



#### **DEAR FRIENDS,**

As Zoellner Arts Center looks to celebrate its past 25 years, and envisions the next 25, we want to pause and thank you, our supporters.

During this 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, we honor some of our founders, who in the early 1990s with Lehigh University leadership, embraced a vision to bring arts to the forefront of our community with a 'dramatic new facility destined to become a major landmark.'

The realization of this vision is evident: since 1997, the center has welcomed over 1 million visitors, more than 150,000 Lehigh

students, thousands of area school children, countless community organizations and hundreds of artists from around the world. Premier artists like Michael Feinstein, Postmodern Jukebox, and the New York Philharmonic, who inaugurated Baker Hall in 1997 and is honoring us with a performance for our 25th, grace our stage this fall.

In the spring, we will expand our cultural programming. Third Coast Percussion and Flutronix perform their new work *Rubix* and the talented artist Wu Fei joins us for a residency and performs *Hello Gold Mountain* with Professor Paul Salerni conducting students in Lehigh University's Philharmonic and Choir.

And be sure to save this date: April 15, 2023, for the return of our gala with The Philadelphia Orchestra featuring Brian Stokes Mitchell, where we will also have a free outdoor performance by vertical dance company Bandaloop. Their talented dancers are on the cover of this program (photo by Jorg Badura) and prove that art is not subject to the confines of four walls.

How grateful and excited I am to be the Executive Director of Zoellner Arts Center at this moment in time. We celebrate the impact we've had over the last 25 years, and look forward to the next 25 of engaging and connecting with you in and beyond our building.

# Mark Fitzgerald Wilson

**Executive Director** 

### THANK YOU

Leadership Funding: Victoria E. and Robert E.\* Zoellner '54

#### PROGRAM SUPPORT











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Supported in part by the Klees Family Instrumental Ensemble Endowed Fund.

#### **CREATIVE CAMPUS INITIATIVE**

Supported in part by Anne R. Kline '81 Endowed Fund for Creatively Integrated Programming.

#### **NOTATIONS**

Lehigh University:

- Creative Writing Program
- Zoellner Arts Center

#### SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Zoellner Arts Center receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.





Listing as of September 23, 2022

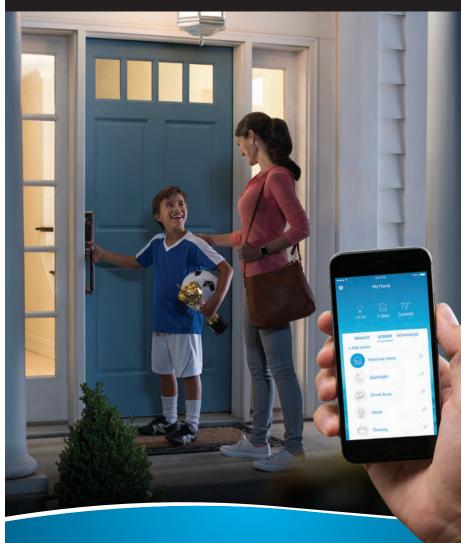


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# NOV 13 Sun 5pm | Baker Hall

# **ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS**

VERDI'S LA TRAVIATA



Sponsored with a generous gift from Victoria Eckert Zoellner





2022.2023 SEASON

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#### **SYNOPSIS**

#### ACT I

Violetta's Paris salon. Famed courtesan Violetta Valéry has recently recovered from a terrible illness that has kept her locked away in her house in Paris for several weeks. To celebrate, she hosts a lavish party in her salon. While greeting guests into her home, her old friend Gastone de Letorières introduces his friend Alfredo Germont, a young bourgeois who has long adored Violetta from afar. As Violetta accompanies Gastone into the salon, he reveals that Alfredo visited her house every day that she was ill. Alfredo soon joins them and admits that Gastone's remarks are true.

Baron Douphol, Violetta's current lover, is invited to give a toast. Upon his refusal, the crowd turns to Alfredo, who agrees to sing a toast to life and love. From the adjoining ballroom, the sounds of an orchestra beckon the guests to dance. Violetta erupts into a fit of coughing, nearly fainting from exhaustion, but she insists that her guests enjoy some dancing in the ballroom while she recovers. Alfredo returns to her to express his concern for her health, and he later declares his love for her. At first, she rejects his love. Love means nothing to her; however, there is something about Alfredo that touches her heart. Alfredo prepares to leave when she gives him a flower, telling him to return it when it has begun to wilt.

#### INTERMISSION

#### ACT II

Scene 1. Violetta's country house outside Paris. Three months have passed since Alfredo and Violetta met. They have withdrawn together to a peaceful country house to escape their previous lives, and their love has blossomed. However, Alfredo discovers that Violetta has been selling all her belongings to secure their new lifestyle and resolves to travel to Paris to raise money. While he is away, Violetta receives an invitation to a ball in Paris at the home of her friend Flora Bervoix, but she has abandoned her role as a socialite and courtesan for the sake of Alfredo and her health. Giorgio Germont, Alfredo's father, arrives to their home uninvited to ask her to break off her relationship with his son. His daughter is engaged to be wed, and her fiancé will refuse to form an alliance with a family in disgrace due to Violetta's reputation. Although he has grown to understand her kindness and nobility, he pleads with her for the sake of his family. With remorse, she agrees to leave Alfredo. With gratitude, Giorgio kisses her on her forehead and leaves her alone to weep.

