



**School of Music**  
University of Missouri

2023-2024 Series | Large Ensemble

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**Show-Me Opera**  
**Christine Seitz, Director**  
**A Program of Opera Scenes**

**Ludwing Espindola and Jinhong Yoo, collaborative pianists**

**Eliza Brooks, Lighting**

**Maggie Hosking and Sarah Young, Supertitle cueing**

**Friday, November 10 and Saturday, November 11, 2023**

**7:00PM**

**Sheryl Crow Hall**

## Program

***The Tender Land (1954)* . . . . . Aaron Copland**  
Libretto by Horace Everett (1900-1990)  
Act II excerpt “Stomp Your Foot”

1st Man – Carter Thiemann  
2nd Man – Aidan Gildehaus  
Party Guests – All Class Members

Maya Anand, Wendy Kleintank, violin

***L'incoronazione di Poppea (1643)* . . . . . Claudio Monteverdi**  
Libretto by Giovan Francesco Busenello (1567-1643)  
Act I Prologue

Fortuna – Katie Jones, Aubri Stewart, Karma Vaughn  
Virtù – Kelsey Hale, Chong He, Ruth McCarron  
Amor– Emmaline Brown, Megan S. Lyon, Kaitlin Oliver

***Così fan tutte (1790)* . . . . . Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte (1756-1791)  
Act II Recitative and #23 Duet

Dorabella – Kampbell Hemeyer (F), Molly Symmonds (S)  
Guglielmo – Ivan Carmona (F), Aidan Gildehaus (S)

***Hansel and Gretel (1893)* . . . . . Engelbert Humperdinck**  
Libretto by Adelheid Wette (1854-1921)  
Act II excerpt

Gretel – Grace Gard (F), Katie Jones (S), Karma Vaughn (cover)  
Hansel – Megan S. Lyon (F), Kennedy Kinnick (S), Kaitlin Oliver (cover)  
Sandman – Aryahna Le Grand (F), Aubri Stewart (S), Chong He (cover)

***I Capuletti e i Montecchi (1830)* . . . . . Vincenzo Bellini**  
Libretto by Felice Romani (1801-1835)  
Act I #5 Recitative and Duet

Giulietta – Haley Mesz (F), Wendy Kleintank (S)  
Romeo – Lucas Gonzaga da Silva (F), Rachel Misner (S)

## INTERMISSION

***Don Carlo (1867)* . . . . . Giuseppe Verdi**  
Libretto by Francois Joseph Méry and Camille du Locle (1813-1901)  
Act II sc. 2 excerpt

Princess Eboli – Tara Boydston (F), Molly Symmonds (cover)  
Tebaldo – Grace Gard (F), Elise Cressey (S), Aryahna Le Grand (cover)

Ladies of the Court: Maya Anand, Tara Boydston (S), Emmaline Brown, Elise Cressey (F),  
Grace Gard (S), Kelsey Hale, Chong He, Kampbell Hemeyer, Katie Jones, Kennedy Kinnick,  
Wendy Kleintank, Vaysia Knust, Aryahna Le Grand, Megan S. Lyon, Ruth McCarron, Haley,  
Rachel Misner, Kaitlin Oliver, Jessica Scarce, Aubri Stewart, Molly Symmonds, Karma Vaughn

***Don Giovanni (1787)*.....W. A. Mozart**

Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte  
Act I Recitative and #7 Duettino

Zerlina – Elise Cressey  
Don Giovanni – Ja’wan Footman (F), Carter Thiemann (S)

***Die Fledermaus (1874)* ..... Johann Strauss II**

Libretto by Carl Haffner and Richard Genée (1825-1899)  
Act I #2 Trio

Rosalinde – Jessica Scarce  
Eisenstein – Andrew Smith  
Blind, the Lawyer – Sam Varnon

***Die Entführung aus dem Serail (1782)* .....W. A. Mozart**

Libretto by Gottlieb Stephanie  
Act I #16 Quartet

Konstanze – Maya Anand  
Blonde – Vaysia Knust  
Belmonte – Nathan Le  
Pedrillo – Jack Grant

