



THE ADVENTURES OF LITTLE SHARP-EARS
LYRIC THEATRE @ ILLINOIS

Music and lyrics by Leoš Janáček

English adaptation by Kelley Rourke

Sarah Wigley, director | Andrew Megill, conductor

Friday, November 15, 2019, at 7:30pm

Saturday, November 16, 2019, at 5pm

Sunday, November 17, 2019, at 3pm

Tryon Festival Theatre

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Tonight's performance of *The Adventures of Little Sharp-Ears*
is sponsored in part by the following generous donors:

SUSAN & MICHAEL HANEY

WELCOME



WELCOME TO LYRIC THEATRE @ ILLINOIS

—a vibrant community that embraces a wide range of opera and musical theatre.

The 2019-20 season will be full of works that excite our curiosity, challenge our assumptions, deepen our understanding and lift our spirits. First, in collaboration with Allerton Park and Retreat Center, we offer *Songs for a New World*, the first musical from Tony Award winner Jason Robert Brown (*Parade*, *The Bridges of Madison County*). This moving collection of powerful songs with a driving, exquisitely crafted score examines life, love, and the choices that we make. Next, Leos Janaček's *The Adventures of Little Sharp-Ears*, directed by Sarah Wigley, immerses us in the beauty and majesty of the natural world, celebrating the circle of life in the human and animal world. The lush and ground-breaking score was played at Janaček's funeral at the composer's request and will be conducted by Andrew Megill.

In honor of Krannert Center's 50th anniversary, the resident producers—Lyric Theatre, Theatre, and Dance—are joining forces to present the classic Kander and Ebb work, *Cabaret*. Set in 1931 in Germany's Weimar Republic, it follows the lives of the performers and clientele of the Kit Kat Club as the country moves in a very dark direction. Directed by Latrelle Bright, with choreography by Elliot Emadian and music direction by Julie Gunn, this iconic musical is by turns thrilling, entertaining, terrifying, and tender.

Finally, Lyric Theatre will present Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*, directed by Dawn Harris and conducted by Michael Tilley. In this musical comedy of manners, both charming and wistful, surprises lie just around the corner, and a magical summer night offers new beginnings. Romance and longing are carried along on Sondheim's lush score.

We are proud to represent the breadth and depth of sung theatre in our productions, workshops, and classes. We continue to develop new masterpieces in collaboration with Beth Morrison Projects and other colleagues and to nurture the creative and performing leaders of the 21st century. We are so proud of our students and of their commitment to excellence and creativity. And we are so grateful for you, our audiences. Thank you for supporting Lyric Theatre @ Illinois!

Yours,
Julie and Nathan Gunn
CO-DIRECTORS, LYRIC THEATRE @ ILLINOIS

PROGRAM

THE ADVENTURES OF LITTLE SHARP-EARS **LYRIC THEATRE @ ILLINOIS**

Music and lyrics by Leoš Janáček
English adaptation by Kelley Rourke
Andrew Megill, conductor
Sarah Wigley, director

Friday, November 15, 2019, at 7:30pm
Saturday, November 16, 2019, at 5pm
Sunday, November 17, 2019, at 3pm
Tryon Festival Theatre

TIME: 1920

PLACE: Moravia

ACT I

Scene 1: The Meadow

The forest creatures delight in the summer sun. The Forester pauses for a nap on his way home. When he wakes, he captures young Sharp-Ears, who is exploring the forest for the first time.

Scene 2: The Forester's Farmyard

The Dog tells Sharp-Ears of his loneliness. Two children, Pepik and Frantik, torment Sharp-Ears; when she defends herself, she is tied up. She dreams of freedom. Sharp-Ears rallies the hens to free themselves from their slavery to the Rooster. Chewing through her rope, Sharp-Ears escapes the farmyard and returns home to the forest.

ACT II

Scene 1: The Badger's Lair

Sharp-Ears visits the Badger in his lair. She shames him for his greed and then forces him out, making the lair her own home.

Scene 2: The Tavern

The Forester, Schoolmaster, and Parson meet at the tavern for their usual long night of drinking. The Forester teases the Schoolmaster about his unrequited love for the gypsy girl Terynka and laments the loss of his youth.

Scene 3: The Forest

As he stumbles home, the Schoolmaster drunkenly hallucinates a vision of Terynka and reveals the secret passions that are hidden within him. The Parson, also lost and inebriated, is tormented by guilt. The Forester drunkenly hunts the Vixen through the Forest.

Scene 4: The Vixen's Lair

The Fox courts Sharp-Ears in her lair and a passionate encounter ensues. The forest animals bless their union with a lively celebration.

20-minute intermission

ACT III

Scene 1: The Forest

Harasta the poacher sets a fox trap baited with a dead rabbit. Sharp-Ears and the Fox Cubs find the trap and mock Harasta for his incompetence. From a distance, Harasta shoots Sharp Ears and the Fox Cubs flee.

Scene 2: The Tavern

The Innkeeper's Wife relates the news from the Parson's travels—he is homesick. The Schoolmaster reports that his beloved Terynka has married Harasta; the Innkeeper's Wife remarks on her new fox-fur muff. The Forester accepts that he is aging and leaves the Tavern to sleep in the Forest.

Scene 3: The Meadow

The Forester returns to the place he first met the Vixen, grieving her loss. He recalls the blissful days of his youth while basking in the beauty of nature. He sees a young fox cub who reminds him of Sharp-Ears. A Frog appears—the grandson of the frog who had done the same thing in Act I. This awakens a moment of radiant spiritual understanding for the Forester as he celebrates the inevitable cycle of life born out of death.

