

RUTGERS

Mason Gross School
of the Arts

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Opera Theater Rutgers

with

HELIX! New Music Ensemble

present

Escobar

Music by Matteo Neri

Libretto by Alejandra Martinez

Alice Tierney

Music by Melissa Dunphy

Libretto by Jacqueline Goldfinger

December 1 - December 3, 2023

Nicholas Music Center
Mason Gross Performing Arts Center
Douglass Campus

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

PROGRAM

Escobar Roles and Cast

Pablo Escobar — Eleomar Cuello
Hugo Martinez — Josh Page
Maria Victoria “Tata” Henao — Susana Leiva
Diana Turbay — Micaela Aldridge
Gustavo Gaviria — Siyuan Yin
Gerardo “Kiko” Moncada — Vincent Graña
Sara — Hyune Kwon
Mateo — Yantian Sun
Search Bloc Soldier — Julian Figueroa
Escobar’s Guard — Andreas Psillos
Luis Carlos Galán — Eduardo Chama

Chorus: Kira Deoliviera, Ziliang Hao, Chichou “Phillip” Hsieh, Lu Huang,
Yeawon Jun, Rebecca Kornhaber, Hayun Lee, Clara Melvin, Cape Miele, Jessica
Vargas, Ryan Walsh

Pianist — Carlos Avila

Escobar Banda

Trumpets — Julia Guarnaccia, Franklin Hansen
French Horn — Rebecca Karu
Trombone — Connor Morrissey
Tuba — Dan Daly

Alice Tierney Roles and Cast

Quinn — Eunjin Lee
Lyra — Lauren Barchi
Zandra — Shengnan Yang
John — Heejae Kim
Alice 1 — Caitlyn Huetz
Alice 2 — Lindsay Cherin
Alice 3 — Youjin Cho

HELIX! New Music Ensemble

Conductor: Kynan Johns

Assistant Conductor: Christopher Beckett

Flutes – Sarah Beaird

Oboe/ Cor Anglais – Tyler Selvig

Clarinets – Tanner Age

Horn – Rebecca Karu

Violins – Wan-Chun Hu, So Yeong Kim, Ann-Frances Rokosa

Viola – Dan Yao, Pietro Molteni

Cello – Tsung-Yu Tsai, Euijin Park

Bass – Seojin Kim

Pianos – Stamatis Vlachodimitris, Mina Perry

Percussion – Liang Dong, Graham Harris

Creative/Production Team

Conductor — Kynan Johns

Assistant Conductor — Christopher Beckett

Stage Director — Mikhaela Mahony

Production Stage Manager — Frederick Krepps

Head Vocal Coach — Saffron Y. Chung

Escobar and *Alice Tierney* Repetiteur — Carlos Avila

Scenic Designer — Brendan Gonzales Boston

Lighting Designer — Abigail Hoke-Brady

Costume Designer — Cate Alston

Associate Costume Designer — Elizabeth May

Fight Choreographer/Intimacy Director — Alex J. Gound

PROGRAM NOTES

Escobar Composer's Note:

Escobar is a Spanish-language grand opera about Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar, whose boundless ambition launched him to greatness and threw the lives of his family, his associates, and his country into chaos. He is pursued by police commander Hugo Martínez, who himself is pushed to increasingly violent means to justify a peaceful end.

The story of Pablo Escobar has been widely retold in film, television, fiction and non-fiction books. His life has been mythologized internationally by those who admired him and those who hated him alike. For this reason, we believe that opera, as a larger-than-life medium, is an ideal way to further explore his life and the impact it had on the people around him and his country. High-stakes drama, complicated romances, tragedy and triumph all characterize Escobar, set to a sumptuous score that will captivate and entice both experienced opera-goers and newcomers.

