

LYRIC THEATRE @ ILLINOIS PRESENTS CARNAVAL!

Julie Jordan Gunn, creative producer Dawn Harris, stage director Casey Robards, music director Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 7:30pm Foellinger Great Hall

WELCOME

Dear friends of Lyric Theatre,

We are very proud of the '23-24 season, beginning with Lyric Under the Stars at the stunning Allerton Sunken Gardens. Johann Strauss' effervescent Die Fledermaus will be accompanied by the Sinfonia da Camera in the Great Hall, and Andrew Lippa's The Wild Party, with its dark and driving score, will take us to new heights (or depths) of contemporary musical theatre. In the Spring, the annual Carnaval! celebration will feature Latin American, Caribbean, and French music, dance, food, and drink. Fugitive Songs, a folk and blues song cycle by Chris Miller and Nathan Tysen will be heard in intimate spaces like the Allerton Mansion, the Canopy Club, and the Rose Bowl Tavern, Finally, inspired by the Silver Age futuristic

Russian poetry and art, *Black Square*, a world premiere by Ilya Demutsky on a concept of Igor Konyukhov with words by Olga Maslova, will be set in a comedic utopia that reimagines the standards of happiness and beauty in a society free of suffering. We are so grateful to you, our community, for your support of our productions of the widest possible variety of inspiring sung theatre and storytelling. Making art at the Krannert Center and in Champaign-Urbana is a tremendous rewarding experience.

Yours,

Julie and Nathan Gunn Co-Directors, Lyric Theatre @ Illinois

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Carnaval! is sponsored in part by the following generous donors:



SUSAN & MICHAEL HANEY

Ten Previous LTI Sponsorships Two Current LTI Sponsorships

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Lyric Theatre @ Illinois is grateful to the **Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies** for their support of Carnaval!

LOBBY PERFORMANCES BY

Acrobats

Latin American Ensemble, Guido Sanchez-Portugez, conductor

The Brazookas Band

The Jose Gobbo Quintet

Catering by Michaels' Catering

PROGRAM

LYRIC THEATRE @ ILLINOIS PRESENTS CARNAVAL!

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Arrangements by Aaron Ames

"La Vida Es un Carnaval" (Cruz/Daniel)

"Speaking French" (Flaherty/Ahrens)

"For me . . . Formidable" (Aznavour)

from **Amelie** "Times are hard for dreamers," "La Valse D'Amelie (Amelie's Waltz)"

from **Roméo et Juliette** (Gounod) "Nuit d'hymenée"

from **Manon** (Massenet) "Gavotte"

from **Orfée aux Enfers** (Offenbach) "Duo de la mouche"

from **A Monster in Paris** "La Seine" (Chedid/Paradis)

from **Ratatouille** (Giacchino) "Le Festin"

"La vie en Rose" (Louiguy/Piaf)

from **The Little Mermaid** (Menken/Ashman) "Les Poissons" "La Mer est infinie" (Trenet)

from **Carmen** (Bizet) "En vain pour éviter"

"Youkali" (Weill)

"Alma llanera" (Gutiérrez/Bolívar)

"Desafinado"(Jobim)

"The Girl from Ipanema" (Jobim)

"Bendita tu luz" (Maná)

"Aquarela do Brasil" (Barroso)

from **Evita** (Webber/Rice) "Buenos Aires" "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina"

"Perfidia" (Domínguez)

from **In the Heights** (Miranda) "Breathe" "Carnaval del Barrio"

Lyric Theatre @ Illinois is a proud part of the University of Illinois School of Music (Linda R. Moorhouse, director).

CARNAVAL!

CREATIVE PRODUCER Julie Jordan Gunn

STAGE DIRECTOR Dawn Harris

MUSIC DIRECTOR Casey Robards

ARRANGEMENTS Aaron Ames

CHOREOGRAPHERS Kato Lindholm Alex Tecza

LIGHTING DESIGNER Jordan Montgomery

STAGE MANAGER

Mary Lewis

DIRECTORS' NOTE

I am very excited to be a part of the third production of *CARNAVAL*!

This year we have the amazing team of Alex Tecza and Kato Lindholm choreographing our dance numbers. You may remember them as featured dancers during our past two concerts.

Alex and Kato have brought a wealth of knowledge and experience as championship ballroom dancers to this production. Our students have learned cha-cha, salsa, tango, samba, and waltz, and you are going to be amazed at how well they dance these ballroom styles!

I look forward to collaborating on this project each year and adding to your Mardi Gras/ Carnaval celebration. Sit back, soak in the sounds of our talented singers, the excitement of our fabulous bands and orchestra, the energy of the dancing and LET'S PARTY!!!

—Dawn Harris

ABOUT CARNAVAL! CHOREOGRAPHY

The choreography for this show is an eclectic mix of Latin ballroom dances, like samba, mambo, tango, and more. We have taken inspiration from both ballroom and traditional forms of these dances, which are considered social dances, and adapted them to the stage. We have also included a European dance, Viennese waltz, and gave it a more American flair. Normally danced in close hold throughout, we used few open figures, popular in American style waltz, to give it more stage presence.

