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**NATHAN AND JULIE GUNN AND FRIENDS
AN EVENING ON BROADWAY**

Saturday, October 6, 2018, at 7:30pm
Foellinger Great Hall

PROGRAM

NATHAN AND JULIE GUNN AND FRIENDS AN EVENING ON BROADWAY

FEATURING

Molly Abrams
Lara Semetko-Brooks
Colleen Bruton
Elliot Emadian
Olivia Gronenthal
Ryan Bryce Johnson
Nole Jones
Gabrielle LaBare
J.W. Morrisette
Logan Piker
Andrew Turner
Rachel Weinfeld

ORCHESTRA

Zachary Osinski, flute
Emma Olson, oboe
J. David Harris, clarinet
Robert Brooks, saxophone
Ronald Romm, trumpet
Robert Sears, trumpet
Michael Beltran, trombone
Trevor Thompson, violin
Amanda Ramey, violin
Jacqueline Scavetta, viola
Jordan Gunn, cello
Lawrence Gray, bass
Mary Duplantier, harp
Ricardo Flores, percussion
Julie Jordan Gunn, piano

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Sarah Wigley, dramatic coordinator
Elliot Emadian, choreography
Michael Williams, lighting
Alec LaBau, audio
Madelyn Gunn, production assistant
Adeline Snagel, stage manager
Savanna Rung, assistant stage manager

Kurt Weill, music
Langston Hughes, lyrics
Elmer Rice, book

Frank Loesser, music and lyrics
Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, book

Richard Rodgers, music
Oscar Hammerstein II, book and lyrics

Jason Robert Brown, music and lyrics
Alfred Uhry, book

Lucy Simon, music
Marsha Norman, script and lyrics
Frances Hodgson Burnett, book

Street Scene (1946)

Ice Cream Sextet

Ryan Bryce Johnson, Molly Abrams, Nole Jones,
Gabrielle LaBare, Elliot Emadian, Andrew Turner

Wouldn't You Like to Be on Broadway?

Lara Semetko-Brooks, Nathan Gunn

What Good Would the Moon Be?

Lara Semetko-Brooks, J.W. Morrisette

Moon Faced, Starry Eyed

Logan Piker, Elliot Emadian

Guys and Dolls (1950)

Fugue for Tin Horns

Nathan Gunn, Andrew Turner, Nole Jones

Adelaide's Lament

Colleen Bruton

Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat

Nole Jones, Andrew Turner, Ryan Bryce Johnson,
Elliot Emadian, Logan Piker

Carousel (1945)

Bench Scene

Rachel Weinfeld, Nathan Gunn

Carrie/Mr. Snow

Molly Abrams, Ryan Bryce Johnson

Soliloquy

Nathan Gunn

You'll Never Walk Alone

Gabrielle LaBare

Parade (1998)

Big News!

Ryan Bryce Johnson

You Don't Know This Man

Nathan Gunn

The Secret Garden (1991)

Lily's Eyes

Andrew Turner, Nathan Gunn

Jeanine Tesori, music
Lisa Kron, book and lyrics
Alison Bechdel, graphic novel

Fun Home (2013)
House on Maple Street
Gabrielle LaBare, Olivia Gronenthal, Nathan Gunn
Changing My Major to Joan
Olivia Gronenthal
Edges of the World
Nathan Gunn

Frederick Loewe, music
Alan Jay Lerner, book and lyrics
George Bernard Shaw, play

My Fair Lady (1956)
On the Street Where You Live
Andrew Turner
I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face
Nathan Gunn

Jason Robert Brown, music and lyrics

Songs For A New World (1995)
King of the World
Nole Jones

Andrew Lipppa, music and lyrics

The Addams Family (2009)
Happy/Sad
Nathan Gunn

John DuPrez, music
Eric Idle, music, book, and lyrics

Spamalot (2004)
I'm All Alone
Nathan Gunn, Ensemble

This performance is brought to you in partnership with Shot in the Dark Productions Inc.

