

LYRICAL *Opera* THEATER

Presents:

PUCCINI'S
GIANNI SCHICCHI

Libretto by Giovacchino Forzano

Opera in one act set in Florence, Italy in 1299

&

LEONCAVALLO'S
PAGLIACCI

Libretto by Ruggiero Leoncavallo

Opera in two acts set in Calabria, Italy in 1869.

February 11, 15, 18 & 19, 2023

Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center
2525 Taylorsville Blvd.
Taylorsville, UT

www.LyricalOperaTheater.com

Lyrical Opera Theater's 2023-24 Season

PUCCINI'S

La Bohème

Libretto by Luigi Illica & Giuseppe Giacosa

September 9 - 17, 2023 | Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center

La Bohème by Puccini is a popular classic set in Paris around 1830. Experience the Bohemian lifestyle of a group of young Parisian friends filled with simple joys and heartbreaking sorrows. Love, money, illness, wealth, and poverty all collide in this tale of whirlwind romance and shocking tragedy.

September 9, 13, 15 & 17, 2023
Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center

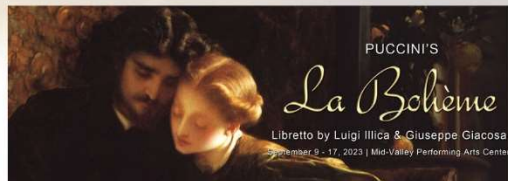
THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

Gioacchino Rossini



Revel in this tale of pranks and skullduggery and disguises all centered around one lovely lady.

February 10, 14, 16 & 18, 2024
Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center



Dear Opera Friends,

Opera is the divine portal of the heart's song. In a society that expects its entertainment to be totally engrossing, as infinitely varied as the flick of a television remote will permit, and, in large measure, escapist – opera is tailor-made to completely satisfy. Opera adds musical beauty, theatrical illusion, magic and passion to the entertainment world that transcends the human experience. It represents the continued evolution of music and culture and is a reflection of human nature that allows viewers to see themselves through the roles of the characters. Their stories still speak to us today making opera an art form that is as relevant today as when it was birthed over 400 years ago.

There are more companies, audiences are growing, and through the work of educational ventures like our “*Little Red Riding Hood...a children's opera*” assembly for elementary schools, people are no longer afraid of opera and are beginning to expect and to know that it can offer them rich and rewarding adventures.

For 2023, our opera productions present a splendid palette of nuance and expression. Our February production is a double-bill of two one-act operas. The comic opera *Gianni Schicchi*, by Puccini, is a series of hilarious pranks, secret deals and one ridiculous plan. *Pagliacci*, by Leoncavallo, is a play-within-a-play, in which actors re-enact on the stage a situation that has impinged on their personal lives.

September's production is *La Bohème* by Puccini, a popular classic set in Paris around 1830. Experience the Bohemian lifestyle of a group of young Parisian friends filled with simple joys and heartbreaking sorrows. It is a masterpiece that delights and entertains modern audiences.

We are thrilled to present three spectacular casts of local Utah artists in these beloved opera productions that will enrich, educate and entertain our communities through participation in and enjoyment of these operas. They will bring our community together in sharing a deeper level of cultural understanding and history.

I have no doubt that our 2023 Opera Season will be artistically excellent as we cultivate our Utah talent.

Lynnette Owens/Executive Director

GIANNI SCHICCHI

CAST: Cast A, Feb. 11 & 15 and Cast B, Feb. 17 & 19

Gianni Schicchi: John Knight Allen (Cast A), Bennett Chew (Cast B)

Rinuccio: Anthony Ruiz (Cast A), Josh Hooker (Cast B)

Lauretta: Alyssa Powers (Cast A), Kahli Dalbow (Cast B)

Zita: Sarah Neipp (Cast A), Alicia Fairbanks (Cast B)

Simone: Daniel Tuutau

Betto: Hayden Höglund (Cast A), Jordon LeBaron (Cast B)

Gherardo: Alex Harrelson (Cast A), José Miguel (Cast B)

Nella: Michelle Dean (Cast A), Angela LeBaron (Cast B)

Giulia: Emily Tuutau (Cast A), Smera Nair (Cast B)

