

RUTGERS

Mason Gross School
of the Arts

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

**Opera Theater Rutgers
and
Rutgers Theater Company**

present

CANDIDE

by Leonard Bernstein

UNDERWRITTEN BY THE
LEORA M. SIES THEATER FUND

April 4 - April 7, 2024

New Brunswick Performing Arts Center

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

CANDIDE

A collaborative production of Opera Theater Rutgers and with Rutgers Theater Company, *Candide* is an operetta with music by Leonard Bernstein. The story is based on Voltaire's 1759 satire, which follows the increasingly far-flung, globe-trotting journeys of Candide and Cunégonde as their optimism is tested through nonstop catastrophe. Many hands contributed to the spoken text and lyrics of the operetta, from its premiere in 1956 through several revivals.

Candide will run 2 hours and 45 minutes, with one 20-minute intermission.

ABOUT RUTGERS OPERA THEATER

Rutgers Opera Theater at the Mason Gross School of the Arts provides young vocal artists the opportunity to engage vigorously and virtuosically with both canonical opera repertoire and new work. Rutgers Opera Theater stages multiple productions every season, ranging from workshop productions of brand new operas, to scenes programs, to contemporary chamber pieces, to classic operas with full orchestra. Students are taught by an accomplished group of professional artists through on-stage, in-production learning, course work, and studio instruction. The department offers Bachelors of Music and Masters degrees, as well as Artist Diplomas and Doctorates of Musical Arts.

ABOUT RUTGERS THEATER COMPANY

The Mason Gross School of the Arts Theater Department combines rigorous studio class work with a demanding production schedule to provide students with in-depth training and practice in theater. As a resident troupe of student actors, designers, directors, playwrights, stage managers, and technicians, Rutgers Theater Company's undergraduate and graduate degree candidates share several classes and production experiences, guided by master teachers and accomplished professionals. The department offers both a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts program, as well as a Bachelor of Arts through Rutgers University's School of Arts and Sciences.

PLEASE NOTE...

Cell phones, text messaging, electronic devices, and cameras are extremely disruptive to performers and fellow audience members, and their use is not permitted in the theater. Patrons may leave cell phones and corresponding seat numbers with the house manager for emergencies. Use of recording devices and cameras is strictly prohibited. Smoking is not permitted in the building, and food and beverages must remain outside of the theater.

CAST

THEATER DEPARTMENT COMPANY

VOLTAIRE

Natalie Hanaway

MUSIC DEPARTMENT COMPANY

CANDIDE (THURS/SAT)

Siyuan Yin

CANDIDE (FRI/SUN)

Heejae Kim

CUNEGONDE (THURS/SAT)

Eunjin Lee

CUNEGONDE (FRI/SUN)

Yeawon Jun

PANGLOSS (THURS/SAT)

Vincent Graña

PANGLOSS (FRI/SUN)

Yantian Sun

OLD LADY (THURS/SAT)

Shengnan Yang

OLD LADY (FRI/SUN)

Micaela Aldridge

MAXIMILIAN (THURS/SAT)

Andreas Psillos

MAXIMILIAN (FRI/SUN)

Carl Muhler

PAQUETTE (THURS/SAT)

Jessica Vargas

PAQUETTE (FRI/SUN)

Hayun Lee

GOVERNOR/VANDERDENDUR/RAGOTSKI (THURS/SAT)

Julian Figueroa

GOVERNOR/VANDERDENDUR/RAGOTSKI (FRI/SUN)