THE ADVENTURES OF LITTLE SHARP-EARS

CONDUCTOR

Andrew Megill

STAGE DIRECTOR

Sarah Wigley

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR

Genesee Spridco

SCENIC DESIGNER

Jia Zenpeng

COSTUME DESIGNER

William Sturman

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Megan J. Coffel

SOUND DESIGNER

Zia Fox

STAGE MANAGER

Maria Miguens

SUPERTITLES

Michael Tilley

MUSICAL PREPARATION

Julie Jordan Gunn

CAST

SHARP-EARS

Lisa Buhelos^
Lauren Falk^^

FOX

Berit Johnson^^
Michaela Wright^

FORESTER

Scott Cuva^
Chris Stanfill^^

YOUNG SHARP-EARS/FOX CUB

Caitlin Hennessy

CRICKET/CHICK

Caroline McKinzie

GRASSHOPPER/CHICK

Anna Benoit

FROG/CHICK

Stasia Kasimos

DRAGONFLY/CHICK/FOX CUB

Anna Lowery

MOSQUITO/INNKEEPER

Nicholas Ian Koch

OWL

Thereza Lituma

WOODPECKER

Nicole Rodriguez Olivia

BLUE JAY/FOX CUB

Kate Stenzel

FRANTIK/FOX CUB

Logan Piker

PEPIK/FOX CUB

Carissa Yau

INNKEEPER'S WIFE/MOTHER HEN

Julie Malecki

ROOSTER

Kara Taft

DOG

Gabrielle LaBare

BADGER

Sergio Andrés Martínez Salazar

FOX CUB/CHICK

Sydney Hoel

FORESTER'S WIFE

Elizabeth Frodge

SCHOOLMASTER

Craig Moman

HARASTA

Lewis McAdow

PARSON

Geoffrey Schmelzer

^Performing on Friday, November 15, and Sunday, November 17.

^^Performing on Saturday, November 16.

UI CHAMBER SINGERS

Andrew McGill, conductor

Brendan Barker, graduate assistant conductor

Simon Tiffin and Ty Tuttle, pianists

SOPRANO

Mary Currie

Lauren Falk

Rowan Frantz

Paige Graham

Caitlin Hennessy

Caroline McKinzie

Lydia Walsh-Rock

ALTO

Sophia Byrd

Liz Frodge

Kirsten Hedegaard

Thereza Lituma

Mora Novey

Miranda Rowland

Erin Ryan

Lizzy Zarley

TENOR

Brendan Barker

Austin Cody

Nicholas Koch

Christopher Mason

Timon Niedecke

Simon Tiffin

BASS

Trey Floyd

Reid Gramm

Patrick Hockberger

Scott Knier

Sinhaeng Lee

Conor Pils

Geoffrey Schmelzer

Chris Stanfill

UI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Donald Schleicher, music director

VIOLIN

Stella Childs
Stella Choi
Yulu Fu
Doron Grossman-Naples
Leah Haynes
Claudia Kubaryz
Elsieui Layman
Tim Lee
Daniel Ostrow
Andreas Ruiz-Gehrt
Julie Saxton
Haley Schricker
Trevor Thompson **
Chieh-An Yu
Pei-Shan Yu *
Leah Zhao

VIOLA

Natalie Briggs
Saffron Bruno
Eliza Haddon
Giorgi Khatalev *
Yuan mu Yang
Jessica Zhang

CELLO

David Caplan *
Satoshi Kamei
Gabriel Pellino
Ethan Sandman bass
Odilia Got
Kevin Snyder *
Huai An Tseng

HARP

Dai-An Liu

FLUTE

Noah Livingston
Melissa Merkel
Lizzy O'Brien
Matthew Reeder

OBOE

Mike Helgerman
Emma Olson
Hongyi Qian

CLARINET

Nathan Hollis
Maddie Leischner
Dalton Swallows

BASSOON

Christine Breeden
Jordan Cavitt
Emily Kuhn

HORN

Joseph Goldstein
Kelly Langenberg
Clark Stevens
Alli Torf

TRUMPET

Tyler Cornwall
Nick Jenz
Saori Kataoka

TROMBONE

Jorge Alvizures
Charlie Hall
Bradley Martinez

TUBA

Austin Cooper

TIMPANI

Stephen Busath

PERCUSSION

Matthew Anderson
Fabian Correa

** concertmaster

* principal

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Many of us hold familiar childhood fables near and dear, often realizing the depth, morality, and even satire these seemingly adorable tales tell only when we reach adulthood. Amidst the spectacle of shimmering dragonflies, acrobatic mosquitos, and dancing grasshoppers, we invite you into Leoš Janáček's *The Adventures of Little Sharp-Ears* where the freedom of the animal world is brought to life in both the soaring, evocative score and in the playful and sometimes precarious interactions between creatures.

Throughout literary history, the forest has represented a place of testing where humankind goes to find meaning, a destination where we may go into our unconscious selves to find peace, simplicity, and freedom. In our tale,

Sharp-Ears the fox scampers, tumbles, and wrestles her way through the forest in constant adventure while the Forester, Schoolmaster, and Parson find themselves tested by nostalgia and homesickness. Although we might fear for Sharp-Ears, scoff at her actions, or gasp loudly at her brazen impulsivity, our human hands long to applaud the freedom this fox lives in and lives for.

It is part of the human experience to share the inherent desire to go into the forest once again to find simplicity, peace, and freedom that can only be witnessed in the presence of nature. Perhaps the ultimate magic of the forest lies in the blurred lines between what separates each of us, humans and animals alike.