—Alex Tecza

Erica Ancell "En vain pour éviter"

Jessica Blomberg "Youkali"

Stephen Burdsall

Héctor Camacho-Salazar "Nuit d'hymenée" "Carnaval del Barrio" (Piragua Guy)

Seth Carl "Bendita tu luz" "Carnaval del Barrio" (Graffiti Pete)

Gianna Casanova* "Carnaval del Barrio" (Usnavi)

Amber Cloud*

Maya Cornejo* "Breathe" "Buenos Aires" "Carnaval del Barrio" (Daniela)

Lila Dettleback*

Isabella Dippel* "La vie en Rose"

Caelan Doyle "Times Are Hard for Dreamers" "La Valse d'Amelie (Amelie's Waltz") Carnaval" "Carnaval del Barrio"(Carla) **Aidan Garland-Sutter*** "Bendita tu luz"

Megan Ferrari

"La vida es un

"En vain pour éviter"

Paige Greve

Frida Guerra "Desafinado" "Buenos Aires" "Carnaval del Barrio" (Vanessa)

Aliza Gussin "La Seine"

Maggie Hancock*

Matt Hauser "For me . . . Formidable" "La Valse d'Amelie (Amelie's Waltz")

Molly Jennings "En vain pour éviter"

Sophia Katsma

Kathryn King* "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" "Carnaval del Barrio" (Man 4)

Josh Knehans "Bendita tu luz" **Grace Kreps** "La vie en Rose"

Marley Lammers "The Girl from Ipanema"

Olivia Ligget "Gavotte"

Alexa Lis

Gabriella Longo "The Girl from Ipanema"

Dahlia Medvinsky

Sienna O'Connor "Le Festin"

Alexander Pacheco "La Seine" "Carnaval del Barrio" (Sonny)

Levi Petrine "Le Festin" "Carnaval del Barrio" (Man 3)

Martin Pizarro* "La vida es un Carnaval" "Alma llanera"

Bridget Ravenscraft "Duo de la mouche"

Aidan Singh "Perfidia" CAST

Kasey Sliwinski "Bendita tu luz"

Hayley Stachniak "Speaking French"

Ramman Takhsh* "For me . . . Formidable" "Les Poissons"

Nathan Tilton "Duo de la mouche" "Les Poissons"

Caitlin Towell "Aquarela do Brasil"

Kyle Widener* "La Mer est infinie" "Carnaval del Barrio"(Benny)

Xin Zhou "Nuit d'hymenée"

ORCHESTRA

FLUTE Jessica Hu

OBOE Logan Lenahan

CLARINET Samuella-Divine

BASSOON Makayla Rasmussen

HORN Matthew Felbein

SAXOPHONE Nick Hamilton Schylar Juninger Matthew Hamilton Katie Zaucha

TROMBONE Kyle Hunt Peter Karda Jerry Min

TRUMPET Kevin Kierspe Nick Kaplan Julia Stowell

Aaron Rosenstein

VIOLIN 1 Sounak Sinha

VIOLIN 2 Jenny Zhu **VIOLA** Ryan Men

VIOLONCELLO Matthew Kwong

CONTRABASS Christopher Lee

TIMPANI Collin Van Der Karr

PERCUSSION Luke Hsaio

GUITAR Yuan Cao

ACCORDION Robert Sweedler

RHYTHM

Piano Jimmy Sacharski Andrey Ivanov William Murphy Carl Pantle

Electric Bass Sam Olson

Percussion Dominic Gomes

Drumset Chris Morrow

Lyric Theater @ Illinois appreciates the UI Philharmonia, Latin Jazz Ensemble, Latin American Ensemble, and Jazz Guitar Ensemble for their contributions to this production.

PROFILES



Erica Ancell completed a BM in vocal performance from Webster University in 2022 and is a first-year graduate student in vocal performance and literature at the University of Illinois. Erica was the soprano young artist for the Bach

Society of St. Louis (2022–23) and made her debut as soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah* at Greenville University (2022). Recent productions include *Falstaff* (2022) with Union Avenue Opera in St. Louis, *Macbeth* (2023) with Winter Opera St. Louis, and *Die Fledermaus* (2023) with U of I. Erica is excited to perform as a Legion Woman in U of I's production of *Black Square* this April.



Jessica Blomberg is a soprano pursuing a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she is a junior studying under Professor Dawn Harris. Her performance credits with Lyric Theatre @

Illinois include a workshop presentation of *MET*: The Musical by Hilliard and Boresi (ensemble), Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss II (ensemble/Sally cover), Lyric Under the Stars 2023 (Poppea/ Ensemble), Trial by Jury by Gilbert and Sullivan (Bridesmaid), Carnaval! (Soloist/Ensemble), A Little Night Music by Stephen Sondheim (Mala/ Liebeslieder cover), and Lyric Under the Stars 2022 (Soloist/Ensemble). This past summer, she sang with Chicago Summer Opera as the Flora cover in The Turn of the Screw by Benjamin Britten. She also returned this year to Northwestern University for their Intensive Vocal Performance Seminar, where she sang as Frasquita in Bizet's *Carmen*. Previously at Northwestern she sang the role of Papagena in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. She also sings in Dr. Barrington Coleman's Chancel Choir for Wesley United Methodist Church in Urbana. In her hometown of Farina, Illinois, she is a pianist for Friedens United Church of Christ and Farina United Methodist Church. She would like to thank her family, friends, and teachers for their endless enthusiasm and support.



Stephen Burdsall, a

Philadelphia-born baritone, is a first-year doctoral student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign studying with Professor Nathan Gunn. Recent appearances with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois include Gilbert and

Sullivan's Trial by Jury (Counsel for the Plaintiff), scenes from Mozart's Don Giovanni (Giovanni), and MET: the Musical (Otto). Also a lover of choral/orchestral performance, he became a part of the U of I Chamber Singers, where he sang in Mendelssohn's Elijah (Angel Octet) conducted by Dr. Stephen Alltop, as well as Michael Tippet's oratorio The Child of Our Time (bass soloist, cover) and Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem, both under the direction of Dr. Andrew Megill. An avid lover of teaching, Stephen also serves as the teaching assistant for the department of Lyric Theatre, where he maintains a studio of private students and instructs a weekly lecture on singing in musical theatre. Also an advocate and promoter of new works, Stephen actively collaborates with living composers to preserve and enhance the vocal arts: recent collaborations

include the *MET: The Musical* workshops with Shot in the Dark Productions, the North American premieres of two new operatic works in Lyric Theatre's opera scenes program, and the North American and/or world premieres of several classical art songs in his master's recital, *Love Persevering.* Stephen believes in the healing and restorative power of music and actively works to program and perform music that promotes compassion, empathy, and love.