***The Ballad of Baby Doe (1956)*..... Douglas Moore**

Libretto by John Latouche (1893-1969)  
Act II sc. 2

First Crony – Andrew Smith  
Second Crony – Sam Varnon  
Third Crony – Ivan Carmona  
Fourth Crony – Ja’wan Footman  
Horace Tabor – carris o’bleness (F), Carter Thiemann (S)  
Other Gentlemen - Aidan Gildehaus, Lucas Gonzaga da Silva, Jack Grant, Nathan Le,  
carris o’bleness (S), Carter Thiemann (F)

***The Tender Land (1954)* .....Aaron Copland**

Act I excerpt “The Promise of Living”

Martin – Sam Varnon  
Laurie – Haley Mesz  
Ma – Rachel Misner  
Grandpa – Ja’wan Footman  
Top – Carter Thiemann  
Chorus – All Class Members

*Thank you:*

Peter Miyamoto  
Lucy Urlacher  
Christina Ray  
Kyle Stegall  
Steven Tharp

**Please join Show-Me Opera  
For our performance of**

*Amahl and the Night Visitors*

**By Gian Carlo Menotti  
Opera in One Act**

**Sat. Dec. 9, 2023 7:30pm  
First Baptist Church**

**Collaboration with Columbia Civic Orchestra  
and Columbia Chorale**

## Performer Biographies:

**Maya Anand**, soprano, is a junior at the University of Missouri originally from Saint Louis, Missouri. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Journalism. Recent performances include flower girl/chorus member in Landlocked Opera's *Le nozze di Figaro* and Tytania cover in Show-Me Opera's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Maya studies voice with Christina Ray and has previously studied Indian classical voice, giving several concerts in her hometown and in cities across India. Maya is also a violinist and plays in the MU Philharmonic Orchestra.

**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 set to graduate with both degrees in the spring of 2024. She was also a member of MU's University Singers for more than 5 years, with director Paul R. Crabb, as well as the Show-Me Opera program. She has sung many roles, including Hermia from Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, 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 in her freshman and sophomore year.

**Emmaline Brown**, alto, is a freshman at the University of Missouri, majoring in Vocal Performance. Emmaline comes from Pacific, MO, and is currently a member of the University of Missouri's University Singers and Show-Me Opera. She studies voice under Professor Christina Ray, and has taken voice lessons for three years; first, under Amy Gatsenberger, and later, Doctor Philip A. Woodmore. Emmaline has received multiple Exemplary "1" ratings on her solos and ensembles at MSHSAA Music Festivals at the district and state levels.

**Ivan Carmona**, baritone, is from Coral Springs, FL and is pursuing a B.M. in Music Education as junior at The University of Missouri, Columbia. Ivan has been in A Capella groups such as Vocal Point, Cantmos, and Troubadours. He has also played lead rolls in Opera Scenes such as Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Maximiliano in *Candide* by Leonard Bernstein. He also was the lead singer and co-founder of the folk-rock band Fienix & Pixie from 2012 – 2020.

**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 with a minor in Psychology. She is studying voice with Christina Ray and has also performed in a variety of shows. Since attending Mizzou, she has participated in University Singers, the university's Bach Collegium Choir, Canticum Novum, and Show-Me Opera. She has competed in NATS throughout college, most recently competing at Mid-MO NATS receiving first place for solo repertoire.

**Ludwing Espindola** is from Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, where he has performed in different recitals as a soloist and collaborative pianist. In 2018 he participated in the 6th Edition of the National and International Piano competition "José Jacinto Cuevas" Yamaha. In 2021, Ludwing graduated with a bachelor's degree in piano performance at Universidad Autonoma de Coahuila. In 2022 he won Honorable Mention in the graduate division of the MMTA Collegiate Honors Auditions. During the last academic year he performed as one of the pianists of the Mizzou New Music Ensemble. He now continues his graduate studies in piano performance under Dr. Miyamoto at the University of Missouri where he is a graduate research assistant, teaching applied students and performing as pianist for the Show-Me Opera and the Concert Chorale.