Marco: Matthew Castleton

La Ciesca: Lily Peterson (Cast A), Madelynn Hunter (Cast B)

Spinelloccio & Notary: Ricky Parkinson

Pinellino and Guccio: Gary Later (Cast A), Kevin Burtenshaw (Cast B)

PAGLIACCI

Canio/Pagliaccio: Christian Holden (Cast A), Antonio Miguellangelo (Cast B)

Nedda/Colombina: Madelynn Hunter (Cast A), Jin-Xiang Yu (Cast B)

Tonio/Taddeo: Matthew Castleton (Cast A), Layton Loucks (Cast B)

Peppe/Arlechin: José Miguel (Cast A), Anthony Ruiz (Cast B)

Silvio: Jordon LeBaron (Cast A), Hayden Höglund (Cast B)

Villager (soloists): Kevin Burtenshaw (Cast A), Gary Later (Cast B)

Jaden Peterson

Villagers: Emily Mijarez, Deborah Siddoway,

Jocelyn van Wyk, Emily Jameson, Amy Banta

Rod Hansen, Jaden Peterson, Travis Neiswender,

Gary Later, Kevin Burtenshaw

Choreographer: Carly Schaub

Dancers: Nathaniel Woolley, Severin Sargent-Catterton

Stage Manager: Matilda Black

Stage hands: Elise Parry, Kyra Dunyan, Steven Talley, Madison Dowd

Lighting: Madison Dowd

Wigs & Makeup: Kat Millhouse

Sound, Scenery,

Staging: Lyrical Opera Products

PROGRAM ORDER: **Gianni Schicchi** then a 20 minute intermission,
Pagliacci

Synopsizes

Gianni Schicchi: Set in Florence, Italy in 1299.

The wealthy Buoso Donati has just died and his relatives exaggerate the mourning of his death. In truth, they all expect to be amply consoled by their inheritance. But Betto di Signa, has heard rumors that Buoso has left all his possessions to the Friars Minor and the Charitable Works of Saint Reparata. Worried, the relatives start looking for the will and, when they find it, they see the rumors are true. Their false grief for the loss of Buoso turns into an authentic lament for the loss of their inheritance. The young Rinuccio is upset because the money would have meant permission to marry Lauretta, a girl without a dowry and daughter of the commoner Gianni Schicchi. In vain do Buoso's relatives seek advice from Simone on what to do. Rinuccio suggests approaching the shrewed and clever Schicchi. The others reject this suggestion as the Donati family is above dealing with commoners.

By now Schicchi, accompanied by Lauretta, has arrived at the house followed shortly after by the doctor, unaware of the death of his patient. Schicchi schemes how to turn the situation to his own advantage, hides in Buoso's bed, imitates his voice and sends the doctor away. Gianni Schicchi now puts his plan into practice. He dresses as Buoso, lies on his bed and summons the public notary, in front of whom he dictates a new will. He distributes some properties fairly among the relatives, but the most valuable assets – the house in Florence, the mills in Signa and the mule, he keeps for himself. The relatives can't do anything about it without revealing the fraud for which the penalty is the cutting-off of a hand and exile from Florence. Once the notary and witnesses have left, Gianni chases the enraged relatives out of the house before they can plunder what has now become his property, while Rinuccio and Lauretta happily embrace.

Pagliacci: Set in a village in Calabria, Italy in 1869.

Prologue: Tonio appears before the curtain to explain to the audience that the play they are about to see is "a picture of life" presenting the emotions and passions of real men and women.

Act 1: The villagers hail the arrival of a troupe of strolling players. Canio, the head of the troupe, urges the crowd to attend the performance to be given that night then goes off with some of the villagers to a tavern. Tonio remains behind and finding Canio's wife, Nedda, alone, he takes the liberty of declaring his love for her. She scorns him. When he insists on a kiss, she grabs a whip and strikes him. Cringing with pain, Tonio swears that she will pay dearly for this and leaves. Silvio appears, a villager with whom Nedda has been having a romance. He persuades her to leave her husband and run away with him. Tonio catches sight of the lovers and seeing his opportunity for revenge, runs off to fetch Canio. The enraged husband arrives in time to hear Nedda promise that she will meet Silvio later that night. At Canio's approach Silvio escapes into the woods. Canio demands that Nedda reveal to him the name of her lover. She refuses. Canio, is about to kill her when Peppe, another member of the troupe, stops him. Peppe tells Nedda to get dressed for the play. There follows Canio's famous outcry of despair. He must go on the stage as Pagliaccio, the Clown, and make people laugh, even though his heart is breaking.