Colombian tenor **Héctor Camacho-Salazar** has led a career that spans several genres, including opera, musical theatre, oratorio, sacred music, and art song. His most recent roles are Burrs in a 2023 Lyric Theatre @ Illinois

production of Andrew Lippa's The Wild Party. He sang Rinuccio in Puccini's Gianni Schicchi and Lumière in Disney's Beauty and the Beast at the 2023 Bay View Music Festival and in the Great Lakes Center for the Arts. In 2023, he played Edgardo in the University of Illinois Voice Area opera Lucia di Lammermoor. He ventured into musical theatre in Debember 2022, playing the role of Sergio Robusto in Hillard and Boresi's new work MET: The Musical at Lyric Theatre @ Illinois. In 2021, he played Ferrando in a New York production of Così fan tutte. In 2020, he performed as Gherardo in Gianni Schicchi at the Teatro Mayor Julio Mario Santo Domingo. He debuted as Tamino on the same stage in The Magic Flute in 2015. He has performed Handel's Messiah, J.S. Bach's Magnificat, F. P. Schubert's Mass in E flat, and Berlioz's Lélio, ou le retour à la vie. In 2022, he won the First Prize in the Male Voice Category at the Bogotá Philharmonic National Voice Competition, the most prestigious award for singers in his native country, and he was a finalist in the Krannert Debut Artist Competition in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. He has received the merit-based Stotler Voice Fellowship at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2020, 2021, and 2022.



Seth Carl is a freshman in the lyric theater program. He grew up in Frankfort, Illinois where he attended Lincoln Way East High School. Throughout his years there he performed in many shows, ranging from *Freaky Friday* to *Sweeney Todd*:

The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. Recently, Seth was in *Relics and Their Humans* by Ain Gordon and Josh Quillen at the Studio Theatre at Krannert Center. He was also in the Illini Student Musical production of *The Prom* at the Lincoln Hall Theater. Please enjoy the performance!



Gianna Casanova is a freshman in the lyric theatre program. She comes to Illinois from the East Coast in Columbia, Maryland. Her previous works include Hope Cladwell in Urinetown, Clarisse in The Lightning Thief, Carlotta in

Phantom of The Opera, and Cinderella's Prince in Into the Woods. She is excited to perform for the first time in a Lyric Theatre @ Illinois production!



Amber Cloud is a lyric theatre freshman soprano one pursuing her BMA in lyric theatre. Born and raised in Chicago, Amber has performed alongside various artists like the Eagles, Karol G (on *Saturday Night Live*), Dennis DeYoung, and

Nesma Mahgoub, and has performed in shows

such as *Carmen, Turandot, La Bohème,* and Bernstein's *Mass.* Amber has also brought her musical abilities to other states in the country, and most recently has gone internationally to Egypt. With her musical experience, Amber is excited to continue her lyric theatre career at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her most recent roles in shows include Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Marie), *Rock of Ages* (Justice), and *Bright Star* (Lucy). She would like the thank all of her music educators, the people who have supported her music journey, and especially her family for their endless support.



Maya Cornejo is a senior currently pursuing her BMA in lyric theatre. She is a student of Sarah Wigley and Dawn Harris, she would like to thank them for all their support and amazing teaching! Her previous Lyric Theatre @ Illinois

credits include Lvric Under the Stars 2021–2023 (Soloist/Ensemble) at Allerton Mansion, City of Angels (Ensemble/Gabby/Bobbie cover) at The Virginia Theatre, A Little Night Music (Mrs. Nordstrom/Petra cover), Carnaval! (Soloist), and was most recently seen in The Wild Party (Ensemble/ Queenie cover) at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Maya is a member of Illini Student Musicals, and her credits include Into the Woods (Lucinda) and Legally Blonde (Vivienne). After graduation Maya plans to go back to her hometown Chicago, Illinois to begin auditioning and teaching voice. She would like to thank the lyric theatre faculty, her friends, and her family, especially her mom and dad for all their continuous and incredible support, especially over the last four years. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Lila Dettelback is a freshman in vocal performance at the University of Illinois. She graduated from Bridgewater Raritan High School in New Jersey in the spring of 2023, after a prolific career in both the choir and theatre programs

offered there. In her spare time, Lila enjoys exploring all different styles of music and performance, including songwriting, musical theatre, jazz, and opera.



Isabella Dippel is a junior lyric theatre major from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Since transferring here to the University of Illinois last year, she has had the joy of participating in productions such as *Lyric Under the Stars* (Clorinda/Ensemble), What You

Will Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet (Juliet), Trial by Jury (Bridesmaid), and Carnaval! (Ensemble). Favorite hometown credits include A Midsummer Night's Dream (Helena) at the Forst Inn Arts Collective, and Les Misérables (Cosette) and School of Rock (Rosalie Mullins) at Sturgeon Bay High School. She has a love for songwriting, all forms of storytelling, and spending time with her family—the one she was born into, the ones she found through friendship, and, of course, the wonderful family of LTI faculty and students. Enjoy the show!



Caelan Doyle is a junior currently pursuing a BMA in Lyric Theatre. She is a student of Sarah Wigley and is excited to be performing as a singer in *Carnaval!* Her past credits with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois include the 2022 and 2023 productions

of Carnaval! (Soloist/Ensemble), the 2022 and 2023 fall productions of Lyric Under the Stars (Soloist/ Ensemble), the 2022 spring production of the operetta Trial by Jury (Ensemble), the 2023 fall production of the operetta Die Fledermaus (Ensemble), and being the understudy for Fredrika Armfeldt in the fall 2022 production of Stephen Sondhiem's A Little Night Music. On campus, she is associated with Illini Student Musicals and recently participated in ISM's 2023 fall cabaret performance. She is also currently part of the Women's Glee Club, and she participated in the Musical Theatre Intensive at the Wesley Balk Institute this past summer. Being from Chicago, she has been part of theatre groups all around the city, which include Windy City Performs, Chicago Music and Acting Academy, and After School Matters. Caelan would like to thank her family and friends for their ongoing support, the staff of Carnaval! for this incredible opportunity, and Sarah Wigley for her mentorship



Megan Ferrari s a mezzosoprano from Houston, Texas. She has recently covered the role of Orlofsky in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' fall 2023 production of *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss. Before beginning her master's degree, she

performed the role of Bradamante in Handel's Alcina with Operativo Houston at the Houston Saengerbund and was a member of the Houston Symphony Chorus. She has performed selected scenes with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, including Octavian from Strauss' Der Rosenkavalier and Hermia from Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Megan received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Houston and is currently pursuing her Master of Music degree in vocal performance and literature at the University of Illinois School of Music. She is currently in the studio of Professor Ricardo Herrera.



