou's University Singers,

Show-Me Opera, and Canticum Novum in addition to being a scholarship singer at Missouri United Methodist Church. They have appeared as Mistress Quickly in Show-Me Opera's production of *Falstaff* by Verdi, Cherubino in Mizzou's recent spring 2022 production of *Le nozze di Figaro* by Mozart, and Maureen Johnson in Mizzou Theatre's recent production of *Rent*. They recently won first place in Musical Theatre and second place in Classical at the Central Region NATS Competition.

Haley Mesz, soprano, is from Lee's Summit, Missouri and is currently a junior 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 been singing with the Show-Me Opera, covering the role of Marcellina in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, performing the roles of Orfeo from Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Romilda in Handel's *Serse*, soprano in the chorus of *Iolanthe* by Gilbert and Sullivan, and soprano in the chorus of Verdi's *Falstaff*. In high school, Haley performed in a few shows including portraying the role of Urleen in *Footloose* and Miss Phillips in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. 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 local NATS competition the past two fall semesters, receiving honorable mention, and has been involved in ensembles here at Mizzou including singing alto in Dr. R. Paul Crabb's University Singers and singing soprano in Nathan Lange's Ars Nova ensemble.

Ethan Miller, bass-baritone, is a senior at the University of Missouri. He is a Columbia native pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and a minor in Health Wellness. Mr. Miller is part of both University of Missouri's Glee Club and also Show-Me Opera, and currently studies under Christina Ray, previously studying under Steven Jepson. Most recently Mr. Miller took part in Lawrence Opera Theatre's (LOT) production of *La Cenerentola* as the understudy for Don Magnifico. Ethan has also played Antonio in *Le nozze di Figaro* and has been a chorus member in *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Falstaff*, all produced by Show-Me Opera.

Rachel Misner, mezzo-soprano, is from Chesterfield, Missouri, and is currently in her fourth year at the University of Missouri. She is pursuing a B.M. in Vocal Performance, and will be graduating in May 2024. She has studied voice with Professor Kyle Stegall, and under his guidance, received honorable mentions in both the Classical and Musical Theater divisions of the NATS competition in 2020. She is now studying with Professor Steven Tharp, and recently won first place in Musical Theatre and third place in Classical at the Central Region NATS competition. She is planning a recital for the end of this semester. 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. During Summer 2021, she was cast in Mizzou's Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theater, her first musical theater 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*, played Meg Page in *Falstaff* as a sophomore, and most recently performed the role of Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*. This past summer, she had the opportunity to travel to New York to participate in the NYU Summer Study in Musical Theater, working with artists such as Justin John Moniz, Rona Siddiqui, and Natalie Weiss.

Morima is the composer of Sunflower Radio, with librettist Anna Ralls-Ulrich. Morima is a cellist from St. Louis, Missouri. He is a junior Sinquefeld Scholar at the University of Missouri and is studying for a Bachelor's of Music with emphasis in music composition. Morima takes inspiration from many composers, from Monteverdi to Mitski and many in between. From his pop influenced drum beats to his classically inspired soundscapes, Morima combines current and past to create a new musical language.

Carrick Joseph O'Bleness, bass-baritone, comes from Kansas City, Missouri and has been participating in

vocal music since his junior year of high school. Now a fourth-year student under Professor Kyle Stegall, he is working toward a BA in Music and a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus area in Ethnomusicology. Carrick covered the role of Figaro in W. A. Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, later showcasing the titular bass's witty and scheming aria "Se vuol ballare" in the Staged Arias program. Alongside Opera Workshop, he is a member of the University Singers large ensemble choir and the Hitt Street Harmony vocal jazz choir. He has recently assumed the positions of President & Co-Director of Canticum Novum, Mizzou's Premiere Student-Led Chamber Ensemble. He also serves as the Chair of the Service & Outreach Committee of the Zeta chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Amanda Obeso, soprano, is from Nixa, Missouri and is currently a senior studying at the University of Missouri, 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 has also performed 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 Barbarina in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Edith in *Pirates of Penzance*, Léontine in *L'amant anonyme*, Anne in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and cover for Oscar in *Un ballo in maschera*. 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 and is the recipient of the 2022 Robert J. Schwegman and William and Stella Pommer Awards, each awarded to high achieving voice students.