**Ja'wan Footman** is a dynamic and exceptionally talented performer who has enchanted audiences with his remarkable skills and charismatic stage presence. Born on February 18, 2000, in Orangeburg, South Carolina, Ja'wan is the proud son of Virginia Charley and Derrick Footman. His journey in the world of performing

arts has been nothing short of inspiring. Ja'wan's pursuit of excellence led him to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), where he dedicated himself to the art of music and voice performance. At FAMU, he earned his Bachelor's of Science in Music with a specialization in Voice Performance. During his time at the university, Ja'wan had the privilege of participating in a wide range of operatic scenes, including renowned productions like *Carmen* and *Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)*. He also took part in operatic scenes at Florida State University, further enriching his experience. One of Ja'wan's notable roles was as the Bass Section Leader for the Florida A&M University Concert Choir. His leadership played a pivotal role in guiding the choir to extraordinary achievements, including performances at the Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA), NFL events, and even a historic performance at Carnegie Hall. Ja'wan's commitment to his craft and his dedication to furthering his knowledge and skills have led him to attend prestigious events such as the Music and Medicine Symposium, Choral Music of African American Composers, Lectures, and Conductors Symposium. He also took part in the Soloist for CAPPA (Coalition of African American in the Performing Arts) Workshop, where he served as the lead singer in a vocal master class. Ja'wan's exceptional talents have garnered recognition, including nominations for the Collegiate Honors Choir Performance at Carnegie Hall and a nomination to perform a solo at the Alabama HBCU ACDA. Currently, Ja'wan Footman continues his artistic journey at the University of Missouri, where he is studying under the guidance of Professor Kyle Stegall and Dr. Brandon Boyd as he pursues his Master's in Voice Performance. His unwavering dedication, boundless talent, and passion for the arts continue to set him on a path toward a bright and promising future in the world of entertainment.

**Grace Gard**, soprano, is from Lee's Summit, Missouri and is currently a Sophomore at the University of Missouri. They are pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Choral Education. Grace studies voice with Christine Seitz and is a member of the Show Me Opera, also under the direction of Professor Seitz. They have performed the roles of Taylor McKessie in *High School Musical*, Mrs. Mayor in *Seussical*, and The Percussion Fish in *Spongebob The Musical*. Grace is a two-year member of the Missouri All-State choir, and they have received superior "I" or "Gold" ratings on all of their solos at the district and state level.

**Aidan Gildehaus** (he/him) is a baritone from St. Louis Missouri. He is currently a freshman at the University of Missouri, majoring in Political Science-Pre Law and Vocal Performance, and studying voice under Prof. Kyle Stegall. Previous credits include *The Baker (Into the Woods, FHS)*, *Sheriff Schmid/Preacher u/s (Bonnie and Clyde, GCPA)*, and *The Snail (Frog and Toad, FNT)*. Aidan recently won first place in the lower undergraduate lower voice Musical Theatre category at the 2023 Central Region NATS Competition. Other vocal honors include Missouri All-State Choir (2022 and 2023), the Missouri State and District Music Festival (Gold Ratings). In addition, Aidan has received the Ambassadors of Harmony Vocal Scholarship, the Wanda Simpson Vocal Scholarship, and a Talent Scholarship from the School of Music at MU. Many thanks to friends and well as Lydia Hill, Colin Healy, Kevin Nicoletti, Mom, and Dad for all the support.

Sopranist **Lucas Gonzaga** is from São Paulo, Brazil. Gonzaga is currently a graduate student and teaching assistant in the voice area at the University of Missouri. He holds a BA in Music Education and is pursuing a Master of Music in vocal performance, studying with Prof. Steven Tharp. Gonzaga is a former harpist at the São Paulo State Youth Orchestra as well as a former singer at the Academic Choir of the São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra (OSESP), where he sang in the soprano section. In the spring of 2023, he won the University of Missouri – School of Music's Emerging Artists Competition and Concerto Competition, as well as performing as Oberon in Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Show-Me-Opera, under the direction of Prof. Christine Seitz. Lucas recently won second place in the graduate upper voice Classical category at the 2023 Central Region NATS Competition.