Aiden Garland-Sutter is a sophomore lyric theater major at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign from Rochester, Illinois and is studying voice under Professor Nathan Gunn. He has been doing musical theater since he

was eight years old. Some of his credits include *The Addams Family* (Uncle Fester) at Rochester High School, *Descendants* (Prince Ben) at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, and *The Lion King* (Simba) at Theater in the Park. He loves to rock out on the drums in his free time, especially when it's to The Beatles. He would like to thank his family and mentors over the years for supporting him and helping him get to where he is today.



Paige Greve (she/her/hers) is from Elmhurst, Illinois and previously studied at York Community High School with York Drama. She is currently studying at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her previous works include Julia in

Oberacker and Taylor's Bandstand, Elizabeth in Oberacker and Taylor's pilot production of Ace, Celia in Shakespeare's As You Like It, and Foreman in Twelve Angry Men. All named productions were done at York Community High School under the direction of Rebecca Marianetti, Matthew Bourke, and John Forsythe.



Frida Guerra is a junior lyric theatre major in Dawn Harris and Sarah Wigley's studio. You may have seen her as Queenie in the fall production of *The Wild Party* in Tryon Festival Theatre, or in the spring production of *City of Angels*

at the Virginia Theatre. She thanks her parents

for their endless love and support. She is excited for future performances and hopes you enjoy the show!



Aliza Gussin (she/her) is so excited to be performing at Krannert Center with such a talented, hardworking ensemble. Aliza is pursuing a lyric theatre BMA, and studies under Professor Dawn Harris. You may have seen her in fall

2023's *The Wild Party*, or in Krannert Center's *Carnaval!* in spring of 2022. Enjoy the show!



Maggie Hancock (she/her) is a sophomore pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is a student of Dawn Harris and would like to thank her for all of her support and guidance. She has most recently performed in

the ensemble of Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' production of *The Wild Party*. You also may have seen her as a dancer in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' *Under the Stars* at Allerton Park as well as *Carnaval*! at Krannert Center in 2023. Also on campus, she has performed in Illini Student Musicals' production of *Freaky Friday* as Gretchen and was the assistant choreographer for Illini Student Musicals' *Grease*, both playing at Lincoln Hall. She wants to thank everyone involved in this production for their hard work. Maggie has loved being part of this production, and can't wait to share it with you. She hopes you all enjoy the show!



Matthew Hauser is a senior pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and is a student of Jerold Siena and Sarah Wigley. His previous credits with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois include *Die Fledermaus* (Ivan, Assistant Director), City of Angels (Dr. Mandrill), A Little Night Music (Carl-Magnus Cover), Le Nozze di Figaro (Figaro Cover) and Lyric Under the Stars (Soloist). Matthew has had the privilege to perform the role of Figaro in Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro with the Austrian-American Vocal Academy in Salzburg, Austria. In addition to theatre, Matthew is a soloist at University Place Christian Church. He would like to thank Jerold Siena and Sarah Wigley for their support throughout his vocal journey!



Molly Jennings (MJ) is from the metro area of Atlanta, Georgia. They are a first-year master's candidate in vocal performance and literature. They earned their bachelors in vocal performance from Kennesaw State University and

performed with the Atlanta Opera Chorus in their 2022 production of *Madame Butterfly*.



Sophia Katsma, a freshman lyric theatre major at the University of Illinois, is overjoyed to be a part of this program. Beginning her vocal training at 14, she has studied under Peg Cleveland-Plambeck, Sahoko Sato-Timpone, Stevi Marks, and

Theresa Brancaccio, and is now a student of Nathan Gunn. Katsma devoted her years at William Fremd High School to the Fremd Bands, Viking Marching Band, Fremd Choirs, and Fremd Theatre programs as a drum major, choral intern, costumes crew head, and assistant stage manager, graduating as an Academic Scholar. A National School Choral Award recipient, her credits include *The Theory of Relativity* (Catherine) and *Footloose* (Ethel), in addition to a performance at Carnegie Hall offered by American Protégé after receiving a 1st place rating in their 2021 International Music Talent Competition. Feeling incredibly fortunate to continue her musical journey, she would like to thank her family members for their loving support!



Kathryn King is a junior pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre. A student of professors Sarah Wigley and Nathan Gunn, she is incredibly excited to be performing in *Carnaval!* for the first time. Her recent credits with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois

include assistant conductor of *The Wild Party*, Gabby/Bobbi in *City of Angels*, Petra in *A Little Night Music*, and soloist in *Lyric Under the Stars*. This past summer, she music-directed *Legally Blonde JR* with Elmhurst Children's Theatre in Elmhurst, Illinois. Kathryn is also an avid writer/ composer, workshopping pieces within the Lyric Theatre Studio and releasing her music independently on streaming platforms. She would like to thank the LTI faculty for the opportunity to perform, as well as her parents and sister for their continued support and love.



Josh Knehans is a freshman majoring in voice performance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is thrilled to be performing in *Carnaval!* Josh is from Cincinnati Ohio and is very excited to be working with LTI.

He has been in performances such as *Les Misérables, Phantom of the Opera, and Hello Dolly!* Josh loves opera and musical theater and is eager to learn more about both while he is here.