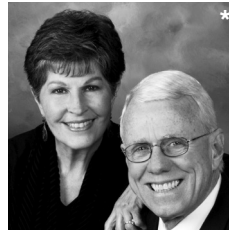
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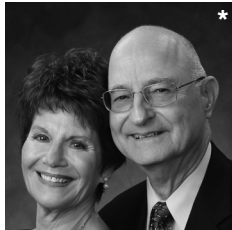
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PROGRAM NOTES

Tonight, Nathan and I want to celebrate American musical theatre from two perspectives. First, looking back at what we now see as “classical” Broadway: *Carousel*, *Street Scene*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *My Fair Lady*—musicals written when our grandparents were younger than we are now and drawn from the literary giants of the early 20th century. Secondly, looking at that legacy in our children’s generation and the works written in their lifetimes: *Secret Garden*, *Fun Home*, *Parade*, *The Addams Family*, and *Spamalot*—drawn sometimes from those same early 20th-century books, but also from television, film, and graphic novels, and featuring vivid characters, stirring scores, and an equally uncanny ability to depict the human condition.

—Julie Gunn

PROFILES

NATHAN GUNN is widely acclaimed for his diverse performing career bridging genres of opera, musical theatre, and recital. Gunn grew up in South Bend, Indiana, doing what most Midwestern boys do: playing sports, working hard at school, and spending time with family. His interest in music became a passion his junior year in high school when he was introduced to Mozart's opera, *Die Zauberflöte*. Consumed by a desire to learn more, Gunn went to the University of Illinois, the third generation to do so in his family, to study music and was mentored by John Wustman and William Miller.

As a performer Gunn is respected as an artist, a musician, and as a singing actor. He has performed on the greatest stages in the world as well as television, radio, video, and live simulcast performances. Gunn's famous portrayal of the character Papageno (*The Magic Flute*) was brought to the world stage in the first-ever live, HD broadcast performed at the Metropolitan Opera. In addition to Papageno, Gunn has reinvented classic roles such as Billy Budd, Figaro, and Don Giovanni, garnering many awards including a Grammy award for his portrayal of Billy Budd and the coveted Beverly Sills award. He has also been widely acclaimed for his ability to cross over into musical theatre. Performances of *Billy Bigelow* and *Lancelot* (Live at Lincoln Center), and in the New York Philharmonic's celebration of Stephen Sondheim's 80th birthday led to collaborations with musical theatre stars such as Mandy Patinkin, Kelli O'Hara, Audra McDonald and Kristin Chenoweth.

Gunn believes that music is a living art form and, therefore, needs to be relevant. He has championed dozens of new songs and operas, and sung theatre in a multitude of venues. His newest project is a one-man show produced and written by Hershey Felder called *Flying Solo*, which has been lauded for its "powerful and reflective response to father/son relationships." This coming year Gunn and his partner Julie Gunn's production company Shot in the Dark will produce and perform cabaret shows such as *Nathan and Julie Gunn and Friends: An Evening on Broadway* and *Drytown*, which help to entertain and educate the public while giving talented young artists and hometown celebrities a platform to show off their talents. The Gunns are also often seen in recital and cabaret settings where they enjoy creating programs unique to the special event.

Gunn is a professor and Swanlund Chair at the University of Illinois where he is co-director of Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, a comprehensive program embracing a broad continuum of opera and musical theatre while supporting the development of new works. Gunn developed and founded the first Bachelor of Musical Arts in lyric theatre curriculum in the nation. It is part of the School of Music at the University of Illinois and housed in Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

In addition to life as a performer, educator, and advocate, Gunn is an avid patron of the arts. The Gunns consistently support pre-college music education and sponsor cultural events in order to secure the future of the art form. Gunn and his family reside in Champaign, Illinois.

JULIE JORDAN GUNN is a pianist, educator, and music director. She has performed on many of the world's most prestigious recital series, including the Aspen Festival, Auckland's Aotea Centre, Boston's Celebrity Series, Brussels' La Monnaie, Cal Performances, the Carnegie Hall Pure Voice Series, the Cincinnati Chamber Music Society, Cliburn Foundation, the Dallas Opera, Melbourne's Hamer Hall, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center Great Performers, Manhattan's Café Carlyle, McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts, Metropolitan Opera Summerstage, Notre Dame's DeBartolo Center, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, the Ravinia Festival, St. Paul's Schubert Club, San Francisco Performances, Sydney Opera House, Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall, University of Chicago Presents, Washington's Vocal Arts Society, Wallis Annenberg Center in Beverly Hills, Washington National Opera, 92nd Street Y, and the United States Supreme Court. She has been heard with William Burden, Richard Croft, Michelle De Young, Elizabeth Futral, Isabel Leonard, Stefan Milenkovich, Kelli O'Hara, Mandy Patinkin, Patti LuPone, Yvonne Gonzales Redman, Alek Shrader, the Pacifica and Jupiter Quartets, and her husband and artistic partner Nathan Gunn. In the upcoming season she looks forward to recitals and cabarets in Vail, Colorado; Bridgehampton, New York; South Bend, Indiana; and at London's Wigmore Hall.