—Sarah Wigley, director

PROFILES



Anna Benoit (Grasshopper/Chick) is a senior Equity Membership Candidate pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Recently, she performed with Ozark Actors Theatre in the ensembles of *Mary Poppins*

and *My Fair Lady* and as Mrs. Soames and Professor Willard in *Our Town*. With Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, she has performed as Rona Lisa Peretti in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Tess in *Crazy for You*, and in the ensembles of *La Bohème*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *She Loves Me*, and *The Light in the Piazza*. She also participated in the workshop of *Take Flight* under the direction of Richard Maltby and Kevin Stites. Benoit has danced in several ballets with the Springfield Ballet Company, most recently as the stepmother in *Cinderella*.



Lisa Kay Buhelos (Sharp-Ears) is a soprano, currently in her senior year at the University of Illinois. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in vocal performance and studies with Dawn Harris. Recently, she has been seen in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' productions of *Crazy*

For You (Margie), *La Bohème* (Ensemble), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Ensemble), and the workshop of *Take Flight* (Brenda). Previous roles include the chorus of *Too Many Sopranos*, *Cinderella* in *Into the Woods*, and Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family*. She co-created, co-directed, and acted in the first production of *Broadway*

Backwards at Butler University. There, she also performed in opera scenes, including scenes from *Die Zauberflöte* and *Der Schauspieldirektor* as Mademoiselle Silberklang. During the summer, Buhelos participated in the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, where she was a soloist for the AIMs Festival Orchestra.



Scott Cuva (Forester) is a second-year Master of Music student in vocal performance and literature under the tutelage of Jerold Siena. He made his Lyric Theatre @ Illinois debut as Schaunard in Puccini's *La Bohème* and continued his work for Lyric

Theatre as Tarquinius in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*. He made his professional operatic debut in 2018 as Tashetego in Pittsburgh Opera's production of *Moby Dick* and has performed in the Pittsburgh Opera Chorus for numerous other shows, including *Otello*, *L'elisir d'amore*, and the world premiere of *The Summer King*. Cuva was a member and featured soloist of the Pittsburgh Camerata from 2014 to 2018.



Elizabeth Frodge (Forester's Wife) is a soprano in her first year of the Master of Music performance and literature program at the University of Illinois, studying with Ollie Watts Davis. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Kentucky

where she was very active in both the opera and choral departments as a soloist. She most recently performed scenes from *Die Fledermaus* (Rosalinda), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Mrs. Ford), and *La Bohème* (Mimi) at the Bayview Music Festival. While at the University of Kentucky, Frodge performed the roles of the Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and "Laetitia" in *The Old Maid and the Thief* and covered the role of Beggar Woman in *Sweeney Todd*.



Lauren Falk (Sharp-Ears) is a master's student in voice performance and literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she studies under Jerold Siena. She completed her bachelor's degree in vocal performance at the Baldwin Wallace

Conservatory of Music. Falk recently played the role of Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore* with Prairie Fire Theatre and Amore in Glück's *Orfeo ed Euridice* at the Armory Free Theatre. Recent Lyric Theatre @ Illinois credits include Lisebeth in a workshop production of Whitney Ashe's *Lisebeth* and *Electricizer 2* in Elizabeth Gartman and Susan Bywaters' new opera *New Motive Power*.



Caitlin Hennessy (Young Sharp-Ears/Fox Cub) is a senior studying vocal performance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Previous roles include Donna Elvira's "Woman" in a modern production of *Don Giovanni* directed by Nathan Gunn (Lyric

Theatre @ Illinois), 2nd Woodspite in Dvořák's *Rusalka* (LAH-SOW Portland), Chorus in *Candide* by Leonard Bernstein (Angels Vocal Art), Chorus in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* (Lyric Theatre @ Illinois), and Ensemble in *The Light in the Piazza* (Lyric Theatre @ Illinois). She also performed as a soprano soloist in the Benedictus from Haydn's *Missa Brevis Sancti Johannis de Deo* at the University of Illinois. Hennessy is a voice student of longtime Metropolitan opera tenor Jerold Siena.



Sydney Hoel (Fox Cub/Chick) is a sophomore studying vocal performance under Sylvia Stone at the University of Illinois. Some of her favorite past roles include Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, Laurey in *Oklahoma!*, and Maria in *The Sound of Music*. This past year,

Hoel was given the School of Music Achievement Award in Voice. This performance will be her Lyric Theatre debut.



Berit Johnson (Fox) is a first-year master's student in vocal performance and literature where she is a musical theatre voice teaching assistant, sings with Chamber Singers, and studies under Dawn Harris and Sarah Wigley. She is originally from

Minneapolis, Minnesota, and is a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, with a BM in vocal performance and theatre art under the tutelage of Holly Janz. Johnson's other credits include performances with the College Light Opera Company, Southwest Summer Theatre, Fargo Moorhead Opera, and the Minnesota Fringe Festival. Roles with Lyric Theatre include Woman 2 in *Songs for the New World*, Patricia Fodor in *Crazy For You*, Lucia in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Isabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* with Sinfonia da Camera, and Amelia Earhart in *Maltby and Shire's Take Flight* opposite Nathan Gunn and under the direction of Richard Maltby and music direction of Kevin Stites.



Stasia Kasimos (Frog/Chick) is currently a junior in the BFA acting program pursuing a musical theatre minor. This is her second production with Lyric Theatre after the spring 2018 production of *Crazy For You* where she played Elaine. She also played a Protean in

Illinois Theatre's production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Previous projects also include *The Syringa Tree* and *Heathers* (Illinois Student Musicals).



