

SUMMER  
2024

20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON  
HAWAII  
PERFORMING  
ARTS Festival

JUNE 27-  
JULY 21

A Season of  
*Celebration*



VAL UNDERWOOD, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON  
 HAWAII PERFORMING ARTS Festival



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## MAHALO TO OUR SPONSORS



PIANO PLANET



FROM THE

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends:

On May 30, 2009, I met Val Underwood at the CS Music Competition in Chicago, IL, where he invited me to sing in his masterclass,

*Singing Simply*. A young 20-year old who had just finished his sophomore year of college, I decided to offer “Lonely House,” from Kurt Weil’s *Street Scene*. Little did I realize, that aria and the opportunity would change the trajectory of my professional life. A week later, Val called to offer me a full scholarship to attend Hawai’i Performing Arts Festival. After I hung up the phone, I let out a scream in the airport at LAX, where I had just landed to attend SongFest (another training and performance program for emerging young artists).

Though fifteen years later, in some ways 2009 seems like just yesterday. I still hold the vivid memories and lifelong friendships I made that summer close to my heart— my first visit to Waimea Coffee Company, snorkeling with Ricky Ian Gordon, and “Wine, Women, and Song” at Hawaiian Vanilla Company to name a few. I was fortunate enough to return to the Festival again in 2011 where I sang both Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* and Nerone in *L’Incoronazione di Poppea*. Oddly enough, it does feel as though history is repeating itself as my own voice student, Ryan Hanger, takes on the same role in our new production of the Monteverdi this summer.

I have been immensely grateful that Hawai’i Performing Arts Festival has remained such a significant part of my life. Those who have been with us since the early years may remember me as a student, resident assistant, professional fellow, faculty

member, voice faculty chair, assistant artistic director, associate executive director, and (for the past seven seasons) executive director. I have been fortunate enough to sing, conduct, direct, and explore my potential as both an artist and administrator. I have seen this organization continue to grow in ways unimaginable and hope you have, too.

As we come together to celebrate another milestone, we continue to find our momentum through the energy of you, the HPAF Ohana. With that in mind, it is not too late to support our mission to music education. If you are inspired by what you see before you this summer, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us ensure the future of HPAF in our community. Perhaps just as important— bring a friend to an upcoming event! Baroque opera? Contemporary musical theatre? Chamber music or jazz? There is something for just about everyone this summer.

As we look ahead to 2025, the team has already begun preparations for Season 21: *A Summer of Love*. Please keep an eye out for the official announcement in mid-July. In the meantime, feel free to stop by and say hello whether during intermission at one of our upcoming performances, at the farmer’s market, or outside Waimea Coffee Company (where you’ll find me most mornings sipping an iced oat milk latte and catching up on emails before rehearsal). Mahalo for your continued trust and enthusiastic applause as we look towards HPAF’s biggest celebration to date.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin John Moniz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Justin John Moniz, Executive Director

# ABOUT HAWAII'S PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL



Now in its 20th season, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival brings some of the most talented young musicians from Hawaii, the U.S., Canada, Australia, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, South America, and Europe to Hawaii Island each summer for intensive study and performance training, affording young artists the opportunity to perform with professional musicians under the guidance of some of the world's most established teachers and mentors. The results are astonishing.

During the 2023 Summer Festival, nearly 20 concerts and staged performances were presented and provided students the invaluable experience and privilege of appearing on stage with some of

the top musical artists in their field. All performances were produced at various venues across the Big Island. In 2021, HPAF featured four live concerts as part of the 2021 Summer Festival, *The Journey Back*. The 2020 Virtual Festival featured 14 free concerts, masterclasses, and special events, featuring a world-class roster of artists, available to audiences both locally and worldwide. Recent fundraising events have included performances by Jake Shimabukuro, Ofra Harnoy, Martin Chalifour, Cary Lewis, Stanford University's Fleet Street Singers, Liane Carroll, Ignace Jang, and *An Evening at the Stork Club*— an HPAF original production.

## MISSION STATEMENT

HPAF is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the appreciation and advancement of classical music and musical theater, to offer a world-class music training and performance program in the inspirational setting of Hawaii, and to improve the education and elevate the spirit of all who participate, especially the local community.



# SUPPORT THE ARTS

Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival has recently revamped its giving programs so that donors can not only feel part of a dedicated family of supporters, but can come closer to the world-class music they help to create!

**We invite you to join  
our loyal Ohana of  
HPAF supporters today.**

Give the gift of music and  
**FIND YOUR ALOHA**  
with us this season in paradise.

**MAKE A GIFT**

# MAHALO

HPAF would not be possible without the continued support, loyalty, and enthusiasm of so many sponsors, partners, and volunteers. This season, we are especially grateful for the overwhelming support of our beloved Ohana.

**PLATINUM SEASON SPONSOR (\$30,000 AND UP)**

**Margareta & Staffan Encrantz**  
**Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, Autograph Collection**



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**SILVER SEASON SPONSOR (\$10,000-\$19,999)**

**Carol & Clive Davies**  
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**BRONZE SEASON SPONSOR (\$5,000-\$9,999)**

**The Kent-Meschke Ohana**  
**Jim Monk**  
**Michael F. Thompson**



# MAHALO

## **HPAF MEMBER (\$1,500-\$4,999)**

Carl & Marilyn Bernhardt  
Paul & Charlene Dahlquist  
Dale & Don Franzen  
Richard Fusch & Lynn Schneider  
Debra Sims

## **HPAF SUPPORTER (\$100-\$1,499)**

Genette Freeman  
Dr. Simon & Mrs. Barbara Gamer  
Dr. Justin John Moniz  
Dr. Rachel Copeland & Mr. Scott Skiba  
Ken & Julie Riff  
Val Underwood

*All gifts received prior to June 10 in support of our 2024 Festival have been acknowledged above. Gifts received following this date will be recognized via the HPAF website.*

## **PRODUCING PARTNERS**

Kahilu Theatre Foundation  
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## **HOSPITALITY PARTNERS**

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W.A. Shimabukuro & Maurine Simpson  
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Val Underwood  
Bailey Wharton  
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## **MEDIA PARTNERS**

Red Curtain Addict  
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## **VOLUNTEERS**

Genette Freeman, Co-Founder &  
Executive Director Emerita

## **IN-KIND SUPPORTERS**

Kelly & Greg Barrick  
Ann Bennett  
Kate Bell & Tom Blackburn  
Laura Benz  
Carl & Marilyn Bernhardt  
Angie Bolman  
Lisa Chu-Thielbar  
Andrew Czajkowski  
Paul & Charlene Dahlquist  
Peter & Lois Gregg  
Hi'ilani Ohana  
Steven Kaplan  
Steve Kittell & Dara Pond

Olivia Ebrahimi, Lead  
Georjean Adams  
Vivienne Aronowitz  
Ann Bennett  
Lisa Chu-Thielbar  
Michaloha Elam  
Virginia Fortner  
Eileen Hartwings  
Cathi Keene  
Kathy Kurpita  
Corinne Latham  
Rona Lee  
Bonnie Stevenson  
Irma Singer  
Michael Thompson  
Lisa Wells



# LŪ'ĀU

Incredible memories of Hawai'i are made at the edge of the ocean as talented dancers and musicians perform and Mauna Kea chefs put on their own dazzling show featuring kālua pig and the Island's most delicious edibles.



Where your perfect night begins.

*From handcrafted cocktails and elevated local cuisine, to a full lū'au experience, Mauna Kea Beach Hotel offers something for everyone.*



## MANTA

Overlooking Kauna'oa Bay, Manta pioneered Kohala Regional Cuisine, featuring locally sourced ingredients delivered daily.



## COPPER

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With sweeping views of Kauna'oa Bay, friends and families gather for mixologist-crafted cocktails and wine complemented by gastropub cuisine.



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Hotel undergoing enhancements.  
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Hawane Rios (HPAF Alumna) and  
headliner during *The Spirit of  
Hawai'i* (2022).

# HAWAIIAN CULTURAL INITIATIVE

This summer, HPAF is thrilled to continue its Hawaiian Cultural Initiative and offer a series of classes aimed to strengthen faculty, staff, and students' engagement and understanding of the rich culture of Hawai'i. Led by a local faculty member, this summer's curriculum will include kukui and Lāi'i lei making, the history of Hawai'i, Hawaiian language, and hula instruction. It is the aim of this initiative to provide a greater sense of community and appreciation for the native land and its people.



## EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

HPAF's commitment to music education reaches far beyond the training of our participants. Our "Behind the Curtain Series" will welcome audience members before each performance of *The Coronation of Poppea* and *Little Women*. These pre-curtain discussions will offer an opportunity for members of the community to engage with HPAF artists

on thematic material and the process of bringing an artistic vision to the stage.

Finally, we will welcome underserved youth (and up to two parents or guardians) to the final dress rehearsals of *The Coronation of Poppea* and *Little Women*. For more information or to be a part of this unique experience, please email [assistants@hawaiiipaf.org](mailto:assistants@hawaiiipaf.org).

# The HPAF Legacy

**F**or the past 20 years, Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival has continued to provide world-class training and performance opportunities to aspiring young artists, both from Hawai'i Island and worldwide.

**Following their time at HPAF,** our esteemed alumni have gone on to grace some of the world's greatest stages, most notably The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, English National Opera, Royal Opera House, Florida Grand Opera, Los Angeles Opera, and have appeared in film and television, on Broadway, National Tours, and regionally.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## FESTIVAL OPENER: A RETURN TO THE STORK CLUB

THURSDAY, JUNE 27 5:00pm / 7:30pm  
Blue Dragon Tavern & Cosmic Musiquarium

Join Festival favorites Ashley Lambert, Justin John Moniz, Phil Kadet, and Jason Gamer in a return to the historic Stork Club. Don't miss these "intrepid performers" with their "rock 'em, sock 'em blend" (LA Screen and Stage). Venture back to 1929 for this historic season opener! Food and drink available for purchase. Times listed indicate when seating begins. The performance will begin approximately 30 minutes thereafter. Sponsored by Carol & Clive Davies and Blue Dragon Tavern & Cosmic Musiquarium.

**\$75 — General Admission**

## THE BEST OF HPAF: OPERA EDITION

FRIDAY, JULY 5 7:00pm  
Davies Chapel at HPA

HPAF Developing Singers & Professional Fellows take center stage in a musical celebration of operatic masterpieces which have graced the HPAF stage over the past 20 years!

**\$35 — General Admission**

## GREAT PERFORMANCES

SATURDAY, JULY 6 7:00PM  
Davies Chapel at HPA

A captivating evening of intimate chamber music featuring HPAF Faculty, Orchestra, and Guest Artists.

**\$35 — General Admission**

## THE BEST OF HPAF: MUSICAL THEATRE EDITION

FRIDAY, JULY 12 7:00PM  
Davies Chapel at HPA

HPAF Developing Singers & Professional Fellows take center stage in a musical celebration of beloved musicals which have graced the HPAF stage over the past 20 years!

**\$35 — General Admission**

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN

SATURDAY, JULY 13 &  
SUNDAY, JULY 14 2:00PM  
Kahilu Theatre

Join the artistic team of The Coronation of Poppea in an insightful and intimate preshow discussion surrounding the process of bringing one of Monteverdi's most famous operas to life.

**Free — General Admission**

The 2024 Summer Festival is generously sponsored by Margareta & Staffan Encranitz (Platinum Sponsor), Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, Autograph Collection (Platinum Sponsor), Anonymous (Gold Sponsor), Deviants from the Norm (Gold Sponsor), The Lematta Foundation (Silver Sponsor), Carol & Clive Davies (Silver Sponsor), The Kent-Meschke Ohana (Bronze Sponsor), Jim Monk (Bronze Sponsor), Michael F. Thompson (Bronze Sponsor), Paul & Charlene Dahlquist, Dale & Don Franzen, Debra Sims, Richard Fusch & Lynn Schneider, Dr. Simon & Barbara Gamer, Marilyn & Carl Bernhardt, Ken & Julie Riff, Duncan Dempster, Genette Freeman, Dr. Justin John Moniz, Val Underwood, Dr. Rachel Copeland & Mr. Scott Skiba, and many others.

Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization; all donations are tax exempt.

A Season of  
*Celebration*



## THE CORONATION OF POPPEA

SATURDAY, JULY 13 &  
SUNDAY, JULY 14 3:00pm  
Kahilu Theatre

Power, lust, love, betrayal, and revenge collide as Poppea schemes to become the new Empress at any cost. Experience Monteverdi's timeless masterpiece accompanied by a chamber ensemble of period-instruments. Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

\$35, \$45, \$55 — Reserved Seating

## OHANA & YOUNG SINGER VOCAL SHOWCASE

THURSDAY, JULY 18 7:00pm  
Gates Performing Arts Center at HPA

A fully-staged performance featuring participants from HPAF's High School Singer and Ohana Singer programs. This performance is presented in honor of longtime HPAF supporter, Bob Donigan (1923-2023).