Act 2: The villagers gather for the play. The play presented by the troupe centers around the theme that the trusting husband is deceived by a faithless wife. Tonio playing the part of, Taddeo, declares his love for Columbine (Nedda), only to be scorned by her. Peppe plays the role of Columbine's lover, Harlequin. Their intimate little supper is interrupted by the unexpected arrival of the husband, Pagliaccio (Canio). Harlequin escapes through the window as Nedda promises to meet him later that night, using the same words as she did earlier to Silvio. As Canio proceeds to play his part, make-believe gradually retreats before the tragic reality of his situation. He insists that Nedda reveal the name of her lover. She laughs him off and tries to continue the comedy. But Canio reproaches her. Nedda persists in her refusal to name the man she loves. Canio seizes a knife from the table and stabs Nedda. With her last breath she cries out for Silvio, who has been watching the play. He runs to the stage to help her but is too late. Canio, now aware that Silvio was his wife's lover, stabs him to death. Amid the agitation of the horrified onlookers, Tonio stands murmuring, "The comedy is ended!"

Cast biographies:

Gianni Schicchi: John Knight Allen



John Knight Allen has performed internationally both as a violinist and singer, and enjoys interpreting the standard repertoire as well as championing newer works. From Provo, UT, John has studied music at BYU, the U of U, and abroad in New York and Italy. Recent operatic credits include the title roles in *Rigoletto* and *Gianni Schicchi*, Scarpia in *Tosca*, Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Germont in *La Traviata*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, and Bob in *The Old Maid and the Thief* and the title role in *Sweeney Todd* at Kingsbury Hall.

Gianni Schicchi: Bennett Chew



Bennett James Chew is a graduate from the University of Utah School of Music where he received his Bachelor of Music with an emphasis in Vocal Performance in 2022. He has performed as Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd* (University of Utah), Don Quixote in *Master Peter's Puppet Show* (University of Utah), Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* (Lyrical Opera Theater), and Count Ceprano in *Rigoletto* (U Opera).

This production is funded in part by the ARP Act and the Utah State Legislature through Utah Arts & Museums.



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Utah Division of
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Lauretta: Alyssa Powers



Alyssa Powers caught the performing bug at age 10 and has been singing ever since. She has performed for community and professional theaters in her home state of CA, and in Utah where she now resides with her husband and 3 children. She has sung with the San Francisco Girl's Chorus, Utah Symphony and Opera Choruses, and has been a soloist with the West Jordan Symphony and Santa Rosa Symphony League. Alyssa is a member of "The Motley Wandering Minstrels," with whom she has

performed leading roles in their Gilbert & Sullivan Operettas in Concert. She holds a B.A. in Music from BYU. She loves volunteering as Choir Director at Peruvian Park Elementary School!

Lauretta: Kahli Dalbow



Kahli Dalbow is a lyric coloratura soprano and native of Pittsburgh, PA. She made her operatic debut in the role of The First Spirit in the Pittsburgh Opera's production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at the age of 15. Ms. Dalbow received her BFA in Vocal Performance from Carnegie Mellon University, and her MM in Vocal Performance from the University of Utah. Most recently, she was seen as Gilda in *Rigoletto* and Flora in *La Traviata* with Lyrical Opera Theater. Some of her favorite performed roles include Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Gianetta in *L'Elisir d'Amore*, and The Vixen in *The Cunning Little Vixen*. Kahli loves helping others find their

voice and enjoys teaching many voice students at her home studio in Draper.

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Zita: Sarah Neipp



Sarah Maxwell Neipp, mezzo, received her Bachelor's in Vocal Performance from SUU and her Master's in Vocal Performance from BYU. She has performed in both Musical Theatre and Opera productions ranging from Maria to Mother Abbess, Dorabella to Feather Duster Fifi, Mercedes to Mother of Amahl, and is enjoying this return to Zita in her premiere with Lyrical Opera Theater.