Violetta gives her maid Annina a note to send to Flora accepting her party invitation. Alfredo returns home and finds a sobbing Violetta writing a letter to him. Through her tears, she repeatedly proclaims her unconditional love for him. She rushes out of the house to leave for Paris, handing her farewell letter to a servant to give to Alfredo. Alfredo reads the letter, and Giorgio returns to comfort his heartbroken son. Alfredo finds the party invitation on Violetta's desk and suspects that the Baron is behind his separation from Violetta. Giorgio tries to stop Alfredo from leaving, but the young man is already determined to confront Violetta at the party.

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Scene II. *Flora's house in Paris*. The Marquis informs an astonished Flora that Violetta and Alfredo have separated. Violetta arrives with Baron Douphol and sees Alfredo at the gambling table. Blinded by jealousy, thinking that the Baron is Violetta's new lover, Alfredo accepts a challenge in a game of cards. The men lay their bets, and Alfredo wins a fortune. Flora announces dinner, but Violetta requests that Alfredo meet with her privately. She is afraid that the Baron's anger will lead him to challenge Alfredo to a duel and gently asks him to leave before trouble ensues. Alfredo demands that Violetta admit she loves the Baron—she intends to keep her promise to his father and lies that she does love the Baron. Alfredo begins screaming and throwing money at her feet, saying that he has repaid her. Giorgio rebukes his son, and the Baron challenges him to a duel.

#### INTERMISSION

#### ACT III

Violetta's bedroom in Paris. Dr. Grenvil tells Annina that Violetta does not have much longer to live; tuberculosis has consumed her. Alone, Violetta reads a letter from Giorgio relating that the Baron was only wounded in his duel with Alfredo. Furthermore, he has informed Alfredo of the sacrifice she has made for him and his sister, and he is sending his son to see her as quickly as possible to beg for forgiveness. Annina rushes into the room to announce Alfredo's arrival, and the lovers are reunited. Alfredo suggests that they leave Paris, but it is too late. Alfredo professes his love once more for Violetta, who is comforted by her lover's forgiveness and dies in his arms

#### **CAST**

Opera in three acts
Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave,
based on the play *La Dame aux Camélia*s by Alexandre Dumas fils

#### In order of vocal appearance

Violetta Valéry Lydia Grindatto

**Emily Margevich** 

Flora Bervoix Monique Galvão

Marchese d'Obigny Cumhur Görgün

Barone Douphol Peter Barber

**Dottore Grenvil** Yue Wu

Gastone de Letoriéres Angel Raii Gomez

Alfredo Germont Matthew Goodheart

Luke Norvell

Annina Alla Yarosh

Giussepe Dylan Gregg

Giorgio Germon Benjamin Dickerson

Kevin Godínez

Commissionario Cumhur Görgün

Flora's Servant Shawn Roth

#### **CHORUS**

Sopranos: Yihan Duan, Loella Grahn,

Mezzo: Monique Galvão, Alla Yarosh

Tenors: Angel Raii Gomez, Shawn Roth, Sahel Salam

Basses & Baritones: Peter Barber, Dylan Gregg, Yue Wu, Cumhur Görgün

#### **ORCHESTRA**

Violin I

Igor Szwec, concertmaster
Donna Grantham
Luigi Mazzocchi
Joseph Kauffman

Alexandra Cutler-Fetkewicz Lorenzo Mazzamuto

Violin II

Elizabeth Kaderabek Andrea Levine Gregory Teperman Kate Suk Russell Kotcher

Viola

Yoshihiko Nakano Julia DiGaetano Scott Wagner

Cello

Vivian Barton Dozor Lynne Beiler

**Bass** 

Anne Peterson Stephen Groat

Flute

**Edward Schultz** 

Clarinet

Joseph Smith Allison Herz

Oboe

Geoffrey Deemer

**Bassoon** 

Christopher Wickham

French Horn

Karen Schubert Ryan Stewart

Trumpet

Brian Kuszyk Thomas Cook

Trombone

**Brad Ward** 

Timpani

Martha Hitchins

Keyboard

Jose Méléndez

#### CHRISTOFER MACATSORIS

JEANNINE B. COWLES MUSIC DIRECTOR CHAIR MUSIC DIRECTOR, PIANIST and CONDUCTOR



Mr. Macatsoris began his conducting career in Italy at the Conservatory in Milan and went on to study conducting privately with such famed maestri as Fausto Cleva, Max Rudolf, and Tullio Serafin. He has also studied composition with Vincent Persichetti. Among his many performance credits are appearances with Philadelphia Lyric Opera Company, Pennsylvania Opera Company, San Francisco Opera, and numerous regional opera companies. In 1970, Max Rudolf invited him to the Curtis Institute of Music, where he taught and conducted for seven years and was music director of the opera department. For several years Mr. Macatsoris was on the faculty of Johns Hopkins University.

