

Staged Arias
Saturday, April 13, 2024 | Sheryl Crow Hall
PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

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.

Erin Brage, mezzo-soprano, is from Kansas City, Missouri. She is a sophomore at Mizzou studying Business Administration and Music with an emphasis in Vocal Performance. During her studies, she has been involved in University Singers, Show-Me Opera, staged arias, Canticum Novum Chamber Choir, and Ars Nova. She has been taking voice lessons from Professor Christina Ray since 2022 and from Jill Hemann prior to college. Erin has been in the chorus of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Benjamin Britten and Handel's *Ariodante*. Last April she received 2nd place at Mid-MO NATS in the lower-level treble division. Prior to college, she was a member of the KC Metro All-District Choir from 2019-2021 and the Missouri All-State Choir in 2022.

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. She is studying voice with Christina Ray and has also performed in a variety of shows, including getting to work with Columbia's local opera company *Landlocked Opera*. Since attending Mizzou, she has participated in University Singers, the university's Bach Collegium Choir, Canticum Novum, and Show-Me Opera, where she recently sang the role of Dalinda in Handel's *Ariodante*. She has competed in NATS throughout college, most recently competing at Mid-MO NATS receiving first place for solo repertoire.

Ludwing Espindola is a pianist 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.

Jourdan Flores, tenor, is from Warrenton, Missouri and is currently a 5th year undergraduate here at the University of Missouri. He is pursuing a degree in Vocal Performance and hopes to graduate this upcoming May. He studies voice with Prof. Trent Rash and performs with Show-Me Opera under the direction of Christine Seitz. He has performed various roles throughout the years, including Francis Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and most recently he was a chorus member in Show Me Operas spring show: *Ariodante*. He would like to dedicate his performance to his loving family and his amazing friends, without whom he could not have made it this far. Jourdan would also like to extend a special thanks to his Professors through the years for making all of this possible. He hopes that you enjoy the music.

Aidan Gildehaus (he/him) is a tenor from St. Louis Missouri. He is currently an undergraduate at the University of Missouri, where he studies Vocal Music Education, and is instructed by Prof. Trent Rash. 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*), and Audrey II (*Little Shop of Horrors, ECC*). Aidan recently won first place in the undergraduate lower voice Musical Theatre category at the 2023 Central Region NATS Competition, qualifying to compete at National NATS.. Other vocal honors include Missouri All-State Choir (2022 and 2023), the Missouri State and District Music Festival (Gold Ratings). Most recently, Aidan was seen in the chorus of Handel's *Ariodante* at Show-Me Opera. Over the summer, Aidan will be the assistant music director *Alice by Heart* for the Gateway Center for Perf. Arts. 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, among others. Many thanks to friends and family, as well as Lydia Hill, Colin Healy, Mom, and Dad for all the support.

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 in Vocal Performance as well as holding a Discover Fellows Scholarship, pursuing undergraduate research under the mentorship of Dr. Kari Adams. She studies voice under Professor Trent Rash and is a member of both University Singers under the direction of Dr. Brandon Boyd and Show Me Opera under the direction of Christine Seitz. Katie recently

covered the role of Ginevra and sang in the chorus of Handel's *Ariodante*. She has been studying voice for the last six years, making multiple appearances at NATS, where she was a 2023 national semifinalist in the Senior High Musical Theatre Category, and at Missouri State Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Festival where she 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.

Zoe Kersey is a mezzo-soprano and sophomore at the University of Missouri from Saint Louis, Missouri. She previously studied business, but now is pursuing a Bachelor of Music with emphasis in Music Education. She is a member of the University's Concert Chorale and studies voice with Christina Ray. She has trained in dance since she was 5, and this is her first time being involved in a musical production at the University of Missouri!