Zita: Alicia Fairbanks



Alicia Fairbanks began studying voice at Mesa Community College. She completed an undergraduate degree in vocal performance at Brigham Young University. During that time she had the opportunity to teach BYU's Slavic Choir. Alicia earned a masters degree in voice at the University of Utah. Past roles include Berta in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Pitti Sing in the *Mikado*, Amahl in *Amahl and the night Visitors* and Athamas in *Semele*. Alicia loves working with her voice students and watching them progress. She uses her spare time for painting, sculpting and sewing.

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Rinuccio and Peppe: Anthony Ruiz



Anthony Ruiz has performed in various settings and with varying disciplines including chamber choirs, jazz, musical theatre, band, opera, and more! In fact, his introduction to the world of music began with instruments. That passion sewed by playing low brass instruments has driven him to explore vocal performance and many genres that have ultimately led him to where he is now: Performing on stage with Lyrical Opera Theater. He sang Normano in LOT's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and sang in UVU's *La Bohème* and A voice for

Good's production of *The Lamb of God* by Rober Gardner, taking on the role as Peter. He participated in Utah Valley Vocal Arts *Le nozze di Figaro* by Mozart.

Rinuccio: Josh Hooker



Josh Hooker grew up in the small town of Heber City, Utah. He is a current student at Utah Valley University majoring in Vocal Performance. It wasn't until recently that he decided to pursue opera as a career, and switched from his education degree to performance. His roles include: Arturo from Donizetti's *Lucia Di Lammermoor*; Frederic from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*; Parpignol from Puccini's *La Boheme*; and Dr. Blind from Strauss's

Die Fledermaus. When Josh isn't performing, you'll find him running his family's river rafting company, in a whitewater kayak, on a snowmobile, or on a horseback ride with his wife.

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Gherardo: Alex Harrelson



Driven by an overarching love for story and song, **Alex Harrelson** delights in building a genuine connection between himself and his audience. He has brought this love of connection beyond the operatic stage, giving compelling recitals that reignite art song and song cycles to new audiences. Alex is currently a second year Masters student at the University of Utah, where he studies under Dr. Robert Breault. Recent opera performances for Alex include performing as Lindoro in Rossini's *L'Italiana in Algeri* as a part of the La Musica Lirica summer program. During the first year of his Masters program, he performed as Anthony in Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*. He sang Ferrando in a selection of scenes and arias from Mozart's *Così fan tutte*.

Gherardo and Peppe: José Miguel



José Miguel is a promising, eclectic, young Chilean tenor. He is currently pursuing his D.M.A. at the University of Utah. Past credits include Rodolfo in Puccini's *La bohème*, the Duke in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Pirelli in Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, Arturo in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, among others. In October, 2021 José Miguel made his official directorial debut with De Falla's *El retablo de Maese Pedro*. This past summer, he launched his own summer series: "Arias of the Vine." His voice has been heard internationally in

Chile, Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, Puerto Rico, Austria, Italy, and Canada. José Miguel is a native of Santa Cruz, Chile and holds a B.A. in Music from St. Lawrence University and a M.M. in Voice Performance.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Nella: Michelle Dean



Michelle comes from small town Willard, Utah. She received vocal performance degrees from the University of Utah and Brigham Young University, where she enjoyed many opportunities in opera as well as singing as a concert soloist. Some favorite performances include Adele in *Die Fledermaus*, Mimi in *La Boheme*, Violetta in *La Traviata*, and soprano soloist in Eriks Esenvalds' *Passion and Resurrection*. Her expressive singing has won awards such as first place in the NATS Regional Competition in Hayward, California (2020) and the Encouragement Award at the MONC District Auditions in Salt Lake City, Utah (2019).

Nella: Angela LeBaron



Angela, Soprano, holds a Bachelors in Music from USU and a Masters in Music from BYU both with an emphasis in Vocal Performance. She was a soloist with the Tabernacle Choir in their *Book of Mormon Oratorio* and soloed with the Utah Symphony in their *Salute to Youth* and *Tribute to Brahms* concerts. She has performed many principal roles in musicals and operas, including professional roles with Utah Festival Opera Company. Some of her favorite roles include Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*, Martha in *Martha*, and Cosette in *Les Miserables*.