**Jack Grant**, tenor, is in his fourth undergraduate year at the University of Missouri-Columbia studying music education. An active member in the Mizzou School of Music, Jack is the Vice President for the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity, as well as the music director of the Canticum Novum chamber choir, a premier student-

led undergraduate chamber ensemble in the state of Missouri. They are currently a member of the Mizzou University Singers, directed by Dr. Brandon Boyd. They were a member of the Fort Zumwalt South chamber choir, directed by Jason Martin and asst. Christopher Loftin, a featured performing ensemble at MMEA in January 2020. Over the course of their 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 directed shows such as *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged* and *I Hate Hamlet*. Since beginning college, Jack has transferred this passion for the stage onto works in the Show-Me Opera program, performing in choruses for opera scenes and a full-length production of *Falstaff*. They also have held scene rolls as Laurie in *Little Women*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, and Antonio in a full-length production of *Le nozze di Figaro*. Jack also works part-time with Hitt Street studios, working with local artists like *The Brink* and *Paintroom* (in which he played bass guitar), as well as well-known gospel artists such as Josh Runnels and grammy-winner Dorinda Clark-Cole. Jack intends on finishing their degree and pursuing a master's degree in choral conducting, and then teaching as a high school voice teacher in the public school system.

**Kelsey Hale**, mezzo soprano, is a freshman at the University of Missouri, hailing from Saint Charles, Missouri. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance with a minor in Psychology. Ms. Hale studies under Professor Kyle Stegall, in tandem with participating in the University of Missouri's Concert Chorale and Show-Me Opera. She has performed in several productions, playing roles such as Enid Hoopes in *Legally Blonde, Jr.* and Eleanor Dunbar in *Footloose*. Additionally, Ms. Hale has received Gold Ratings at both MSHSAA District and State Festivals.

**Chong Z. He**, a mezzo-soprano from Hunan, China, has a multifaceted life. In addition to being a part-time music student, she also serves as a dedicated Professor of Statistics at the University of Missouri. She studies vocal music with Professor Christine Seitz and is a member of Choral Union Symphonic Chorus, conducted formerly by Dr. Paul Crabb and currently by Dr. Brandon Boyd.

**Kampbell Hemeyer** (she/her), is in her second year at the University of Missouri Columbia, and is very excited to be debuting in her first opera scenes. A Music and Journalism student, Kampbell performs with the University Singers choir throughout the school year, and is undergoing vocal training under Kyle Stegall. She was recently in the Ensemble for the Gateway Center for Performing Arts production of *Bare: A Pop Opera* featured at the St. Louis Fringe Festival. Kampbell is also the director of youth theatre productions with the Half Act Theatre Company based in Hermann, Missouri. She sends a huge thanks to her family for their constant love and support.

**Katherine "Katie" Jones**, soprano, is from Kansas City, Missouri and is currently a first year student at The University of Missouri. Katie is a member of the Honors College, pursuing an undergraduate degree Vocal Performance as well as a possible certificate in Constitutional Democracy. She studies voice under Professor Kyle Stegall and is a member of both Concert Chorale under the direction of Kari Adams and Show-Me Opera under the direction of Christine Seitz. She has been studying voice for the last six years, making multiple appearances at NATS, where she has been a national semifinalist in the Senior High Musical Theatre Category, and Missouri State Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble where she has earned six total gold ratings and one silver. She has appeared in the Kansas City Metro All-District SATB Choir twice, as well as multiple collegiate honors groups, such as UMKC's Metro Honor Band, where she played Bassoon.

**Kennedy Kinnick**, mezzo, is from Raymore, Missouri and is a sophomore at the University of Missouri. Kennedy is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. They currently study voice with Kyle



Stegall. Roles they have performed include: Winnifred the Woebegone in *Once Upon A Mattress*, Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and most recently they performed in *Giulio Cesare* as Cornelia. Kennedy recently won second place in the lower undergraduate upper voice Musical Theatre category at the 2023 Central Region NATS Competition. They are thrilled to be involved in tonight's performance!

**Wendy Kleintank**, Soprano and Violinist, is a junior at the University of Missouri and was raised in North Manchester, Indiana. Wendy is triple-majoring, pursuing a BM in Voice and Violin Performance and Health Science to go into physical therapy for musician-related injuries. Wendy is a member of Show-Me Opera led by Christine Seitz and the University Philharmonic Orchestra led by Dr. John McKeever. She currently studies voice under Christine Seitz and violin under Eva Szekely. Wendy has received an honorable mention from the MMTA State Competition on voice, an honorable mention from the Odyssey Aria and Concerto Competition, and a first-place award from the MMTA State Competition on violin. In the summer of 2021, Wendy auditioned and was accepted into the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America and had the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall. She was also asked to perform *A Family Portrait* with the Manchester Choir at Carnegie Hall in the Spring of 2022. She has performed as solo soprano in the Farnham and Byas' Playhouse production of Handel's *Messiah*, and has performed arias in the Show-Me Opera Scenes performances, including Linda from Donizetti's *Linda di Chamounix* and Olympia from Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*. Recently, Wendy had the opportunity to perform the role of Tytania in Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the University of Missouri Show-Me Opera.