Alice Tierney Composer's Note:

A few years ago, while researching the history of my home in Philadelphia, I uncovered newspaper reports of a 45-year-old “dissipated woman” named Alice Tierney who was found strangled and strung up on a fence on my property on a cold January night in 1880. Shockingly, Tierney’s death was written up by contemporary police and the press as an accident. I pledged to find a way to tell Alice’s story, which resonates in the 21st century when our culture is actively grappling with the ways in which women’s stories of trauma are silenced or minimized, especially those of vulnerable and poor women.

What little we know about Alice is dimmed by the passage of 140 years and hampered by a lack of written records about those who lived on the fringes of society. Librettist Jacqueline Goldfinger and I opted to tell Alice’s story from the perspectives of four modern-day archeologists who piece together Alice Tierney’s life while excavating the place where she lived and died. Their different perspectives show that the telling of history says just as much about the narrator as the narrative. What assumptions, experiences, prejudices, knowledge, and personalities do these four archeologists bring to their research, which affect the way they see and conceive of Alice Tierney? Attempting to answer this question delves into big issues like truth, justice, and equality. For hundreds of years, American history (and indeed, opera) has been primarily told by one demographic. Including marginalized perspectives is a challenge, but gives us a fuller picture of the past and ourselves.

STAFF BIOS

Matteo Neri (*Escobar* Composer) has a versatile musical background, with experience in composing operas, classical concert music, and music for visual media. His most significant work, a new Spanish-language grand opera, *Escobar*, is in development with Florida Grand Opera. Matteo was a composer for Comma Music, a leading music house for visual media from 2016 to 2018. His film credits include *The Kicking Yoda*, which received the award for Best Documentary Short at the Los Angeles Film Awards. Matteo's compositions have been performed by many ensembles and organizations, including the Austin Opera Orchestra, Momenta Quartet, Helix! New Music Ensemble, and Source Song Festival.

Melissa Dunphy (*Alice Tierney* Composer) first came to national attention when her large-scale work *The Gonzales Cantata* was featured in *The Wall Street Journal* and on *The Rachel Maddow Show*. Commissions include works for Experiments in Opera, the BBC Singers, VOCES8, and Cantus. Dunphy is also a Barrymore Award-nominated theater composer and Director of Music Composition for the O'Neill National Puppetry Conference. She has a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania and a BM from West Chester University and teaches at Rutgers University. She lives in Philadelphia with her husband, Matt; the Dunphys are co-hosts of the popular podcast *The Boghouse* about citizen archaeology.

Kynan Johns (Conductor) was hailed by *The New York Times* as 'incisive, first rate and brilliant'. A protégé of Lorin Maazel, Johns has conducted over 100 orchestras, including the Israel Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Wiener Kammerorchester, Philharmonica della Scala, Netherlands Radio Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. He has worked at Covent Garden and conducted at La Scala. Former Resident Conductor of the Palau de les Arts, Valencia, music staff with the New York City opera, Johns currently serves as Principal guest conductor for the Orquesta Clásica Santa Cecilia, Madrid, in addition to his duties at Rutgers. He has worked with world renowned artists such as Plácido Domingo, Zubin Mehta, Maurice André, Aldo Ciccolini, Vadim Repin, Julian Rachlin, Marina Poplovskaia, Peter Donohoe and Barbara Frittoli. In 2001, he was awarded the inaugural 'Centenary Medal' from the Australian Government, conferred by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, for his services to the community through music.

Christopher Beckett (Assistant Conductor) is a graduate of the Mason Gross School of Arts at Rutgers University, holding a B.M. in Music Education with concentration in violin and viola. He is currently a candidate for an M.M. in Conducting at Mason Gross under Maestro Kynan Johns. Mr. Beckett has served as the director of the Preparatory Strings and Concert Orchestra for the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra and conducted numerous other ensembles, including the Harlem Quartet Workshop Orchestra, NJ Arco Youth Orchestra, and the NJ High School Region II Orchestra. He has performed at the Kimmel Center, Carnegie Hall, and Gordon Hall. In 2019, he led an international viola masterclass at Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Mr. Beckett is currently in his tenth year of teaching strings in the East Brunswick school district. He is very excited to conduct the Helix! Ensemble.