Director of lyric theatre studies at the University of Illinois, Gunn produces three mainstage operas or musical theatre works a year at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. A faculty member at the School of Music, she enjoys teaching singers, pianists, chamber musicians, and songwriters, and conducting new works and musical theatre. She has given masterclasses at universities and young artists' programs all over the US, including the Aspen Festival, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Florida State University,

Houston Grand Opera Studio, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Metropolitan Opera Guild, Opera Theatre St. Louis, the Ryan Young Artists' Program, Santa Fe Opera, Ravinia's Steans Institute, and Vanderbilt University. She enjoyed tenures as artist-in-residence at Cincinnati Opera, the Glimmerglass Festival, and Ontario's Highlands Opera Studio. Gunn is the founder of the Illinois School of Music Academy, a program for talented pre-college chamber musicians and composers.

Gunn enjoys working at the intersection of different disciplines and collaborates with artists in the fields of theatre, dance, and design whenever possible. She has served as a coach or conductor at Chicago Opera Theater, Highlands Opera Studio, the Metropolitan Opera Young Artist Program, Opera North, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Southern Methodist University, Theatreworks!, and Wolf Trap Opera. She is committed to new works and in recent seasons has been part of several world premieres as a co-producer, a pianist, or as a conductor, including concert works by Augusta Read Thomas, Jennifer Higdon, and Harold Meltzer; staged works like *Polly Peachum* (Scheer/Van Horn), *Letters from Quebec to Providence in the Rain* (Gill), *Black Square* (Demutsky), *PRISM* (Reid), *The Surrogate* (Macklay), and *Bhutto* (Fairouz), often in collaboration with Beth Morrison Projects and American Opera Projects.

A member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, she is the author of many arrangements of songs for chamber groups and orchestras. Her arrangements have been heard at Carnegie Hall, Chicago's Symphony Center, DeBartolo Center, Ithaca College, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Kennedy Center, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, and in Sun Valley, Idaho.

MOLLY ABRAMS is originally from Maine and is currently a Master of Music student in vocal performance and literature at the University of Illinois, studying with Yvonne Redman. Abrams appeared as Gretel last year in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' production of *Hansel and Gretel*. She most recently performed the role of Antonia in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* with The Midwest Institute of Opera. Last spring Abrams won first place in her division at the Chicago Chapter NATS Classical Competition.

LARA SEMETKO-BROOKS is a doctoral candidate in jazz studies-voice at the University of Illinois, where she also received her Master of Music in voice performance and literature. She has performed such roles as Clara Johnson in *The Light in the Piazza*, Musetta in *La Bohème*, Lily Vanessi/Kate in *Kiss Me, Kate*, and Tytania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, to name a few. Semetko-Brooks is a lecturer in applied voice and opera studies at Washburn University.

COLLEEN BRUTON is a senior receiving her Bachelor of Musical Arts in lyric theatre at the University of Illinois this spring. She will be the first graduate of this new program offered through the School of Music. Bruton studies under Sarah Wigley and previously under Yvonne Redman. Highlights of her previous stage credits include *She Loves Me*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Light in the Piazza*, and *Don Giovanni*. Bruton is also a member of the UI Chamber Singers, with whom she premiered a work at Lincoln Center this past spring.

ELLIOT EMADIAN is a gender non-conforming dance and multimedia artist operating out of Urbana, Illinois. They began singing in order to be just like their older sister, and this annoying, sibling copycatting led them to release a full-length album, *selftalk*, in 2016 (Elliot Reza). They continued their musical education taking a course on songwriting under Dr. Stephen Taylor and Dr. Julie Gunn. Emadian is incredibly excited to perform in *An Evening of Broadway*.