Mr. Macatsoris was the music director of the weekly NBC-TV program, *Opera Theatre* and was music director and conductor for two seasons with the Opera at Ambler Festival. As a pianist, he toured with Metropolitan Opera singers in recital programs and collaborated with a virtual Who's Who of legendary opera singers such as Tebaldi, Corelli, Vickers, Sutherland, Pavarotti just to name a few.

A composer himself, Mr. Macatsoris has been drawn to contemporary works and has become widely noted for his outstanding conducting of numerous local and regional opera premieres. In 1976, he conducted the premiere of *The Last of the Mohicans*, a work which was commissioned by the U.S. Government to celebrate the country's 200th birthday. In 1983, as the highlight of Philadelphia's Tricentennial celebration, he conducted the world premiere of Cascarino's opera *William Penn*. Mr. Macatsoris conducted the American premiere of Lee Hoiby's *The Scarf* and has also premiered many works by Margaret Garwood.

As music director of the Academy of Vocal Arts since 1977, he has led critically acclaimed performances of Puccini's *Il Trittico* and *Madama Butterfly*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, and Britten's *Albert Herring*, which was broadcast over PBS. In addition, many operas received their Delaware Valley premieres at AVA under his baton, including Mozart's Idomeneo and *La Finta Giardiniera*, Handel's *Deidamia*, Strauss's *Capriccio*, Verdi's *Un Giorno di Regno*, and Richard Wargo's *A Chekhov Trilogy*.

Mr. Macatsoris has appeared at The International Corfu Festival, Greece, in 1981 and 1982, leading performances of *The Rape of Lucretia, La Sonnambula, Ariadne auf Naxos*, and *Così fan tutte*.

Mr. Macatsoris has conducted in many regional American houses and has been on the conducting staff of San Francisco Opera Center. He is in great demand as a lecturer and for master classes, and has conducted them at major universities, including Tulane, Loyola of New Orleans and SUNY-Buffalo. He has been a judge for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Mr. Macatsoris consistently earns high praise from the press for his interpretive abilities and total commitment to excellent opera theatre. *Opera Magazine*, London, proclaimed him, "One of the treasures of the Philadelphia music scene." *The Main Line Times* music critic wrote, "Local opera lovers never hear a finer opera conductor." And Robert Baxter with *The Courier Post* raved, after hearing *The Barber of Seville*, that "Christofer Macatsoris shapes a decisive reading. Seldom does Rossini's familiar score sound so tautly paced and expressively shaped."

#### DOROTHY DANNER STAGE DIRECTOR



Noted for her inventive staging, Dorothy Danner has directed nearly 200 productions of operas, operettas, musicals, and plays throughout the United States, Canada, and Belgium, including operas for the companies of Glimmerglass, Houston, Philadelphia, Miami, Cleveland, Minnesota, Cincinnati, Portland, Kansas City, Virginia, and San Francisco Merola. Ms. Danner has had the honor of staging the premieres of contemporary composers Barab, Botti, Garwood, Hamlisch, Harnick, Lloyd, Mechem, Musgrave, Sirotta and Wargo.

A dedicated and inspiring teacher, she was co-founder of the Glimmerglass Young Artist Program, has served on the faculties of the Juilliard School, the Curtis Institute of Music, the Chautauqua Institute and has been a frequent guest director at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, and Carnegie Mellon.

In 2021, Ms. Danner received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Opera Association.

As a performer, Dorothy Danner aka Dorothy Frank, appeared in 9 Broadway shows from the original *Once Upon A Mattress* to Michael Bennett's *Ballroom*. She appeared in many TV Variety shows as well as several films, including Mel Brook's *The Producers*.

Dorothy Danner is a member of a theatrical family that includes actors Blythe, Harry and Hillary Danner, Gwyneth Paltrow, writerfilm maker, Jake Paltrow, conceptual artist Taryn Simon, actress Katherine Moennig and the departed Philadelphia violin maker William Moennig III.