\$35 — General Admission

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN

SATURDAY, JULY 20 &  
SUNDAY, JULY 21 2:00pm  
Kahilu Theatre

Join the artistic team of Little Women: The Broadway Musical in an insightful and intimate preshow discussion surrounding the process of bringing an artistic vision from the page to the stage.

Free — General Admission

## LITTLE WOMEN: THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

SATURDAY, JULY 20 &  
SUNDAY, JULY 21 3:00PM  
Kahilu Theatre

Based on Louisa May Alcott's American classic, Little Women: The Broadway Musical follows the adventures of the four March sisters. This captivating story guarantees a theatrical experience filled with laughter, tears, and a lifting of the spirit. The powerful score and soaring orchestration exudes the sounds of personal discovery, heartache, and hope.

\$35, \$45, \$55 — Reserved Seating



TICKETS AND MORE INFO AT

[HawaiiPerformingArtsFestival.org](https://HawaiiPerformingArtsFestival.org)

HPAF

*Find Your Aloha*

# ADMINISTRATION



**JUSTIN JOHN MONIZ** — Executive Director | Music Director/Conductor, *Little Women* | Co-Chair, The Encrantz Vocal Fellowship Program

A recipient of the Yamaha Corporation Top 40 Music Educator Award and a Musical America Top Professional of the Year, Dr. Justin John Moniz serves as Associate Director of Vocal Performance and Coordinator of Vocal Pedagogy at New York University's (NYU) Steinhardt School where he holds the rank of Music Associate Professor. At NYU, Moniz leads the graduate vocal pedagogy program, teaches courses in pedagogic theory, practice, applied voice, and directs the DownBeat Award-winning NYU Pop/Rock Ensemble, a group he founded in 2019. He also serves as Program Director of the Contemporary Vocal Summer Workshop. In addition to his appointment at NYU, Dr. Moniz is a member of the Vocal Arts Faculty at Manhattan School of Music where he teaches *Vocal Wellness & Physiology*. He previously served as Chair of Vocal Studies at Millikin University and Visiting Instructor of Opera at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Since August 2017, Moniz has served as Executive Director of HPAF. His innovative programming has earned HPAF both global recognition and multiple awards from the National Opera Association, The American Prize, and BroadwayWorld. Throughout Moniz's administrative tenure, he has won the organization over a million dollars in public and private grants, increased the annual operating budget by nearly 40%, and yielded the highest student enrollment in the festival's 20-year history. Justin was most recently named one of Pacific Business News' 2023 Business of Pride honorees for his work with HPAF. The 6th Annual Business of Pride awards recognized outstanding LGBTQ business leaders, allies, or advocates in Hawaii who are making a difference in advancing equality and inclusion in the business world, as well as being active members of the community. Prior to his work as Executive Director, Moniz served as Associate Executive Director, Assistant Artistic Director, and Vocal Faculty Chair. A three-time winner of The American Prize in Vocal Performance, Moniz has sung over 90 roles with companies including Opera Grand Rapids, Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre, Sarasota Opera, Florida Grand Opera, The Columbus Philharmonic, DreamCatcher Theatre, and more. His debut solo album, *Along the Way* (2021), is available on all streaming platforms. Dr. Moniz holds four degrees from Florida State University, the University of Miami, and SUNY Potsdam, and certifications from Harvard Business School, Duke University, and the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM). He has received young alumni awards from all three of his alma maters and was previously named one of Florida State University's Notable Noles, University of Miami's 30 Under 30, and a SUNY Potsdam Rising Star. As a voice teacher, researcher, and NASM Certified Personal Trainer, Moniz's current research focuses on identifying the parallels between the worlds of voice science and sports medicine, more specifically concerning vocal load, efficiency, and sustainability. For more information: [justinjohnmoniz.com](http://justinjohnmoniz.com) / [@jj\\_moniz](https://www.instagram.com/@jj_moniz)

# ADMINISTRATION



**VAL UNDERWOOD** — Artistic Director | Co-Chair, The Encrantz Vocal Fellowship Program | Vocal Faculty and Collaborative Piano Faculty

Val Underwood is Artistic Director of Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. He is distinctive for his equal skill as a pianist (the LA Times described his playing as “exquisite”) and as a voice teacher. He has trained a number of successful concert pianists, as well as singers who appear with companies world-wide. As a pianist he has performed in concert with principle players of the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics and with artists such as Mitchell Lurie, Eudice Shapiro, Glenn Dicterow, Ofra Harnoy, Gary Gray, Jeannine Altmeyer, Jennifer McGregor, Ricky Ian Gordon and many others. His film and television performances include the Masterpiece production of Willa Cather’s *The Song of the Lark*. After directing programs in The Strawberry Creek Festival and The Adriatic Chamber Music Festival, he co-founded Hawaii Performing Arts Festival in 2004 with his close friend, Genette Freeman. Hawaii Performing Arts Festival has hosted hundreds of students from all over the world and an acclaimed faculty of performers and teachers. His teaching career has taken him regularly to Los Angeles, New York and London. He guest lectures and conducts master classes at schools throughout the country. He counts among his own most influential teachers Rita Hutcherson, Reginald Stewart, Dora Zaslavsky, and Arminda Canteros (student of Vincenzo Scaramuzza) in piano and Ernest St. John (Jack) Metz and Martial Singher in voice. Early in his career, he had opportunities to accompany in the studios of some of the great singers/teachers of the century – Lotte Lehmann, George London, Rose Bampton and Martial Singher. He is honored that a number of his colleagues and former students have been esteemed faculty members of Hawaii Performing Arts Festival.

# ADMINISTRATION



**SCOTT SKIBA** — Assistant Artistic Director | Chair, Stage Directing Fellowship Program | Stage Director, *The Coronation of Poppea* | Director, High School Singer Program

Award-winning Stage Director Scott Skiba has led 80+ new productions earning recognition for his imaginative stage direction and dynamic physical approach to storytelling that is “masterful...ingenious...first-rate...vivid and emotionally charged” with companies including Indianapolis Opera, Mobile Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Pensacola Opera, Opera Tampa, and Toledo Opera. Scott serves as Executive Artistic Director, Cleveland Opera Theater; Production Director, Opera Western Reserve; and Acting and Movement Instructor, Music Across the Pond. Scott is a pioneer in producing interdisciplinary collaborations in alternative and site-specific venues, and a proponent of new opera. Scott launched {NOW} Fest, Cleveland Opera Theater’s annual festival to create, develop, and produce new opera, serves on the Chamber Opera Composition Committee for the National Opera Association (NOA), and collaborates to develop and premiere 18 new operas and counting. An advocate of arts education, Scott serves as Director of Opera Studies for Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, where under his direction the program has been the recipient of The American Prize for Opera Performance, and The Charles Nelson Reilly Prize in Stage Direction, and 1st Place in the NOA Collegiate Opera Production Competition. Additional university directing credits include University of Tennessee Opera Theater, University of Texas at Rio Grand Valley, Oberlin Opera Theater, Martina Arroyo’s Role Preparation Program at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and Interlochen Opera Theater. Previous appointments include Executive Director of the Oberlin in Italy opera training program, Instructor of Voice and Opera Theater, Interlochen Arts Academy; and Associate Instructor of Voice, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Scott devised and directed multiple projects to continue artistic collaboration throughout the pandemic including *Opera ON DEMAND* for the Curtis Institute of Music, *A Taste of Traviata*, a cinematic adaptation of *La Traviata* and *Romeo + Juliet*, a reimagined telling of Shakespeare’s play and Gounod’s opera for Opera Western Reserve; and *Operas in Place*, nine new short operas by World-renowned composers and librettists in collaboration with Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, Cleveland Opera Theater, and On Site Opera in NYC that received the 2023 Award for Digital Excellence in Opera (University/ Conservatory Project) from Opera America. Scott is represented by Marvel Arts Management. More info: [www.ScottSkiba.com](http://www.ScottSkiba.com)

# ADMINISTRATION



## RACHEL E. COPELAND — General Manager | Chair, Vocal Faculty

Rachel E. Copeland continues to receive acclaim as a “revelation with her coloratura soprano leaping easily to impossible heights!” She is a sought after artist combining her crystalline voice with her compelling and energetic stage presence. Ms. Copeland recently debuted at Avery Fisher Hall as the soprano soloist in Mozart’s Coronation Mass to rave reviews as well as performances with the Brussels Chamber Orchestra in a concert of arias and duets. Other career highlights include the Contessa in Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Cleveland Opera Theater, Frasquita in Bizet’s *Carmen* with San Diego Opera, Micaela in Peter Brook’s *Le tragédie de Carmen* with Indianapolis Opera, and Woglinde in Wagner’s *Das Rheingold* and first nymph in Dvorak’s *Rusalka* with North Carolina Opera. She returned to Apollo’s Fire, the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra in 2013 to great acclaim as the Queen of the Night in Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*, including a national broadcast and her debut at Severance Hall, the prestigious home to the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. Other considerable performances include Ms. Copeland’s appearances as Zdenka in Strauss’s *Arabella*, Musetta and Mimì in *La bohème*, Lauretta in Puccini’s beloved *Gianni Schicchi*, Lucia in Donizetti’s *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Juliette in Gounod’s *Roméo et Juliette*, Adele in J. Strauss’ *Die Fledermaus*, Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and Papagena in *The Magic Flute*. Internationally, Ms. Copeland has performed the roles of Donna Elvira in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* and Adina in Donizetti’s *L’elisir d’amore*. Recent engagements included a world premiere workshop with Cleveland Opera Theatre, a world premiere with Penn State Opera Theater, and a role and company debut of Agueda in *Mayo, Bisperas ng Liwanag* in the Philippines (canceled due to COVID). In addition to the operatic stage, Ms. Copeland has been praised for her “elegant and smooth tone” in oratorio and symphonic works. As a frequent performer with the Helena Symphony (MT), Ms. Copeland has most recently sung the role of Eve in Hadyn’s *The Creation* and as the soprano soloist for Bach’s *Mass in B minor* as well as the *St. Matthew Passion*. Other notable engagements were with Apollo’s Fire for Handel’s *Messiah*, The Choral Society of Durham (NC) as the soprano soloist in Barber’s *Prayers of Kierkegaard*, and the soprano soloist in Hadyn’s “Lord Nelson’s Mass” and “Missa belle tempori.” Dr. Copeland began an appointment at Penn State School of Music as a member of the Voice Department in Fall, 2018, and now also serves as the Associate Director, Director of Graduate Programs. She previously was on the faculty of East Carolina University School of Music where she was the Associate Director (2016 – 2018), the Coordinator of Graduate Studies (2014 – 2018), and a member of the Voice Faculty (2011 – 2018). In both academic years 2017 – 18 and 2014 -2015, Dr. Copeland was nominated for the Robert Wright Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award at East Carolina University. Many of Dr. Copeland’s students have received awards, scholarships, assistantships, and are featured in principle roles at the undergraduate and graduate level at prestigious music schools like Boston Conservatory, Indiana University, Florida State University, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and the University of North Texas, in addition to sharing the stage with luminaries of the field like Natalie Dessay to Vanessa Williams. Dr. Copeland is frequently sought after as a master class technician both nationally and abroad and has been on the faculty of the *Cornish American Song Institute* in Falmouth, England since 2016 and *Cantos para hermanar al mundo* in Torréon, Mexico in 2019. During the summers of 2011 and 2012, Dr. Copeland was a faculty member of *Musica nelle Marche* in Urbania, Italy. Administratively, Dr. Copeland serves as General Manager for the *Hawaii Performing Arts Festival* and has previously served in the positions of Program Director (2017) as well as the Operations Manager (2011 – 2016) for *Oberlin in Italy* in Arezzo, Italy. Dr. Copeland holds the Doctor of Music degree in Vocal Performance with a minor in Music History from Indiana University; the Master of Music degree in Voice Performance from Baylor University; and the Bachelor of Music Education degree in Choral Conducting from Baylor University.

# ADMINISTRATION



## SHAYNA LEAHY — Artistic Administrator

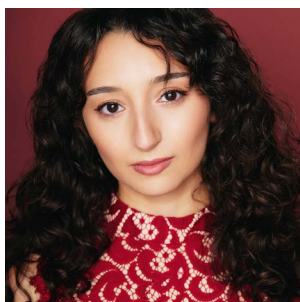
Shayna Leahy currently serves as the Artistic Administrator for HPAF after spending two summers as the Director of Production. She most recently returned to New York City Opera in September 2023 to direct *Roméo et Juliette*, after previously leading productions of *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* in Bryant Park. She has also been a staple with Wichita Grand Opera, having previously directed productions of *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Turandot*, *Otello*, *Il Trovatore*, and *Aida* for them. Her productions are hailed as being “deeply felt, and deeply moving” with emphasis on “fine acting as well as strong singing” (Wichita Eagle). She served as Assistant Director of Martina Arroyo’s Prelude to Performance Program in New York, was faculty for the Opera Academy of the Midwest, and is currently the Director of Vocal Studies at Highland Community College, where she has led a nationally-recognized opera education initiative in collaboration with Wichita Grand Opera. Her productions at HCC have been Region V finalists in KCACTF, and she received the Region V KCACTF Outstanding Music Director award for her work on *Rent*. In addition, she has coached and music directed multiple students who have received national KCACTF awards for Distinguished Performance in a Musical.



