



**NATHAN AND JULIE GUNN:  
*DRYTOWN: A LIVING ROOM VAUDEVILLE***

Thursday-Saturday, September 19-21, 2019, at 7:30pm  
Studio Theatre, club-style

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# PROGRAM

## **NATHAN AND JULIE GUNN: DRYTOWN: A LIVING ROOM VAUDEVILLE**

**DRYTOWN: A LIVING ROOM VAUDEVILLE** is a new production about American performance history, the process of artistry, and what it means to become.

### **PRODUCTION CREDITS**

Nathan Gunn, baritone  
Julie Jordan Gunn, music director and piano  
Michael Tilley, keyboards and vocals  
Sarah Wigley, choreography  
Madelyn Vogel, percussion  
J. David Harris, clarinet  
Anja Hose, media design  
Michael Williams, lighting design  
Richard Scholwin, sound design  
Megan Dietrich, props director  
Kayla Uribe, stage management  
Madelyn Gunn, associate producer

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*This performance is brought to you in partnership with Shot in the Dark Productions Inc., which focuses on high-quality music and community engagement with an emphasis on collaborative and interdisciplinary work.*

Tonight's performance may include any of the following songs:

Susan Werner	<i>An Old Song</i>
Louis Armstrong	<i>Apple of My Eye</i>
Paul Lincke	<i>Shine Little Glo-Worm</i>
Medley	<i>Kelly</i> <i>Bubbles</i>
Sigmund Romberg Dorothy Fields	<i>Carousel in the Park</i>
Richard Rodgers Lorenz Hart	<i>Manhattan</i>
Richard Rodgers Oscar Hammerstein	<i>I Have Dreamed</i>
Richard Rodgers Lorenz Hart	<i>Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered</i>
Leonard Bernstein	<i>Captain Hook's Soliloquy</i>
Leonard Bernstein Betty Comden Adolph Green	<i>If This Is Love</i>
Paul Simon	<i>You Can Call Me Al</i>
Jim Burris Chris Smith	<i>Ballin' The Jack</i>
Medley	<i>Life Is Just A Bowl Of Cherries</i> <i>Zorba the Greek</i> <i>Just Breathe</i>
Jule Styne	<i>You Mustn't Feel Discouraged</i>
Susan Werner	<i>Hey! You Look Tired</i>
Richard Rodgers Lorenz Hart	<i>My Romance</i>
Andrew Lippa	<i>Happy/Sad</i>
Harold Arlen Yip Harburg	<i>Over The Rainbow</i>

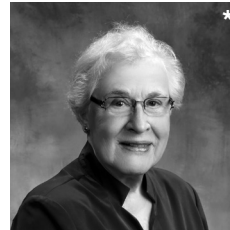
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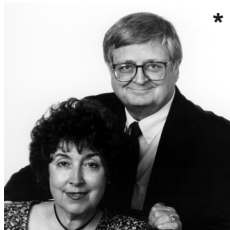
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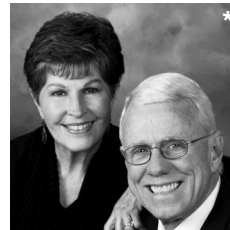
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# PROFILES

**NATHAN GUNN** is widely acclaimed for his diverse performing career bridging the 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 his family. His interest in music became a passion during his junior year of high school when he was introduced to Mozart's opera, *Die Zauberflöte*. Consumed by a desire to learn more, Gunn attended the University of Illinois (the third generation in his family to attend the school) to study music.

As a performer, Gunn is respected as an artist, musician, and singing actor. He has performed many of opera and musical theatre's greatest roles on the world's most prestigious stages. Gunn has also been seen and heard on television, radio, video, and live simulcast performances, including the first ever Met in HD broadcast (*The Magic Flute*) in which he sang Papageno, one of his signature roles. Gunn has reinterpreted other classic roles such as Billy Budd, Figaro, and Don Giovanni garnering many awards, including the Grammy Award for best opera recording (*Billy Budd*) and the Metropolitan Opera's first Beverly Sills Award. Additionally, Gunn has been widely acclaimed for his ability to cross over into musical theatre, including performances with the New York Philharmonic in *Carousel* and *Camelot* as well as a televised celebration of Stephen Sondheim's 80th birthday. Gunn has frequently collaborated with many stars of musical theatre, including Mandy Patinkin, Kelli O'Hara, Audra McDonald, and Kristin Chenoweth.