Peter Barber (bass-baritone, third-year) is an American bass-baritone and Resident Artist at the Academy of Vocal Arts. In October of 2021, he made his professional role and company debuts with Salt Marsh Opera, performing as Escamillo in Carmen. In February of 2022, Peter made his role debut with AVA as Prince Gremin in *Eugene Onegin*, followed just a few months later with Schaunard in La bohème, under the baton of Maestro Christofer Macatsoris. Most recently. Peter joined The Santa Fe Opera as an Apprentice Singer for the summer of 2022, covering Fiorello in The Barber of Seville and performing Truffaldin in *Ariadne auf Naxos* during the Apprentice Scenes program. Throughout the virtual season of 2020-2021, Peter performed in three recitals with the Academy of Vocal Arts, earning reviews like, "...command over the full range of his voice from top to bottom was unshakeable" for his presentation of Schubert's "Der Wanderer". In January of 2020, Peter made his professional debut with Pacific Opera Project. performing Amantio in POP's double-bill production of Gianni Schicchi and L'enfant et les Sortilèges. Also with POP, he was to perform his first professional lead role as Guglielmo in Così fan tutte, but the shows were cancelled due to COVID-19. Some of his other role highlights include: Bottom in *Midsummer* Night's Dream, Figaro in Le nozze di Figaro, Stobrod/Blindman in Cold Mountain, Sarastro in The Magic Flute, and Don Alfonso in Così fan tutte. Peter is currently in the voice studio of Bill Schuman.



Benjamin Dickerson (baritone, third-year) is from Burlington, Vermont. Mr. Dickerson has been seen in recital on the stages of Carnegie's Weill Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, the Caramoor Center for the Performing Arts, and the Jerome L. Greene Space, broadcast live on WQXR. Mr. Dickerson was a Studio Artist at the Florida Grand Opera from 2017-2019 where he sang the roles of Schaunard in *La bohème*, Mr. Kahlo/Mr. Rockefeller in Rodriguez's biopic *Frida*, and Albert in *Werther*. Dickerson is also a former Gerdine Young Artist at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and an alumnus of the Music Academy of the West where he won the prestigious Marilyn Horne Song Competition. He is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music.



Yihan Duan (soprano, fourth-year) is from Anhui, China. She earned a B.M in Vocal Performance at Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Yihan received the Excellence Award and Rookie Award from the Verdi International Vocal Competition in the Chinese Region, Second Place in the International Vocal Competition of American Classical Vocalist in the Chinese Region (2017), and she earned the Professional and Outstanding Individual Award from the People's Scholarship of Shanghai Conservatory of Music (2015 and 2016). She is the 2019 First Prize Winner of the Giargiari Bel Canto Competition. Previous roles include Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Liù in *Turandot*. At AVA, Yihan sang the role of Anna in *Le Villi*, and Suor Lucilla in *Suor Angelica*.



Jenny Anne Flory (mezzo-soprano, first-year) from Harrisonburg, Virginia, graduated with her MM in Opera Performance, as a member of the University of Maryland Opera Studio (May 2017). She holds a BM in Vocal Performance from James Madison University (May 2015). Ms. Flory has a contract to sing Siebel in Detroit Opera's 2022 fall production of Faust and is excited to join The Academy of Vocal Arts as a Resident Artist. She was a Young Artist with the Palm Beach Opera during their 2021 Festival season, where she sang Second Lady in their production of *Die Zauberflöte* and Romeo in the Discovery Series Production of I Capuleti e i Montecchi. Ms. Flory was an Apprentice Artist at Palm Beach Opera for their 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 season. Flory completed outreach programs in West Palm Beach County and sang in multiple concerts for donors and the general public. She covered Hansel in the Young Artist's production of Hansel and Gretel and also participated in the choruses of Turandot, La traviata, Don Giovanni, and Die Fledermaus.



Monique Galvão (mezzo-soprano, third-year) Monique Galvão was born and raised in Brazil. She lived in France where she was first introduced to classical music. In Miami. she was introduced to classical singing, earning awards from the Florida Federation of Music Clubs and the NATS South Florida chapter. Monique was a scholarship recipient at Miami Dade College where she earned her A.A in Fine Arts and Fine Arts Education, Her past credits at MDC included Katisha in the *Mikado*. Aunt March and Mrs. Kirk in *Little Women*. Oueen Aggravain in Once Upon a Mattress and Adalgisa, Carmen, Orfeo. Cherubino and 2nd Lady in scenes from Norma. Carmen, Orfeo ed Euridice, Le Nozze di Figaro and Die Zauberflötte. Monique graduated from the Florida International University with a bachelors in Vocal Performance and was last seen on stage with the FIU Opera Theater as Miss Todd from Menotti's The Old Maid and the Thief. Lazuli from the opera bouffa *L'Étoile* by Emmanuel Chabrier and as the hunter in Venus and Adonis by John Blow. Monique is a third year Resident Artist at the Academy of Vocal Arts. This past season she performed Larina in Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin and performed in concert the title role of Thomas' Mignon. In 2020, Monique won second prize at the Linus Lerner International Singing Competition. This past December Monigue performed as a soloist in Handel's Messiah with NPC Concert Series in Et-Lauderdale, Florida. This summer 2022 Monigue made her title role debut of Carmen (Bizet) with the Miami Music Festival.

Upcoming performances include Southern Arizona Symphony, a debut with the Amazonas' opera in Manaus (role TBA) and Flora with the Academy of Vocal Arts.