She loves sharing the stage with her husband, Jordon. Together, they have 3 children.

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Giulia: Emily Tuutau

Emily Tuutau was born into a musical family and loves to sing and perform on stage. She is a fast learner and follows stage directions well. She has performed in two Lyrical Opera Theater productions...the role of Trouble in *Madama Butterfly* and an Acolyte in *Tosca*.



Giulia: Smera Nair

Smera Nair takes vocal and piano lessons privately with Lynnette Owens. She is a talented singer and pianist and enjoys performing songs in English, Latin and Italian. She recently sang the Shepherdess in Lyrical Opera Theater's *Tosca* and "Nella Fantasia" at the 2021 and 2022 Italian festival, *Festa Italiana*, in Salt Lake City. In her free time, Smera loves to go swimming, biking and spend time with her family and her pet dog, Buddy.



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Rocky Mountain Power Foundation

Betto and Silvio: Hayden Høglund



Baritone **Hayden Høglund** is a senior studying Vocal Performance at Utah State University. Recently, he covered the role of Dandini in *La Cenerentola* at Lawrence Opera Theatre. He performed as Figaro in the Vienna Summer Music Festival's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*. In April 2022, he appeared as a Wedding Guest in the premiere performance of the opera *Uncovered*, with music by Lori Laitman and libretto by Leah Lax, and was thrilled to perform in this world premiere of the opera with both the librettist and composer present. Other roles include Mars in *Orphée aux enfers*, Seneca in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, and the Officer in *Tartuffe*.

Betto and Silvio: Jordon LeBaron



Jordon LeBaron, baritone, has enjoyed performing since he was very young. He studied voice at Utah State University where he received his bachelor of music degree for vocal performance. Since then, he has enjoyed performing in many opera, oratorio, musical theatre, and jazz productions. Some of his recent credits include: Sciarrone (*Tosca*), Pharaoh (Joseph), Bass Soloist (*Handel's Messiah*), Frollo (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*), and singing with his family, The LeBaron Singers, on YouTube. He

is grateful for a supportive family that encourages him to pursue his love for singing, especially his wife, Angela, with whom he often shares the stage.

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Simone: Daniel Tuutau



Daniel Tuutau, Baritone, is originally from Los Angeles, California. He holds BA and MM degrees from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance from the U of U. He sang Scarpia in Lyrical Opera Theater's *Tosca*. Roles with the University of Utah's Lyric Opera Ensemble include Don Magnifico in Rossini's *La*

Cenerentola, the Count in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, and Ford in Verdi's *Falstaff*. He was also recently involved in the chorus with Utah Opera in their productions of Puccini's *Turandot*, Bizet's *Les pêcheurs de perles*, and Mozart's *Così fan tutte*.

Marco and Tonio: Matthew Castleton



Matthew Thomas Castleton (Salt Lake City, Utah) is delighted to appear with Lyrical Opera Theater. While Mr. Castleton has a large swath of operatic and musical theatre experience, recent credits include Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Lyrical Opera Theater), *La Bohème* (Utah Opera), Chabrier's *L'Étoile* (Sin City Opera), and *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Utah Opera). Mr. Castleton also was a young artist at the 2009 La Musica Lirica Opera Young Artist Program (Novafeltria, Italy). He holds both Bachelors (2010) and Masters (2014)

Degrees in Music-Vocal Performance from the U of U. When he is not performing, Matthew works at The Home Depot.

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La Ciesca: Lily Peterson



Lily Peterson is a Senior at UVU and will graduate in April of 2023 with her Bachelors in Vocal Performance. Her most recent roles have been Antonia in *The Tales of Hoffmann* at her university November of 2022, as well as Nella in *Gianni Schicchi* with the UVAA summer Program 2022. Lily is currently studying with soprano Marina Costa-Jackson. When Lily isn't singing, she loves exercising with her husband and taking her dog on walks.