HELIX! (*Alice Tierney* Instrumentalists) is the resident new music ensemble at Rutgers. A modular group, highly adept and versatile, with a Pierrot ensemble at its core, HELIX! focuses solely on the music of living composers. From solo works to works for 16 players, HELIX! can adapt to the needs of almost any piece. World premieres by Rutgers faculty and students, along with works by leading composers worldwide who are defining new trends in composition are the ensemble's staple.

Carlos Avila (*Escobar* Performance Pianist, *Alice Tierney* and *Escobar* Repetiteur), hailed for his “beautiful command of tone and mood, and unruffleable savoir-faire” (San Francisco Chronicle), Carlos Avila is one of the most in-demand pianists on the classical music scene. An avid collaborative musician, Carlos has appeared in the chamber music series of The New York Philharmonic, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, and The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra among others. He has also served on the faculties of The Juilliard School, New York University, The Heifetz International Music Institute, the Chautauqua Institution, Morningside Music Bridge, and Orford Musique. His early mentors have included Isaac Stern at “Stern Encounters”, Daniel Barenboim at the Carnegie Hall Workshops, and Michael Tilson Thomas. A proud Filipino-American, Carlos is a graduate of The Juilliard School. Prior studies include Yale University. He currently resides in New York City.

Saffron Y. Chung (Vocal Coach) was born in Seoul, Korea, and now considers New York City her home. She chose her path in music early at Oberlin College, where she was the first recipient of a double major in Piano Performance and Vocal Accompanying. She also has Master of Music degree in Accompanying from University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music. She has served as an assistant conductor of opera companies such as Chautauqua Opera, El Paso Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Madison Opera, New York City Opera, Sarasota Opera, Syracuse Opera and Utah Festival Opera Company, Wichita Grand Opera, under the baton of Harry Bickett, Richard Buckley, Christian Capocaccia, Barbara Day-Turner, Victor De Renzi, John DeMain, Raymond Harvey, Kynan Johns, Eugene Kohn, David Larsen, Robert Lyall, Stewart Robertson, Louis Salemno, Steven Sloane, Bob Tweeten, and Steven White. Saffron has worked as a vocal coach and accompanist, preparing hundreds of singers for auditions, concerts, opera performances and recitals. Aside from the standard classical operatic and art song repertoire, she specializes in contemporary opera.

Mikhaela Mahony (Stage Director) is a Brooklyn-based director working at the intersection of theatre and opera. She is a frequent collaborator with Ensemble Studio Theatre and Youngblood, and has developed work with New York City Opera, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Boston Lyric Opera, The Syndicate, City Lyric Opera, the Chautauqua Institution, and Rutgers' Mason Gross School of the Arts. Select credits include: Director: *Hippolytus* (Bard College), *Redwood* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Dear Erich* (New York City Opera), *Dido of Idaho* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Three Sisters* (Mason Gross School of the Arts), *Miss Mitchell* (Little Island), *The Medium* (City Lyric Opera), *Rigoletto* (Chautauqua). Associate Director: *Oklahoma* (London's West End, US National Tour), *Faust* (Detroit Opera), *El Amor Brujo/Diary of One Who Disappeared* (Opéra National du Rhin), *Le Roi Arthur* (Bard), *The Handmaid's Tale* (Boston Lyric Opera). Training: MFA from Columbia University School of the Arts, BA from Barnard College.

