



School of Music  
University of Missouri

2024-2025 Series | Special Event

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# Show Me-Opera: Arias & Anthems

**Christina Ray, director**

**Connor Stratton, assistant director**

**Aidan Gildehaus, stage manager**

**Zoe Kersey, choreographer**

**Hanyu Zhang, pianist**

**Jinhong Yoo, pianist**

**Wendy Kleintank, supertitle operator**

**April 12, 2025 | 7:00pm**

**Sheryl Crow Hall**

## Program

**“Sempre libera” from *La traviata* ..... Verdi**

Violetta, Elise Cressey  
Alfredo, Andrew Gwin

**“V’adoro pupille” from *Giulio Cesare* ..... Handel**

Cleopatra, Kampbell Hemeyer  
Giulio Cesare, Molly Symmonds

**“Gremin’s Aria” from *Eugene Onegin* ..... Tchaikovsky**

Prince Gremin, Austin Gaskin  
Eugene Onegin, Gunnar Stanford  
Tatiana, Natasha Haverly

**“If I Were a Bell” from *Guys and Dolls* ..... Frank Loesser**

Sarah Brown, Madeleine Cerneka  
Sky Masterson, Christopher Songco

**“Dein ist mein ganzes Herz” from *Das Land des Lächelns* ..... Franz Lehár**

Prince Sou-Chong, Andrew Gwin

**“Je suis encore tout étourdie” from *Manon* ..... Massenet**

Manon, Katie Jones  
Lescaut, Christopher Songco  
Directed by Connor Stratton

**“Dover giustizia” from *Ariodante* ..... Handel**

Polinesso, Kelsey Hale  
Re, Carter Thiemann  
Odoardo, Aidan Gildehaus

Men of the Court: Katie Jones, Zoe Kersey, Christopher Songco, Natasha Haverly

**“Empty Chairs and Empty Tables” from *Les Miserables* ..... Claude-Michel Schönberg**

Marius, Jason Han  
Directed by Connor Stratton

**“Un moto di gioia” from *Le nozze di Figaro* ..... Mozart**

Susanna, Natasha Haverly  
Countess, Zoe Kersey  
Cheribino, Kelsey Hale

**“Cruda sorte” from *l’Italiana in Algeri* ..... Rossini**

Isabella, Emmaline Brown  
Chorus, Spring 2025 Opera Workshop Class  
Directed by Connor Stratton

### **Biographies**

**Emmaline Brown**, mezzo-soprano, is a sophomore at the University of Missouri, majoring in vocal performance. She loves singing all styles of music, from contemporary to classical. She has been involved in choir since fifth grade. Emmaline is from the small town of Pacific, Missouri. She has been singing since she was very young and is currently studying under Prof. Christina Ray. She has played some roles in the school’s recent opera productions such as Carmen from *Carmen*, Auntie from *Peter Grimes*, Tisbe from *La Cenerentola*, and a cover for the role of Dame Carruthers in the production of *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

**Madeleine Cerneka**, soprano, is a second year at the University of Missouri majoring in Vocal Music Education. She performed in her first opera, *The Yeomen of the Guard* in March 2025. Although she is new to opera, she is no stranger to the stage. Previous musical roles include Whitney/DA in *Legally Blonde* at The Little Theater of Jefferson City, as well as Donna in *Mamma Mia!* and Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* at Fulton High School. She’s also performed dramatic roles such as Hannah/Others in *Puffs* and Molly Ralston in Agatha Christie’s *The Mousetrap* at Fulton High School. At Mizzou, Madeleine is a member of University Singers and Hitt Street Harmony. She is a photographer on the Marching Mizzou Media Team, as well as a member of Mini Mizzou. Madeleine is also a proud member of Sigma Alpha Iota.

**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. Since attending Mizzou, she has participated in University Singers, the university's Bach Collegium Choir, Canticum Novum, and Show-Me Opera. Most recently, she has performed as Dalinda from Handel's *Ariodante*, as well as Landlocked Opera's production of *L'elisir d'amore*.