Grace Kreps (she/her) is a sophomore in the lyric theatre program at the University of Illinois studying voice under the direction of Professor Dawn Harris. She is from Champaign and you may recognize her from her previous performances in the area, including *Into the Woods* at The High School of St. Thomas More (Cinderella) and *Newsies* with the Urbana Park District (Henry/ Katharine Understudy), and from her performance with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois and the Marching Illini in the fall of 2022. She would like to thank everyone who helped to make this show a success and her family and friends for their love and support.



Marley Lammers (she/her/hers) is a sophomore in lyric theatre from Cleveland, Ohio. In 2023, she was in the ensemble for Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' productions of *Carnaval!*, *Under the Stars*, and *Die Fledermaus*. Previous high school credits

include ALIVE (original musical), Peter and the Star Catcher (Molly Aster), Sister Act (Mother Superior), Spelling Bee (Olive Ostrovsky), The Lightning Thief (Clarisse La Rue), Eurydice (Big Stone), and Bright Star (Daryl/Stanford). Outside of school, she takes acting classes in the Meisner technique at the Houde School of Acting. She participated in the 2023 summer music residency at Cambridge and began what she hopes will be a long journey of advocating for climate action and environmental protection through her music. She recently released her debut single "August," which is available to stream on all platforms. She is beyond grateful to her family for all of their love and support on this journey!



Olivia Liggett is a first-year graduate student at the University of Illinois studying voice performance and literature. Olivia is currently studying the role of Sophie in the U of I Opera Scenes program. Before attending the

U of I, Olivia received her undergraduate degree at Georgia Southern University in 2023, where

she studied vocal performance. Before studying this role, Olivia has studied the role of Blanche from *The Dialogue of the Carmelites*, Joanna from *Sweeney Todd*, and Mabel from *The Pirates of Penzance* at GSU. In her free time, Olivia enjoys reading, going on walks, and exploring the different coffee shops around town. Olivia is excited to have the opportunity to learn and perform a part of the role of Sophie at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and cannot wait to share the joy of music in this performance.



Alexa Lis, a freshman studying English at the University of Illinois, is thrilled to join the program on stage this spring! In her hometown of Wauconda, Illinois, Alexa was an active member of her high school theatre department for many

years and grew a great deal throughout her time performing at Wauconda High School; she was even given the opportunity to perform as Patsy in Monty Python's *Spamalot* at the Colwell Playhouse in the Krannert Center as a part of the 2023 Illinois High School Theatre Festival! Two of Alexa's favorite past roles include the Red Queen in *Lookingglass Alice* and Jack's Mother in *Into the Woods.* When she isn't performing, Alexa enjoys solving puzzles and spending time with her family. She is looking forward to the growth she and her colleagues will undergo over the next few years at Illinois, and hopes everyone enjoys the show!



Gabriella Longo (she/her) is an Italian-American majoring in lyric theatre at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Currently, she is a sophomore studying voice with Nathan Gunn, and previously she studied with Dawn Harris. Her past credits with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois include Lyric Under the Stars (Soloist), the workshop for MET: The Musical (Soloist/Ensemble), and Trial by Jury (Ensemble). Outside of campus, Gabriella's credits include The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Logainne) and Cinderella (Queen Constantina). She would like to thank her parents for all the sacrifices they've made and their constant love, her siblings for their tough love, and her teachers for their support and advice. Enjoy the party!



Dahlia Medvinsky is a first-year lyric theater student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is originally from Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, where she had the honor of performing with the University Liggett School

Players Program as Amneris in *Aida*, and Katherine Plumber in *Newsies*. With the Players Program, she was able to work alongside faculty as the assistant vocal director. She has also performed with the Rochester Summer Music Theater as Ms. Andrews in *Mary Poppins*, where she also worked on the hair, makeup, and wig team. She is so excited to be a part of her first spring season with Lyric Theater @ Illinois here at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts!



Siena O'Connor (she/her) is a junior from Athens, Georgia. She is currently pursuing a BMA in lyric theater as a student under Dawn Harris and Sarah Wigley. With Lyric Theater @ Illinois, she has been seen in *Carnaval!* (Ensemble/Dance

Captain), A Little Night Music (Osa) at Krannert Center and Lyric Under The Stars 2022 and 2023. On campus, past credits also include Nightingale Won't Remember by Tomorrow (Katherine Blake), Freaky Friday (Gretchen's Mom/Savannah's Minion) and Grease (Scientist/Lighting Dancer.) Outside of performing she teaches dance at Urbana Fine Arts Center. She is honored to be a part of this production and wants to thank her family for their constant support!



Alexander Pacheco (he/him) is a junior pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre. He is a student of Sarah Wigley. He has previously been featured in *The Wild Party* (Phil) and was a member of the 2021 IHSTF All-State Virtual Showcase. He won first place in

the 2022 NATS Musical Theatre First Year TTB Voice Competition and was the winner of the vocal division and overall finalist of the Peoria Symphony Guild's Young Artists Competition from 2018–2020. As a member of the McNair Scholars program, Alexander conducts undergraduate research on vocal pedagogy and accessibility in performance and music education. Alexander strives to bring the perspective of a transgender, disabled individual to all of his artistic endeavours, and hopes to provide representation for other young artists like himself.



Levi Petrine (they/any) is a sophomore pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Levi is currently a student of Professor Dawn Harris and is beyond grateful for the education they've received thus

far. Their recent credits at the University of Illinois include *The Wild Party* (cover/featured ensemble), *Lyric Under the Stars* (soloist/ensemble), and *City of Angels* (cover/swing). Levi would like to thank their professors for their endless encouragement and their family for always supporting their passions. Enjoy!