## IRMA SINGER — Director of Finance

Irma Singer is a native of California, originally hailing from Culver City in Los Angeles County, where she began her career as a bookkeeper working for an independent jewelry manufacturer. In 1985, Irma relocated to Santa Barbara, CA, where she continued her bookkeeping occupation working for a developer of AI programming languages. Irma progressed into providing personalized bookkeeping for private individuals, as well as maintaining a full-time position as Accounting Manager at a Four Diamond hotel in Santa Barbara, where she has been employed for the last 29 years. Irma joined the Board of Directors of Hawaii Performing Arts Festival as a Treasurer. She continues to provide support to HPAF as it begins its 20th season.

# ADMINISTRATION



## **ALLIE BRAULT — Assistant to the General Manager**

Allie Brault is a soprano known for her work towards making Jewish song more accessible to teachers and singers. In particular, she focuses on the songs of poet and musician, Ilse Weber (1903-1944). Brault was awarded the Professional Master's Excellence Award from Penn State for her extensive work on Weber, as well as her high academic performance. She has also created The Jewish Art Song Database ([jewishartsong.com](http://jewishartsong.com)), which is the first online database of this repertoire to exist. Brault received her Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education and Music Performance from The Crane School of Music, under the tutelage of Dr. Lonel Woods. She graduated this May with her Master of Music degree in Voice Pedagogy and Performance from Penn State, where she studied voice with Dr. Rachel E. Copeland and pedagogy with Dr. Norman Spivey. In August, Brault will begin her doctoral studies in Voice Pedagogy at the University of Maryland.



## **FEI MA — Artistic Administration Intern**

Fei Ma, DMA, will serve as artistic administration intern for HPAF 2024. Recently, Fei was a vocal instructor at Graceland University, Iowa Central Community College, and Santa Rosa Junior College. She has also worked as an assistant director and stage manager for new opera *One Monther's Children* and the University of Minnesota productions of *Carmen*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Il Trovatore*. Fei's impressive performance career includes solo performances at Carnegie Hall (2016), Wiener Musikverein (2013), and the Minnesota Opera House with *Carmen*. Her vocal awards include: Second Prize, The 11th Artist International Music Competition, Canada, 2009. Third Prize, The 40<sup>th</sup> Italy Vincenzo Bellini Music Competition (Hong Kong), 2009.



## **NIC STARK — Artistic Administration Intern**

Nic Stark is a tenor and voice teacher from Oklahoma. He holds a Master's degree of Music in Voice Performance and Pedagogy from Penn State and a Bachelor's of Musical Arts with a Spanish minor from Oklahoma Baptist University. As a performer, Nic has most recently been spotted as Ferrando from *Così fan tutte* and Ruggiero from *La rondine*, both performed with the Penn State Opera Theatre. His other stage appearances include the Father Confessor and Chevalier de la Force in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. Nic has collaborated in concert with the Penn State Early Music Ensemble multiple times and performed in Penn State's Lunar New Year Concert. He is proud to have recently interpreted Ralph Vaughan Williams's cycle *On Wenlock Edge* and presented research on Spanish composer Fermín María Álvarez as part of his two Master's capstone projects. Nic's experience as a teacher includes teaching voice lessons in all styles, teaching voice classes, leading masterclasses, and adjudicating regional NATS competitions. He recently completed a term as the President of the Penn State Chapter of the Student National Association of Teachers of Singing.

# FACULTY ARTISTS



**DANIEL BELCHER** — Vocal Faculty | Mr. Laurence,  
*Little Women*

GRAMMY® Award-winning baritone Daniel Belcher has performed in many of the music capitals of the world, including Paris, London, New York, San Francisco, Berlin, Stuttgart, Amsterdam, Geneva, Madrid, Toronto, Montreal, Tokyo, Seoul, and Houston. With a repertoire of more than 90 roles, Belcher has championed roles from the Baroque to those composed expressly for him. World premieres include *Angels in America* by Peter Eötvös, *Little Women* by Mark Adamo, *Elizabeth Cree* by Kevin Puts and Mark Campbell, *The Scarlet Letter* by Lori Laitman and David Mason, and *The House without a Christmas Tree* by Ricky Ian Gordon and Royce Vavrek, among others. Belcher won the GRAMMY Award for singing Jaufré Rudel in Kaija Saariaho's *L'Amour de Loin*. In the 2022-23 season, he sang the roles of Lawrence in *The Wreckers* by Dame Ethel Smyth at Houston Grand Opera and Fritz/Frank in *Die Tote Stadt* at Opera Colorado, as well as Macbeth in a world-premiere reading of *Working for the Macbeths*, with American Lyric Theatre. As a teacher, Belcher has served as the Director of the Artist Diploma at William Jewell College in Liberty, MO. He also serves as the voice teacher of the Resident Artist Programs at both Opera Colorado and the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Previously, he has taught at The Florida State University, IVAI – Tel Aviv, The Sibelius Academy in Helsinki (Creative Dialogue), CoOperative at Rider University and the Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival, where he will teach summer 2024.



**BETH DUNNINGTON** — Stage Director, *Little Women* |  
Acting Faculty

Beth Dunnington (AEA, SAG/AFTRA) moved from NYC to Waimea in 2007. She's a stage director, performer, acting teacher, and writer, who most recently directed *Fun Home* (2024) and *RENT* (2023) for Kahilu Theatre, and the opera *As One* (2022) for HPAF. Beth has developed and directed a number of one-woman shows that have had productions in NYC, LA, and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, with upcoming performances in San Francisco and Chicago. In 2021 she won "Best Director" in the NYC United Solo Theatre Festival. Beth wrote and starred in *Que Sueñes Con Las Angelitas* – a show she collaborated on with choreographer Angel Prince – which debuted at the Kahilu, later toured the Hawaiian Islands, and then went to NYC's Jazz at Lincoln Center. Beth wrote scripts for a dozen animated TV series, winning an Emmy Award for Steven Spielberg's *Tiny Toon Adventures*. Elita One, the first female Transformer character in *Transformers*, who will also appear in the upcoming *Transformers One* movie, voiced by Scarlett Johansson. She leads the Big Island Writers' Workshop in Hawaii and in multiple cities on the mainland. The original Zoom monologue series she directs, *Performing The Story*, is now in its fifth year. Beth is married to developer Steve Dunnington. Their children, Marena and Sean, are proud HPAF alumni. Beth studied acting with Uta Hagen. She's thrilled to return to HPAF for her 13th season on the faculty.

# FACULTY ARTISTS



## JENNIFER MCGREGOR — Vocal Faculty

Jennifer McGregor is known as one of Australia's most important operatic sopranos. In the words of conductor Brian Castles-Onion, "*The brilliant Australian soprano Jennifer McGregor was a fine coloratura with a perfect trill, charming and a wonderful actor. These combined to make her an audience favorite for two decades with Opera Australia.*" After graduating from the Sydney Conservatorium Opera School, she spent three years in Musical Theater, with leading roles in

*The Sound of Music, The Venetian Twins, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Cabaret and Candide.* She received The National Theater Award for the "Best Newcomer" for her portrayal of Nellie Melba in the Sydney National Theater production of *A Toast to Nellie Melba*. During that time she was first prize winner of The Armstrong Martin Singing Competition. She auditioned for The Australian Opera (now known as Opera Australia) and was invited to join the company, where she remained, performing an extensive repertoire of principal roles for over 22 years. Under the mentorship of Maestro Richard Bonyngge, her first season at the Sydney Opera House included Fe-Aniche-Ton in *Bat-Ta-Clan* by Offenbach. Ophelia in the Thomas *Hamlet* opposite baritone Sherril Milnes, which skyrocketed her career, followed by Musetta in *La Boheme*, Sofie in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Xenia in *Boris Godunov*, Adele in *Die Fledermaus* (with Dame Joan Sutherland) and The Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte*, a role she ultimately performed over 100 times in Australia and in Germany. The following season her list of roles expanded to include Oscar in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Norina in *Don Pasquale*, Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Yum Yum in *The Mikado*, Blöndchen in *Abduction of the Seraglio*, Marie in *La Fille du Regiment*, Massenet's *Manon*, Morgana in *Alcina* (with Joan Sutherland), and The Woodbird in *Siegfried*. She also performed the title role in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. She was the first soprano to perform Lucia at the house following Dame Joan Sutherland, for whom the production was originally mounted, but over her career Jennifer McGregor performed the role many more times than her legendary predecessor. In fact, McGregor was claimed by critics as the "New Sutherland". Continuing under the baton of Sir Richard Bonyngge and with conductors Simone Young and Charles Mackerras, subsequent seasons included the addition of Violetta in *La Traviata*, a role she performed extensively, *L'enfant et les Sortilège*, The title role in *Lulu*, in its first fully staged production in Australia and also performed in Germany, Gilda, Cleopatra, Philine, Lakmé, the four heroines in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, Juliette and the title role in *Die Lustige Witwe*, as well as numerous guest performances with Sydney Symphony, Melbourne Symphony, Queensland Symphony, West Australian Symphony, South Australian Symphony and Canberra Symphony and with the Edo du Waart and the Concertgebouw Orchestra. McGregor now resides in London with her husband Russell Morgan and each summer for the past 20 years has taught and performed at Hawaii Performing Arts Festival on the Big Island of Hawaii.

# FACULTY ARTISTS



## **JAMES MYERS** - Chair, Collaborative Piano Program | Vocal Coaching Faculty

**EDUCATION:** The Eastman School of Music; University of Colorado at Boulder; Hochschule für Musik und Theater, Hannover, Germany. James Myers comes to us from Boston Lyric Opera and Boston Conservatory at Berklee. He's shared stages with artistic luminaries, including Renée Fleming, Christine Brewer, and Wagnerian Linda Watson. He joined John Adams and Marin Alsop for Opera Colorado's *Nixon in China* (Naxos label), and Philip Glass for *In the Penal Colony*. He supported Robert McDuffie, violin; Chris Thile, mandolin; and conductors Bernard Labadie, Peter Oundjian, David Angus, and the late Marvin Hamlisch. Dynamic projects include shows by Heggie, Sankaram, Dove, and masterpieces by Janáček, Poulenc, and Tchaikovsky. In Spain with Berklee Valencia's Summer Opera Intensive he presented zarzuela/tonadilla at Palau Opera House and Fundación Bancaja. James designed multimedia exhibition lectures for sold-out audiences: *Viennese Musical Modernism of Klimt and Schiele*, and *Music of Matisse*, among others (Museum of Fine Arts). His coaching students consistently win roles at international houses; three students won Classical Singer National Competition's Artist Division. In 2023 Mr. Myers and mezzo Eleni Stratigos showcased living female Greek composers (Athens, Greece). With comedienne Laura Ethington he launched the Manhattan cabaret *Down with Love*. This year he explores salsa in Cuba, and medieval Balkan architecture. Past projects include Garifuna drumming (Belize), Malouf/Oud in Sousse (Tunisia), and French through an International Education Grant, Annecy (France). He won First Prize Kneisel Lieder Competition and Performance Certificate (Eastman, NY), and the Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellowship. He and his husband Justin VandenBosch have explored over 70 countries and relish snorkeling, white-water rafting, and zip-lining 700 feet above the Costa Rican jungle canopy.