**Austin Gaskin**, baritone, is a PhD candidate in Music Education at the University of Missouri and graduate teaching assistant in the Group Piano Department. He currently studies voice with Dr. Alexandra Schoeny and made his opera debut in the role of Theseus in the University of Missouri's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2023.

**Aidan Gildehaus** (he/him), tenor, is from St. Louis, Missouri. He is currently an undergraduate at the University of Missouri, where he studies Vocal Performance, 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 Audrey II (*Little Shop of Horrors*, ECC) and as a Chorus Member in Show-Me Opera's production of Handel's *Ariodante* and Landlocked Opera's production of Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*. Aidan was most recently seen as Dame Carruthers in Show-Me Opera's *The Yeomen of the Guard*. He is a member of University Singers, MU's premier choral ensemble, conducted by Dr. Brandon Boyd. Additionally, Aidan is the Webmaster of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Zeta Chapter. 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, and first place at the 2024 Mid-Missouri NATS for the same division. Many thanks to friends and family for all the support.

**Andrew Gwin**, Tenor, is from Chesterfield Missouri. He is pursuing a BA in music and double majoring in accounting. He is studying voice with Steven Tharp. He has participated in concert chorale, Boonslick Chord Busters and is currently in Hitt Street Harmony and University Singers.

**Kelsey Hale** is a mezzo-soprano from Saint Charles, Missouri and is ecstatic to be singing in her second opera scenes program! She is a sophomore at Mizzou, pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and currently studying under Trent Rash. Kelsey has enjoyed performing in several school and community musicals, such as *Bye Bye Birdie* (2020); *Tuck Everlasting* (2020); *Legally Blonde, Jr.* (2022); and *Footloose!* (2022). At Mizzou, she found her niche in Show-Me Opera, cast in the chorus of Handel's *Ariodante* (2024) and as the Phoebe Meryll cover in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Yeomen of the Guard* (2025). She is involved in several of Mizzou's ensembles: Concert Chorale, under the direction of Dr.

Kari Adams; Canticum Novum, as an assistant conductor; and MU Golden Dynamics, as a section leader. Beyond voice, Kelsey has studied classical piano for 13 years and enjoys collaborative work with her peers. She loves being a part of this cast and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Jason Han**, is a first year PhD student in Music Education at Mizzou, and teaches Music for Children and Basic Musicianship courses to undergraduates. His research interests focus on elementary general music, music teachers' perceptions, and music teacher education. When he is not studying or teaching, Jason loves making coffee, hiking, and listening to music. He also loves traveling and hopes to visit all national parks one day.

**Natasha Haverly**, a soprano, came from Saint Charles, Missouri, to study at the University of Missouri, Columbia. She is currently a freshman at Mizzou and is pursuing majors in both a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance and Banking. She is also planning to add a minor in piano, as well as a possible minor in entrepreneurship. As part of her first-year musical journey along with participating in Show-Me Opera, she is currently a member of the Concert Chorale choir, organized and run by Dr. Kari Adams, and studies in vocal lessons under the instruction of Trent Rash. She has had numerous past experiences as a featured soloist in different settings and began her piano journey at six years old. This is her first time performing with the opera program at Mizzou, and she couldn't be more honored to sing alongside so many incredibly talented musicians!

**Kampbell Hemeyer** She/Her (Cleopatra) is junior voice and strategic communication major from Hermann, Missouri. Kampbell is excited to be returning to MU's Show Me Opera program for her second year. In last year's production of Handel's *Ariodante*, Kampbell sang in the Ensemble, and recently played the role of "Kate" in MU Opera's production of *The Yeoman of the Guard* by Gilbert and Sullivan. Outside of Opera, she performs with the University Singers choir throughout the school year and is undergoing vocal training under Steven Tharp. She recently played the role of Trinity in a new musical *Cascade's Fire* produced by Tesseract Theatre in St. Louis, then in the Ensemble for the Gateway Center for Performing Arts production of *Bare: A Pop Opera* featured at the St. Louis Fringe Festival in 2023. Kampbell 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 second-year student at The University of Missouri. Katie is a member of the honors college, pursuing an undergraduate degree in Vocal Performance, and is a Discovery Fellows Scholar, researching under the mentorship of Dr. Kari Adams. She studies voice under Professor Christina Ray and is a member of both University Singers under the direction of

Dr. Brandon Boyd and Show Me Opera under the direction of Christina Ray and Steven Tharp. This is her second year in the opera program where she has previously participated in both Opera Scenes, Staged Arias, and Handel's *Ariodante*, where she covered the role of Ginevra.