La Ciesca and Nedda: Madelyn Hunter



American Soprano, **Madelynn Hunter**, grew up in Derby, Kansas. Ms. Hunter received her Bachelor's degree in Classical Voice Performance from Brigham Young University in 2021. This is her debut with Lyrical Opera Theater. Madelynn will perform Nedda in *Pagliacci* and La Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi*. Ms. Hunter has competed in numerous competitions during the past two years. Most recently, she has been selected as a semi-finalist for the 2023 International Music Grand Prix competition. Ms. Hunter's teachers include Mindy Ammons

and Darrell Babidge. She loves the opportunity she has to share beautiful music with those around her.

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amazonsmile

Spineloccio and Notary: Ricky Parkinson



Ricky's eclectic musical endeavors have taken him from a cappella groups (BYU Vocal Point, ICCA champions in 2006) to opera (Utah Opera Chorus) to early music (5 seasons with Utopia Early Music Ensemble) to musical theater. He has performed in musical theater productions at Pioneer Theater Company (Olin Britt in *The Music Man*), Hale Center Theater in Sandy (Smudge in *Forever Plaid*) and Orem (Javert in *Les Miserables*), and Centerpoint Legacy Theater (Adam in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, and Adam in *Children of Eden*). He was most recently seen as Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, and Ladahlord in *James and the Giant Peach*.

Pinellino and Villager: Gary Later



Gary's love of music is what got him involved in musical theatre and opera nearly a decade ago. Some of his favorite community theatre productions, have been *The Music Man*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. His favorite musical theatre role—consistent with his love of music—was the part of the baritone in the barbershop quartet of *The Music Man*. He has sung with Utah Opera Chorus in the operas *Norma* and *The Barber of Seville*. Gary is excited to be singing in

Lyrical Opera Theater's production.

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Pinellino and Villager: Kevin Burtenshaw



Kevin Burtenshaw grew up in Shelley, Idaho and currently lives in Riverton. He has enjoyed performing in musical theater productions on various stages along the Wasatch Front. Favorite roles include Emile de *Becque* in *South Pacific*, Captain von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* and The Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*. Recently retired from the aerospace industry and having enjoyed opera for years, this seemed like the right time to venture onto the opera stage. As the old saying goes – better late than never!

Canio: Christian Holden



Christian Holden, tenor, is originally from Maple Valley, Washington. He has studied voice for over 11 years in both Idaho and Utah and is currently training with Christopher Holmes at Utah Valley University. He sang Cavaradossi in Lyrical Opera Theater's *Tosca* and has participated in many scenes shows, performing roles spanning from Canio in *Pagliacci* to Hoffmann in *Tales of Hoffmann* to Don José in *Carmen*.

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Canio: Antonio Miguellangelo



Antonio Miguellangelo was born in Brazil and immigrated to the United States in 1992. He started his career in music in 1999 and has performed for many audiences in Utah, California, Florida and New York. Antonio is made his debut with the Lyrical Opera Theater performing the role of Don José in *Carmen* by Bizet.

La Ciesca and Nedda: Madelynn Hunter



American Soprano, **Madelynn Hunter**, grew up in Derby, Kansas. Ms. Hunter received her Bachelor's degree in Classical Voice Performance from Brigham Young University in 2021. This is her debut with Lyrical Opera Theater. Madelynn will perform Nedda in *Pagliacci* and La Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi*. Ms. Hunter has competed in numerous competitions during the past two years. Most recently, she has been selected as a semi-finalist for the 2023 International Music Grand Prix competition. Ms. Hunter's teachers include Mindy Ammons

and Darrell Babidge. She loves the opportunity she has to share beautiful music with those around her.

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Nedda: Jin-Xiang Yu



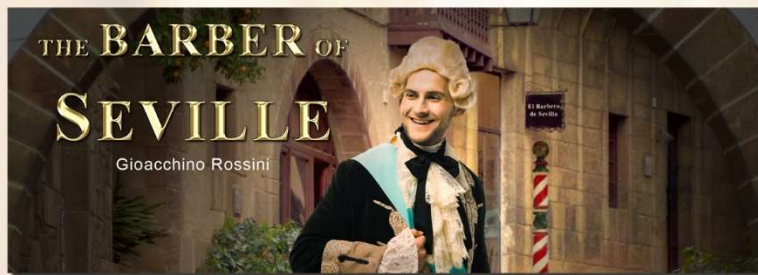
A recent transplant to Utah, soprano **Jin-Xiang Yu** grew up in Japan with roots from China, Korea, and Russia. Following her appearance as Elle in Poulenc's *La voix humaine*, The New York Times hailed her "compelling performance that traced the shifting moods vividly." In Jack Perla's *An American Dream* at Opera Maine, the Portland Press Herald praised "her bright, clear timbre and admirable vocal flexibility to create a moving portrayal of Setsuko." She currently teaches voice and piano from her studio in Cottonwood Heights while continuing her studies and performing.