Chichou Phillip Hsieh

JUNKMAN/INQUISITOR/CHARLES EDWARDS

Sydney Forrester Wilson

DOCTOR/INQUISITOR/CROUPIER/DON ISSACHAR

Ziliang Hao

INQUISITOR/CARDINAL ARCHBISHOP

Will Scott

ALCHEMIST/HERMANN/CROOK

Kira de Oliveira

SULTAN ACHMET

Lauren Barchi

TSAR IVAN

Susana Jenson-Leiva

BARON/BEAR-KEEPER

Abdon Andahur

BARONESS/COSMETIC MERCHANT

Caitlyn Huetz

FIRST OFFICER

Inessa Martins

SECOND OFFICER/STANISLAUS

Madeleine Marsola

HUNTSMAN/GRAND INQUISITOR

Alyyah Follaco

JAMES THE ANABAPTIST

Amina Goldenberg

SAILOR

Kat Rich

CITIZEN OF LISBON

Emily Mautone

INFORMER #1, DANCE CAPTAIN

Rebecca Kornhaber

INFORMER #2

Manasvi Chilakapati

WAITER #1

Stef Haas

WAITER #2

Alden Lipiarski

WAITER #3

Kenna Heim

AIDE/SLAVE DRIVER

Michael Lazarow

FIRST JESUIT

Clara Melvin

CHORUS

Abdon Andahur

Lauren Barchi

CHORUS (cont.)

Nava Chefitz	Ziliang Hao	Michael Lazarow
Manasvi Chilakapati	Kenna Heim	Alden Lipiarski
Youjin Cho	Lu Huang	Madeleine Marsola
Kira de Oliveira	Caitlyn Huetz	Inessa Martins
Julian Figueroa	Chichou Phillip Hsieh	Emily Mautone
Aliyah Follaco	Susana Jenson-Leiva	Clara Melvin
Sydney Forrester Wilson	Rebecca Kornhaber	Kat Rich
Amina Goldenberg	Hyune Kwon	Will Scott
Stef Haas	Roshan Lath	Lakshmi Viswanathan

RUTGERS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**VIOLIN I**

Olivia Moaddel**
 Hyerim An
 Ana Constantin
 Maggie Faulkner
 Diana Kim
 So Yeong Kim
 Yu-Pei Lai
 Emiliano Moreno Salazar
 Huyan Nguyen
 Chenxiang Wang

VIOLIN II

Wenting Bian
 Ruihong Chang
 Chih-Yi Chen
 Amelia Cunningham
 Maya Grove
 Elly Ha
 Wan-Chun Hu
 Haokun Liang
 Ann-Frances Rokosa*
 Eunmin Woo

VIOLA

Hsuan Chen
 Ana María Díaz Herrera
 Anzhi Ji
 Pietro Molteni
 Hyunjung Song*
 Mia Yicong Zhang
 Yujie Wang

CELLO

Yoojin Lee
 Li Pang
 Euijin Park
 Mark Serkin*
 Tsung-Yu Tsai
 Elliott Wells
 Shuyi Zhang
 Michael Zieglar