**Zoe Kersey** (choreographer), is a soprano from Saint Charles, Missouri. She has found her home at the MU School of Music and is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Music Education. She studies with Christina Ray, co-director of Show-Me Opera, and is a member of the university's Concert Chorale, directed by Dr. Kari Adams. This is her second time in Mizzou's Staged Arias production, and she is honored to perform alongside such a talented group of people!

**Wendy Kleintank** (supertitle operator), soprano and violinist, is currently a senior at the University of Missouri and is pursuing a BM in Performance with an emphasis in violin and voice. Wendy has performed as Tytania in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, sang as soprano soloist for Handel's *Messiah*, was asked to sing with the Manchester choir at Carnegie Hall for Lynn's *A Family Portrait*, and was one of the winners of the Emerging Artist's Competition at the University of Missouri School of Music in the spring of 2024. On violin, Wendy has won first place for the MMTA State Competition twice, was accepted into the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America and performed at Carnegie Hall, and she was awarded the Leah Lou Emmons Orchestral String award for outstanding performance in orchestra this past spring. Additionally, she has served as concertmaster for the University Philharmonic orchestra for *Elgar's Enigma Variations*, Handel's *Ariodante*, and upcoming will be concertmaster for Bernstein's Mass with Choral Union. She currently studies violin with Professor Eva Szekely and voice with Dr. Alexandra Schoeny.

**Connor Stratton** (assistant director), a tenor hailing from the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois, recently completed his Bachelor's degree in vocal performance at the prestigious Jacobs School of Music, where he studied under the tutelage of Mary Ann Hart, Cathy Compton, and Julia Bentley. Connor has contributed his vocal talents to the Opera Chorus for IU Opera Theater's productions of *The Magic Flute*, *H.M.S Pinafore*, *L'Étoile*, and *Candide*. Additionally, he participated in an IU Gilbert and Sullivan Society performance, prepared operatic scenes in the Undergraduate Opera Workshop under the direction of Michael Shell, and served as a soloist in the 2022 IU summer chorus conducted by Walter Huff. Currently, Connor is pursuing his Master's degree in vocal performance at the University of Missouri, under the mentorship of Steven Tharp. This coming spring, he will be performing the role of Colonel Fairfax in the University of Missouri's production of *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Recently, Connor showcased his vocal prowess as a soloist in the University Singers' fall concert and undertook the role of Nemorino cover for Landlocked Opera's production of *L'elisir d'amore*. Connor is looking forward to performing a wide



variety of scenes for you this evening alongside fellow talented young artists.

**Jinhong Yoo** is pursuing a master's degree in piano performance under Dr. Miyamoto at the University of Missouri. Mr. Yoo completed his bachelor's degree at Kookmin University in Korea, where he achieved top practical scores and performed with the university orchestra. As a soloist, he has won prizes in various competitions, including the Seoul Orchestra Competition, Jefferson City Orchestra Competition, and MMTA. He has also performed in recitals at the Korea National University of Arts and the esteemed Seoul Arts Center as a collaborative pianist. He is a member of the Bene Trio and currently performs with the New Music Ensemble at Mizzou.

**Hanyu Zhang**, a Chinese pianist who won second prize in the 2021 Conero International Piano Competition, China Division, and third prize in the Chang Jiang Piano Competition. Currently a graduate assistant at the University of Missouri, where he studies with Dr. Peter Miyamoto. He has given several solo and ensemble recitals around the world.