OLIVIA GRONENTHAL is a senior studying vocal performance with Dawn Harris. Most recently, she appeared as Hansel in the Vancouver Summer Opera Workshop's production of *Hansel and Gretel*. Last year Gronenthal appeared in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' production of *Hansel and Gretel* as Hansel and in the ensemble of *Don Giovanni*.

RYAN BRYCE JOHNSON, tenor, is currently pursuing a master's degree in vocal performance and literature at the University of Illinois where he studies with Jerold Siena. Johnson also holds a bachelor's degree in vocal performance at Texas Tech University and has sung multiple operatic and musical theatre roles with Texas Tech Opera Theatre and Lyric Theatre @ Illinois. Johnson recently appeared as Don Ottavio in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' production of *Don Giovanni*.

NOLE JONES is an actor and singer from Birmingham, Alabama. Favorite appearances include *She Loves Me* (Georg Nowack) and *The Light in the Piazza* (Fabrizio) with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois and *Ragtime* and *Show Boat* with the Utah Festival Opera. Jones teaches musical theatre voice at Illinois Wesleyan University. He recently completed his Master of Music in voice performance at the University of Illinois, and holds degrees in both music and theatre from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

GABRIELLE LABARE is currently a second-year master's degree student at the University of Illinois under the tutelage of Yvonne Redman. She most recently performed as Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* under the direction of Nathan Gunn. Previous performances include the Mother in *Little Red's Most Unusual Day*, Terentia in *Captain Lovelock*, and the Sandman/Dewfairyt in *Hansel and Gretel*. LaBare has performed as a soloist with the Nazareth College Symphony Orchestra and Nazareth College Wind Symphony.

J.W. MORRISSETTE is the associate head of the department of theatre at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has served as chair of the BFA theatre studies program and the assistant head for academic programs as well as the assistant program coordinator for INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre. He currently serves as the associate head of the department. He completed his BFA in acting at Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, and both his MFA in acting and MA in theatre history at the University of Illinois. While attending Otterbein, Morrisette worked for Stuart Howard and Associates Casting in New York, interning as a casting assistant for many Broadway productions and television commercials. Morrisette has taught and directed for the past 20 years with the summer theatre department at Interlochen Center for the Arts. For the University of Illinois, his classes include acting, directing, introduction to theatre arts, and Broadway musicals. He has been integral in developing components for the online course offerings in the department as well as supervising all senior theatre studies thesis projects. He has spent several summers acting with the Utah Shakespeare Festival and the Interlochen Shakespeare Festival and directs professionally when time allows. He has received the Provost's Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award at the University of Illinois.

LOGAN PIKER is a sophomore at the University of Illinois, studying lyric theatre. Her past credits include Ayah in Prairie Fire Theatre's production of *The Secret Garden*, Marcellina in Viterbo University's 2016 Opera Scene Intensive, and Ilona Cover/ensemble member in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' production of *She Loves Me*. Piker is extremely grateful to be working alongside such a talented group of artists and can't wait to continue growing with the lyric theatre program!

ANDREW TURNER has performed a variety of lead and supporting roles including Camille de Rosillon in *The Merry Widow* and Frederick Frankenstein in *Young Frankenstein*. He recently debuted his role as Don Ottavio in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' spring production of *Don Giovanni*. Currently Turner is finishing his master's degree in performance and literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he studies with Jerold Siena.

RACHEL WEINFELD has found a home for herself as a versatile crossover singer in both the opera and musical theatre worlds. Originally from Lansing, Michigan, Weinfeld is currently pursuing her master's degree in voice performance and literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she studies with Yvonne Redman. This past summer she performed Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* with the Midwest Institute of Opera and she made her Lyric Theatre @ Illinois debut in the spring as Amalia Balash in *She Loves Me*. In 2017 Weinfeld received her undergraduate degree in music from Ball State University where she performed many mainstage roles with the Ball State Opera Theatre, including Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Belinda in *Dido and Aeneas*, and Adele in *Die Fledermaus*. Weinfeld also performed in Salzburg, Austria, as Bastienne (Mozart's *Bastien und Bastienne*) with the Franco-American Vocal Academy.