Colombian tenor **Martin Pizarro** studied under Camila Toro before earning a master's at RWCMD. He was awarded the Stotler Fellowship to study for a master's and DMA at the University of Illinois under the tutelage of Dr. Ollie Watts

Davis and Nathan Gunn. He has sung in the main venues of his country in roles including Lèon in Thomas Pasatieri's Signor Deluso, Monsieur Vogelsang in W. A. Mozart's Der Schauspieldirektor, and Bertoldo in the world premiere of Muerte Accidental de un Anarquista by Jorge Pinzón. Internationally, he has sung the roles of Gherardo and Rinuccio in Puccini's Gianni Schicchi in Kandersteg, Switzerland; Daniel Buchannan in Kurt Weill's Street Scene in Cardiff, United Kingdom; Mr. Erlanson and Fredrik in Sondheim's A Little Night Music and Stone in City of Angels in Urbana, Illinois; as well as Ferrando in Così fan tutte by W. A. Mozart in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Bridget Ravenscraft is pursuing her Artist Diploma at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and is studying with Yvonne Gonzales Redman. Before returning to academia, Ms. Ravenscraft spent summer 2021 with the Des Moines Metro

Opera, where she sang in the choruses of *Pique Dame* and *Sweeney Todd* and sang the roles of Norina (*Don Pasquale*), Servilia (*La Clemenza di Tito*), and Eurydice (*Orphée*) in their apprentice artist scene recitals. In 2019, Ms. Ravenscraft graduated from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University with her Bachelor of Music in voice performance. Here she studied with Timothy Noble, sang the roles of Gretel (*Hansel and Gretel*) and Consuelo (*West Side Story*) in full productions, and participated in various opera workshops. When she's not in class or rehearsal, Ms. Ravenscraft works at a local café and spends time at the gym. She is from Hoffman Estates, Illinois.



Aidan Singh is a baritone, pursuing a DMA in vocal performance and literature at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign under the instruction of Nathan Gunn. He earned his Master of Music in vocal performance from Illinois

State University, and his Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from Millikin University His recent credits include a gentleman of the jury in Sinfonia da Camera and Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury* and Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' 2023 production of *Carnaval!* (soloist/ensemble). Past roles include Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte* and Rambaldo in *La Rondine*, both at Opera in the Ozarks; the Sergeant of Police in *The Pirates of Penzance* with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra in Springfield, Ohio; Bob in *The Old Maid and the Thief* at Illinois State University; and Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte* at Illinois Wesleyan University



Kasey Sliwinski recently performed as Frank Abagnale Jr. in *Catch Me If You Can*; and Teen Karl in *The Christmas Schooner*. His Gilbert and Sullivan performances include *H.M.S. Pinafore* with the G & S Chicago Opera Company and

Trial by Jury and Yeoman of the Guard with The Savoyaires. Other favorite musical roles are Prince Eric in The Little Mermaid, Amos in Chicago, Jean Valjean in Les Misérables, Laurie in Little Women, Tarzan in Tarzan, Theo in Pippin, Dickon in The Secret Garden, to list just a few roles.



Hayley Stachniak is a senior pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre with a creative concentration. She is a current student of Sarah Wigley and is beyond grateful for the education and support she has received thus far. Hayley is eager and excited

to finally be on a Krannert Center stage after dedicating her time as music director and arranger for No Comment A Cappella for three years. She most recently performed as a soloist in *Lyric Under The Stars* and as Dolores/Kate Cover in *The Wild Party*. She cannot wait to continue performing with her peers and would like to thank her family and friends for all the love and support she has received throughout the years.



Ramman Takhsh is a senior from Chicago, Illinois, currently pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre. He is a student of both Sarah Wigley and Nathan Gunn. His past credits with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois include *The Wild Party* (Oscar/Burrs Cover), *City of*

Angels (Jimmy Powers/Mahoney/Stine Cover), Fun Home (Roy/Pete/Mark/Bobby Jeremy), and A Little Night Music (Bertrand). On campus, he has also been involved in the Illini Student Musicals productions of Freaky Friday (Mike), Legally Blonde (Grandmaster Chad/Ensemble) and Little Women (John Brooke). He would like to thank his parents for their constant love and support.



Nathan Tilton, baritone, is a senior vocal performance major from Frankfort, Illinois. studying under Nathan Gunn, Sarah Wigley, and Michael Tilley. He spent the summer in Falmouth, Massachusetts with the College Light Opera Company. His favorite credits include Danilo in *The Merry Widow*, Buddy in *City of Angels*, and Mr. Linquist in *A Little Night Music*. He would like to thank his voice teachers for their constant advice and support. He would like to thank his mother for her love and encouragement.



Soprano **Caitlin Towell** is a lyric theatre major in her senior year studying at the University of Illinois with Dawn Harris, Sarah Wigley, and Michael Tilley in preparation for a career in opera and musical theatre. Honored to be the recipient of

the Thomas J. Smith Memorial Scholarship, Caitlin placed second in the American Prize College Division in Opera/Operetta and was a finalist in the Orpheus Vocal Competition and National Society of Arts and Letters Winston Scholarship Competition. Caitlin portrayed Marcellina in Le nozze di Figaro at the Brancaleoni International Music Festival and sang Sally and covered Adele in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' production of Die Fledermaus. Other favorite roles include Angel City Soprano in City of Angels, Mrs. Anderssen in A Little Night Music, Babette in Beauty and the Beast, Meg March in Little Women, and Phoebe D'Ysquith in A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder. Caitlin is a proud plant mom, bookworm, and occasional pianist!



Kyle Widener (he/him/his) is a junior studying lyric theatre at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. While at U of I, he has been involved in Illini Student Musical's Into the Woods, where he played Jack; Legally Blonde; and Freaky

Friday, where he played Fletcher. He has also been seen in Lyric Theatre's *City of Angels* in the

ensemble and *The Wild Party*, where he played Jackie. He is under the instruction of Sarah Wigley. He would like to thank all his wonderful directors and castmates for a great show. He would also like to thank his amazing parents and family for their endless support.