Brendan Gonzales Boston (Scenic Designer) is a New York City based scenic designer from Chicago. His design credits include *No Good Things Dwell In The Flesh* (A.R.T./NY) *Crumbs From Table of Joy* (Keen Company), *Buggy Baby* (APAC), *Hippolytus* (Fisher Center at Bard), *A Number* (Abrons Arts Center), *Blanket of Dust* (The Flea), *Chris Gethard: Career Suicide* (Lynn Redgrave Theater). Associate design credits include: *M. Butterfly* (Broadway), *Der*

Rosenkavalier (Metropolitan Opera), *Judgment Day* (Park Avenue Armory), *Semiramide* (Royal Opera House), *Tamerlano* (Oper Frankfurt), *The Flying Dutchman* (Santa Fe Opera). MFA: New York University/Tisch. www.brendangonzalesboston.com.

Abigail Hoke-Brady (Lighting Designer) is a Brooklyn based lighting designer. Her New York City work includes: *The Night Falls* (Peak Performances); *BUST* (Soho Repertory Theater) *scenic and lighting design*; *Portrait and a Dream* (Contemporaneous); *Bound* (Fresh Squeezed Opera); *The Little Death vol 1* (Prototype Festival). Regional work includes: *Rigoletto* (Holy City Arts and Lyric Opera); *Don Pasquale* (Opera Omaha); *Sir John in Love* (Bard Music Festival); *Roméo et Juliette*, *Otello*, and *Kiss Me, Kate* (Central City Opera); and *Così fan Tutte* (San Diego Opera). She is the resident designer at DiMenna Center for Classical Music.

Member: USA 829.

Website: hokebradydesigns.com | Instagram: @hokebradydesigns

Cate Alston (Costume Designer) is a Brooklyn-based AEA Actor and Costume Designer whose work centers on uniting the artists' inner and outer self. Credits: *Titanic Play* (The Vino Theatre - Costume Design), *Noise* (Northern Stage - Assistant Costume Design), *Fabulations* (Columbia University - Costume Design), *Kinky Boots* (Bucks County Playhouse - Associate Costume Design). Cate states "with this transient lifetime, I choose to move through the world as a sensitive, heart-centered human". www.catealston.com.

Elizabeth "EMay" May (Associate Costume Designer) is a queer filmmaker, designer, and theatre-maker based in Brooklyn. Costume design credits include *Summer Solstice* (feature film), *Cape Carl* (feature film), *Goat* (short film), *Retrograde* (music video), *Zodiac Math*, *Old Souls*, *The Great American Casket Company*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. Original theatre works include, *Zodiac Math* (The New Collectives), *Vengeful Moon: a song cycle of love and revenge* (Tapp's Art Center), *Old Souls*, an original folk musical (The Barn Arts Collective), *The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Brooklyn Presents: Missionary Style* (UCB). EMay is currently in post production for her film directorial debut for the short film *Epinephrine*, coming 2023.

Frederick Krepps (Production Stage Manager – BFA IV, stage management) is from East Brunswick, New Jersey. Mason Gross School of the Arts theater credits include Production Stage Manager for *Three Sisters*; Assistant Stage Manager for *Holy Week*, *The Moors*, and *Smart People*; and Production Assistant for *Break*. Additional theater credits include Production Assistant for *Broadway Backwards* (Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS), Production Assistant for *Clyde's* (George Street Playhouse), and Assistant Director for *Manifest Destiny's Child* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe).

Alex J. Gould (Fight/Intimacy Director) is an actor/fight and intimacy director in New York City. Fight and Intimacy Director: *Georgia Mertching is Dead*, *Dido of Idaho*, *The Fall - Marathon Plays* (Ensemble Studio Theater), *The Antelope Party* (Dutch Kills Theater), *Julius Caesar* (CSC/Columbia MFA), *Agnes* (Lesser America), *The Nibbler* (Rattlestick Theater), *The Place We Built* (The Flea Theater), *The Terrifying* (Abrons Art Center), *The Comedy of Manors* (Adirondack Theater Festival), *Horse Girls* (The Cell), *Happily After Ever* (59E59). He has also choreographed for Columbia University, The New School, Atlantic Theater Conservatory, Fordham/Primary Stages, Partial Comfort, St. Peter's University, and Pulse Ensemble Theater. Regional: Williamstown Theater Festival, *How to Make an American Son* (Arizona Theater Company). Member of Ensemble Studio Theater. Edu: AMDA.