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, twice, 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*, as well as performed arias in the Show-Me Opera Scenes including performances as Linda from Donizetti's *Linda di Chamounix* and Olympia from Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*, she also 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 in the Spring of 2023. Recently, Wendy was asked to play alongside the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in New York City at Carnegie Hall and was asked to play for a masterclass at Carnegie Hall, led by musicians from the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Even more recently, Wendy performed as Concertmaster for Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and was both a cover and Concertmaster for Handel's opera *Ariodante*, where she covered the role of Dalinda.

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 Lurcanio in *Ariodante*, Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Kaspar in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, 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 from Korea, Vietnam, and Japan. He currently studies with Christina Ray and will pursue a MM in Vocal Performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison under Dr. Sarah Brailey.

Rach Misner, mezzo-soprano, is from Chesterfield, Missouri, and is currently in their fifth year at the University of Missouri. They are pursuing a B.M. in Vocal Performance, and will be graduating at the end of this semester. They are a proud student of Professor Steven Tharp. Rach has participated in the Show-Me Opera program since their freshman year, and has also been a member of many other ensembles at Mizzou, including University Singers, Concert Chorale, Hitt Street Harmony, Bach Choir, Ars Nova, and Canticum Novum. During the summer of 2022, they 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. In 2023, Rach had the honor of being a Young Artist with Landlocked Opera Inc. Through Landlocked, they covered the role of Jane in the world premiere of *The Murderess*, and also covered Cherubino and performed as one of the Due Donne in *Le nozze di Figaro*. Through Show-Me-Opera, Rach has performed in five Fall Opera Scenes programs. They were also a member of the chorus in *Pirates of Penzance*, and have had the opportunity to perform roles such as Meg Page in *Falstaff*, Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and most recently, the title role in *Ariodante*. Rach is also auditioning for graduate schools in the hopes of pursuing their Master's Degree in Vocal Performance. They will also be performing their Senior Recital in April of this year, and co-organizing and performing in a Korean Art Song recital in early May. They are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to perform in their final opera production at Mizzou, alongside friends who inspire them, and under the guidance of Professor Seitz.

Sam Romine, baritone, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in music with voice emphasis and a minor in Economics at the University of Missouri. He is a senior, but this is only his second year in Mizzou's music program and his first semester in the Show-Me Opera program. He studies with Professor Steven Tharp, and his ensemble involvement includes University Singers, the chorus for Show-Me Opera's *Ariodante*, and City Singers at Missouri United Methodist Church.

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 from Kansas City, Missouri, and is currently a sophomore at the University of Missouri. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Music, and is studying with Christina Ray. Ms. Symmonds is a member of the University of Missouri's University Singers and Show-Me Opera. She has performed in a variety of shows, some of her favorite roles including Douglas Panch and Olive's Mom in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Katherine Blake in *Freaky Friday*, and Agatha Trunchbull in *Matilda*. Most recently, she performed in the chorus and covered the role of Polinesso in the Show-Me Opera's production of Handel's *Ariodante*, and previously performed in the chorus of Show-Me Opera's production of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Carter Thieman, pianist and bass, is from St. Charles, Missouri and is currently a freshman at the University of Missouri. He is pursuing a degree in Music Education, Voice, along with a minor in French. He studies voice with Steven Tharp, 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 also is a member of ensembles both based in Columbia and in St. Louis. He also enjoys collaborating with his peers by playing the piano for their private lessons. He has performed the roles Corny Collins in *Hairspray* and Herald in *The Boar's Head*. He placed as a finalist in the Classical and Musical Theater Categories in the 2023 NATS competition.

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 and University Singers under the direction of Dr. Brandon Boyd. She has performed the roles of Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*, Janet Vandegriff 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, and The Incheon Bukbu Office of Education competitions. He also achieved 3rd place in The Mozart International Korea Competition, The Seoul Orchestra Piano Competition, and The MMTA competition. He graduated from Gyeonggi Arts High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Kookmin University, where he received the top practical score every year 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 Dr. Miyamoto at the University of Missouri.