Kevin Godínez (baritone, third-year) is from San José, Costa Rica. Mr. Godínez received his Bachelor in Music from the University of Costa Rica, under the tutelage of MM. Rafael Saborío. Among his achievements, Kevin is a two-time winner of the Solistas Universitarios competition from the University of Costa Rica, third prize winner of the Linus Lerner International Singing Competition in Mexico in 2020, second prize winner of the Giargiari Bel Canto Competition 2021 and 2nd prize in the Gerda Lissner Foundation Vocal Competition 2022. During his career Kevin has been part of festivals and competitions in Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Spain, and the United Kingdom. His roles include Silvio (Leoncavallo's I Pagliacci), Peter (Humperdinck's Hänsel und Gretel), Enrico (Donizetti's *Il campanello di notte*), Masetto and Don Giovanni (Mozart's Don Giovanni), Slook (Rossini's La cambiale di matrimonio), Marcello and Schaunard (Puccini's La bohème), Conte d'Almaviva (Mozart's Le nozze di Figaro) Gianni Schicchi (Puccini's Gianni Schicchi) among others.



Angel Raii Gomez (tenor, second-year) currently studies with Luis Ledesma at the Academy of Vocal Arts. A native of McAllen, Texas, some of Mr. Gomez's collegiate achievements include Gulf Coast regional finalist for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, 1st place winner at the South Texas National Association of Teachers in Singing competition in the senior men division, and winner of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Concerto Aria Competition. In January of 2022, Mr. Gomez performed the role of Triquet in AVA's production of *Eugene Onegin* and in Summer of 2022 he also he debuted the role of Rinuccio in Puccini's *Gianni Schicci* with the International Summer Opera Festival in Morelia. Mexico.



Matthew Goodheart (tenor, first-year) is a 22-year-old Tenor from Binghamton, New York. Last Spring, Matthew graduated with his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. This past summer. he took part in Houston Grand Opera's YAVA program and as a Studio Artist with Wolf Trap Opera, While in Wolf Trap. he performed the roles of Gastone in *La traviata* and Elder Hayes in Susannah, along with covering the role of Little Bat in *Susannah*. Past roles performed include Tamino in Die Zauberflöte and Count Belfiore in La Finta Giardiniera. Matthew has spent summers studying in Quebec, Canada, and Lucca, Italy. He has also studied at the Chautauqua Opera Conservatory in 2020 (virtual) & 2021. Matthew has won numerous vocal competitions, including 1st place in the Matinee Musicale Voice Competition, The Opera Club of Syracuse Award from the Civic Morning Musicals Foundation, and 2nd place in the MIOpera Vocal Competition.



Cumhur Görgün (bass, first-year) was born in Istanbul, Turkey. While he was studying physiotherapy and rehabilitation at Yeditepe University, he started his vocal studies with Prof. Güzin Gürel at Istanbul University State Conservatory. He graduated with an honors degree in physiotherapy and rehabilitation and completed his opera and singing program in 2018. In the same year, he started his Master's in Opera at Istanbul University. He performed the roles of Fiorello and Uffiziale in *The Barber of Seville* at Oper im Berg Festival in Salzburg, Austria in 2018, and he sang Antonio in Le nozze di Figaro at Wiener Konzerthaus in 2019, with the support of Sedat Gürel-Güzin Gürel Science and Arts Foundation. In 2018, he covered of the role Sancho in *Don Ouichotte* at Istanbul State Opera and Ballet. Mr. Gorgun studied at the Rodolfo Celletti Belcanto Academy in Italy, and worked with Alberto Triola, Chris Merritt, Sherman Lowe, Renata Lamanda and Nicolai Cok in 2019. He won the Necdet Aydın Special Stage Interpretation Award at the 13th National Young Soloist Competition in 2020. He sang as Schlendrian in Burak Bilgili's production of Bach's Coffee Cantata at the Sürevva Opera House in 2022. He is the winner of the Edward Berkeley Award in the 14th National Young Soloist Competition 2022.



Loella Grahn (soprano, third-year) is from a small town in Sweden. She came to Philadelphia in 2020 to study at The Academy of Vocal Arts. Her previous studies were conducted at the Kapellsberg Opera Studio in northern Sweden, where she performed roles including *Suor Angelica* and an abridged *Queen of the Night*. Other concert works include: Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and excerpts of the *Messiah* and Rossini's *Petite Messe Sollenelle*. In Philadelphia, she recently sang *Musetta* in AVA's 2022 spring production of *La bohème* and was a guest soloist with the Philadelphia Synfonia.



Dylan Gregg (bass-baritone, first-year) is from Salisbury. Maryland. This past summer. Dylan made his debut as a studio artist at Wolf Trap Opera while singing the roles of Cuno in Der Freischütz, Elder Ott in Susannah, and Dottore Grenvil in La traviata. This past spring, Dylan graduated with his Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. He also graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from Boston University in the spring of 2019. During his time at Rice, he performed the roles of Leporello in Rice University's production of Don Giovanni, Claudio in *Agrippina*, and Der Lautsprecher in *Der Kaiser* von Atlantis. During the summer of 2021, he covered the role of Judge Turpin in Des Moines Metro Opera's production of Sweeney Todd. In 2019. Mr. Gregg performed with Opera Iowa in *The Magic Flute* as Sarastro. He made his debut as an Apprentice Artist at Des Moines Metro Opera in 2019 while he also covered the roles of Colline in La bohème, and The First Apprentice in Wozzeck.