# FACULTY ARTISTS



## **MAIKA'I NASH** — Vocal Coaching Faculty

Native Hawaiian pianist and vocal coach, Maika'i Nash, returned home to Hawai'i in 2017 to accept the Head of Music and Director of the Orvis Opera Studio Program positions at the Hawai'i Opera Theatre. In his 20 year absence, Maika'i lived abroad, studying at McGill University in Montréal, at the Schubert Institute of Lieder in Vienna, the Centre for Operatic Studies in Sulmona, Italy, and privately in Paris. He spent the bulk of his career in Toronto and Montréal, working for a number of Canadian opera companies, McGill University, the University of Toronto, Western University, the Glenn Gould School, and the Royal Conservatory of Music. Always a voracious adventurer, he also spent 2.5 years in Bogotá, Colombia, working as a vocal coach, répétiteur, and pianist throughout the Colombian capital, and in the other major Colombian cities. Now firmly reestablished in Honolulu, Maika'i launched the new performing arts non-profit group, HI Arts Lab, a company creating experiential moments in music across multiple art forms. The company launched in 2019 to rave reviews and a well attended 3-night run at the Entrepreneur's Sandbox in Honolulu's art district, Kaka'ako and produced an additional 6 experiences throughout the 2019-2020 season to sold-out audiences. Maika'i has performed in a number of renowned masterclass series with international artists that include: Christine Goerke, Barbara Bonney, Elly Ameling, Joan Dornemann, Julius Drake, Edith Wiens, Cynthia Hoffman, Helmut Deutsch, Rudolf Jansen, Robert Holl, Wendy Nielsen, Laura Claycomb & Denise Massé, among others. Growing up in Hawaii, Maika'i studied with Ernest Chang and made his solo debut with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra when he was 11. As an operatic vocal coach, Maika'i has worked with a number of opera companies throughout Canada, Colombia, and the United States. He has also been engaged as the official collaborative pianist for the Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions for a number of years and has also collaborated and recorded with renowned singers such as Richard Margison, Quinn Kelsey, Audrey Luna, Barry Banks, Mark Doss, Leslie-Ann Bradley & Martha Senn. Maika'i is currently the official pianist for Disney Entertainment for the State of Hawai'i and works with the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, Manoa Valley Theatre, Diamond Head Theatre, the I'm a Bright Kid Foundation, Gridiron, and is a vocal coach and collaborator with La Sorellanza, a community women's choir in Honolulu.



## **LAHELA SPENCER** — Hawaiian Studies Faculty

Lahela Spencer was born and raised in Ke'ei, Kona on the island of Hawai'i. She has been involved in Hula for the majority of her life and through Hula, the skill of lei making, the knowledge of our environment along with being surrounded by Hawaiian life-ways has enhanced her skills and developed a passion. As a young dancer, Lahela has performed across the globe including Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Tahiti, Samoa, and Taiwan. Along with being in the hospitality industry for over 13 years, she has spent 20 years as a professional entertainer in Hawai'i and has had the privilege of performing in and serving as a production show manager for some of Hawai'i's most prestigious production shows. Her commitment to hula has culminated to the formal right of 'ūniki as a Kumu Hula under Kumu Hula Ulalia Ka'ai Berman. Lahela is the Kumu Hula of Kaleiokaulupalai, based in Waimea, Hawai'i. She is a member of the Leo Kāhoa Steering committee for Huamakahikina, a coalition of Kumu Hula who recently created and ratified a historic Declaration on the Integrity, Stewardship, and Protection of Hula. Kumu Lahela currently serves as a culture specialist and educator for her community and visitors.

# FACULTY ARTISTS



**STEPHEN STUBBS** - Music Director/Conductor, *The Coronation of Poppea* | Vocal Coaching Faculty

Stephen Stubbs, who won the GRAMMY Award as conductor for Best Opera Recording in 2015, maintains a busy calendar as a guest conductor, specializing in baroque opera and oratorio. Stephen is the artistic co-director of the bi-annual Boston Early Music Festival. BEMF recordings were nominated for six Grammy awards so far. The 2015 Grammy win was for Charpentier's *La descente d'Orphee*. BEMF recordings won two Echo Klassik awards in Germany, and the Diapason d'Or de l'Année in France and were presented with the Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik. He has conducted performances of *Messiah* for Houston Symphony, Edmonton Symphony, Alabama Symphony, Seattle Symphony and Symphony Nova Scotia. As a guest conductor of opera, Stephen has made multiple appearances with Opera Omaha including Handel's *Agrippina*, *Semele*, Stradella's *San Giovanni Battista*. Other recent opera engagements include Monteverdi's *Tancredi et Clorinda* with Seattle Opera, and Stefano Landi's *La Morte d'Orfeo* for Los Angeles Opera. Much in demand for work with student and emerging performers, he has worked with conservatories including the Juilliard School and UCLA Opera. He has conducted Mozart's *Il re pastore* at the Merola Opera Institute; Handel's *Rodelinda* with the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute and Mozart's *Così fan tutte* and *Die Zauberflöte* at Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival.

# FACULTY ARTISTS



## **PAULINA VILLARREAL** — Vocal Faculty

A 2024 recipient of the “40 Under Forty” Yamaha Corporation Excellence in Music Education Award, Dr. Paulina Villarreal has established an international reputation as a versatile performer, professor, and entrepreneur in the music industry. Dr. Villarreal currently serves as an assistant Professor of Voice at the University of Memphis, Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, as the Founder and Artistic Director of *Cantos para el Mundo* (Mexico), and as a Voice Faculty Member at Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. She previously held the position of chair of vocal studies at Centenary College of Louisiana, was a voice faculty member at Millikin University, and taught voice related courses at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music. A graduate of the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Villarreal has been a soloist and invited artist in companies and orchestras around the United States like Opera Saratoga, Cincinnati opera, Opera Fusion: New Works, the prestigious Tanglewood Music Center, the Boston Pops, Princeton Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, Opera Memphis, Opera Western Reserve, Opera Steamboat, Appalachian Symphony Orchestra, Decatur Millikin Symphony Orchestra, and the Kurt Weill Foundation. Trained as a classical vocalist, Villarreal is also in demand for her singing versatility in musical theater and commercial music genres. A leading expert in the promotion of Latin American, Iberian repertoire, Dr. Villarreal is regularly engaged as a masterclass clinician and lecturer for organizations including the National Opera Association (NOA), National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), College Music Society (CMS), Classical Singer Convention (CSC), Universidad de las Artes de la Habana (Cuba), Conservatorio de Musica de Puerto Rico, Appalachian State University, and Millikin University among others. In the entrepreneurship and administrative world, she is the founding artistic director of the annual concert series *Cantos para el Mundo*, devoted to the promotion of classical vocal genres hosted in Northern Mexico. Career highlights include the title role of *Carmen* with Opera Western Reserve, the world premiere of *Mango Suite* with the Princeton Symphony, *Simply Sondheim: Stephen Sondheim’s 85th Birthday Celebration* with the Boston POPS and Broadway veterans Jason Daniele and Kate Baldwin, *Sondheim vs Webber* with the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, *Macy’s ArtWave Sampler* with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Song Initiative, multiple performances with Music for all Seasons, the Wagner Society of Cincinnati, and multiple recitals promoting her extensive research on Latin American Song, Zarzuela, and Mexican composer Maria Grever.

# PRODUCTION TEAM



## **MICHELLE HARTMAN** — Costume Designer

Costume designer, Michelle Hartman, is a local business owner on the Hamakua Coast. She has a distinct vision and aesthetic, cultivated through her love of combining art and fashion. Driven by upcycling, her creations are elegant, original, and absolutely unique to each production. Michelle has costumed shows for the Kahilu Theatre, Prince Dance Institute, and the Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival. In 2022 she was awarded Best Costume Design by Broadway World

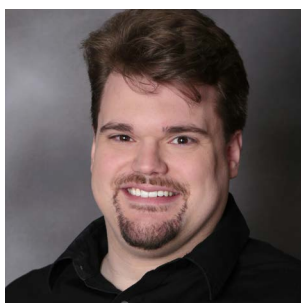
Hawaii for her work with *Hair* and the Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival. (Photo credit-Anna Pacheco Photography)



## **BRITTANY POWELL MERENDA** — Projection Designer

Brittany Powell Merenda is an award-winning projection designer working in theatre, opera and dance throughout the country. Favorite designs include *Coraline*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Elf*, *The Musical*, *Newsies*, *Spongebob* and *Matilda*, (The Rose Theater), *Magic Flute* and *La Bohème* (Jacksonville Symphony, Cleveland Opera Theatre), *Come Home Gala* (The Washington National Opera), *Macbeth* (Opera Tampa), *Carmen* (Hawaii Performing Arts Festival), and

*Tosca* (Opera Grand Rapids). Brittany received her Masters of Arts in Digital Arts and Sciences from the University of Florida.



## **ROBERT PIERCE** — Production Stage Manager

Robert Pierce is a Cleveland-based journeyman of the arts, specializing in the production and performance of opera and musical theater. Behind the scenes, Robert is a prolific stage manager among northeast Ohio opera companies and music schools, most notably working on the world premieres of Griffin Candey & Caridad Svich's *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory and Matthew Recio & Royce Vavrek's *The Puppy Episode* at Oberlin Conservatory, as well

as acclaimed productions with Cleveland Opera Theater and Opera Western Reserve. He has also enjoyed recent travels to stage manage *Hansel and Gretel* with Kentucky Opera and Jake Heggie's *Two Remain* with Lyric Opera of Orange County in addition to his past two summers here at HPAF. On stage, he has performed many featured roles in regional theater and opera, with some favorite titles being *The Little Mermaid*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Billy Elliot*, *Violet*, *Jerry Springer: The Opera*, *Tosca*, *La Bohème*, *Street Scene*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. A graduate of Otterbein University and Cleveland Institute of Music, Robert also just completed a decade of directing and performing operatic programming for young audiences as Educational Outreach Director for Opera Western Reserve.

# PRODUCTION TEAM



## **STEVE SHACK** – Lighting Designer

Steve Shack is a fairly nomadic human who often finds himself designing light for various performances. His most recent work has been seen in Philadelphia, Jacksonville, Hilo, Boston, Traverse City, Cleveland, and NYC. Over the past 20 years, Steve has lit over 250 various productions of Musical Theater, Opera, Dance, and Drama in addition to a few restaurants, museums, and art installations. Steve is the Resident Lighting Designer at Dark Lumen Productions, Cleveland Opera Theater, Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, and Magnificat High School. Often, during summer he teaches and designs lighting at the French Woods Festival of the performing arts. When not in a venue he prefers to body surf in the Pacific Ocean.

## **ABBY GUINIGUNDO** – Production Intern | Stage Manager, *The Coronation of Poppea*



Abby Guinigundo is a stage manager, director, and performer from Cincinnati, Ohio. Abby is currently studying at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music, where they are working to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre: Stage Management, Music: Voice, and a Minor in Arts Management. Some of their stage management credits include Sankaram and Dye's *Taking Up Serpents*, Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, *Peace for Christmas*, and *Testing Grounds: Spring '23*. Most recently, Abby Co-Lead a research project titled "Boy Gets Girl - An Analysis of Stalking and Online Dating," presented at the 2024 Baldwin Wallace University Ovation Day of Excellence. They have also worked with theatres, such as Cleveland's Playhouse Square, Cincinnati's Music Hall, and The Aronoff Center for the Arts. Abby will return to Baldwin Wallace Opera in the fall to stage manage Handel's *Radamisto* and Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight!* Abby would like to thank their family for their constant love and support!

# ORCHESTRA



## SHARON CANNON — Percussion

Sharon Cannon grew up in Philadelphia and came from a family of dancers and musicians. Sharon has a Music Performance Degree in Percussion from Temple University. She studied with principal percussionists from the Philadelphia Orchestra, Pennsylvania Ballet and the Philly Pops. In 1989 She moved to Hawaii due to health issues, where she has since made her home for the last 35+ years. Sharon is the principal percussionist with the Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra, Kona Choral Society, the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, the West Hawaii County Band and also played with the Aloha Performing Arts Company for over 25 years. Sharon shares her talent teaching privately and in the schools to students of all ages. Sharon has served as an Officer on the Kamuela Philharmonic board and also leads their Education program since 2016. Sharon enjoys swimming in the Ocean, enjoying great entertainment, being in nature, solving crossword puzzles and watching our beautiful Kona sunsets with her loving partner. Sharon's mission in life is to preserve the integrity and experience of live music. She is happiest when sharing Music with all kinds of people. She is eternally grateful for how Music magically has the power and tendency to bring people together.



## MAXINE EILANDER — Harp

Maxine Eilander has been performing on historical harps throughout Europe and the United States for over three decades. She is the harpist for Pacific MusicWorks and the Boston Early Music Festival. Recordings featuring Maxine as a soloist include *Handel's Harp*, released on ATMA, with all of Handel's obbligato music written for the harp, including his famous harp concerto, which she has also recorded with Tafelmusik (*A Baroque Feast*, Analekta). The release of William Lawes' *Harp Consorts* on ATMA garnered much favorable press. Other recordings include *Sonata al Pizzico*, a recording of Italian music for harp and Baroque guitar with duo partner Stephen Stubbs (ATMA), and *Teatro Lirico* (ECM). In 2012, Maxine was invited to perform Handel's *Harp Concerto* at the prestigious World Harp Congress in Vancouver. Maxine is adjunct professor of historical harps at the Thornton School of Music, USC. She was recently invited to the Juilliard School of Music to coach students of the Historical Performance Department, delivered a triple harp to the school and introduced the historical harp to the harp class. She also teaches students nationwide online.