BASS

Seojin Kim
 Mengjiao Zhang*

FLUTE

Sarah Beard*
 Clara Lee

PICCOLO

Clara Lee

OBOE

Tyler Selvig

ENGLISH HORN

Tyler Selvig

CLARINET

Tanner Age
 Andy Cho*

E-FLAT CLARINET

Andy Cho

BASS CLARINET

Tanner Age

BASSOON

Jonathan LiVolsi

HORN

Rebecca Karu
 Christine Stinchi*

TRUMPET

Julia Guarnaccia*
 Nicholas Del Rosso

TROMBONE

Chris Toto*
 Matthew Wall

TUBA

Benjamin Kauffmann

HARP

Shenna Yang^

TIMPANI

Siyoung Lee

PERCUSSION

Liang Dong
 Josh Persad*
 Luke Waitkus

LIBRARIAN

Claire Oplinger
 Will Sizemore

**Concertmaster

*Principal

^Guest musician

ARTISTIC TEAM

CONDUCTOR

Ching-Chun Lai

DIRECTOR

Mikhaela Mahony

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR AND CHORUS MASTER

Stephanie Tubiolo

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Susana Jenson-Leiva

HEAD VOCAL COACH

Saffron Y. Chung

SCENIC DESIGNER

Caitlin Scarpa

COSTUME DESIGNER

Isabella Rossi

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Riley Wagner

VOICE AND DIALECT COACH

Dayle Towarnicky

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER AND

Alex Gould

INTIMACY COORDINATOR

PROJECTIONS DESIGNER AND PROGRAMMER

Nicholas Richardson

WIG DESIGNER

Christianne Bakewell

WARDROBE

Colleen Burns

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Gray St. Burdick

REPETITEUR

Carlos Avila

ASSISTANT CHORUS MASTER

Byron De Leon

PRODUCTION STAFF

STAGE MANAGER

Eliya Rostolder

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Grace Carolynne Yeung

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Sellenne Garcia

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Jessica Paul

ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGNER

Louis Meagher-DiEllo

ASSISTANT PROPS DESIGNER

Teagan Morris

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

Izzy Deflice

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

Janna Lamantia

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

Madeleine Stavast

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Rachel Goldberg

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Chloe Ditloff

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Victoria Akinsanmi

RUN CREW

HEAD WARDROBE

Emily Mastalerz

DECK CREW/WARDROBE

Gabrielle Costanza

DECK CREW/WARDROBE

Justine Raith

DECK CREW

JT Trolio

DECK CREW

Riley Prior

MASON GROSS THEATER DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT CHAIR, HEAD OF COSTUME TECHNOLOGY	Ellen Bredehoft
ASSOCIATE CHAIR, HEAD OF DRAMATURGY (ON SABBATICAL)	Christopher Cartmill
HEAD OF ACTING, INTERIM ASSOCIATE CHAIR	Cameron Knight
ACADEMIC DIRECTOR OF DESIGN AND PRODUCTION (ON SABBATICAL)	David P. Gordon
INTERIM ACADEMIC DIRECTOR OF DESIGN AND PRODUCTION, HEAD OF COSTUME DESIGN	Valerie Marcus Ramshur
HEAD OF PRODUCTION, HEAD OF TECHNICAL DIRECTION	Jenn Stauffer
HEAD OF SCENIC DESIGN	Lee Savage
HEAD OF LIGHTING DESIGN	Don Holder
HEAD OF STAGE MANAGEMENT	Anne McPherson
HEAD OF PLAYWRIGHTING AND BA THEATER PROGRAM	Kathleen Tolan
ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER	Mary Gragen
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Sue Barr
HEAD CARPENTER	Joseph Geitner
COSTUME DIRECTOR	Denise Wagner
COSTUME ASSISTANT	Brian Mulligan
LIGHTING SUPERVISOR	Emrys Watson
LIGHTING ASSISTANT	Nicholas Guariglia
SOUND SUPERVISOR	Isaiah Parnell
SOUND ASSISTANT	Nic Brown
PROPERTY SHOP SUPERVISOR	Carrie Mossman
SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST	Kit Bassett
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR	Karin Anderson
ACADEMIC ADVISOR AND STUDENT SUCCESS COUNSELOR	Christine Whalen
BUSINESS ASSISTANT	Keonia Phillips
CLERICAL ASSISTANT	Lazarus Simmons
CLERICAL ASSISTANT	Joanna Koster

MASON GROSS VOICE FACULTY

Bille Bruley
Eduardo Chama, Head of Voice
Taina Kataja
Dawn Kotoski-Shicoff
Judith Nicosia
Susan Quittmeyer

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

Micaela Aldridge (Old Lady - DMA/1st year, Voice Performance) is a mezzo-soprano from Montclair, New Jersey. Her most recent credits include Diana Turbay in *Escobar* (Rutgers Opera), The Composer in *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Taconic Opera), and Octet of Souls in *Sensorium Ex* (Beth Morrison Projects). She holds a BM from Oberlin Conservatory and an MM from the University of Michigan, where she was a recipient of the Jessye Norman Graduate Fellowship in Voice.

Abdon Andahur (Baron/Bear Keeper, Chorus - BM II, music education) is a native of North Plainfield, New Jersey. Opera Theater Rutgers credits include Chorus in *La Bohème*. A classically-trained baritone, Andahur currently studies under Susan Quittmeyer. Aside from performing occasionally, Andahur is passionate about conducting, instrumental music, performance art, and music direction.

Lauren Barchi (Sultan Achmet/ Chorus- DMA III, voice performance) is a soprano from New York. Opera Theater Rutgers credits: Lyra (*Alice Tierney*), Mimì (*La Bohème*), Contessa (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Blanche (*Dialogues des Carmélites*), and Lady Billows (*Albert Herring*). She received her BM in Vocal Performance and Music Education from Ithaca College, her MM in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from NYU, and her AD in Opera from Rutgers University.