Lydia Grindatto (soprano, second-year) A native of Albuquerque New Mexico, Lydia Grindatto made her professional debut with Opera Southwest, covering roles such as the title role in Puccini's Tosca and Violetta in Verdi's La traviata as well as appearing as Erste Edelknabe in Wagner's Lohengrin. Lydia was also recently cast in Opera Southwest's 2020/2021 season as Papagena in Die Zauberflöte and Annina in La traviata, which were unfortunately canceled due to COVID-19. Having graduated summa cum laude from the University of New Mexico with a B.M. in Vocal Performance, Lydia has performed leading roles including Adele in *Die Fledermaus* and Madame Silberklang in *Die* Schauspieldirektor. While a student, Lydia also appeared as the soprano soloist in Schubert's Mass in D and Haydn's Missa in Angustiis. Lydia has performed in several competitions, placing first in the Vocal Artistry Art Song Festival Competition in both 2020 and 2021 as well as receiving first prize and being named Most Promising Singer in the 2021 Rio Grande NATS Student Auditions. Other achievements include being a semifinalist in the 2017 Classical Singer Magazine Competition and an Encouragement Winner in the 2021 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.



Emily Margevich (soprano, fourth-year) has been performing on stage since the age of two with Chicagoland professional musical theatre credits filling her childhood years. Ms. Margevich studied dance, dramatics, and voice for over 15 years at The Academy for the Performing Arts, and she earned her Bachelor and Master of Music from DePaul University. Ms. Margevich won the Illinois District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and Third Place in their Central Region Finals in 2019, and she was honored to win Second Place in the Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition in 2021. Emily recently returned from Mexico where she made her international debut singing the title role in Suor Angelica with the Symphonic Orchestra of Morelia at their historic Teatro Ocampo. Noted for her "exceptionally well-knit soprano of admirable evenness from top to bottom" (Parterre Box), Emily debuted Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin* and Musetta in *La bohème* at AVA last season, and she is so grateful to be a fourth-year resident artist at our beautiful AVA.



Titus Muzi III (baritone, fourth-year) is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He attended Florida State University where he earned a B.M in Vocal Performance. Mr. Muzi is a recipient of multiple awards including a Richard Gaddes Career Grant from Opera Theater of St Louis (2022) an Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan National Council Auditions (2020) as well as a Presser Foundation Scholarship Award at FSU (2019). Mr. Muzi has engaged with various festivals and companies in the United States including Annapolis Opera (2022), Opera Theatre of St. Louis (2022), Opera Saratoga (2020, 2021), Houston Grand Opera's Young Artist Vocal Academy (2019) and the Music Academy of the West (2019). His various roles include Schaunard in La bohème with Annapolis Opera (2022), Escamillo in Carmen with Opera Theatre of St. Louis (2022), the title role in *Eugene Onegin* with AVA (2022) Pedro in *Man* of La Mancha with Opera Saratoga (2021), and Monroe/ Pangle in the west coast premiere of Jennifer Higdon's *Cold* Mountain (2019). This fall, Mr. Muzi will be making his debut as the baritone soloist in Carl Orff's Carmina Burana with the Cincinnati Ballet.



Luke Norvell (tenor, second-year) is a 2021 graduate of The Master's University in Santa Clarita, California, Luke made frequent appearances on the operatic and concert stages in the Los Angeles and Orange County regions. Previous roles include Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus* with Clyde Opera Group and Independent Opera Company, Alfredo in La traviata (cover) with Landmark Opera, King Kaspar in Amahl and the Night Visitors, Azaël in The Prodigal Son (cover), and Prince Charming in Cinderella with Lyric Opera of Orange County. the title role in Faust (cover) with Valley Opera and Performing Arts. Don Ottavio in Don Giovanni, Loge in Das Rheingold. and Prince in Rusalka with LAH-SOW. Count Vaudémont in *Iolanta* (role study) with Eurasia Festival, and Lensky in Eugene Onegin (role study) with Russian Opera Workshop. He has appeared in Independent Opera Company's Stars in Concert Series on multiple occasions where he collaborated with Command Virformance, one of the forerunners in virtual operatic production. He also appeared in the 2020-2021 Season Closing of the Palm Springs Opera Guild of the Desert. On the concert stage, he has sung the tenor solos for Mozart's Requiem and Handel's Messiah with The Master's University Singers and Orchestra and performed Dvořák's Biblické písně in recital.