**Vaysia Knust**, soprano, is a Junior at the University of Missouri Columbia where she studies Vocal Performance under Professor Christine Seitz. Vaysia has participated in many choirs at Mizzou but is currently a part of University Singers, Hitt Street Harmony and the School of Music's outreach choir. Outside of choir, Vaysia is also part of the University of Missouri's opera program, Show-Me Opera. She has been in this ensemble for 5 semesters and has played the parts of Iolanthe from the opera *Iolanthe*, Despina from *Così fan tutte*, Baby Doe from *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, Sophie from *Werther* and Lisette from *La Rondine* for Show-Me opera's scenes as well as their staged arias performances. Vaysia's most recent role has been the fairy Mustardseed in Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which was performed by Show-Me Opera in March 2023.

**Nathan Le**, Vietnamese-American tenor, is from Kansas City, Missouri and is currently a senior at the University of Missouri-Columbia where he is pursuing a BM in Vocal Performance. He has performed operatic roles such as Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Basilio in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Bardolfo in *Falstaff*, and chorus in *The Pirates of Penzance*. He has also performed musical theatre roles such as Angel in *RENT*, The Baker in *Into the Woods*, Charlie Brown in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and Skipper in *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure*. Apart from his theatrical singing, Nathan is a heavy advocate for Asian art song, particularly of Asian countries such as Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and China. He currently studies with Kyle Stegall and plans to pursue a career in opera performance and vocal pedagogy. Nathan recently won third place in the upper undergraduate lower voice Classical category at the 2023 Central Region NATS Competition.

**Aryahna Le Grand**, soprano, is from Kansas City, Missouri and is a second year student at the University of Missouri. She is pursuing a B.S. in Human Development and Family Science with an Emphasis in Child Life Specialist as well as a Minor in Musical Theatre. She studies voice with Lucas Gonzaga Da Silva and is member of the Opera Workshop under Professor Christine Seitz's direction. She has been a member of multiple high school choirs, including the chamber choir *South Boulevard*. For all of her solos and ensemble brought to the MSHAA District Solo/Ensemble Contest, she has received outstanding "II" ratings. She has also acted as an Assistant Musical Director for her senior production of *Pippin*.

**Megan S. Lyon**, mezzo-soprano, is currently in her senior year, pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Music Education with a Vocal emphasis and a minor in Spanish at the University of Missouri. Under the guidance of



the accomplished Steven Tharp, Megan has had the privilege of participating in various performances, including Show-Me-Opera's Opera Scenes program along with their production of Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Puck. She also enjoys being a part of a multitude of choirs collegiately, recreationally, and professionally. Megan is grateful for the opportunities to grow as a musician and looks forward to continuing her musical journey. Megan recently won second place in the upper undergraduate upper voice Commercial Music category at the 2023 Central Region NATS Competition.

**Ruth McCarron**, mezzo-soprano, from Idaho for elementary and St Louis, Missouri, is a Sophomore at University of Missouri- Columbia, where she is majoring in Secondary English Education with a minor in Musical Theater. She is part of Concert Chorale and Opera Workshop and was previously studying voice under Lucas da Silva. She competed in 4 years of District Solo and Ensemble receiving an Outstanding Sophomore year and Exemplary the next two years with a Silver at State and was part of the honor choir for two years.

**Haley Mesz**, soprano, is from Lee's Summit, Missouri and is currently a senior at the University of Missouri-Columbia pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Science in Finance & Banking. She is studying voice with Christine Seitz and has been singing with the Show-Me Opera, performing the role of Helena in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, covering the role of Marcellina in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, singing soprano in the chorus of Verdi's *Falstaff*, performing scenes as the roles of Vitellia in Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*, Orfeo in Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Romilda in Handel's *Serse*, and soprano in the chorus of *Iolanthe* by Gilbert and Sullivan. 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 has competed in the local NATS competition, receiving honorable mention, and has been involved in ensembles here at Mizzou including University Singers, University Concert Chorale, undergraduate led Canticum Novum Chamber Ensemble, where she serves as the ensemble's secretary, and has been a part of Dr. R. Paul Crabb's Bach Collegium Choir.