Nicholas Ian Koch (Mosquito/ Innkeeper) is a junior in the Lyric Theatre program at the University of Illinois. He is currently under the tutelage of Sarah Wigley, has studied with Dawn Harris, and has also coached with Casey Robards. Koch is a member of the UI

Chamber Singers and, along with Lyric Theatre, is simultaneously pursuing an education in French language. Lyric Theatre performance credits

include *Crazy For You* (Moose/Bobby Cover), *La Bohème* (Ensemble), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Policeman/Pirate), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Male Swing), *Take Flight* workshop (Priest/Angry Italian Man), *She Loves Me* (Arpad Cover/Ensemble), and *Don Giovanni* (Ensemble).



Gabrielle LaBare (Dog) is currently working toward her Master of Science in library and information sciences, continuing to study music under the tutelage of Yvonne Redman. She graduated with her Master of Music from the University of Illinois at Urbana-

Champaign in spring 2019 after earning her bachelor's in music from Nazareth College of Rochester, New York. This is LaBare's third performance with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, previously playing the roles of Female Chorus in *The Rape of Lucretia* and Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Previous operatic performances include the Mother in *Little Red's Most Unusual Day*, Terentia in *Captain Lovelock*, and the Sandman/Dew Fairy in *Hansel and Gretel*. She has performed as a soloist with the Genesee Symphony Orchestra, Nazareth College Symphony Orchestra, and Nazareth College Wind Symphony. LaBare is recipient of the Sarah de Mundo Lo Award and took second place in the Central Regional NATS competition in its Advanced Collegiate Women division.



Thereza Lituma (Owl) is a senior pursuing a dual major in voice performance and music education at the University of Illinois under the tutelage of Sylvia Stone. Last season, she performed the title role in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* (Lyric Theatre @ Illinois). Her

other past opera credits include Ježibaba/Third Wood Sprite in Dvorak's *Rusalka* (LAH-SOW Portland), Albanact in Purcell's *King Arthur* (La Nuova Aurora Opera), and as the cover of Vera Boronel in Menotti's *The Consul* (Transgressive Theatre-Opera). Lituma was a recipient of the 2019 Project Inclusion Voice Fellowship with Grant Park Music Festival and was a winner of the Thomas J. Smith Scholarship Competition. She currently serves as the president of the Sigma Alpha Iota-Sigma Delta Chapter and is a member of the University of Illinois' Chamber Singers. For more information, visit therezalituma.com.



Anna Lowery (Dragonfly/Chick/Fox Cub) is a junior pursuing her Bachelor of Music in vocal performance under the instruction of Sylvia Stone. This will be her first show at the University of Illinois. Lowery has spent her summers in Italy participating

in the Scuola Italia for Young Opera Singers program where with students from around the world she performed various opera scenes, including Adina from *L'elisir d'amore* and *Falstaff*.



Julie Malecki (Innkeeper's Wife/Mother Hen) is a second-year DMA student in vocal performance and literature. She has performed such roles as First Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*), Mary Warren (*The Crucible*), Alice Ford (*Falstaff*), La Principessa (*La bella*

dormitenel bosco), Princess Zara (*Utopia, Limited*), and Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*). Malecki has participated in opera training programs such as Chicago Summer Opera, the Midwest Institute of Opera, the Miami Summer Music Festival, and the American Singers' Opera Project and has been featured as a soloist in the Naperville Chorus' performance of Vivaldi's *Magnificat*. She holds a bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in vocal performance. Prior to beginning studies at the University of Illinois, she spent several years teaching general music as well as piano and voice lessons in the Chicago area.



Sergio Andrés Martínez Salazar (Badger) is a bass from Colombia, South America. He has performed several roles in Colombia including Gorgibus and the Town Magistrate in *Signor Deluso*, The King in *Goose Girl*, and Matthew in *La Divina*, operas by American

composer Thomas Pasatieri. Salazar was selected for the main role of El Loco for the international premiere of *Muerte Accidental de un Anarquista* by Jorge Pinzón. His most recent performances include roles such as Basilio in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Theseus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Benjamin Britten, The Ogre in *El gato con botas* by Xavier Montsalvatge, and Meneses in

the Cuban zarzuela *Cecilia Valdés*, all of these performed in the most prestigious theatres in Colombia. In 2018, he placed third in the national singing competition in Bogotá. He is currently a second-year Master of Music student in vocal performance and literature at the University of Illinois studying with Jerold Siena and has performed several roles with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois.



Lewis McAdow (Harasta), a baritone from Houston, Texas, is a first-year master's student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He previously attended the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston where he performed in the roles of

Hanezò in *Mascagni's L'amico* and Fritz and Gregorio in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*.



Caroline McKinzie (Cricket/Chick) is a junior BMA in lyric theatre major. Previous Lyric Theatre @ Illinois credits include Patsy in *Crazy for You*, Logainne Schwartz and Grubenierre in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and

Ensembles for *The Pirates of Penzance* and *She Loves Me*. McKinzie was a featured singer in last year's 29-hour workshop reading of Maltby and Shire's *Take Flight*. This summer, she taught music to second through ninth graders at the Hoogland Center for the Performing Arts in Springfield, Illinois, while performing as Amber in *Hairspray* at the Legacy Theatre. McKinzie is studying with Sarah Wigley.



Craig Moman (Schoolmaster) is in his second year as a Master's student in voice performance and literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, currently studying with Jerold Siena. Prior performances include the Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto*

with La Musica Lirica, Count Almaviva in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at Opera in the Ozarks, and Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus* and Tamino in *The Magic Flute* while at Wheaton College. Moman also has a passion for oratorio with performances as a tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah* and Charpentier's *Le Reniement de St. Pierre* while at Wheaton College.