SINGER BIOS

Micaela Aldridge (Diana Turbay) is a versatile mezzo-soprano from Montclair, New Jersey. Credits: The Composer in *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Taconic Opera), Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Opera Theater Rutgers), and Miss Jessel in *The Turn of the Screw* (Nashville Opera). Ms. Aldridge was a young artist with the Seagle Festival and Central City Opera, and a recipient of the Jessye Norman Graduate Fellowship in Voice. B.M. from Oberlin Conservatory, M.M. from the University of Michigan.

Lauren Barchi (Lyra – D.M.A. III, voice performance) is a soprano from New York. Opera Theater Rutgers credits: Mimi (*La Bohème*), Contessa (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Blanche (*Dialogues des Carmélites*), and Lady Billows (*Albert Herring*). She received her B.M. in vocal performance and .music education from Ithaca College, her M.M. in vocal performance and pedagogy from NYU and her A.D. in opera from Rutgers University. Other credits: Aline (*The Sorcerer*), La Ciesca (*Gianni Schicchi*), Monica (*The Medium*) and 1st Lady (*The Magic Flute*).

Lindsay Cherin (Alice 2 – M.M. II, opera performance) is a graduate student at Rutgers University and has a B.M. from Ithaca College. She has performed in roles such as Monica (*The Medium*); Micaëla (*Carmen*); Antonia (*Belisario*); as well in productions such as *Cendrillon* (Ithaca College); *Die Fledermaus* (Martina Arroyo Foundation); and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Rutgers University). Ms. Cherin was a finalist in the National Hal Leonard competition and winner of the SMC Young Artists Scholarship.

Youjin Cho (Alice 3 – D.M.A. II, voice performance) is a soprano originally from South Korea. She holds a M.M. in Vocal Performance from Rutgers University and a B.M. in Vocal Performance from Seoul National University, Youjin's highlighted performances include Giulietta in *Tales of Hoffmann*, Norina in *Don Pasquale*, Giorgetta in *Il Tabarro*, Susannah in *Susannah*, Pamina and First lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, Violetta in *La Traviata*, and Servilia in *La clemenza di Tito*.

Eleomar Cuello (Pablo Escobar) is a baritone from Havana, Cuba. He received his B.M. in vocal performance from the National Opera Academy of Cuba. Previous roles are Schaunard (*La Bohème*), Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*), Valentin

(*Faust*), Belcore (*L'elisir d'amore*) and Escamillo (*Carmen*). His most recent engagement in 2023 was at the Stuttgart Staatsoper as Don Giovanni (*Don Giovanni*). Mr. Cuello appears with the kind permission of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

Julian Figueroa (Search Bloc Solider – B.M. III, vocal performance) is a tenor from Rockaway, New Jersey. Mason Gross School of the Arts previous roles, Ensemble in *La Bohème*.

Vincent Graña (Gerardo "Kiko" Moncada – D.M.A. III, vocal performance) hails from Jersey City, NJ. He received his B.M. in music education from Rutgers University. Opera Theater Rutgers credits include Colline in *La Bohème* and Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Professional credits include Chorus in *Lohengrin* and *Der fliegende Holländer* (The Metropolitan Opera), Mirabolano in *Crispino e la Comare* (Teatro Nuovo) and Colline in *La Bohème* (Dayton Opera, Opera Santa Barbara).

Ziliang Hao (Chorus – D.M.A. , vocal performance) is a bass baritone from Beijing, China. He earned his master's degree in voice and opera from the Mannes School of Music and holds a bachelor's degree in acting and opera from the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing, China. His recent roles include Masetto in *Don Giovanni*, Crespel, Luther, and Schlémil in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, Colline in *La Bohème*, Theseus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Zuniga in *Carmen*.