**Rachel Misner**, mezzo-soprano, is from Chesterfield, Missouri, and is currently in her fifth year at the University of Missouri. She is pursuing a B.M. in Vocal Performance, and will be graduating in May 2024. She studies voice with Professor Steven Tharp. Last year, Rachel performed her Junior Recital and received First Place in the Upper Musical Theater Treble division of Central Region NATS, as well as Third Place in Upper Classical Treble. She has participated in the Show-Me Opera program since her freshman year, and 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 the summer of 2022, she had the opportunity to travel to New York to participate in the NYU Summer Study in Musical Theater, working with artists and teachers such as Justin John Moniz, Rona Siddiqui, and Natalie Weiss. This year, Rachel has had the honor of being a Young Artist with Landlocked Opera Inc. Through Landlocked, she covered the role of Jane in the world premiere of *The Murderess*, and covered Cherubino and performed as one of the Due Donne in *Le nozze di Figaro*. This will be Rachel's fifth year performing in the Show-Me-Opera Fall Scenes program. Through Show-Me-Opera, she was also a member of the chorus in *Pirates of Penzance*, and has had the opportunity to perform roles such as Meg Page in *Falstaff*, Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Along with preparing and performing her scenes this semester, Rachel is also auditioning for graduate schools in the hopes of pursuing her Master's Degree in Vocal Performance. She is so incredibly grateful for another amazing opportunity to perform with friends that constantly inspire and encourage her. Rachel recently won third place in the upper undergraduate upper voice Commercial Music category at the 2023 Central Region NATS Competition.

**carris o'bleness**, bass-baritone, comes from Kansas City, Missouri and has been participating in vocal music since their junior year of high school. Now a fifth-year student under Professor Kyle Stegall, they are working

toward a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with focus areas in foreign language, linguistics, & musicology. carris most recently covered the role of Antonio in Landlocked Opera's 60's-inspired production of *Le nozze di Figaro*. They have also covered the role of Figaro in *Le nozze di Figaro*, as well as Nick Bottom in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Alongside operatic singing, they have performed with the MU University Singers, Hitt Street Harmony, Ars Nova, and many other choral ensembles. carris is a proud Sinfonian & alumnus of the Zeta chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. carris recently won second place in the upper undergraduate lower voice Classical category at the 2023 Central Region NATS Competition.

**Kaitlin Oliver**, mezzo-soprano, is a freshman at the University of Missouri and is from St. Louis, MO. Ms. Oliver is a double major, pursuing a B. A. in Music and a Nursing degree. Ms. Oliver currently studies voice under Christina Ray, previously studying under Dr. Phillip A. Woodmore. Most recently, Ms. Oliver was seen as Nala in *The Lion King* with the Center of Creative Arts in St. Louis, where she has also played Ti Moune in *Once Upon This Island*. Ms. Oliver was a youth ensemble member in numerous productions at the Muny and a member of their Touring Troupe as well.

**Jessica Scarce** is a soprano from Gower, Missouri. She is currently a senior at the University of Missouri, 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 Professor Christine Seitz and has been a member of the Show-Me Opera for four years. This semester she will be performing the role of Rosalinde from Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* as well as the role of Mother in Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Last semester, she played the role of Peter Quince in Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, during the Show-Me Opera's annual show production. She has also sung the roles of Romilda in Handel's *Serse*, as well as Vitellia in Mozart's *La Clemenza de Tito* during the opera scenes programs. She has performed in the chorus of Verdi's *Falstaff* as well as Mozart's *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.

**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.

**Andrew Smith**, tenor, is from Kansas City, Missouri and is a freshman at the University of Missouri. He is pursuing degrees in Digital Storytelling and Theatre. He has studied voice with Lori Pinnell and is currently studying with Lucas Gonzaga da Silva and is a member of the opera under the direction of Christine Seitz. He has performed in multiple show choirs and has been in productions of *Shrek the Musical* and *Freaky Friday*. He also wrote and directed music for *Simon Crayton: A Choral Musical*. He has received gold ratings on his solo and ensemble performances at district and state level Solo and Ensemble Festivals and was a member of the 2022 SWACDA Honor Choir.