Chloe Prewett, soprano, from Cairo, Missouri is currently a senior at the University of Missouri and is working towards getting her Bachelor's degree in Music Education. She studies voice under Professor Kyle Stegall and is a member of the Show-Me Opera under Christine Seitz. Chloe has received superior "1" ratings at the Missouri State Solo and Ensemble Festival in both voice and horn performance.

Anna Ralls-Ulrich, librettist for *Sunflower Radio*, is a Columbia native who grew up singing and playing violin, flute, and piano as part of a large, musical family. They later focused on vocal training during their undergraduate work at Columbia College, where they earned a Bachelor of Arts in English. Their first play, *when i open my mouth*, premiered in 2017. Their poetry, fiction, and nonfiction works have been published in *Contrary*, *Atticus*, *Hawai'i Review*, and *Colorado Review*, among others, and have been nominated for Best of the Net and the Pushcart Prize. Anna holds a Master of Studies in Creative Writing from Oxford University, where they wrote a full-length stage play as a part of their thesis. *Sunflower Radio* is their first libretto.

Zachary Reinert, tenor, is a trained vocalist with a background in Musical Theatre. 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. Zachary sang the role of Dr. Caius in Show-Me Opera's production of *Falstaff*, and in 2020 he played 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.

Christine Seitz, Stage Director, is Teaching Professor of Music and 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.

SOPRANO STEFFI ROCHE HAS A STRONG PERFORMING ARTS BACKGROUND. SHE HAS PERFORMED AT THE DETROIT INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL SINCE THE AGE OF 10, AND SHE PERFORMED IN FIVE OPERAS WITH THE MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE. SHE WAS A DISNEY SCRIPT TESTER WITH ITHEATRICALS IN NYC, HAD LEAD ROLES IN HIGH SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS AT DETROIT COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL, WAS THE OPENING ACT FOR REGIS PHILBIN AT AGE 12, AND RECENTLY PERFORMED AT THE PHOENIX ARTS CLUB IN LONDON'S WEST END. SHE ALSO WAS A VOICE ACTOR FOR A "DILIGEND" COMMERCIAL IN LONDON. STEFFI PERFORMED WITH SHOW-ME OPERA IN THEIR FALL 2021 SCENES PROGRAM, SINGING THE ROLE OF LADY BILLOWS IN *ALBERT HERRING*.

Jessica Scarce is a soprano from Gower, MO. Currently she is a junior 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 degree in Music. She is studying with Christine Seitz and is currently a member of the Show-Me Opera, where she has performed in the chorus of both *Falstaff* and *Le nozze di Figaro*. In addition, she has received honorable mention from the Missouri Music Teachers Association competition. Also, she did several productions with the East Buchanan High School Theater, and she performed in the Missouri All-State Honor Choir during high school.

Sam Varnon, tenor, is from Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He is currently a junior 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 sang the role of Don Curzio in last year's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*, and he has sung the roles of Slender in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Colin in *L'amant anonyme* in opera scenes programs. He is also a member of University Singers. In 2021, he placed first in the MMTA voice competition in the undergraduate lower category, and he was a semifinalist in the Central Region NATS competition in the lower classical division. This summer, he was selected to participate in New York University's Classical Voice Intensive.

Kate Wyman, soprano, is from Dexter, Missouri. She is currently a senior at the University of Missouri 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. In 2020, Kate was named as a semi-finalist in the Mid-Missouri Central Region NATS competition in the art song category. Wyman was a chorus member in the Show-Me Opera's 2021 production of *Falstaff*, and most recently, she sang one of the Due Donne in the Show-Me Opera's 2022 production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.