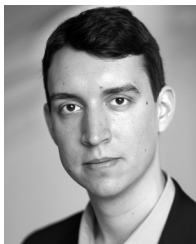
Logan Piker (Frantik/Fox Cub) is a junior pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre, studying with Nathan Gunn and Sarah Wigley in the fall of 2019. She made her Lyric Theatre @ Illinois debut in spring 2018 as both Ensemble member and Ilona cover in *She Loves Me*.

Additional past credits include Louise in *Gypsy* at Prairie Fire Theatre, Marcy Park in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Take Flight*, and guest artist in Nathan and Julie Gunn and Friends: *An Evening on Broadway*.



Nicole Alessandra Rodriguez Oliva (Woodpecker) is a junior in vocal performance from Houston, Texas, studying with Sylvia Stone. She has attended Scuola Italia, a summer program directed by Stone, for the past two years and has performed a variety of roles

from Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro* to Flora in *La Traviata*. She has also performed in master classes for June Card, Donald George, and Mark Goodrich.



Geoffrey Schmelzer (Parson) is a baritone pursuing a BM in voice performance at the University of Illinois where he studies with Jerold Siena. His Lyric Theatre @ Illinois highlights include the Sergeant of Police in *The Pirates of Penzance* with

Sinfonia da Camera, Junius (cover) in *The Rape of Lucretia*, and Sam/Pete in *Crazy for You*. This past summer, he sang the roles of Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*, Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (both with Manhattan Opera Studio), and Schaunard in *La Bohème* (Midwest Institute of Opera). Schmelzer's concert experience includes Handel's *Messiah* at First United Methodist Church of Urbana and Michael Haydn's *Missa Sancti Hieronymi* with the UI Oratorio Society. He is a member of the UI Chamber Singers and bass section leader at UniPlace Church.



Chris Stanfill (Forester), baritone, received his Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He has performed several leading roles including Uncle Yakuside in *Madama Butterfly*, The Pirate King in

The Pirates of Penzance, Peter in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Aeneas in *Dido and Aeneas*, and Solomon in *Solomon and Balkis*. Stanfill has performed as the baritone soloist for several concert and oratorio works, including Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*; Fauré's *Requiem*; Finzi's *Let Us Garlands Bring*; Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, K.V. 339; Bach's *Erfreut euch, ihr Herzen*, BWV 66; Handel's *Nisi Dominus*; and Mozart's *Requiem*. In addition to his collegiate studies, he has participated in Union Avenue Opera's Crescendo program and W. Stephen Smith's The Naked Voice for Singers and Teachers Summer Institute. Stanfill has also participated as a young artist in the Aspen Music Festival and School, the Bach Society of St. Louis, and with Central City Opera.



Katherine Stenzel (Blue Jay/Fox Cub) is a master's student in voice, studying with Jerold Siena and Yvonne Redman. She recently appeared as Euridice in Glück's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, and has been featured as a soloist with Illinois Modern Ensemble and

the UI Philharmonic Orchestra. Other favorite credits include Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, Laurey in *Oklahoma!*, Little Red Riding Hood in *The Trial of B.B. Wolf*, and Yum Yum in the *Mikado*.



Kara Taft (Rooster), soprano, is a first-year MM candidate in vocal performance and literature at the University of Illinois and is making her debut at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. She received her BM in vocal performance from the Lawrence University

Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wisconsin, in 2017 through which her performance experience includes *A Man of No Importance* (Lily Byrne) and *Next to Normal* (Diana Goodman). Additionally, she has studied at the Balance Arts Center for the Alexander Technique in New York City in 2019 and the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland, in 2016. Taft hails from Minneapolis, Minnesota, where her regional performance experience includes *Candide* (Featured Ensemble) with Artistry MN, *Into the Woods* (Witch) with Lakeshore Players, and *If/Then* (Featured Ensemble/Swing) with the Lyric Arts Main Street Stage.



Michaela Wright (Fox) is pursuing her master's in opera performance and literature at the University of Illinois where she studies privately with Jerold Siena. She recently made her "pants-role" debut as Orfeo in Glück's *Orfeo ed Euridice* under the direction of

Madeline Whitesell. Since beginning her graduate studies at the University of Illinois, she has also had the opportunities to sing the roles of Bianca in *The Rape of Lucretia* with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois and Nancy in *Albert Herring* for the opera scenes program last fall. She has a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance and a minor in education from Jacksonville University where she

studied privately with Jay Ivey. Wright has also recently been seen performing in a 29-hour reading of *Take Flight* (under the direction of Richard Maltby of Maltby and Shire), *The Pirates of Penzance* with Sinfonia da Camera as Phrodite, and Stephane in the world premiere of *Atlantis the Musical*, as well as at the Times Union Center with the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus singing the Verdi *Requiem* and Mozart's *Great Mass in C Minor*. In her undergraduate career, she was seen in productions such as *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (as Ginger), *Weird Romance* (as Rebecca), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (as Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre), and as the mezzo-soprano soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*. When she isn't performing, she loves spending time with her little sister and best friend Lyla, going thrift shopping, and taking her dog Tallulah to the park.



Carissa Yau (Pepik/Fox Cub) is a senior in music open studies, focusing on the integration of performance and education. She has been a part of *Take Flight* with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois and has been enrolled in various Lyric Theatre courses during her studies at the University of Illinois. She is currently a student of Berit Johnson and has previously studied under Sarah Wigley and Yvonne Gonzales-Redman.