Xin Zhou, a Chinese soprano, is a first-year doctoral student at the University of Illinois studying with Dr. Ollie Watts Davis. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Arts from Beijing Normal University. She has received multiple

awards, including third prize at the Global Finals of American Virtuoso International Music Competition (2021), the Outstanding Prize for China in the Bellini International Vocal Competition (2020), bronze medal for the Vocal Art Week of Huang Long Music Festival (2019), second prize for Space-U International Music Competition (2018), first prize for China Preliminary of Melbourne International Youth Music Competition (2018), top performance prize for the 5th China College Music Education Vocal Major Symposium (2018), etc. Xin was a member of Berlin International Arts Festival, Germany (2016, 2017) and performed at the Berlin University of the Arts and the Mendelssohn House Concert Hall.



Music has always been a part of Julie Jordan Gunn's (Creative Producer) life, and yet it is her devotion to it that has brought her accolades from around the world as a performer, producer, teacher, and advocate. Her work often supports and

promotes emerging creative or performing artists. Trained as a pianist, she has performed on

most of the world's most prestigious recital series with distinguished colleagues, but most importantly with her husband and artistic partner Nathan Gunn.

Co-director of Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, Dr. Gunn produces numerous operas or musical theatre works each year at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and other regional venues. She enjoys producing larger celebrations—*Lyric Under the Stars* at Allerton Park and Retreat Center, and *Carnaval!* at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts—combining spectacular performances with festive hospitality. The Gunns' production company, Shot in the Dark Productions Inc, specializes in customized musical and theatrical events.

She has given masterclasses at universities and young artists' programs all over the United States and Canada and has served as a coach or conductor at many distinguished opera houses. She has conducted several chamber operas and musical theatre works for lyric theatre and is the author of many arrangements of songs for chamber groups and orchestras.

She is an advocate for initiatives benefiting the arts and children's lives. She served as the interim director of the Glimmerglass Festival Young Artists' Program in 2022. She was appointed Rector of the Arts and Performing Arts of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois by Governor JB Pritzker. She served as the president of the Countryside School Board of Directors and is a court-appointed special advocate for children.

She attended Dartmouth College, majoring in economics, and received her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois, where she has been awarded the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award. She lives in Champaign, Illinois with her husband, Nathan, where they raised their five children.



Dawn Harris (Stage Director/ Performer) is a versatile artist who has won critical acclaim for her performances of opera, operetta, concerts, and musical theatre in a wide range of repertoire. She has performed major roles with the opera

companies of Cleveland, Arizona, Baton Rouge, Eugene, Toledo, Utah Festival, San Antonio, and Triangle Opera. As a concert soloist, she has sung oratorio and pops concerts with the New Orleans Symphony, Utah Symphony, Baton Rouge Symphony, Dayton Symphony, Akron Symphony and locally with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony and Sinfonia da Camera.

In her many seasons at Ohio Light Opera, Ms. Harris was featured in over 30 roles written by major operetta composers such as Lehar, Zellar, Offenbach, J. Strauss, Edward German, Romberg and more. Having distinguished herself as an expert interpreter of the Gilbert and Sullivan style, Ms. Harris has sung nearly all the female roles in the G&S repertoire, most notably, Yum-Yum in *The Mikado*, a role she performed more than 50 times at Ohio Light Opera, as well as at the Grant Park Festival and with Toledo Opera. Other notable roles include Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Elsie in *Yoemen of the Guard*, and the title role in *Patience*.

As a stage director, Ms. Harris has directed and/or choreographed nine of the fourteen comic operas by Gilbert and Sullivan for opera companies and universities across the country— Brevard Music Festival, Eugene Opera, Opera Cleveland, North Carolina Light Opera and Song Festival, Southern Ohio Light Opera, Prairie Fire Theatre—and has completed the final opera in the trilogy known as "The Big Three" for Sinfonia da Camera. She recently presented a lecture recital, "Beyond Pirates, Pinafore and Mikado, the lesser known Gilbert and Sullivan Comic Operas" for the National Opera Association Annual Convention. Additional directing and choreography credits include *The Magic Flute* for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; *Suor Angelica* and *Hansel and Gretel* for Northwestern University Summer Vocal Institute; *Gianni Schicchi* and *Die Fledermaus* for Illinois Wesleyan University; *Orpheus in the Underworld* for Bowling Green State and Lyric Theatre @ Illinois; and *La Perichole* for the North Carolina School of the Arts. As guest voice and opera faculty of The Lyric Theatre in Piobbico, Italy Festival, Ms. Harris directed scenes from opera and musical theatre.

As a musical theatre director, Ms. Harris has directed full productions of Man of La Mancha, South Pacific, Merrily We Roll Along, Oh Coward, The Light in the Piazza, and Songs for a New World for Lyric Theatre @ Illinois and was recently named a finalist for the Charles Nelson Reilly Award in Directing for the American Prize National Competition for her production of The Light in the Piazza. During the summer, she is the coordinator and a stage director for the ISYM Musical Theatre Camp. Ms. Harris is currently on the voice faculty and is the resident stage director for Lyric Theatre at the University of Illinois. As a resident director for Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, Ms. Harris has directed scenes from the standard and contemporary opera repertoire and won first place in the Graduate Division for the National Opera Association Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition for her staging of scenes from Britten's Turn of the Screw. With the Illinois Modern Ensemble, Ms. Harris has collaborated on premiere staging of new operas as part of the Lyric Theatre @ Illinois season. She has staged Letters from Quebec to Providence in the Rain by composer Jeremy Gill and The Surrogate by composer Sky Macklay, and she sang the role of the Chaplain's Wife in Lisbeth, an opera by Whitney Ashe. Additionally, she directed opera

scenes for a presentation at the 2022 National Opera Association Convention in St. Augustine, Florida and was stage director and performed the role of Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance* with the Springfield, Ohio Symphony. She recently directed Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* as part of a Covid-restricted project that resulted in a fully produced film of the opera and earned her the title of National Winner for the Charles Nelson Reilly Award in Directing Opera for the American Prize Competition. This past fall she directed *Die Fledermaus* for Sinfonia da Camera and Lyric Theatre @ Illinois. She is delighted to be returning this evening to direct *Carnaval!* for Lyric Theatre @ Illinois.