Nava Chefitz (Chorus - BFA, visual arts) is an alto from New Jersey. She is currently in her third year at Mason Gross double concentrating in painting and photography, but is a proud member of the Rutgers University choir. Nava has been dancing and doing theater since she was very young, but this is her very first opera and she could not be more excited! Yay *Candide*!

Manasvi Chilakapati (Ensemble) is from Boston, Massachusetts. She will receive her BA in cognitive neuroscience and linguistics from Rutgers University School of Arts and Sciences.

Youjin Cho (Chorus - DMA II, voice performance) is a soprano originally from South Korea. She holds an MM in Vocal Performance from Rutgers University and a BM 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*.

Kira de Oliveira (Chorus/Alchemist/King Hermann/Crook - BM, vocal performance) is a mezzo-soprano from Ithaca, New York. They are a junior at Mason Gross School of the Arts and are currently studying under the guidance of Professor Judith Nicosia. They are a proud member of the Rutgers University Kirkpatrick Choir and Glee Club. Their Opera Theater Rutgers credits include Mrs. Nolan in *The Medium*, Chorus in *La Bohème*, and Chorus for *Escobar*.

Julian Figueroa (Governor, Ratgotski, Vandudendur - BM III, vocal performance) is a tenor from Rockaway, New Jersey. His previous Opera Theater Rutgers credits include Search Bloc Soldier in *Escobar*, and *La Bohème*.

Aliyah Follaco (Chorus/Grand Inquisitor - BM I, vocal performance) is a soprano from Hackensack, New Jersey.

Vincent Graña (Pangloss/Cacambo/Martin - DMA III, vocal performance) hails from Jersey City, New Jersey. He received his BM in music education from Rutgers University. Opera Theater Rutgers credits include Kiko in *Escobar*, 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).

Amina Goldenberg (James the Anabaptist - BM I, vocal performance) is a soprano from Queens, New York.

Natalie Hanaway (Voltaire – BFA I) is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Other performance credits include Peggy Sawyer for *42nd Street* and Hodel for *Fiddler on the Roof* at Shorewood High School.

Ziliang Hao (Doctor/Inquisitor II/Croupier— DMA III 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 Massetto in *Don Giovanni*, Crespel, Luther, and Schlemil in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Colline in *La Bohème*, Theseus in *A Midsummer Night Dream*, and Zuniga in *Carmen*.

Stef Haas (Chorus - BM IV, Music Education - Instrumental) is from Glen Rock, New Jersey. They attend Mason Gross School of the Arts and study trombone. Stef sings bass in University Choir and Rainbow Symphony Choir. Stef has performed with NJ Vocal Arts Collaborative's production of *Die Zauberflöte*, Rutgers Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Bones. Stef holds eboard positions with Rutgers Rainbow Symphony and Pi Chapter of Mu Beta Psi - National Honorary Musical Fraternity.

Kenna Heim (Chorus, First Waitress BM II - music ed and vocal performance) is a soprano from Montville, New Jersey. Professional credits include Assistant Stage Manager for *La Bohème* (Opera Theater Rutgers).

Phillip Hsieh (Governor/Vanderdendur/Ragotski/Chorus - Visiting Scholar) is from Taiwan, Taipei National University of the Arts DMA 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 opera works, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, *Il segreto di Susanna*, *Help, Help, the Globolinks!* and *Faust*.

Lu Huang (Chorus- AD I, opera performance) is a soprano from Beijing, China. She obtained her bachelor's, master's, and DMA 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 (Baroness/Cosmetic Merchant - BM IV, vocal performance) is a soprano from Maplewood, NJ and is currently studying under Judith Nicosia. Her previous roles at Opera Theater Rutgers include Alice 1 in Melissa Dunphy's *Alice Tierney*, Mrs. Gobineau in Menotti's *The Medium*, and *La Bohème*.

Yeawon Jun (Cunegonde – DMA III, vocal performance) is a soprano from Seoul, South Korea. Mason Gross School of the Arts credits include Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Musetta in *La Bohème*. Professional credits include Sophie in *Werther*, Luigia in *Viva la mamma*, Musetta in *La Bohème*, Mimi in *La Bohème*, and Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*.