Zachary Rioux (tenor, fourth-year) is from Grand Falls, New Brunswick, Canada. This November, Zachary will be the tenor soloist in Beethoven's 9th Symphony at The Royal Conservatory of Music. Mr. Rioux's operatic experience includes productions of Dvořák's Rusalka as Prince with LAH-SOW; Verdi's La traviata and Corigliano's The Ghosts of Versailles with the Glimmerglass Festival; Mozart's Die Zauberflöte as Tamino with BrottOpera, Toronto City Opera, and the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music; and Mozart's *Idomeneo* as a Trojan with Opera Atelier. In concert, Zachary has performed works with L'orchestre classique de Montréal, the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra, the National Academy Orchestra, the Bucks Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Classical Singers, Stratford Summer Music, and the Indian River Festival, Mr. Rioux was active in the competition scene shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic, earning second prize at the Mario Lanza Competition, a Gold Medal with High Distinction at the Berlin International Music Competition, a Gold Medal at the 1st Vienna International Music Competition, first prize at the Elite International Music Competition, and third place in the duo category of the Glenn Gould School Chamber Competition. At AVA, Zachary has performed as Basilio in *Le nozze di Figaro* and a Lord in *La* favorite.



Shawn Roth (tenor, third-year) is from Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He is a winner of the Marilyn Horne Song Competition, the Michigan District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (Laffont Competition), and a recipient of the Encouragement Award for the Great Lakes Met region. He has sung roles with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Princeton Festival, and recently Velaa Private Island resort in the Maldives as part of a collaboration with L2 Artists. Roles at AVA include Parpignol in *La bohème*, chorus soloist in *Eugene Onegin*, and Wilhelm Meister in *Mignon*, unfortunately cancelled due to covid-19. Roth looks forward to returning to his hometown orchestra, the Johnstown Symphony, to open their 2022-2023 season with a special homecoming concert.



**Sahel Salam (tenor, fourth-year)** is from Cypress, Texas. He previously studied at the University of Texas at Austin B.M. and the Royal College of Music in London. He has also been a resident at the Music Academy of the West and a Jerwood Young Artist at Glyndebourne Festival Opera. Mr. Salam has sung Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Vincent in *Mireille*, and The Italian Tenor in *Der Rosenkavalier*. At AVA, he has sung Fernand in *La favorite*.



Ethel Trujillo (soprano, third-year) is from Morelos, Mexico. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Puebla, Mexico with a B.M. in Vocal Performance. Ethel's highest achievements include winning first place and receiving the Pro-Opera Audience Award at the Carlo Morelli National Singing Contest in Bellas Artes, Mexico (2018). Furthermore, she has received honorable mentions at the International Lyric Singing Contest in Trujillo, Peru (2018), placed 3rd at the International Singing Contest of Sinaloa (2019), Semifinalist at the International Competition Alfredo Kraus in Spain (2019), 2nd place at the Linus Lerner Competition (2019), 2nd place at the Opera San Miguel Competition (2020), and 1st place at the Gerda Lissner Foundation, Operetta & Zarzuela (2022). Ethel made her debut as Violetta Valery in La traviata at the Opera Festival of San Luis, Mexico (2019). Her roles include Gilda (Rigoletto), Philine (Mignon), Lucia (Lucia di Lammermoor), among others.



Yue Wu (bass-baritone, first-year) is from Tianjin, China. He earned a B.M. from Tianjin Conservatory of Music, and M.M. from Mannes School of Music. Mr. Wu is a finalist at the National Opera Association Carolyn Bailey Argento Vocal Competition and winner of the Opera at Florham International Vocal Competition. Mr.Wu's previous roles and covers include Mandarino (*Turandot*), Bartolo (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Charlie Soong (*Dr Sun-Yat Sen*), Rotnyi/Zaretski (*Eugene Onegin*).He is also an alumnus of Renée Fleming's SongStudio and Music Academy of the West.



Alla Yarosh (mezzo-soprano, first-year) Ukrainian-born mezzo-soprano, Alla Yarosh, has known from a young age that communicating the essence of the human condition through song will become her life-long commitment. In November 2021, Alla was presented with a Bachelor of Music in operatic performance from the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, Australia. There, she practiced under the tutelage of former president of the Australian National Association of Singing Teachers, Shelli Hulcombe, Within the walls of the Queensland Conservatorium, Alla had been awarded the Elizabeth Muir Postgraduate Prize (2022), the John and Sue Thompson Vocal Accompaniment Scholarship in collaboration with pianist, Samuel Choi (2022), the Linda Edith Allen Award (2021), and the Jim Massie Memorial Prize (2021). Her roles to date in university productions have included – the Queen of Fairies in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* (2022), Hippolyta in Britten's Midsummer Night's Dream (Val Machin Opera Scenes 2022), Olga Olsen in Weil's Street Scene (2021), Carmen in Bizet's Carmen (Val Machin Opera Scenes, 2021), and Ursule in Berlioz's Beatrice et Benedict (2020). Professionally, Alla has appeared in the inaugural cast of the new, contemporary opera -The Nurses of Vung Tau (2022) with music by Brenton Broadstock AM and libretto by Elizabeth Lewis. She was a chorus member with Opera Queensland for the 2022 production of Verdi's La traviata. Alla worked closely with Brisbane's emerging and established music organizations such as Voxalis, Brisbane City Opera, Brisbane Concert Orchestra, and the Seven Sopranos. She looks forward to further honing her craft at the Academy of Vocal Arts.