Aaron Ames (Coaching Staff/Accompanist), raised in Ukiah, California, has been a pianist and musician since the age of seven when he first began piano lessons under the tutelage of Michael Coughenour. Throughout his school years, he was an active member of wind ensemble and jazz bands in middle school and high school. Upon graduation from Ukiah High, he was accepted to the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, where he studied with Frank Wiens and Rex Cooper. Each summer, he would return to Ukiah and contribute to the summer musical programs at Mendocino College. He became a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Theta Chi Fraternity and received his bachelor's degree in music performance in 2008. After receiving his degree, Ames applied and was accepted to the graduate music program at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. At Appalachian State, he studied under Rodney Reynerson and was given the opportunity to perform the first movement of Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 5*. He received his master's degree in music performance in 2010 and was invited to join Pi Kappa Lambda, the musician's academic honors society. Since graduation, Ames has discovered an affinity and admiration of piano accompaniment. After receiving his master's degree, he continued his association with the university as a staff accompanist and Opera Workshop accompanist where he contributed to the musical growth and maturation of its students. He was also involved with several musical theatre productions through the Appalachian State Department of Theatre and Dance and in the greater Watauga community. Between 2014 and 2019, he was the principal pianist for the Western Piedmont Symphony in Hickory, North Carolina, and a piano/voice instructor at the James C. Harper School of Performing Arts in Lenoir, North Carolina. Since 2016, he has spent his summers

at the French Woods Festival of Performing Arts in Upstate New York, working as a music director for some of the many theatrical productions that are produced there each year. Currently, Ames and his wife Jenna live in Urbana, Illinois. He is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in vocal coaching and accompanying at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Megan J. Coffel (Lighting Designer) is a second-year lighting design and technology MFA candidate at the University of Illinois. They enjoy their time spent working at Krannert Center both day-to-day and in prior credits such as lighting designer for *Hit the Wall*, assistant lighting designer for *A Funny Thing on the Way to the Forum*, and master electrician for *Crazy for You* and *Studiodance I*. Coffel previously attended the University of Northern Iowa, earning a BA in theatre design and production and worked nearby as a stagehand and lighting designer for shows at the Waterloo Community Playhouse/Blackhawk Children's Theatre. Most recently, they enjoyed teaching and designing lights for the Stephens College Summer Theatre Intensive.

Zia Fox (Sound Designer) is a second-year MFA in sound design and technology at the University of Illinois. They have been working for Krannert Center since early 2017 and started designing when they were accepted to the MFA program at the U of I. Last year, they sound-designed for *February Dance 2019*. That same school year they were the audio engineer for *La Bohème* and *The Rape of Lucretia*. Over the 2019 summer, they helped cultivate new works at New York Stage and Film at Vassar College as a sound technician. Outside of their main work at the Krannert Center, Fox is working towards becoming a video game sound designer.

Julie Jordan Gunn (Musical Preparation) is a pianist, educator, and music director. She has performed on many of North America's most prestigious recital series, including the Aspen Festival, Boston's Celebrity Series, the Carnegie Hall Pure Voice Series, the Cincinnati Chamber Music Society, the Cliburn Foundation, the Dallas Opera, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center Great Performers, Manhattan's Café Carlyle, the Metropolitan Opera Summerstage, Notre Dame's DeBartolo Center, the Ravinia Festival, St. Paul's Schubert Club, San Francisco Performances, the Sydney Opera House, Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall, University of Chicago Presents, Washington's Vocal Arts Society, the 92nd Street Y, and the United States Supreme Court. She has been heard in recital with William Burden, Richard Croft, Elizabeth Futral, Isabel Leonard, Stefan Milenkovich, Kelli O'Hara, Mandy Patinkin, Yvonne Gonzales Redman, Michelle De Young, the Pacifica and Jupiter Quartets, and her husband and artistic partner Nathan Gunn. This season she is giving recitals and cabarets at the Interlochen Center for the Performing Arts; the DeBartolo Center; Vanderbilt University; Thomasville, Georgia; Western Michigan University; the McCallum Theater for the Performing Arts; the Wallis Annenberg Center in Beverly Hills; and Bravo! Vail. Director of Lyric Theatre Studies at the University of Illinois, Gunn produces three mainstage operas or musical theatre works a year at the 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 master classes at universities and young artists' programs all over the United States, including the Aspen Festival, the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, the Houston Grand Opera Studio, the Interlochen Center for the Arts, the Metropolitan

Opera Guild, Opera Theatre St. Louis, the Ryan Young Artists' Program, the Santa Fe Opera, and Ravinia's Steans Institute. She enjoyed tenures as artist-in-residence at Cincinnati Opera and the Glimmerglass Festival. She 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, Theaterworks!, 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: *Twilight Butterfly* (Thomas), *Dooryard Bloom* (Higdon), *Polly Peachum* (Scheer/Van Horn), *Variations on a Summer's Day* (Meltzer), *Letters from Quebec to Providence in the Rain* (Gill,) and *Bhutto* (Fairouz.) She works with Beth Morrison Projects and American Opera Projects to produce workshops and academic premieres of new operas. A member of ASCAP, 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, the DeBartolo Center, Ithaca College, Interlochen, Kennedy Center, Krannert Center, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, and in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Jia Zengpeng (Scenic Designer) is a scenic designer from China who moved to the United States to earn his master's degree. He received a BFA degree in scenic design from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in Chongqing, China. In addition to theatre design, he has also done some design with television, film, architecture, and illustration. He is currently enrolled in his second year at the University of Illinois. His past stage design credits include *Moved Chongqing* (CQ Playhouse) and *Leftover Girls* (SFAI Theatre).