Heejae Kim (Candide – DMA II, vocal performance) from Seoul, Korea. He received his BM from Seoul National University, MM from Mannes School of Music, and Certification in Boston University Opera Institute. Opera Theater Rutgers credits include Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, John in *Alice Tierney*. 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).

Rebecca Kornhaber (Ensemble - BM III, vocal performance) is from Flemington, New Jersey. Her previous role at Mason Gross was as an Ensemble member for *La Bohème*. Before opera, she was largely involved in theater throughout her teen years, performing in numerous plays and musicals. She looks forward to furthering her studies at Mason Gross.

Hyune Kwon (Chorus – DMA II, vocal performance) is from Seoul, South Korea. She received an MM from Mannes College of Performing Arts, and a BM from Yonsei University. Mason Gross School of Arts credits include Sara in *Escobar*. Professional credits include Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* and Musetta in *La Bohème*.

Roshan Lath (Chorus - BM III, music education) is from Highland Park, New Jersey. He attends Mason Gross School of the Arts and studies piano. This is his first time participating in Opera Theater Rutgers.

Michael Lazarow (Aide/Slave Driver) is a baritone from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. He received his BM in music education from Mason Gross School of the Arts. This is Michael's first time being a part of an opera production. Previous roles include Neleus in *Mary Poppins*, Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid*, and Raul in *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Eunjin Lee (Cunegonde – DMA I, vocal performance) is a truly expressive and magnetic coloratura soprano from Seoul, South Korea. She received her MM from Manhattan School of Music and her BM from Myongji University in South Korea. Mason Gross School of the Arts credits include Quinn in *Alice Tierney*. Other 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 (Paquette - DMA II, vocal performance) is a Korean soprano based in New York. Recently, she appeared as Musetta in *La Bohème* at Rutgers Opera. Her opera credits include Despina in *Così fan tutte*, Ilia in *Idomeneo*, and Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*. She earned her BM in voice at Ewha Women's University and her master's degree at Mannes School of Music under soprano Diana Soviero and Coach Bryan Wagorn. She is pursuing her DMA at Rutgers University under the tutelage of Dawn Kotoski-Shicoff.

Susana Leiva (Tsar Ivan/ Chorus- DMA I, vocal performance) is a Chilean soprano living in Highland Park, New Jersey. Opera Theater Rutgers credits include Tata in *Escobar*, 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 *Hansel und Gretel* (La Sierra University), Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* (La Sierra University), and Mary in *Oh My Son* (Southern California).

Alden Lipiarski (Chorus - BS, computer engineering) is a tenor from Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. Garnet Valley High School credits include St. Aphrodisius in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Randolph MacAfee in *Bye, Bye, Birdie*, and Judge Yertle in *Seussical The Musical*.

Madeleine A. Marsola (Stanislaus, Second Officer, Chorus member – Freshman, undecided) is a soprano from Ewing, New Jersey. This is her first opera!

Inessa Martins (Chorus, First Officer- BM, Piano Performance) is from Los Angeles, California, however is a recent resident of New Brunswick. Aside from playing the piano, they also play percussion and sing in the Kirkpatrick Choir. They have performed with Voorhees Choir, Symphony Band, and the Latin American Chamber Music Ensemble at Rutgers University. This is Inessa's first experience in an opera, and they're very excited to share this production.

Emily Mautone (Chorus - BFA IV, theatre arts) is from Westfield, New Jersey. Credits include Dick in *9 to 5* (Livingston Theater Company), Mrs. Cohen/Steve in *Rent* (Livingston Theater Company), *What I Did for Love: A Musical Revue* (Cabaret Theater), Cinderella's Mother/Granny/The Giant in *Into the Woods* (Cabaret Theater), and *Same Changes: A Musical Revue* (Cabaret Theater).

Clara Marie Melvin (Chorus - BM II, vocal performance) is a soprano from Milltown, New Jersey. Opera Theater Rutgers credits Chorus in *Escobar* and Chorus in *La Bohème*.

Carl Muhler (Maximillian) is a baritone from Freehold, New Jersey who completed both his BM and MM in vocal performance at Mason Gross School of the Arts. Opera Theater Rutgers credits include Schaunard in *La Bohème*, Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Plutone in *L'Orfeo*. Outside of Rutgers University, credits include Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* with the Trentino music festival and numerous appearances in concert.