# ORCHESTRA



## JASON GAMER — Trumpet

Jason Gamer (B.Mus. Curtis Institute of Music; M.Mus, DMA, USC Thornton School of Music) is a music director, trumpet player, and educator. Gamer has performed in ensembles including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orchestra Santa Monica, Moshav, Distant Cousins, Kammersinfonie Bremen, the legendary punk rock band Violent Femmes, and on recordings and soundtracks for television and film. Formerly an assistant professor at Utah State University and a lecturer at California State University Dominguez Hills, he is currently the music director at Vistamar School. His original music was featured in *The Redeem Team* which won a Sports Emmy Award for Outstanding Long Documentary in 2023. Several of his compositions and improvisations are being released on major streaming platforms through summer and fall 2024. Gamer leads many ensembles and creative projects, including serving as a music director at Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. For 11 years, he was music director and conductor of the Wild Ginger Philharmonic, which he co-founded. Recently he served as music director for full-scale productions of *Chicago*, *Mamma Mia!*, the musical, *Dogfight*, *Fun Home*, and *RENT*. He is a recipient of the Founder's Award for Humanity in the Arts from ICAP, the International Committee of Artists for Peace.



## EDNA JEON — Flute

A believer in music's uniting powers, flutist Edna Jeon brings her creativity as a soloist, collaborator, and orchestral musician to all of her performances. She has been praised for her charming stage presence, impressive technique, and thoughtful approach to music in repertoire ranging from baroque to contemporary. Edna received her M.M. at Carnegie Mellon University and her B.M. at the University of Colorado Boulder. She has been the piccolo fellow at the Aspen Music Festival from 2021-2023 and was the acting piccolo/3rd flute of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra for the 2023-2024 season.



## JOSHUA KELLER — Lirone

Joshua Keller is an avid performer and teacher of viola da gamba, lirone, and cello. After studying at Indiana University and the Hochschule für Kunst Bremen, Josh embarked on an international performance career. He has performed in the early music festivals of Bruges, Bremen, Bloomington, Regensburg, Thüringen, and in the opening ceremonies of the Utrecht Early Music Festival. Early and modern orchestras alike continue to invite him to play the viol solos of Bach's Passions. He has worked with Opera Theater St. Louis, Opera Studio Netherlands, Opera NEO San Diego, InSeries (DC) and Scherzi Musicali (BE) playing lirone and was recently a featured soloist with Opera Lafayette. As a teacher, Josh has contributed to workshops for the viola da gamba societies of America and Australia, teaches private lessons, and has pursued a certification in Pilates instruction. Joshua also maintains an active local musical life playing in chamber ensembles, orchestras, theaters and recording at local studios. He has recorded with Josh Lee, Masaaki Suzuki, and Música Ficta. Beyond music, Josh loves rollerskating, practicing Pilates and his two boxers, Margot and Hiram.

# ORCHESTRA



## LIAM LACEY – Horn

Hornist Liam Lacey is a bi-coastal freelance performer, soloist, and educator. He earned his Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music, and his Bachelor of Music from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at Cal State Long Beach. Recently, Liam appeared with the Cape Symphony, New Bedford Symphony, and the Plymouth Philharmonic in the Greater Boston area. Originally from Los Angeles, he has also performed with the Southern California Brass Consortium and the Santa Monica Symphony, among others. He has previously served as solo horn in productions of

*Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, and Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. Inspired by his apprenticeship in horn repair and manufacturing, Liam researches the historical development of the horn and its construction. He has also given masterclasses and served as a horn coach for numerous middle schools, high schools, and community orchestras, both in-person and virtually. In his spare time, Liam likes to write chamber arrangements of symphonic and film music to play with his friends. He is also an avid disc golfer, and grows rare chili peppers in the never-ending search for the perfect hot sauce.



## CARLO ANDREA MALANIMA – Viola

Dr. Malanima has been a professional musician for over 25 years playing in many world's renowned musical institutions and orchestras such as: Youth European Community Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne (Switzerland), Orchestra della Radio Televisione della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano (Switzerland), Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (Florence -Italy), Orchestra della Toscana (Florence - Italy), Orchestra Sinfonica "Haydn" di Bolzano e Trento (Bozen - Sud Tirol - Italy), Orchestra Sinfonica della RAI TV di Roma (Rome - Italy), Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di

Santa Cecilia (Rome - Italy), Orchestra dell' Arena of Verona (Verona Italy), Orchestra del Teatro Petruzzelli (Bari - Italy), Orchestra del Teatro Carlo Felice (Genova Italy) Dr. Malanima holds a life term position at Teatro Carlo Felice Orchestra where he also plays assistant principal viola. He has also served as Principal Viola in the orchestras of the Puccini Festival in Torre del Lago (Lucca - Italy), the Mascagni Festival (Livorno - Italy), Verdi Festival (Parma - Italy), Crested Butte Music Festival Orchestra (Colorado - USA), The Juilliard Orchestra (1992). As a Chamber musician he has been one of the founding members of the Quartetto d'archi Modigliani with whom he has produced many recordings and concerts. His solo recordings in contemporary music by composer Stefano Giannotti for the Deutschland Radio have won the international Karl-Sczuka-Preis in 2003. Dr. Malanima earned a National Doctoral Diploma from the Italian Conservatory and the Advanced Certificate in Music Performance from the Juilliard School in New York where he studied as a Scholarship Scholar. Dr. Malanima has studied with the following teachers : Giusto Cappone, Margaret Pardee, William Lincer, Karen Tuttle, Yurii Bashmet, The Juilliard String Quartet. He has attended summer classes in Meadowmount Summer String Festival, Tanglewood Orchestra Music Festival, Corsi di Alto Perfezionamento Accademia Chigiana Siena. During his orchestra career Dr. Malanima has performed in some of the major concert halls throughout the world with the most acclaimed soloists and conductors such as: Abbado, Muti , Metha, Chailly, Gatti, Thielemann, Luisi, Maazel, and Dudamel.

# ORCHESTRA



## **ANNA MARSH** — Orchestra Contractor

Anna Marsh, bassoon and orchestra manager is a multi-instrumentalist fluent in Renaissance, Baroque, Classical and Modern styles. Originally from Tacoma, WA, Anna holds a doctorate of music in historical performance from Indiana University and masters in modern bassoon from USC. She has appeared worldwide with Opera Lafayette, Tempesta di Mare, Folger Consort, Musica Angelica, Tafelmusik, Washington Bach Consort and Atlanta Baroque among others. She has

taught privately & at festivals at the Eastman School of Music, Los Angeles Music and Art School, Amherst Early Music, San Francisco Early Music Society & Western Double Reed Workshops. She also has been heard on dozens of recordings & on Performance Today, Harmonia, CBC radio & recorded for Chandos, Analekta, Centaur, Naxos, the Super Bowl, Avie, and Musica Omnia's Grammy nominated album, Handel's Israel in Egypt. [www.annamarshmusic.com](http://www.annamarshmusic.com)



## **GUDRUN RASCHEN** — Bass

Gudrun Raschen has extensive solo, orchestral, and chamber music experience on double bass and cello. She has given concerts in the United States, Brazil, Mexico, Bolivia, Poland, Finland, Italy, Germany, Vietnam, South Africa, and Namibia. In the US, she has performed with the Fort Worth, Richardson, Wichita Falls, Miami Symphony, Dallas and Texas Chamber Orchestras, and in early music concerts with the American Baroque Opera, Denton Bach Society, Orchestra of New

Spain, Texas Camerata, Fantasmi, Fleur de Lys, Ensemble VIII and Ensemble IX. Gudrun Raschen teaches double bass and is the coordinator for chamber music at the University of North Texas. Her former students have won the International Society of Bassists Solo Competition, the American String Teachers Competition (both Junior and Senior levels,) the Eisenmann International Concerto Competition (1st and 3rd prize), Sphinx (2nd Prize), and Prix Orford Musique Competiton (3rd prize). Her former students have performed concertos with orchestras, hold permanent positions in semi-professional and professional orchestras, and have played as substitute players with the New York Philharmonic, Dallas, and Houston Symphony Orchestras. Many of her students have developed a passion for teaching and are teaching in higher education, schools, music programs, and private studios.

# ORCHESTRA



## **KATIE RIETMAN – Cello**

Katie Rietman has performed as a cellist on over 60 CD recordings and numerous concerts and radio broadcasts with notable baroque, classical, and romantic period instrument ensembles worldwide. Her performing career has taken her to 21 countries in Europe, North America, New Zealand, the Caribbean, and South America. She is a prizewinner in the Bonporti competition (Rovereto, Italy) and a semi-finalist in the Van Wassenaer competition (Den Haag, Netherlands.) Katie studied baroque cello at the Sweelinck Conservatorium in Amsterdam and subsequently lived in Cologne, Germany for ten years, performing with countless European early music groups. Currently living in Santa Fe, Katie Rietman has been the principal cellist of many New York period instrument ensembles, including the Grammy-nominated Trinity Wall Street Baroque Orchestra, where she was continuo cellist for the complete cycle of the Bach Cantatas; the Clarion Society; and with the St. Thomas Boys' Choir. She is also principal cellist of Aradia (Toronto). Katie Rietman is particularly known for her continuo playing and command of several languages, and her collaboration with singers in baroque opera, oratorio, and cantatas.



## **GAIA SAETERMOE-HOWARD – Oboe/English Horn**

Gaia Saetermoe-Howard is an oboist, recorder player, educator, and artist-scholar. Praised for her “poignant, pliant sound” (New York Classical Review), Gaia is the principal oboist of Tempesta di Mare Baroque Orchestra and performs regularly throughout North America. Recently, she appeared with the Handel and Haydn Society, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, The Sebastians, and other acclaimed ensembles. Gaia has also toured internationally in Germany, Bolivia, China, and Hong Kong. In May 2024, she debuted at Carnegie Hall as solo recorder and oboe with the Twelfth Night Ensemble. A passionate educator, Gaia previously served as a Teaching Artist for renowned programs like S’Cool Sounds, the Wildwood Institute of Music, and the Juilliard Music Advancement Program. She maintains a private teaching studio and loves supporting her students’ musicianship. In her scholarly life, Gaia studies global histories of musical mobility in the 17th and 18th centuries as a PhD student in Musicology at Harvard University. She holds an MM from the Juilliard School, a BM from the Eastman School of Music, and a BA in Archaeology from the University of Rochester.

# ORCHESTRA



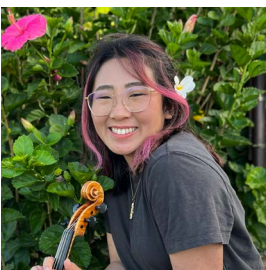
## LORI STUNTZ – Trombone

Lori Stuntz is a freelance trombonist in the greater Los Angeles area. She has a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the USC Thornton School of Music, where she also received her Master of Music. She received a Bachelor of Music degree from San Jose State University. Lori plays principal trombone with the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony, trombone with the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra, and frequently performs with many orchestras including the Santa Barbara Symphony, Riverside Philharmonic, and Symphony Silicon Valley. Dr. Stuntz is on the faculty at Cal Poly Pomona, Riverside City College, and Glendale Community College. As a commercial player, Lori plays lead trombone for the all female big band Maiden Voyage, 2nd for The Mike Barone Big Band and has performed with artists such as DIVA, Nancy Wilson, Jack Sheldon, Diane Schuur, Ray Anthony, Lionel Hampton, Bill Watrous, and The New York Pops. Her international performances include concerts in Germany, Japan, Austria, France, Mexico, and the Caribbean. As a recording artist she has appeared on many major motion picture soundtracks, commercials, video games, and records including Mile 22, Alice in Wonderland, Superman Returns, and X-men 3. She is the first female trombonist to record on a major motion picture soundtrack. Lori is proud to be a performing artist for Greenhoe Trombones.



## DIESEL TUCKER – Percussion

Diesel Tucker has made Waimea his home since 1990. Prior to that he was a professional musician living in the Minneapolis/St Paul area. Diesel has played with several Big Island musical organizations, including Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra, Kona Choral Society, Lorenzo's Army, Saltwater Reggae Band, to name a few. During his time in the twin cities area, he taught private lessons, worked in recording studios and toured internationally with musicals and rock/pop bands. He has worked with HPAF in their inaugural season and is excited to be performing with them again. During his off time, he enjoys spending time with his spouse, children and twin grandchildren. He also enjoys collecting/restoring vintage drums.



## KISA URADOMO – Violin

Violinist, Kisa Uradomo, is one of the founding members of the Koa String Quartet which is the Graduate String Quartet in Residence at the University of Colorado Boulder studying with the Takaács Quartet. In addition to performance, Kisa is a dedicated music educator and founded the Hana Hou Music Program which takes place in her home state of Hawai'i. The Hana Hou Music Program's mission is to provide accessible music education to the Maui community regardless of background, artistic ability, or economic circumstance. Kisa has received her education from the University of Michigan and the Eastman School of Music prior to the quartet's residency.