Korean American adoptee **Casey Robards** (music director) is a music director, pianist, and vocal coach known for her sensitive musicality, expert collaborative skill, and stylistic versatility. She has performed throughout the United States,

Europe, Central and South America, and Asia. Music directing projects include Afro-surrealist Water Riot in Beta: A Cyberpunk Rock Opera, Three Decembers, Die Zauberflöte, La Bohème, La Traviata, Gianni Schicchi, Suor Angelica, Carmen, and La Cenerentola. 2024 recitals include programs with Leona Mitchell, LaToya Lain, Kenneth Overton, and Bernhard Scully. Robards is Assistant Professor of vocal coaching and accompanying at the University of Illinois and MainStage conductor/Head of collaborative piano at the Bay View Music Festival. She is music director of Ensemble Concept 21, a chamber group that champions new music and aids emerging composers. As a performer, scholar, and lecturer, Robards frequently teaches workshops on African American spirituals and co-directs a summer American Spiritual Intensive.

She chairs the Sacred in Opera Initiative for the National Opera Association.



Kato Lindholm is a former professional ballroom US National Finalist, World Finalist, and recipient of 2008 and 2009 Dancers Cup Tour Professional Couple of the Year awards. Since retiring from competitions, Kato has collaborated with other

artists and choreographed original works with Alex Tecza. Kato performed *Heart at Low Tide 2* by Rebecca Nettl-Fiol at the American Dance Guild Festival in New York City, co-choreographed and performed in the Lyric Theatre @ Illinois productions of *My Fair Lady* and *The Merry Widow*, and co-choreographed and performed in *Stay* with Alex Tecza at the Harvest Chicago Contemporary Dance Festival, among other venues. Kato is a fellow with the US Terpsichore Association, and teaches students of all levels. He is the official coach of the Illini Dancesport team.



Alex Tecza (choreographer) is a second year MFA student in the Department of Dance. He spent over thirty years of his career as a competitive ballroom dancer and teacher. His professional achievements include titles of US National and World Finalist.

two Dancers Cup Tour Couple of the Year awards, and over thirty wins in American Smooth, International Standard, and Showdance divisions. As a dancer and choreographer, he appeared in several Dance at Illinois and Lyric Theatre @ Illinois productions, including Dance at Illinois Downtown at the Virginia Theatre, My Fair Lady, The Merry Widow, and Carnaval! His collaboration works have been shown in several venues, including Ruth Page Center for the Arts and Ailey Citigroup Theatre. Alex often serves as a ballroom dance and partnering expert for the Lyric Theatre at Illinois productions. Aside from performing and choreographing, Alex is also a certified Alexander Technique teacher. He maintains a private teaching practice in both Champaign-Urbana and Chicago area.

Mary Lewis (stage manager) (she/her) originally from Los Angeles, is currently an MFA candidate at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign studying stage management and production management. Chosen credits include October Dance (PSM), Rent (APM), The Birds of North America, (Production Coordinator), Measure for Measure (SM) Dance at Illinois Downtown! (ASM/ SM), Urinetown (ASM), and Eurydice (SM). She would like to say thank you to the company of Carnaval! and to her friends and family.

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Ryan Schultz, Technical Director Tatsuya Ito, Associate Technical Director Bill Kephart, Scene Shop Chief Clerk Bobby Reynolds, Theatrical Scene Shop Coordinator

Liam Romano, Kayley Woolums, Theatrical Scene Shop Assistants

PERFORMING ARTS BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER

Debbie Delaney, Stacey Elliott, Shelly Thomas-Eichorn, Accounting Staff

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE AT THE CENTER

We work to create the best possible setting for the experiences you seek and find here.

NECESSARIES

Restrooms are located in the foyers of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, and Colwell Playhouse; the east entrances on the Lobby level; and in each elevator lobby on Level 1 and Level 3. Lobby restrooms and one restroom in each elevator lobby are fully accessible and contain baby-changing stations.

Ushers will be happy to provide you cough drops courtesy of St. Joseph Apothecary, or disposable foam earplugs if the place starts rockin'.

If you or a companion needs medical assistance, contact an usher or other staff member.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the theatre exits nearest to you. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the theatre, please remain calm, follow the instructions of the house staff, and exit in an orderly fashion to the appropriate safe meeting location, which will be announced to you.

PHONES AND DEVICES

The use of cell phones, cameras, and recording devices during performances is prohibited unless otherwise announced from the stage.

LATE ARRIVALS

As a courtesy to performers and audience members, latecomers will be seated only at times selected in advance by the artist. Should you find that you've arrived late to a performance, our Patron Services staff will keep you informed about the earliest seating opportunity.

LOST ITEMS

If you are in need of Lost and Found, please visit the Patron Services counter. We will do our best to reunite object and owner!

TICKET RETURNS

If you find you can't attend a performance, please contact the Ticket Office in advance, preferably by 6pm the day before the performance (kran-tix@illinois.edu). We never charge a handling fee on ticket transactions.

ACCESSIBILITY

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is committed to making experiences accessible for all patrons, and we are delighted to provide a number of services to assist you. Krannert Center is equipped with an assisted listening system, wheelchair-accessible and no-step/few-step seating, and large-print programs, Braille programs, and American Sign Language interpreters are available with three weeks' advance notice.

For assistance regarding your visit, please email:

Para ayuda en relación con su visita, favor de enviar un email a:

Pour vous aider dans votre visite, prière de nous envoyer un courriel à:

欢迎! 如若您对您的造访需要帮助, 请发送电子邮件至:

स्वागत हे! अगर आपको अपने रहने के लिए मदद चाहिए, ईमेल कीजिए:

환영합니다! 방문에 관해 도움이 필요하실 때에는... 에게 이메일로 문의하시기 바랍니다:

PATRONSERVICES@KRANNERTCENTER.ILLINOIS.EDU 217.333.9716