Andreas Psillos (Maximilian – BM IV, vocal performance) is a baritone from Toms River, New Jersey. Credits include Guard in *Escobar*, Benoit in *La Bohème*, and Peter in *Hänsel und Gretel* (Trentino Music Festival).

Kat Rich (Sailor - BM II, vocal performance) is a soprano originally from Jamesburg, New Jersey. Mason Gross School of the Arts credits include Assistant Stage Manager for *La Bohème* (New Brunswick Performing Arts Center).

Will Scott (Inquisitor/Archbishop of Paris/Ensemble - BM III, music composition) is a tenor from California. This is his first opera and he's excited to take part.

Yantian Sun (Pangloss/Cacambo/Martin – AD I, opera) is a baritone from Jinan, China. Mason Gross School of the Arts credits include Matteo in *Escobar*.

Jessica Vargas (Paquette - MM I, opera) is a soprano from Brooklyn, New York, studying under Dawn Shicoff. She received her BM 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), *Escobar* (Ensemble), and several opera scenes programs. She was also the soprano soloist in Haydn's *Schöpfungsmesse* with Kirkpatrick Choir.

Lakshmi Viswanathan (Ensemble - BS 2022, civil engineering) hails from New Brunswick, New Jersey. Previous Mason Gross School of the Arts Credits include singing in the Rutgers University Choir.

Sydney Forrester Wilson (Junkman/Charles Edwards/ Inquisitor 1, BM IV, vocal performance) is a mezzo soprano hailing from Washington DC. Credits include Dionne in *Hair*, Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Other Theater credits include Director of *Rent* (Livingston Theatre Company), Assistant Director of *Once Upon a Mattress* (The Theatre Lab School of Dramatic Arts), and Chorus in *Porgy and Bess* (National Philharmonic & University of Maryland).

Shengnan Yang (The Old Lady - AD opera) is a mezzo soprano from China. She received her previous degree from Mannes School of Music and is currently a first year AD student at Mason Gross School of the Arts. Professional credits include Meg Page in *La vie Parisienne*, Zita in *Gianni Schicchi*, La principessa in *Suor Angelica*, and Zandra in *Alice Tierney*.

Tenor **Siyuan Yin** (Candide – DMA II, vocal performance) hails from Qingdao, China. He received his BM from East China Normal University and an MM from Manhattan School of Music. Opera Theater Rutgers credits include Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Basilio in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Gustavo in *Escobar*. Professional credits include Alexander King in *Alexander's Feasts*, Alfredo in *Die Fledermaus*, He is also the tenor solo at the Trinity Church.

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Mikhaela Mahony 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), *Over and Over/Vorbei Nicht Vorbei* (Komische Oper), *Faust* (Detroit Opera), *El Amor Brujo/Diary of One Who Disappeared* (Opéra National du Rhin), *Le Roi Arthus* (Bard Summerscape), *The Handmaid's Tale* (Boston Lyric Opera). **Training:** MFA from Columbia University School of the Arts, BA from Barnard College.

Caitlin Scarpa (Scenic Designer – BFA III) is from Sparta, NJ. Rutgers theater credits include Set Designer for *Candide*, Assistant Set Designer for *The Wolf and The King*, and Associate Set Designer for *The Busy Body*.

Isabella Rossi (Costume Designer – BFA II) is from Pennington, NJ. Rutgers theater credits include *Fires in the Mirror* and Performance Ensemble II. Assistant Costume Designer for *Damocles* and *Life is a Dream*.

Riley Wagner (Lighting Designer – BFA III) is from Bridgewater, New Jersey. Rutgers theater credits include Lighting Designer for *Fires in the Mirror*, and Assistant Lighting Designer on *Saudade* and *In A Word*. Rutgers dance credits include multiple pieces in the Spring '22 and '23 Senior Dance thesis projects.