# ORCHESTRA



## **ALICE WANG** — Clarinet

Dr. Alice Wang is an active clinician, collaborator of chamber music, and an active orchestra player as the regular member of the Youngstown Symphony, Warren Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Opera Western Reserve Orchestra. Alice had performed in professional conferences such as the International Clarinet Association *ClarinetFest* and the Ohio Music Education Association Conference as a soloist, chamber musician, as well as the Director of The Dana Clarinet Ensemble. Alice completed her Bachelor of Music in Performance at the University of Southern California under the tutelage of Mr. Yehuda Gilad and Mitchell Lurie. She later joined the studio of Sir Walter Boeykens of the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp in Belgium where she received her masters. As part of the guest student artist program Alice had the opportunity to study with Hermann Stefansson of Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra in Sweden. Alice completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Texas at Austin under Prof. Richard MacDowell and joined the faculty of the Dana School of Music in the same year. Alice currently lives in Pittsburgh with her husband Kurt, and their occasionally ill-mannered dogs Wally and Linus, a flock of hens, and depending on the season a thriving or failing as a beekeeper.



## **AMY WANG** — Violin

A longtime bit player in the Southern California early music multiverse, Amy has performed with the usual suspects—the original Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra, Musica Angelica, Tesserae, Bach Collegium San Diego—and a smattering of Bay Area groups including California Bach Society and Voices of Music. As a film major at UC Berkeley, she transitioned from modern to baroque violin under the guidance of David Tayler and Elizabeth Blumenstock, and subsequently performed at the Berkeley Early Music Festival as a semifinalist in the ABS International Young Artists Competition. At USC, she played in the Early Music Ensemble led by James Tyler while getting her MFA in screenwriting from the School of Cinematic Arts.

# GUEST ARTISTS



## **MICHELLE DING** — *Ottavia, The Coronation of Poppea*

Michelle Ding is a committed soprano with 15 years of U.S. experience as a soloist and in a variety of ensembles. This is her fourth time attending HPAF, first appeared as a young artist in 2011, returned as an alum guest artist since 2022 and performed Public Opinion in Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* and Jack's mom in *Into the Woods*. She had recent involvement in mainstage productions: a chorister in Detroit Opera's production of Verdi's *Aida in Concert* in 2022, and an attendant in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* in 2023 produced by Detroit Opera, Pittsburg Opera, and Cincinnati Opera. Michelle is a classically trained pianist. She gained her doctorate degree of musical arts in piano performance from Michigan State University in 2019, master's degree in piano performance under the Charles Fisher scholarship from University of Michigan in 2014, and Bachelor of Fine Arts in piano performance under the Colburn foundation and early music scholarship from California Institute of the Arts. She has been teaching piano privately and running her studio since 2020. Michelle has been an enthusiastic community volunteer since 2009 from California to Michigan with recent service for Burns Parts Elementary PTO (parent teacher organization) and Burns Park Players, a 40-year local community theatre.



## **PHIL KADET** — *Featured Artist, A Return to the Stork Club*

Phil Kadet is a musician based in New York City. He is a pianist, singer, arranger, music director, producer, conductor, and accompanist, working in many diverse genres of music, from rock to opera. He is a regular solo entertainer, maintaining several weekly residencies in New York City. He is also keyboardist for the New York rock band Escaper. Since 2013, he has been a collaborative pianist and guest artist with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. He has been a collaborative pianist and music director for Cantos Para Hermanar al Mundo, a concert series presented in Torreón, Coahuila, Mexico. He is a staff pianist for the voice program at NYU Steinhardt. While chiefly a pianist, he also enjoys playing guitar and cycling, at the same time.



## **ASHLEY LAMBERT** — *Featured Artist, A Return to the Stork Club*

Ashley Lambert is thrilled to be back with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival for *A Return to the Stork Club*. Having been both a former student and guest artist with HPAF, her favorite roles with the festival include Cathy in *The Last Five Years* and originating her part in *The Stork Club* (2015). She earned a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, under the Atlantic Theater Company with David Mamet, and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. In addition to singing, Ashley uses her vocals as a voice over artist and director, based in Los Angeles. Her voice can be heard in over 200 films and tv shows. She has voice directed several BAFTA winning narrative video games, including *What Remains of Edith Finch*, *The Artful Escape*, *Twelve Minutes* and most recently, *Thirsty Suitors*. She can currently be heard as the voice of the Hunger Games in *Hunger Games: Ballads of Songbirds and Snakes* and as the voice of the future in the upcoming film, *The Uglies*. Ashley is releasing a new solo EP of old classic songs this fall, in addition to a California country album with her band, Ben and Ash. Special thanks to Val Underwood, for bringing this magical evening to life. And to my wildly supportive parents, my effortlessly supportive husband, and my darling, joy inspiring, little one, Henry.

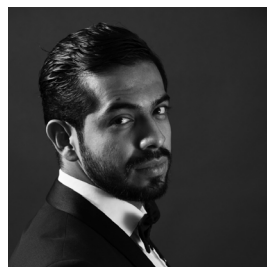
# PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS

## ENCRANTZ VOCAL FELLOWS



### **MARK HOUSSEINI** — **Mr. John Brooke, *Little Women***

Praised as a “riveting baritone” (Cleveland Classical), Mark Hosseini is a frequent performer of vocal music across a wide range of styles and time periods. Some notable stage performances include Emile de Becque in *South Pacific* with Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theatre, Masetto in *Don Giovanni* with Winter Opera St. Louis, Papageno in *The Magic Flute* with OPERA Iowa (Des Moines Metro Opera), El Gallo in *The Fantasticks* with Ohio Light Opera, Melchior in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with Opéra Louisiane, the Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance* with Ohio Light Opera, Jim in *The Gift of the Magi* with Delaware Valley Opera, Signor Naccarelli in *The Light in the Piazza* with Eastman Opera Theatre, Ottone in *L’incoronazione di Poppea* with Eastman Opera Theatre, Pandolfe in *Cendrillon* with Eastman Opera Theatre, and Dr. Falke in *Die Fledermaus* with Oakland University Opera. Mark has completed Young Artist Training Programs at Des Moines Metro Opera, Ohio Light Opera, Opera Delaware, and Sarasota Opera. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Oakland University and a master’s degree from The Eastman School of Music.



### **LUIS SANCHEZ BRIONES** — **Seneca, *The Coronation of Poppea***

Mexican Bass Luis S. Briones made his debut as Osmin from *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* by W.A. Mozart at the National Conservatory of Music where he studied with baritone Arturo Nieto. Since he graduated from the SIVAM Opera Studio in Mexico City in 2016 he has appeared in important Opera Festivals in Mexico, Germany and Spain. His repertory includes Figaro (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Simone (*Gianni Schicchi*), Leporello (*Don Giovanni*), Sparafucile (*Rigoletto*), Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*) and El Inquisidor (*La leyenda de Tamonante* from Igor Escudero). Luis also appears in concerts in repertory including Händel’s *Messiah* and Rossini’s *Petite Messe Solennelle*. Briones grew up in Mexico City and studies singing with Jennifer McGregor.

# PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS

## COLLABORATIVE PIANO & STAGE DIRECTING FELLOWS



### **RICCARDO ATANASIO** – Principal Pianist, High School and Ohana Singer Programs

Born and raised in Vicenza (Italy), Riccardo Atanasio achieved both bachelor's and master's degree in piano performance magna cum laude and honor's mention at Conservatorio di Musica di Vicenza "Arrigo Pedrollo" under the guidance of maestro Marco Tezza. During his studies, he won a scholarship to attend a semester at

The Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen (Denmark) where he studied with maestro Niklas Sivelov. His passion for all genres of music makes him a very versatile pianist. As main pianist of a youth orchestra, he has performed three musical theatre shows and played concertos as soloist multiple times. In 2022, he became musical director at the Soldier's Theatre located inside a NATO US Army Base in Vicenza and he worked on the musical *Sister Act*. For this, he won a TOPPER award for "Best Musical Direction" competing against other similar NATO US Army base realities located all around Europe. In 2023, he was selected as a Graduate Assistant for a master's degree in Chamber Music at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida, under the guidance of maestro Svetozar Ivanov. In his first year, he started collaborating with different USF realities including the Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and Musical Theatre department.



### **DAVID CORDOBA HERNADEZ** – Principal Pianist, Assistant Music Director, *The Coronation of Poppea*

Recognized for his colorful and sensitive performances, Colombian pianist David Córdoba has played at venues throughout South America, Central America, the United States, and Europe. Highlight performances include recitals with Vincent Lucas (Principal Flutist – Orchestre de Paris), John-Crawford (Naxos Recording Artist), Amaro Dubois, and the opening of the

2021 season of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Robert Moody. David has garnered awards in several competitions: Beethoven Club Competition - Memphis (1st place); WCM International Piano Competition – Northern Ireland (4th place); Colombian National Vocal Competition – Collaborative Piano Category (1st place); and the Memphis International Piano Competition (Honorable Mention). Guided by Colombian pianist Teresita Gomez, David earned a Bachelor of Music at the University of Antioquia and a Master's in Piano Performance with Dr. Cathal Breslin and Dr. Jonathan Tsay at the University of Memphis. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Musical Arts at the same institution.

# PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS



## **KAT MOSER-PRIDDY** — Assistant Stage Director, *Little Women*

Kat is an adjunct professor at Northern Kentucky University School of the Arts teaching classes in Acting 1, Voice for the Actor, Improvisation, Musical Theatre, and Dramatic Literature. Some of her most recent directing credits include *Jersey Boys* at Cincinnati Landmark Productions Incline Theatre, *Elegies* at Northern Kentucky University, *Bye Bye Birdie* at Sacred Heart Academy in Louisville, KY. Assistant Directing *Company* at Arts Center of Coastal Carolina in SC and *Jersey Boys* at Theatre by The Sea in RI. Kat has been a proud, professional actor for the last fifteen years. Some acting credits include Off-Broadway *The Office! A Musical Parody*, *Kinky Boots*, *Cinderella* at Theatre by the Sea. *Man of La Mancha* at Milwaukee Rep, Jenny in the film “Divine Will”. She received her MFA from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and a BFA from Northern Kentucky University, and certificate of completion in Improvisation from the Upright Citizen’s Brigade in NYC. Next up, she will be directing Cincinnati Children’s Theatre touring production of *Reindeer Games*, and Northern Kentucky University’s *First Year Showcase*. Many thanks to the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival for the opportunity to serve as the Assistant Director for *Little Women*.



## **MADISON TAMAYO** — Assistant Stage Director, *The Coronation of Poppea*

Madison Tamayo began producing and directing at 17 when she started her Acapella group, “Sunday Serenade”. She went on to direct, produce and choreograph a production of *Be More Chill* for the Northport Theatre troupe at 18. While getting her BFA in acting at Brooklyn College, she performed in plays such as *Antigone*, *The Motherf\*\*ker With The Hat* and *Everybody*. She was the first student, post-pandemic, to independently produce and direct a production; *Criminal Hearts* by Jane Martin at Brooklyn College. Also at Brooklyn College, she assistant directed Katy Early on a production of *The Language Archive Part 1*. She had the opportunity to assistant stage manage and understudy the debut production of *My Cousin Nelu Is Not Gay* for ANTfest at Ars Nova. She was a member of the LAByrnth Theater Intensive Ensemble in 2022 and she was the 2023/24 producing fellow at The Public Theater.



## **MUSE YE** — Principal Pianist, Assistant Music Director, *Little Women*

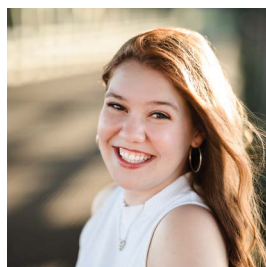
Muse Ye is a collaborative pianist passionate about connecting with people and exploring humanity through collaboration. Some highlights from growing up in New Zealand include being a national finalist in the New Zealand Chamber Music Competition, playing with the Christchurch Symphony orchestra, and touring the country with national choirs. Muse relocated to Singapore for her Bachelor’s degree in Piano Performance and subsequently to Ithaca, NY for a Master’s in Collaborative Piano and Vocal Performance, during which she curated multidisciplinary concerts and performed across the Southeast Asia and Australasia region. She is currently a doctoral candidate in collaborative piano at University of Michigan. Recent production credits include; UM: *Elizabeth Cree*, *The Last Five Years*. Ithaca College: scenes concerts for opera and musical theater departments, *La Voix Humaine*. Aspen Music Festival: Mendelssohn’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Berlioz’s *Requiem*, *Falstaff*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Sound of Music*. Opera Company of Middlebury: Offenbach’s *Orphée aux enfers*. Opera Lucca: *Gianni Schicchi*, *Suor Angelica*.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



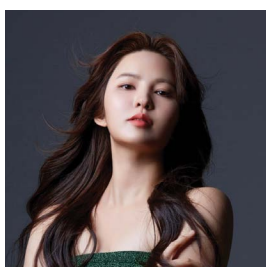
## **GARRETT ABEL** — Valetto, *The Coronation of Poppea*

Garrett William Abel, tenor sopranist, is an artist and performer from the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He is a junior Vocal Performance major at Oklahoma City University from the Christensen studio. Under the tutelage of famed Native American mezzo-soprano Barbara McAlister, Garrett began studying opera at the age of 14. He has lent his vocal talents to an audiobook *We Are Still Here* by Traci Sorell and a Cherokee Nation animated series, *Inage'i*. He is an alumni of the award winning Cherokee National Youth Choir where he recorded two albums and performed at a variety of venues during his tenure including the Smithsonian, Governor Inaugural events, and for First Lady Jill Biden. Garrett has performed in several musicals, most notably in *The Addams Family* as Uncle Fester and in *Les Misérables* as Jean Valjean. He most recently had roles in the OCU productions of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in 2024 and *Die Zauberflöte* in 2023.