Tonio: Layton Loucks



Originally from Morgan, Utah, **Layton Loucks** is a senior majoring in vocal performance at Utah State University where he studies under Grammy Award winning Tenor, Thomas Glenn. In his time at Utah State, Layton has had the opportunity to perform a variety of opera roles including the role of The Rabbi in the world premiere of Lori Laitman's newest opera, *Uncovered*. Most recently Layton has performed the title role in Utah Vocal Arts Academy's production of Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* last summer as well as the role of Valens in the USU opera production of Handel's *Theodora* in January.

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Villager: Jaden Peterson



Jaden Peterson is a high school student who has had a love for acting since he was in a sixth grade production of *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*. His past performances vary from *Fiddler on the Roof* to *Matilda*. Jaden is excited to be expanding his horizons from school musical performances to opera. In his spare time, when he's not acting or doing homework, he loves to write stories, be with his friends and listen to an absurd amount of Elton John.

Villager: Emily Mijarez



Emily is excited to be making her second appearance at Lyrical Opera. She played the role of Flora in Lyrical Opera's performance of *La Traviata* in 2019. However, she has spent most of her musical career on the musical theater stage. She has performed at The Hale Theater Orem in *South Pacific* and *Guys and Dolls*, as well as in many local community productions. Her favorite roles to date are Lucy in *Jekyll and Hyde* and Ms. Hannigan in *Annie*. Emily is extremely grateful to her family, friends and husband who encourage

her daily to pursue her dreams. She is also very grateful to Lynnette Owens who continues to push her outside her comfort zone.

This production is funded in part by the ARP Act and the Utah State Legislature through Utah Arts & Museums.



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Villager: Lauren Bohannon



Lauren (Cartwright) Bohannon began singing around the age of 10 when she joined a children's choir and with them toured Europe, Israel, Jordan and performed in Donny Osmond's last Broadway production of Joseph. She received a Bachelor of Music from the U of U and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance at Louisiana State University. She has performed around the country and in Italy in a variety of roles and rep. She currently performs with the Utah Opera Chorus and various local companies. Apart from singing, Lauren finds passion

in cooking and event planning, in which she has forged a career. She has also recently become a mama and she loves her baby boy and family "to the moon and back!"

Villager: Deborah Siddoway



Deborah Siddoway, soprano has worked collaboratively and individually on a variety of concerts. As a classically trained musician, her primary performance focus is Opera and Broadway. Her performances include Kate Pinkerton & Mama in *Madama Butterfly*, chorus in *Carmen*, *Falstaff*, *La Traviata* and *Tosca* with Lyrical Opera Theater. Her concert soloist performances include singing Puccini's "O mio babbino caro" and Rossini's "Duetto buffo di due gatti" with Lyrical Opera Theater soloing in the Matsumoto, Japan/Salt Lake City sister city Gala and Lyrical Opera Theater Heart

Song concert. She has been featured in the Italian festival "Ferragosto" and West Valley City, Mayor Mike Winder's Gala concert and enjoys singing at local senior living centers.

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Villager: Jocelyn van Wyk



Idaho-raised soprano Jocelyn van Wyk is an actress, stage director, private voice teacher and owner of Segó Studios. She completed her Masters of Music in Opera Performance in the spring of 2020, from Longy School of Music of Bard College. She has performed many operatic and music theater roles. Most recently she was part of Utah Festival Opera and Music Theater's summer season. This is Jocelyn's third production with Lyrical Opera Theater. Jocelyn specializes in character development and loves telling beloved stories in new meaningful ways.