#### **ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS**



Founded in 1934 by Helen Corning Warden and headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, the Academy of Vocal Arts (AVA) is dedicated to giving voice to opera's future. Regarded by many as the premier post-graduate opera training school in the world, AVA provides four years of tuition-free training. It is dedicated exclusively to the study of voice. The student body is intentionally small and admission is highly competitive. More than 200 singers from across the globe audition each year for the fewer than eight spots available in each class. The program is limited to fewer

than 30 total Resident Artists, who are immersed in a uniquely intensive and highly personalized program where they learn from world-renowned faculty. They receive training in voice, vocal repertoire, acting, stage combat, opera history, several languages, and each year are presented in fully-staged opera productions accompanied by the professional AVA Opera Orchestra. They are cast in leading roles that they will in all likelihood continue to perform for the rest of their careers.

No other opera training program in the world rivals AVA's success in developing individual artists whose extraordinary voices inspire millions on international stages. AVA alumni have received five of the past eight Richard Tucker Awards and five of the eleven Beverly Sills Artist Awards presented by The Metropolitan Opera. Over 90% of AVA alumni since 2000 continue active singing careers. AVA proudly counts among its alumni such distinguished international stars as Stephen Costello, Ellie Dehn, Joyce DiDonato, Joyce El-Khoury, Michael Fabiano, Nancy Fabiola Herrera, Bryan Hymel, Luis Ledesma, Angela Meade, Latonia Moore, James Morris, Corinne Winters, Stuart Neill, Ailyn Pérez, Ruth Ann Swenson, Taylor Stayton and Richard Troxell, and currently making their mark in the opera world, recent graduates Piotr Buszewski, Dominick Chenes, Scott Conner, Marina Costa-Jackson, André Courville, Othalie Graham, Alasdair Kent, Zachary Nelson, Musa Ngqungwana, Nicole Piccolomini, Vanessa Vasquez.

Last season, AVA Resident Artists took Top or First prizes in many competitions, such as from the Belvedere Competition, Elizabeth Connell Competition, the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation, Giulio Gari Foundation International Vocal Competition, and the Loren L. Zachary Society. Since 2000, 12 AVA Resident Artists have been named National Winners in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

#### **ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS**

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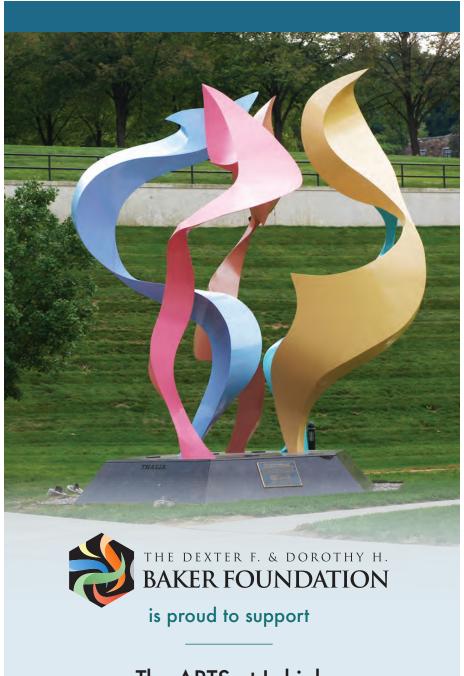
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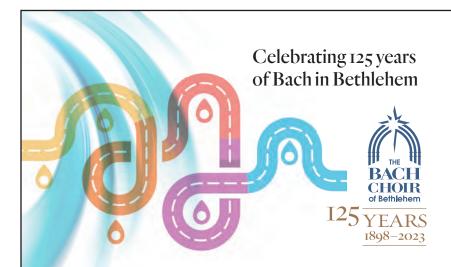
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THE SALONNIÉRES SEP 28 - OCT 1	
NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC	OCT 1
THE AMAZING MAX  Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital FAMILY SERIES	ост 8
THE WEEKLINGS BEATLESBASH	OCT 15
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY CHORAL ARTS Brahms and Poulenc	OCT 22 & 23
HOME FREE Road Sweet Road Tour	OCT 29
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY JAZZ REPERTORY ORCHESTRA	OCT 30
GALATEA	NOV 4 - 12
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LEHIGH UNIVERSITY STUDENT JAZZ ENSEMBLES	NOV 12
ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS Verdi's La Traviata	NOV 13
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LEHIGH UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIC Reflections & Celebrations	DEC 2 & 3
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SCOTT BRADLEE'S POSTMODERN JUKEBOX A Very Postmodern Christmas	DEC 17
CHRISTMAS WITH THE CELTS	DEC 18

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