Cadis Ying Jie Lee (Coaching Staff/ Accompanist) graduated with a Bachelor (Hons.) of Classical Music at UCSI University (Kuala Lumpur) under the tutelage of Morag Yong Ker Syn where she majored in classical piano performance. She studied for a Master of Music in piano accompaniment under the tutelage of Scott Mitchell at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2015. In April 2017, she participated in the Georg Solti Accademia Repetiteur's Course and had masterclasses with the late Jeffrey Tate, Richard Bonyngé, Jonathan Papp, James Vaughan, and Mark Markham. She was invited to play in the Georg Solti Accademia singers' course in July 2017. Lee is currently studying for a DMA in vocal coaching and accompanying at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign under the tutelage of Michael Tilley. She has accompanied for the *Don Giovanni*, *She Loves Me*, and *La Bohème* productions at Krannert Center.

Michael McAndrew (Coaching Staff/ Accompanist) maintains an active schedule as a collaborative pianist and vocal coach. He currently plays with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois and has played with Summer Harmony Men's Chorus, Foothills Opera Experience, Songe d'été en musique, and Tri-Cities Opera, among others. He has also played with distinguished artists such as Randy Brecker, Phil Woods, Bob Dorough, the Momenta Quartet, Jacqueline Horner-Kwiatek, and Met Opera National Audition Winner Martye Bizinkauskas. McAndrew is a current DMA student in vocal coaching and accompanying where he studies with Michael Tilley. Prior to that, he received his Master of Music in collaborative piano and composition from Binghamton University and his Bachelor of Music in music composition from Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He recently music-directed the Allerton production of *Songs for a New World*.

Andrew Megill (Musical Director) is recognized as one the leading choral conductors of his generation, admired for both his passionate artistry and his unusually wide-ranging repertoire, which extends from early music to newly composed works. He is Professor and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he leads the oldest doctoral program in choral conducting in the United States. In addition, he leads three of North America's finest professional vocal ensembles: the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Chorus, the Carmel Bach Festival Chorale, and Fuma Sacra. His performances have been praised for their "power, subtlety, and nuance" and "profound spirituality" (*Le Devoir*) and have been described as "piercing the heart like a frozen knife" (*Monterey Herald*) and "leaving the audience gasping in amazement" (*Classical New Jersey*). Megill frequently collaborates with

the world's leading orchestras. He has prepared choirs for the American Composers' Orchestra, American Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Dresdner Philharmonie, Montreal Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and Venice Baroque Orchestra for conductors including Pierre Boulez, Charles Dutoit, Joseph Flummerfelt, Rafael Frühbeck du Burgos, Alan Gilbert, Jane Glover, Neeme Järvi, Zdenek Macal, Kurt Masur, Zubin Mehta, Kent Nagano, John Nelson, and Julius Rudel. An accomplished orchestral conductor, he has led the Spoleto Festival Orchestra, Carmel Bach Festival Orchestra, I Musici de Montréal Chamber Orchestra, Masterwork Orchestra, Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, and Sinfonia da Camera and made his debut conducting the Montreal Symphony Orchestra in 2014. Megill is particularly admired for his performances of Baroque choral works. He regularly collaborates with leaders in the field of historically-informed performance, including Masaaki Suzuki, Ton Koopman, Bruno Weil, Andrea Marcon, Paul Goodwin, Julianne Baird, Elizabeth Wallfisch, Nancy Wilson, Peter Hanson, and John Holloway. He has conducted many period-instrument orchestras, including Piffaro, Rebel, Sinfonia New York, Brandywine Baroque, the Sebastians, Tempesta di Mare, and the Trinity Baroque Orchestra. He has led Bach festivals at the University of Illinois, Westminster Choir College, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and in Ireland at the Dublin Institute of Technology. Megill previously served as Music Director of the Masterwork Chorus and Orchestra, with whom he frequently performed in Carnegie and Avery Fisher Halls, and Chorusmaster for the Spoleto Festival USA where he trained "the finest opera chorus in the world" (*The Post and Courier*). He has been a guest artist with the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, TENET

vocal ensemble, the Juilliard Opera Center, and Emmanuel Music (Boston), and served as interim choirmaster for Trinity Church (Wall Street) in Manhattan. Prior to his appointment at the University of Illinois, he taught at Westminster Choir College for more than 20 years. Megill is a frequent champion of music of our own time. He has conducted regional or world premieres of works by Caleb Burhans, Paul Chihara, Dominic DiOrio, Sven-David Sandström, Caroline Shaw, Lewis Spratlan, Steven Stucky, Jon Magnussen, Arvo Pärt, and Krzysztof Penderecki, and has collaborated with the Bang on a Can All-Stars, the Mark Morris Dance Group, folk singer Judy Collins, puppeteer Basil Twist, and filmmaker Ridley Scott. Recordings of choirs conducted or prepared by him may be heard on the Decca, EMI, Canteloupe, Naxos, Albany, and CBC labels.

Maria Miguens (Stage Manager) is a second- year MFA stage management student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She completed her undergraduate studies in Buenos Aires, Argentina. At Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, her experience includes production stage manager for Studiodance I, assistant stage manager for *La Bohème*, *STRANGE WINDOW: Turn of the Screw* (Builder's Association), and February Dance 2019. Her previous experience includes production and stage manager for *Ya Nadie Nota tu Dolor* and *Chau Misteri* (Argentina) and assistant stage manager for *August: Osage County* at the Station Theatre (Urbana, Illinois).