He enjoyed his first time in the role of Emile DeBecque in *South Pacific* with the Aspen Festival this summer and an acclaimed turn as Count Danilo in English National Opera's *The Merry Widow* this spring.

In theatres this season, he looks forward to Daniel Catán's *Florencia en el Amazonas* at Pittsburgh Opera; Ricky Ian Gordon's *Ellen West* at the PROTOTYPE Festival, and David T. Little's *Soldier Songs* at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago (Beth Morrison Projects and Chicago Opera Theater).

Gunn believes that music is a living art form and must be nurtured to remain relevant. He has championed dozens of new songs, operas, and sung theatre in a multitude of venues. His most recent project is a one-person autobiographical show produced and written by Hershey Felder entitled *Flying Solo*, which has been lauded as a "riveting autobiographical musical [that] is a stunner both with its touching, relatable, family-centric narrative and Gunn's entertaining, charismatic performing style" (*Broadway World*). In 2018, Gunn and his wife Julie Jordan Gunn launched their production company, Shot in the Dark, which made its debut at Krannert Center in *Nathan and Julie Gunn and Friends: An Evening on Broadway*.

The Gunns are also often seen in recital and cabaret settings where they enjoy creating programs uniquely tailored 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 as well as the development of new works. His career and artistic philosophy are the foundation of the first Bachelor of Musical Arts in lyric theatre curriculum in the nation. The program is part of the School of Music at the University of Illinois and housed in Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. He will make his first trip to China to discover new talent at the Classical Singer Convention in September.

In addition to life as a performer, educator, and arts advocate, Gunn is an avid patron of the arts. The Gunns consistently support pre-college music education and sponsor local cultural events in order to secure the future of the art form. They are proud to be the co-chairs of the Krannert Center Endow the Dream campaign. 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, the Cliburn Foundation, the Dallas Opera, Melbourne's Hamer Hall, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center's Great Performers, Manhattan's Café Carlyle, the McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts, the Metropolitan Opera Summerstage, Notre Dame's DeBartolo Center, the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, the Ravinia Festival, St. Paul's Schubert Club, San Francisco Performances, the Sydney Opera House, Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall, University of Chicago Presents, Bravo! Vail, Washington's Vocal Arts Society, the Wallis Annenberg Center in Beverly Hills, Washington National Opera, London's Wigmore Hall, the 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.

Co-director of lyric theatre studies at the University of Illinois, she 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 master classes at universities and young artists' programs all over the United States and Canada, including the Aspen Festival, the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Florida State University, the Glimmerglass Festival, Highlands Opera Studio, the Houston Grand Opera Studio, the Interlochen Center for the Arts, The Metropolitan Opera Guild, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, the Ryan Young Artists' Program, the Santa Fe Opera, Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, and Vanderbilt University. 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's Young

Artist Development Program, Opera North, Opera Theatre of Saint 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: concert works by Augusta Read Thomas, Jennifer Higdon, and Harold Meltzer; and staged works such as *Polly Peachum* (Scheer/Van Horn), *Letters from Quebec to Providence in the Rain* (Gill), *Black Square* (Demutsky), *p r i s m* (Reid), *The Surrogate* (Macklay), *Sensorium Ex* (Prestini), *Take Flight!* (Maltby and Shire) and *Bhutto* (Fairouz), often in collaboration with Beth Morrison Projects and American Opera Projects.

This season, Gunn looks forward to serving as the music director of Kander and Ebb's *Cabaret* at Krannert Center.

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, the Kennedy Center, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, and in Sun Valley, Idaho.