Phillip Hsieh (Chorus – visiting scholar) is from Taiwan, Taipei National University of the Arts. D.M.A. candidate, Fulbright Non-Academic Professional Grant 2023-24. Opera credits include Vogelsang in *Der Schauspieldirektor*, Beppe in *Rita*, Goro in *Madama Butterfly*, Gaston in *La Traviata*. Producer for the operas: *The Old Maid and the Thief*, *Il segreto di Susanna*, *Help, Help, the Globolinks!* and *Faust*.

Lu Huang (Chorus – A.D. I, opera performance) is a soprano from Beijing, China. She obtained her bachelor's, master's, and D.M.A. degrees at the China Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China. Before coming to the United States, Ms. Lu was a renowned concert musician, highly regarded for her expertise in

researching and performing Chinese art songs and ethnic music. She frequently held solo recitals in many of China's premier concert halls.

Caitlyn Huetz (Alice 1 – B.M., IV vocal performance) is a soprano born and raised in Maplewood New Jersey, and is very excited to be performing again with Opera Theater Rutgers. Her Mason Gross School of the Arts credits include Mrs. Gobineau in *The Medium* (Opera Theater Rutgers) as well as numerous solo credits with the Rutgers Kirkpatrick Choir. Her professional credits include The Bird Woman/ensemble in *Mary Poppins* (Penobscot Theater Company).

Yeawon Jun (Chorus – D.M.A. III, vocal performance) is a soprano from Seoul, South Korea. Mason Gross School of the Arts credits include Musetta in *La Bohème* and Tytania from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Professional credits include Musetta in *La Bohème* (Amore Opera), Luigia in *Viva la Mamma!* (Korea National Opera) and Sophie in *Werther* (Korea National Opera).

Heejae Kim (John – D.M.A. II, vocal performance) is from Seoul, Korea. He received his B.M. from Seoul National University, M.M. from Mannes School of Music, and Certification from Boston University Opera Institute. Opera Theater Rutgers credits include Rodolfo in *La Bohème*. Professional credits include Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola* (New York City Opera), Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and Alfredo in *La Traviata* (Seoul Metropolitan Opera).

Hyune Kwon (Sara – D.M.A. II, vocal performance) is a soprano from South Korea. She received her M.M. from Mannes College of Performing Arts, and B.M. from Yonsei University. Previous roles include Musetta in *La Bohème*, Amahl in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Upcoming role: Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* (Amore Opera).

Eunjin Lee (Quinn – D.M.A. I, voice performance) is a truly expressive and magnetic coloratura soprano from Seoul, South Korea. She received her M.M. from Manhattan School of Music and her B.M. from Myongji University in South Korea. Professional credits include Le Feu in *L'enfant et les sortilèges* (Manhattan School of Music), Frog/Pepik in *The Cunning little vixen* (Chautauqua Opera Conservatory), and Minerva in *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Manhattan School of Music).

Hayun Lee (Chorus – D.M.A. II, vocal performance) is a Korean soprano based in New York. Recently, she appeared as Musetta in *La Bohème* in Opera Theater Rutgers. Her opera credits include Despina in *Così fan tutte* (Chicago Summer Opera), Ilia in *Idomeneo* (Mannes Opera), Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Mannes Opera, Da Ponte Project), and First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* (Ewha Womans University). She holds a B.M. in voice from Ewha Women's University, and a master's degree from Mannes School of Music in New York.

Susana Leiva (Tata – D.M.A. I, vocal performance) is a Chilean soprano living in Highland Park, New Jersey. Opera Theater Rutgers credits include Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Miss Wordsworth in *Albert Herring*, and Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*. Further credits include Alcina in *Alcina* (Music Academy International, Italy), Gretel in *Hänsel und Gretel* (La Sierra University), Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* (La Sierra University), and Mary in *Oh My Son* (Southern California)..