Genesee Spridco (Movement Director) teaches mask and movement for the acting program at Illinois Theatre. Previous credits at Krannert Center include Movement Director for Illinois Theatre's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. In addition to her teaching, she is Co-Artistic Director of Imaginez, a physical theatre that features circus skills for event entertainment and their critically acclaimed original productions that tour throughout the Midwest and into Canada. Over the past 10 years, Spridco has facilitated the creation of several original and adapted works and currently is Co-Director of the Devised Theatre Initiative for Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KC/ACTF) for Region III and a Devising Coach in KC/ACTF Region VIII. She received her BFA in directing and BS in theatre education from Viterbo University in Wisconsin and her MFA in ensemble devised physical theatre from Dell'Arte International School for Physical Theatre in California. She is a member of the Association for Theatre Movement Educators, the Theatre Communication Group, and the Network of Ensemble Theatres. She earned her RYT 200 certification from the Asheville Yoga Center in North Carolina in June and teaches yoga at Amara Yoga and Arts in Urbana. Spridco is currently working toward her Alexander Technique Teacher Certification at Soma Studios in Minnesota. She would like to dedicate this production to one of her favorite college professors who recently lost his battle with cancer: "Thank you, Jeff, for everything you imbued in us, your students."

William Sturman (Costume Designer) is a third-year MFA candidate in costume design. He previously designed *Hit the Wall* and *Marat/Sade* at the University of Illinois and has worked on many more shows as a costume technician. He holds a BA in music from Carleton College and hopes to live in the woods someday.

Michael Tilley (Music Administrator/Supertitles) spent six years as Musical Director for Franc D'Ambrosio's national tours before joining the faculty of Lyric Theatre @ Illinois. As a conductor, he has led ensembles from Central City Opera, Opera Colorado, Emerald City Opera, and Boulder Opera. He has been a featured performer with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra and other regional orchestras, as well as with the Martha Graham Dance Company at the Vail International Dance Festival. Tilley's orchestrations and arrangements, from solo piano to full symphony to rock opera, have been heard across the country and abroad. He has also composed music for the stage and a feature-length soundtrack. He plays, sings, and writes for the Argentine Tango groups Extasis and Orquesta Tipica di Natural Tango. In addition to his duties at Illinois, he is currently Assistant Musical Director for *The Four Phantoms*.

Sarah Wigley (Stage Director) is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Voice for Lyric Theatre at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she instructs Lyric Theatre Studio and Musical Theatre Repertoire while maintaining a voice studio of over 20 students. Frequently stage-directing both opera and musical theatre, directing credits with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois include *Crazy for You*, *She Loves Me*, *Kiss Me Kate*, [title of show], *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *A Psalm of Silence* and associate-directing *Don Giovanni* with Nathan Gunn. Wigley holds an MM in voice performance from Colorado State University and a BM in voice from the University of Minnesota. While residing in Minneapolis, Wigley performed professionally with regional companies such as the Guthrie Theater, the Skylark Opera Theatre, The Mystery Cafe, the Minnesota Centennial Showboat, and the Minnesota Opera. Wigley's Denver credits include roles such as Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha* (Open Stage Theatre), Emma in *Jekyll and Hyde* (Inspire Creative Theatre), Dolores in *The Wild Party* (Ignite Theatre), and Miss Scarlett in *Clue: The Musical* (Candlelight Dinner Playhouse). Wigley has served as faculty for the Musical Theatre Department at the University of Northern Colorado as well as Parlando School

for the Arts in Boulder, Colorado, and has had several students appear on Broadway and in national tours and regional theatres across the nation. As a contemporary voice specialist, Wigley is Estill Voice Figure Proficiency Certified, frequently presenting workshops concerning flexible voice technique and crossover training for both studio voice teachers and choral educators. Sessions ranging from "Crossing Over: Contemporary Voice Technique for Solo and Ensemble Singing" to "Crossing Genres: A Classical Singer's Guide to Jazz" have energized the International Congress of Voice Teachers, the National Association for Teachers of Singing, Illinois Music Education Association, Iowa Choral Directors Association, and Minnesota Music Education Association. as well as numerous high schools and colleges nationwide. Wigley's students are frequently awarded as finalists in musical theatre competitions for the National Association for Arts and Letters and the National Association for Teachers of Singing, and she currently serves as Director of Communication for the Chicago Chapter of the National Association for Teachers of Singing. This fall, Wigley had the pleasure of creating Franc D'Ambrosio's new touring show "Beyond the Chandelier."

PRODUCTION STAFF

STAGE MANAGER

Maria Miguens

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Kevin Troy
Tom Zhang

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Mark Quiles

PROPERTIES MASTER

Haley Borodine

HAIR AND MAKEUP SUPERVISOR

Paige Stewart

HAIR AND MAKEUP COORDINATOR

Melissa Hall

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Tanner Funk

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

Colin Grice

ASSISTANT PROPERTIES MASTER

Wendy Wu

SCENIC ARTIST

Christina Rainwater

MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Adam Major

AUDIO ENGINEER

Hayat Dominguez

STAGE CARPENTER

Brady Brock

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Emma Williams

AUTOMATION TECHNICIAN

Andrew Butterworth

COSTUME TECHNICIAN

Nicole Pekins

ASSISTANT COSTUME TECHNICIAN

Tracee Bear

DECK CREW

Maddi Flag
Lauren Hayes
Jiwon Lee
Cody McConnell
Jade Roberts
Shekinah Steen

PROPERTIES CREW

Palash Ranjit
Jodie Werner
Emma Williams

WARDROBE HEAD

Tracee Bear

WARDROBE/HAIR & MAKEUP CREW

Sophia Byrd
Melody Contreras
Cocoa Correia
Maci Mitchell
Abbey Nettleton
Sophia Pucillo
David Stasevsky

LIGHT BOARD PROGRAMMER/OPERATOR

Stephen Moderhock

SOUND MIXER

Dominick Rosales

SOUND BOARD OPERATOR

Jett Kaelentes

FOLLOW SPOT OPERATORS

Regina Maggio
Duncan McMillan