Villager: Emily Jameson



This is **Emily's** first experience with opera. She is very excited to be a part of the Pagliacci Opera Chorus. Emily has been performing in musical theatre productions for the past four years. Favorite roles include: Fastrada in *Pippin* and Miss Andrew in *Mary Poppins*. Other favorite shows include *Into the Woods* and *Addams Family*.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Villager: Amy Banta



Amy Banta didn't know she could sing until she was almost 30. Now she's making up for lost time. In Washington, D.C. she performed at The National Cathedral and with The Georgetown Gilbert and Sullivan Society, singing for prominent members of all branches of government. Locally, she's performed at The Empress Theatre and with The Motley Wandering Minstrels. She also sings and plays Celtic Harp (and occasionally the banjo) with her folk trio "The High Desert Harpies."

Villager: Rod Hansen



This is **Rod Hansen's** operatic debut and he is thrilled at the opportunity to join the chorus as a tenor in *Pagliacci*. He has appeared in musical productions, such as *Spamalot* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. He is often found performing at Evermore Park in Pleasant Grove, or in other settings as a medieval style bard; singing, playing guitar, and juggling.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Choreographer: Carly Schaub

Carly Schaub lives in SLC, where she also completed her M.F.A. at the University of Utah in Modern Dance. Before SLC, she lived in ND, dancing and serving as Outreach Coordinator for Northern Plains Dance. She also has a B.F.A. in Theatre/Dance from the University of Wyoming. Carly is an adjunct for Salt Lake Community College, and Westminster College, and teaches Modern and Ballet at Wasatch Arts Center. She teaches Dance for Parkinson's for Uof U's Skagg's Wellness Center and RDT. She has choreographed for Deseret Experimental Opera, Snow College, and Cache Valley Civic Ballet, Northern Plains Dance and teaches Baroque and Renaissance dance. Carly directs Dance Balletti, an early Ballet reconstruction ensemble and she also dances with Municipal Ballet.

Stage Manager: Matilda Black

Matilda has been passionate about tech for five years now. She has worked on shows such as *The Importance of being Earnest*, *Little Women*, and *Into the Woods*. She also plays the piano, is absolutely nerdy, and has a deep fascination with science and the natural world.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Stagehand: Kyra Dunyan



My name is **Kyra** and I have been able to do tech for theatre for 6 years now. I mainly focus in set building/designing, sound, and backstage work. I have also participated in a tech competition in the mastery of props and was able to score rather high. I love everything with theatre and plan to use it as much as I can in the future. The pictures included are of that before mentioned tech competition, as well as three of many shows I have built sets for. They are *Les Mis*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Seussical*

which I also designed the set for. I am happy to be a part of this tech crew and all that I get to experience.

Stagehand: Elise Parry



Elise has been doing stage technology for two years but has been interested in theatre for many more. She has been both a spotlight operator and scenic painter at Hillcrest High School. Outside of school she generally works as a stagehand. Her recent work has been in *Oliver!* and *Tosca*. To her, theatre is a big commitment, but it is all worth it for the amazing experience.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Wigs & Makeup: Katrina Millhouse



Katrina Millhouse is excited to be helping with these productions. A singer and performer herself, Katrina got her start doing her own makeup and hair for various theatrical productions. She eventually turned her love into a character business, "Characters by Kat". She styles dozens of wigs and costumes for princesses, superheroes and Hollywood icons. As she developed her skills in makeup, she learned special effects, face painting, and even body painting. These days, she spends her time running a face painting and entertaining business, singing in a jazz band, and taking care of her 4 kids. A big thanks to her husband Lucas for his patience with constant projects and wig hair all over the house!

Dancer: Severin Sargent-Catterton



Severin Sargent-Catterton (she/they), of Ellicott City, Maryland, grew up immersed in various western dance techniques before setting sights on modern dance. Studying under Marilyn Byers, Severin practiced Nikolais technique before moving to Salt Lake City to continue her dance studies at the University of Utah. During her completion of her Honors Bachelor of Fine Arts at the School of Dance, Severin performed works by Anouk Van Dijk, Eric Handman, and others. She also performed *Outdoors*, *Noa Zuk* and *Ohad Fishof*, with Repertory Dance Theater during their Fall 2019 season. Post graduation, Severin taught for Johns Hopkins University. She has performed with sonderIMMERSIVE and Interdisciplinary Arts Collective, and Deseret Experimental Opera.

Thank you for making this show possible!



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