Clara Marie Melvin (Chorus – B.M. II, vocal performance) is a soprano from Milltown, New Jersey. Opera Theater Rutgers credit Chorus in *La Bohème*.

Cape Miele (Chorus – B.M. IV, vocal performance) is a soprano from West Long Branch, New Jersey. Credits include Chorus in both Opera Theater Rutgers' productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *La Bohème*.

Kira de Oliveira (Chorus – B.M., vocal performance) is a mezzo-soprano from Ithaca, New York. They are a junior in vocal performance at Mason Gross School of the Arts, currently studying under the guidance of Professor Judith Nicosia. Opera Theater Rutgers Credits include Mrs. Nolan in *The Medium*, and Chorus in *La Bohème*.

Josh Page (Hugo Martinez) is a tenor from New York. He started his vocal career after an impromptu duet with Josh Groban at Madison Square Garden went viral garnering over 40 million views. This led to forming opera crossover trio FORTE on *Americas Got Talent*. They went from complete strangers to finalists in the competition signing with Columbia Records. His band Brothers Page (@brothers.page) has achieved over 500M views on Instagram. @tenorjoshpage.

Andreas Psillos (Guard – B.M. IV, vocal performance) is a baritone from Toms River, New Jersey. Credits include Benoit in *La Bohème* and Peter in *Hänsel und Gretel*.

Jessica Vargas (Chorus – M.M. I, opera) is a soprano from Brooklyn, New York, studying under Dawn Shicoff. She received her B.M. in vocal performance and music education from Mason Gross School of the Arts under the tutelage of Nancy Gustafson. Opera Theater Rutgers credits include *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (Ensemble), *L'Orfeo* (Euridice), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Peaseblossom), and several opera scenes programs. This spring, she will be performing the role of Paquette in *Candide*.

Ryan Walsh (Chorus) is a baritone from New Brunswick, NJ.

Shengnan Yang (Zandra – A.D. I, opera performance) is a mezzo-soprano from New York. She received her master's degree in vocal performance from Mannes School of Music. She is currently an A.D. student in opera at Mason Gross School of the Arts. Professional credits include Meg Page in *Falstaff* (Royal Birmingham Conservatory), Carmen in *Carmen* (Mannes Opera), Zita in *Gianni Schicchi* (Canto Vocal Program), and Dalila in *Samson et Dalila* (Classic Lyric Arts).

Siyan Yin (Gustavo – D.M.A. II, vocal performance) hails from Qingdao, China. He received his B.M. from ECNU, M.M. from Manhattan School of Music. Opera Theater Rutgers credits include Rodolfo in *La Bohème* and Basilio in *Le nozze di Figaro*. Professional credits: *Alexander's Feasts* (King Alexander), *Die Fledermaus* (Alfredo), He is also the tenor soloist in the Trinity Church.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

An extraordinary thank you to Carrie Mossman and Jenn Stauffer of the Rutgers Theatre Department.

Thank you as well to Madison Cagle, Hannah Mattingly, and the New School; and Sydney Crutcher and Ensemble Studio Theatre.

Opera Workshop would like to thank the many faculty and staff of Mason Gross School of the Arts for their contributions to this project. We are so grateful to all those who have gone above and beyond to make these performances possible.

Amanda Eubanks, Director, Department of Music

Maureen Hurd, Associate Director, Department of Music

Patty Mancuso, Senior Department Administrator

Christopher Delgado, Administrative Coordinator

Jennifer Guarino, Front Office Manager

Maritza McGraw, Director of Operations & Events

J.J. Cooper, Kirkpatrick Chapel Manager & Concern Bureau Coordinator

Christiane Cayea, Mason Gross PAC Ticket Office

Adam Klein, Nicholas Music Center Stage and Production Manager

RUTGERS

Mason Gross School
of the Arts
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

MAKE A GIFT