## **MADELINE BELCHER** — Amy March, *Little Women*

Madeline Belcher (she/her) is an incoming sophomore Musical Theatre major at Oklahoma City University and is very excited to be returning to HPAF for a second time! She most recently appeared at Gracie Shinn in *The Music Man* at Charlottesville Opera. Past productions include *Into The Woods* with HPAF (Lucinda/Little Red Understudy), *The House Without a Christmas Tree* with The Kansas City Chamber Orchestra (Gloria), *Oklahoma!* (Laurey Williams), *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Flounder), and *Into The Woods* (Little Red Riding Hood).



## **INHYE CHOI** — Ottavia, *The Coronation of Poppea*

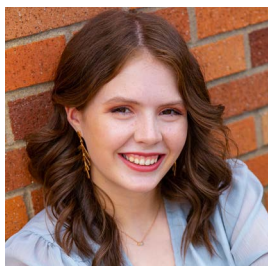
Mezzo-soprano Inhye Choi graduated with her Artist Diploma degree this May and will be pursuing a Performance Certificate from Montclair State University this Fall. She graduated with her Master's degree from Manhattan School of Music and her Bachelor's degree from Sookmyung Women's University in South Korea. She debuted as Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) with the New Seoul Opera Company in 2021, performed as Mercedes (*Carmen*) at the Miami Music Festival in 2022 and performed as Zita in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and *Buoso's Ghost* by Michael Ching at Montclair State University in 2023. Last summer, she workshopped the opera *Notes of Viardot* as Maria in Taos Opera Institute and this January she performed as Mother Marie in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmélites* at Montclair State university with great success. Scene works include *Carmen* (*Carmen*), Mary (*Fliegender Holländer*), Rosina (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Idamante (*Idomeneo*), Maddalena (*Rigoletto*), Hexe (*Hänsel und Gretel*) and Radames (*Aida*). This summer, she will be coming back as Ottavia in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* at Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and Nancy in *Albert Herring* at Chicago Summer Opera.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **FIONA COUGHLIN** — *Fortuna, The Coronation of Poppea*

Fiona Coughlin is an upcoming sophomore at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music in Berea, Ohio. She majors in Voice Performance and aspires to be an opera singer. Her first year at BW she was privileged to showcase her work in multiple showcases as well as the newer opera *Taking Up Serpents*. She also participated in masterclasses and was a member of the Motet Choir who performed during the Bach Festival. In high school she participated in many shows and competitions. Her most notable achievements were receiving first place in Shining Star CLE and 2nd place in the International Rodgers and Hammerstein Competition. She has also participated in Ohio NATS and Schmitt Singing Competition. She would like to thank her family who helped her get here and her professor who opened this opportunity up! This will be her second time performing in an opera and she cannot wait to share this experience and many more!



## **FIONA CURLEY** — *Damigella, The Coronation of Poppea*

Fiona Curley is a soprano pursuing her Bachelors in Vocal Performance at the University of Houston-Moores School of Music. She is a native of Central Oregon and has been involved in music her whole life. Growing up, Fiona was involved in various choirs, musical theatre, opera, and is also a proficient pianist. Recent awards include Semifinalist (Classical High School) at the 2023 Classical Singer Convention and placing in the 2023 Northwest Region NATS Classical Competition. Fiona was most recently seen in *Così fan tutte* (Chorus), *The Merry Widow* (Jou-Jou), and *Il Pagliacci* (Chorus). She is a five-time recipient of the Sunriver Music Festival Young Artist Scholarship. Outside of music, Fiona enjoys running, hiking, paddleboarding, reading, and baking.



## **CAROLINE DAVIS** — *Venere, The Coronation of Poppea*

Caroline Davis is currently pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance at the University of Memphis, where she studies under Professor Paulina Villarreal, soprano. Since beginning her degree, she has participated in five operas, with her most notable roles being Karlotta in *The Cousin From Nowhere* and Mrs. Gobineau in *The Medium*.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **SANJU EBANKS** — Professor Bhaer, *Little Women*

Sanju Ebanks is a young performer, artist, and arranger, who graduated with his Bachelor of Musical Performance from the University of Central Florida. He has been a part of several auditioned ensembles, as well as being a soloist in groups such as University Singers, Chamber Singers, Voci del Core, and Mixed Mode A cappella. He was the Music Director of the award-winning a cappella group Mixed Mode and their primary arranger for the 2021-2022 season. He participated in the International Performing Arts Institutes' Musical Theatre program in Germany in the Summer of 2022 and received the opportunity to workshop with Stage Entertainment. He prides himself on being a versatile artist who can jump between several genres such as pop, musical theatre, gospel, opera/classical, soul, funk, and R&B. He is currently preparing to play Professor Bhaer in *Little Women* by Howland, Dickstein, and Knee as a part of the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival this summer. He will continue to further his education by pursuing his Master's Degree in Voice Performance: Musical Theatre and Pedagogy at NYU Steinhardt.



## **FRANCESCA FIORAVANTI** — Meg March, *Little Women*

Soprano Francesca Fioravanti from Wilmington, Delaware has sung both solo and ensemble performances in the United States, Austria, Italy, Germany, Czech Republic, and the United Kingdom. Francesca began her graduate education in Classical Vocal Performance at NYU in 2021, where she has been studying with Jamilyn Manning-White. She graduated Summa cum Laude with a Masters in Vocal Performance: Classical Voice. Francesca has performed with the Vienna Summer Music Festival in Vienna, Austria singing the role of the Baker/Beggar in the European premiere of Paul Richard's *Mondo Novo* and covering the roles of Zerlina in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Barbarina in *Le nozze di Figaro*. She performed Belinda in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* with NYU Opera. In addition, she performed in the ensemble and covered the role of Ilia in NYU's 2023 Spring production of Mozart's *Idomeneo*. Recently, Francesca performed the role of Morgana in Handel's *Alcina* in Tarnowskie Góry, Poland at the Handel Opera Academy and this fall she will perform the role of Christine Daaé in the Delaware Ardensingers' production of *Pantos of the Opera*. In Spring 2024, Francesca performed in the chorus for Opera Delaware's production of Puccini's *Turandot*. She is very excited to be playing Meg March in the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival this year!

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **STACEE FIRESTONE** – *Virtù, The Coronation of Poppea*

Twenty-two years old, Stacey Firestone is happily beginning her journey in the classical field. She has been involved in classical music for over 10 years and started her career in opera at that time. In subsequent seasons, she has appeared in HPAF's productions of *The Magic Flute*, *The Marriage of Figaro*. She has also been accepted into the Curtis summer program, Baldwin Wallace Summer Program, Bel Canto in Tuscany, and Teatro Nuovo where she sang at Lincoln Center last summer. She studies voice year round with Cathy Cook and coaches with Alex Katsman at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Stacey recently performed as The Fairy Godmother in Pauline Viardot's *Cendrillon* at SFCM. She also recently placed in four national classical singer competitions, including Classical Singers Music Vocal Competition (where she placed 3rd) and the Vocal Artist Management Competition where she placed in the top 11 nationwide for her age group. Stacey is excited to continue her journey in the classical field and is excited for every opportunity that comes her way.



## **CAITLYN FULLER** – *Poppea, The Coronation of Poppea*

Caitlyn Fuller is a young lyric soprano originally from Kansas City, Missouri. She is currently pursuing her masters degree in voice performance and voice pedagogy at the University of Colorado-Boulder. While attending The University of Colorado-Boulder she has studied with Jennifer Bird-Arvidsson and Julie Simson. Fuller obtained her Bachelor's in Music from the University of Michigan where she studied with Dr. Scott Piper and worked with world renowned coaches and clinicians. Fuller has studied and performed a wide range of roles such as Lady Valerie in Amy Beach's *Cabildo*, Nannetta in Verdi's *Falstaff*, Countess in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Poppea in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, and Rosemary in David T. Little's *JFK*. She will also be performing the role of Mother in Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel* this fall with Eklund Opera at CU Boulder. Fuller has competed in many voice competitions over the years, most notably the Laffont Metropolitan Opera Competition, where she received the Audience Choice Award in 2024.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **RYAN HANGER** — *Nerone, The Coronation of Poppea*

Ryan Hanger (he/him) is a New York-based musician who has just completed his Master of Music in Classical Voice at New York University while studying with Dr. Justin John Moniz. This fall, he will be attending Boston University to pursue a Performance Diploma in Voice, studying with David Guzmán. His most recent work includes Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* at NYU Steinhardt, as well as Pitman/Etches in the school's production of *Titanic*.

His other work includes the Wolf/Cinderella's Prince in *Into the Woods* at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, Curly in *Oklahoma* in South Africa, the title role of Mozart's *Idomeneo* at NYU, and the First Sailor in *Dido and Aeneas* at NYU. He received his undergraduate degree in Voice Performance in 2021 from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He has been a finalist in the Eastern Region as well as Texoma Region NATS chapters. Other performance credits include Joe Crowell in *Our Town* by Ned Rorem, Ezekiel Cheever in *The Crucible* by Robert Ward, and Lieutenant Cable in *South Pacific*. [www.ryanhanger.com](http://www.ryanhanger.com)



## **JANE HEIDKAMP** — *Arnalta, The Coronation of Poppea*

Jane Heidkamp is excited to be doing her first performance with HPAF. She is an upcoming senior at Oklahoma City University getting a Bachelors in Music in Musical Theater and Vocal Performance. She studies with Dr. William Christensen. Her most recent credit is Frau Reich in OKCU's production of *Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor*.



## **CAROLINE HENDREN** — *Amy March, Little Women*

Caroline Hendren is a Sophomore Vocal Performance Major at Appalachian State University. She studies voice with Dr. Julia Pedigo. Caroline's performance credits include *Bye Bye Birdie* (Kim MacAfee), *Godspell* (Glimmer), and *A Little Mermaid* (Adela). She most recently portrayed Petra in Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* with the Appalachian Opera Theater. She is ecstatic to be joining the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival this summer!

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



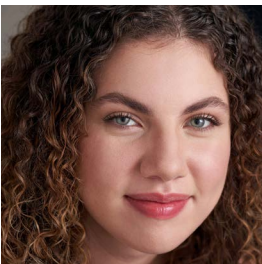
## **ELYSA RAQUEL HERNANDEZ** – Beth March, *Little Women*

As an expressive storyteller and deep communicator, soprano Elysa Raquel Hernandez is a rising artist in musical theater striving to portray the complexities of life. Hernandez aims to inspire all rising artists and fuse the genres of musical theater, contemporary, and classical music together to highlight the intersectionalities and complexities. Elysa is from San Mateo, California, currently studying with Professor Derrick Lawrence. She is a sophomore in undergraduate studies at the USC Thornton School of Music (USC) as a Vocal Arts major with an emphasis in Musical Theater. Last year, she starred in the USC Thornton Chamber Opera production of *Gallantry* by Douglas Moore as The Announcer. Hernandez' other roles include Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde* and ensemble in *Sweeney Todd*. This year, Hernandez participated in the USC Thornton scenes showcase, where she will be performing scenes from *Candide* as Cunegonde, *The Light in the Piazza* as Margaret, and *Company* as Jenny. She premiered the piece "Soneto de La Noche" by Sebastian Sacks as the soloist this year and frequently solos with the USC Concert Choirs. She would like to thank the wonderful team at USC as well as her family and friends back home in San Mateo who have offered their continuous love and support.



## **TORI HITCHCOCK** – Beth March, *Little Women*

Tori Hitchcock is thrilled to be a part of the HPAF family! She is a 21 year old from San Diego, California! She is studying Music/Theater at CBU. Some Regional credits: *Hodel*; *Fiddler on the Roof* (SDMT), *Ghost of Christmas Future*; *A Christmas Carol*, *Flapper Ancestor*; *The Addams Family* (Welk Resort Theater), *Teen Ensemble*; *Newsies*, *Matilda* (Moonlight Stage Productions). She was nominated as one of the top ten actresses in the 2019 Broadway San Diego. Some other favorite roles were Jo March; *Little Women*, *Little Red*; *Into the Woods*, *Peter Pan*; *Peter Pan*, and *Ariel*; *Footloose*. She is so thankful to her amazing family, friends, and mentors for all their incredible support! God is good, all the time! Eph. 3:20-21



## **EMMA JOHNSTON** – Arnalta, *The Coronation of Poppea*

Emma Johnston (she/her) is going into her sophomore year as a Music Theatre and Vocal Performance double major at Oklahoma City University. She most recently appeared in OCU Stripped's Production of *Baby* as the Arlene cover and Ensemble. Past productions include: *The Spongebob Musical* (Pearl Krabs), *Chicago* (Roxie), and Zach Theatre's PPC Showcase (Featured Performer). She is so excited to be making her opera and HPAF debut and is so grateful for this opportunity!