**Aubri Stewart** is a contralto from Kansas City, Missouri. She is currently pursuing a B.S.B.A of Business Administration and a B.A. in Vocal Music from the University of Missouri, studying under Professor Steven A. Tharp. She has previously been seen in roles such as Jack's Mother in *Into the Woods*, Violet Beauregard in *Willy Wonka*, and Nancy in *Give my Regards to Broadway*. At the University of Missouri, Aubri Stewart has been a part of the University Singers for three years and is the current vice president. She is also the treasurer of a student-led choral ensemble, Canticum Novum. In the future, she hopes to continue to combine her two majors in a music administration setting.

**Molly Symmonds**, mezzo-soprano, is a sophomore at the University of Missouri originally from Kansas City, MO. She is a double major, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. Molly is a member of the University of Missouri's University Singers and the Honors College, and studies voice with Christina Ray. Recently, she performed in the chorus of Show-Me Opera's production of Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has also performed as Katherine Blake in *Freaky Friday*, Panch/Olive's Mom in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Agatha Trunchbull in *Matilda*.

**Carter Thieman**, bass, is from St. Charles, Missouri and is currently a freshman at the University of Missouri. He is pursuing a degree in vocal performance, along with a minor in French. He studies voice with Kyle Stegall, is a member of the Show Me Opera under the direction of Christine Seitz, and a member of the University Singers under the direction of Brandon Boyd. He has performed the roles Corny Collins in *Hairspray*, Herald in *The Boar's Head*, and Professor Callahan in *Legally Blonde*. He has received exemplary "1" ratings on his solos at the district and state level Solos and Ensembles Festivals in voice and was a member of the 2023 Missouri All-State Choir.

**Sam Varnon**, tenor, is from Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He is a senior at the University of Missouri, where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music and studies voice with Christine Seitz. As a member of Show-Me Opera, he covered the role of Lysander in last year's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and he sang the role of Don Curzio in the 2022 production of *Le nozze di Figaro*. He has also sung the roles of Jacquino in *Fidelio*, Hawthorne in *Love in a Village*, Slender in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and Colin in *L'amant anonyme* in opera scenes programs. Sam is a member of the MU University Singers under the direction of Dr. Brandon A. Boyd. He currently serves as University Singers President and Tenor II Section Leader. He has previously sung in Hitt Street Harmony, Canticum Novum, and University Glee Club. As a sophomore, Sam received the MU School of Music Sophomore Award of Merit. Additionally, in 2021, he won the Missouri Music Teachers Association voice competition in the undergraduate lower division, and he was a semifinalist in the Central Region National Association of Teachers of Singing competition in the lower classical division. In the summer of 2022, Sam spent two weeks singing in New York as a selected participant in the NYU Classical Voice Intensive.

**Karma Vaughn**, soprano, is from Columbia, Missouri and is currently a freshman at the University of Missouri, where she is pursuing a degree in Music Education. She studies voice with Christina Ray and is

a member of the Show Me Opera under the direction of Christine Seitz. She has performed the roles of Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*, Janet Vandegraff in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Lucy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. She has received superior (Gold) ratings on her solos at the district and state level Solos and Ensembles Festivals and was a member of the 2023 Missouri All-State Choir.

**Jinhong Yoo** is a pianist from South Korea. He has won several competitions, including The World Music News, The Korean Music, The Junior Standard Music, The Incheon Seogu Culture and Arts Festival, The City of Incheon Piano Competition, and The Incheon Bukbu Office of Education competitions. He also achieved 3rd place in The Mozart International Korea Competition and The Seoul Orchestra Piano Competition. He graduated from Gyeonggi Arts High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Kookmin University, where he received the top practical score and performed with the university orchestra. Additionally, he has gained extensive experience in collaborative music, particularly as an accompanist at the Seoul Arts Center and through a graduate recital with a bassist held at the Korea National University of Arts. Currently, Mr. Yoo is a member of the Trio ensemble "Bene Trio" and has participated in three chamber music recitals. He is also a member of the New Music Ensemble at Mizzou and is pursuing a master's degree in piano performance under the guidance of Dr. Miyamoto at the University of Missouri.