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's also choreographed for Rutgers University, 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

Christianne Bakewell (Wig Design) is delighted to be working with Rutgers Theater and Opera. In addition to Wig Design, she works as a Costume Department

Coordinator, Assistant, and Costume Designer in both live theatre and film. Favorite credits include Assistant Costume Design, *Murder On The Orient Express* with Paper Mill Playhouse, and Costume Design, *White Christmas* with Great Theater. She has an MFA in Costume Design from Rutgers University. Christianne is a member of Local USA829 where she holds a co-Chair position on the Costume Department United Best Practices Committee. More at CHRISTIANNEBAKEWELL.COM

Nick Richardson is a performer, dramaturg, and scholar. He has designed supertitles for productions at The Glimmerglass Festival, Virginia Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, and Opera Southwest. Previous performance credits include *Fiddler on the Roof* (Virginia Stage Company), *The Secret Garden* (Virginia Musical Theatre), and multiple operas with Virginia Opera. Nick holds bachelor's and master's degrees in theatre from Florida State University. Up next: Dramaturg for *Threads: A New Musical* at UNC Charlotte; Assistant Dramaturg and Titles Supervisor at The Glimmerglass Festival. www.RichardsonNick.com

Gray St. Burdick (Production Stage Manager – BFA III) is from Powder Springs, Georgia. Rutgers theater credits include Stage Manager for *Heavenly Fools*, Assistant Stage Manager for *Life is a Dream*, Stage Manager for *Men on Boats*, and Production Assistant for *The Moors*. Rutgers dance credits include Production Stage Manager for *Student Dance Concerts Fall 2023* and Assistant Stage Manager for *DancePlus Fall 2022*.

Carlos Avila - 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, 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 where he studied with Jerome Lowenthal. Prior studies include Yale University where he studied with Peter Frankl and Claude Frank. He currently resides in New York City.

Byron De Leon (Assistant Chorusmaster) is a native of New York, NY. He is a first-year MM in choral conducting at Rutgers University and received his BM in vocal performance from Ithaca College, magna cum laude. As a singer, he has performed in *Die Zauberflöte* and prepared in many operas and recitals. De Leon is an alumnus of the Young People’s Chorus of New York City.

Saffron Y. Chung - Born in Seoul, Korea, Saffron Y. Chung 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 Masters of Music 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.

Ching-Chun Lai is Associate Professor and Director of Orchestral Activities and Engagement at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. As a professional conductor, she has worked with orchestras such as the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Buffalo Chamber Players, Gstaad Festival Orchestra (Switzerland), Madison Bach Musicians, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, New Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria), Richmond Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and Symphoria. A devoted educator, Dr. Lai has guest conducted numerous youth orchestras, honors orchestras, and university orchestras nationwide and internationally. Dr. Lai was a conducting fellow at the acclaimed Gstaad Menuhin Festival in Switzerland under the mentorship of Neeme Jarvi. She twice received the Church Memorial Conducting Award from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was granted the Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher fellowship sponsored by the State of New York/UUP. Prior to Rutgers, Dr. Lai held the post of Director of Orchestras and Associate Professor at the Crane School of Music, State University of New York at Potsdam. During her tenure, the Crane Symphony Orchestra performed at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. In addition to SUNY-Potsdam, she has taught at The Ohio State University (Director of Orchestral Studies and Visiting Professor of Orchestral Conducting) and Mount Holyoke College.

Stephanie Tubiolo (Chorus Master, Assistant Conductor) recently completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Rutgers University, where she won the Irene Alm Memorial Prize for Excellence in Performance and Scholarly Research. She currently directs the Rutgers University Choir and Voorhees Choir, teaches conducting to undergraduates studying music education and performance, and works collaboratively with the opera department and New Brunswick Public Schools. From 2011-2023, she taught with the Yale School of Music's Music in Schools Initiative, where she was the founding director of Morse Chorale, a non-selective choir for New Haven Public School students in grades 2-12. Under her direction, Morse Chorale represented Yale and New Haven on many stages, including regional and state ACDA conferences, the Urban Music Leadership Conference, and in collaborations with professional ensembles Tenebrae and Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble. In recognition of her work with the *Music in Schools Initiative*, she received the Yale Distinguished Teaching Artist Award in 2023. Tubiolo holds a BA in music from Yale College and an MM in choral conducting from the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music. She is especially passionate about building non-selective choral communities at all levels and currently serves as the Inclusivity Chair on the board of NJ-ACDA.

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