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **MORGAN LANE** — **Marmee March, *Little Women***

Morgan Lane is a rising junior at Oklahoma City University (OCU) studying Musical Theater. She is from Katy, Texas. This is her first year with the Hawaiian Performing Arts Festival. She will be performing the role of Marmee in *Little Women*. She was most recently in the Fairy Ensemble in *Iolanthe*, the ensemble of *The Light in the Piazza* at OCU and Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes* with Showtime Theatre. She would like to thank everyone involved with making *Little Women* a wonderful experience. She would also like to thank her family, teachers and friends for their support.



## **KAROLINE LARSEN** — **Meg March, *Little Women***

Soprano Karoline Larsen has vast choral and performance experience from participating in Tennessee's first collegiate performance of a Choral Opera, *Radio Hour* by Jake Heggie, chorus member in Puccini's *La Bohème*, chorus member for the University of Memphis' Choral Program in Greece, and participated in University of Memphis' Jazz Singers as lead for the 2022-2023 Academic School Year. She also was a member of the University's flagship ensemble University Singers, the University's Chamber Choir who performed at the Tennessee Music Educators Association Conference in 2022, and the president of the University's [blu] a cappella group from the Spring of 2021 to Spring of 2024 who was selected for the National A Cappella Conference in Orlando in 2022. Karoline also attended HPAF in the summer of 2023 in their production of *Into the Woods* as Jack's Mother and the understudy for the Baker's Wife. In November of 2023, she created and presented an Honors Lecture Recital titled "A Guide to the Crossover Singer." Karoline recently graduated from the University of Memphis with her undergraduate in Choral Music Education and has recently been selected as the recipient of the prestigious Presser Award Scholarship for the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music.



## **SANDRA LIU** — **Amore, *The Coronation of Poppea***

Sandra Liu is an operatic soprano recently engaged with the Australian Contemporary Opera Company (ACO.Co) as a studio artist and was the recipient of the Hans Henkell Family Fellowship. She completed the Masters of Music (Opera Performance) and Bachelor of Music Performance in Classical Voice at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, the University of Sydney. She was a semi-finalist in the 2021 German Australian Opera Grant and was awarded the Bud Brown Memorial Award and the Helen Myers Scholarship for singing. Sandra was the winner of the Joan Carden Award 2019 with the Sydney University Graduate Choir and Orchestra. Recent roles include 'Humpty Dumpty', 'Dormouse' and cover 'Alice' for Will Todd's *Alice's Adventure's in Wonderland* on tour with ACO.Co as well as 'Dot' and 'Adelaide' in Jonathan Dove's *the Enchanted Pig* in 2021. She performed the title role of *Cendrillon* by Massenet in the Sydney Conservatorium of Music's Opera Film in collaboration with NIDA. International experience include the roles of 'Micaëla' in Bizet's *Carmen* and 'Lisette' in *La Rondine* by Puccini with the Mediterranean Opera Studio. As well as the roles of 'Ida' and 'Adele' in Lyric Opera Studio of Weimar's production of *Die Fledermaus*.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



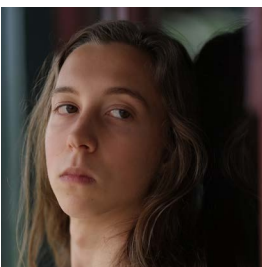
## **ANDRÉS ALEJANDRO LÓPEZ ROMERO** – *Ottone, The Coronation of Poppea*

Andrés Alejandro, baritone singer of classical music, ballads, boleros and Mexican music. Andres studied classical singing in the UNAM Music Faculty in Mexico City. Andrés played the role of Peter Quince on the Island of Hawaii at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival in 2019. He has been a singer on the show *Navidalia* at OCESA in Mexico City and has participated in the television program *La Voz Azteca* in 2022. In 2023 and 2024 he has dedicated himself to singing concerts with the show “Reload Tour” with live musicians in the Mexican Republic and classical concerts in Massingy-lès-Vitteaux, France singing lied, chanson and Mexican concert music. In his classical repertoire he has appeared as Figaro from Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Petter Quince from Britten’s *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Betto di Signa from Puccini’s *Gianni Schicchi*, Le Roi from Massenet’s *Cendrillon*, and Mozart’s *Misa of Requiem*. He frequently appears in concerts with the art songs repertoire with music from Schumann, Schubert, Hugo Wolf, Debussy, and Gabriel Fauré. He continues his voice studies with the soprano Jennifer McGregor.



## **NOELANI LOUGHERY-KAWAIHOA** – *Venere, The Coronation of Poppea*

Noelani unites her experience as a vocalist and a dancer to deepen the emotional experience of music for her audiences. Some of her performances include *West Side Story*, *Stars of Tomorrow*, and *All Together Now* with the Kahilu Theater Youth Troupe, and *Die Zauberflöte* with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. Noelani’s primary vocal experience includes the Young Singers and Developing Singers Program at Hawai’i Performing Arts Festival where she learned to balance and integrate her artistic talents. In addition to singing her dance training includes Broadway Dance Center, 24/7 Dance Convention, SLIDE, and Dancerpalooza. She is now pursuing her Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.



## **BENITO MERCIA** – *First Soldier/Liberto, The Coronation of Poppea*

Benito (Benny) Mercia is a 20 year old aspiring performing artist who has studied music, voice, dance, and acting since the age of 12. He has appeared in multiple Kahilu Theatre Youth Troupe productions regularly since then, which have included *13 the Musical*, *Spring Awakening*, *West Side Story*, *Rent*, *Fun Home*, and many more! His teachers have included Beth Dunnington (acting), Angel Prince (dance), and Val Underwood (voice and piano). Benny started with HPAF in the Young Singer Program in 2017, and is now in his 7th year participating in this program! Jumping into his adult life, he has enrolled at the Hawai’i Community College in Hilo, planning to major in a Liberal Arts degree with a Concentration in Art in the Fall Semester of this year, to pursue a career in animation/graphic design.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **ELENA MONTERO MULLIGAN** — *Jo March, Little Women*

Elena Montero Mulligan is an actor, singer, and voice teacher originally from Raleigh, North Carolina. She has been lucky enough to sing with such wonderful organizations as the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra, Theatre Raleigh, and the North Carolina Opera. Elena is delighted to revisit *Little Women: the musical*. She will be starting NYU Steinhardt's M.M. in Vocal Performance and Advanced Certificate in Vocal Pedagogy dual degree program in the fall. In addition to her musical theatre endeavors, she has spent the last five years as a member of The Oakwood Waits, Raleigh's premiere acapella Christmas Caroling group. She performed with The Waits at the White House this past holiday season. Some favorite past roles include Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Kay in The Gershwin Brothers' *Oh Kay!*, and Virginia Poe in *Strange City of Edgar Allan Poe*.



## **ANDREA NALYWAJKO** — *Damigella, The Coronation of Poppea*

Andrea Nalywajko is a soprano at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music where she studies under Nancy Gustafson. At Northwestern, Nalywajko has been heavily involved in opera productions, appearing as the Fourth Fairy in Opera Projects for Undergraduate Students Fall 2023 production of *Cendrillon*, and Chorus in Northwestern Opera Theatre's productions of *Hansel und Gretel* and *Così fan tutte* (Winter and Spring 2024). Additionally, she has been a member of the National Children's Chorus for 10 years and is currently in its Scholars Division. She was also recently featured as a soloist on the National Children's Chorus' holiday album, *Illumine* (2023). In 2022, Nalywajko appeared as a soloist with the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra in a benefit concert for Ukraine. She is excited to be performing the role of Damigella in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* this summer at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival!



## **AVA PAUL** — *Drusilla, The Coronation of Poppea*

Ava Paul is a third-year undergraduate soprano at Oberlin College and Conservatory, pursuing degrees in vocal performance and political science with a minor in law and society. Her 2023-24 season engagements include roles with Oberlin Opera Theatre in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* (Messaggiera) and Massenet's *Cendrillon* (La Fée). Paul has also performed as a soloist in Craig Hella Johnson's *Considering Matthew Shepard* with the Cleveland Chamber Choir and has been awarded the Shari Bierman Singer Fellowship with The Cleveland Orchestra for the 2024-25 season. Passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion, Paul is an alumna of the Denyce Graves Foundation's Shared Voices Program. She has been published in *Classical Singer Magazine*, performs song cycles by Black composers, and has spoken at Howard University, Peabody Conservatory, and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



**LOGAN PAVIA** – Theodore “Laurie” Laurence, *Little Women*

Logan Pavia is sincerely grateful to be returning to HPAF. He recently graduated UNC Charlotte with a B.A. in Theater and a Concentration in Musical Theatre Performance. He looks forward to attending NYU Steinhardt in the Fall and earning a Master’s Degree in Vocal Performance. Logan recently played Warner in *Legally Blonde* for his last show at UNC Charlotte. He wants to thank his family and mentors for all their love and support. Logan aims to inspire others to chase after what they are most passionate about, no matter how uncertain the outcome will be.



**ALINA REITZ** – Aunt March, *Little Women*

Alina Reitz will be transferring to NYU Steinhardt’s Vocal Performance program this fall. She previously attended Santa Barbara City College as a music major concentrating in voice. Alina has been an active member of the Santa Barbara performing arts community as a first soprano in the SBCC Chamber Choir and a vocalist in the SBCC Improv Jazz Combo. She proudly served as a board member and musical theater coordinator for the SBCC Theater Arts Club. Alina’s passion for musical theater and opera is nurtured through her studies at the DMK studio under the guidance of Dauri Kennedy. Alina was in the cast of Hawaii Performing Arts Festival’s 2023 production of *Into the Woods* as well as Out of the Box Theatre’s 2024 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She attributes much of her success to the unwavering support of her family, especially her mother, Robin.



**GABRIELLA SCHAFER** – Marmee March, *Little Women*

Gabriella Schafer is a soprano vocalist newly graduated from the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND. She enjoys a variety of musical genres, with some of her favorites being jazz and musical theater. Her vocal teachers have included Dr. Melissa McCann and Dr. Youna Hartgraves. She has been blessed with many performance opportunities at the University of Mary. She has participated in UMary Concert Choir, Vocal Jazz, Vocal Arts Ensemble, Musical Theatre Troupe, Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus. She was also an ensemble member with the PBS special *We Are Family: Songs of Hope and Unity* in 2021. She has participated in numerous vocal competitions including YoungArts, NextGen National: Finding the Voices of Tomorrow, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing vocal competition. Gabriella graduated Spring of 2024 with bachelor’s degrees in Music and Nursing. She is a current member of the American Choir Director’s Association and Sigma Theta Tau. Her diverse experiences in Music and Nursing provide her with a unique perspective in the arts and wellness.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



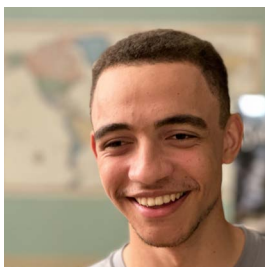
## **MENEKA SENN** — **Drusilla, *The Coronation of Poppea***

After receiving her BA in music performance at the conservatory of Amsterdam, Sri Lankan-born soprano Meneka Senn decided to specialize in early music with a special passion for baroque opera. She made her debut in Rheinsberg, Germany, in the role of Valetto (C. Monteverdi- *L'incoronazione di Poppea*). Roles such as Cherubino, Adalanta, Silvia, Esmeralda, Frasquita, La Tragedia, Papagena, Tirsi, and Belinda followed each other quickly. Meneka was part of the “Exzellenz Program Barock Vokal” at the Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz, where she followed lessons with countertenor Andreas Scholl among others. In 2017 she was accepted into the Carnegie Hall young artist program in New York where she worked alongside the Tallis Scholars. Meneka’s role debut of *La Musica and Euridice* (C. Monteverdi-*Orfeo*) in Pilsen with the Czech operahouse J.K. Tyl brought her to the Markgräfliches Opernhaus in Bayreuth. Recently Meneka performed the role of Pamina (W.A. Mozart – *Die Zauberflöte*) 40 times with Dutch experimental opera company Silbersee and sang the role of Leila (G. Bizet – *Les pêcheurs de perles*) and Diana (F. Cavalli – *La Calisto*). She is a member (soloist and ensemble) of the Bach Choir and Orchestra of the Netherlands. Meneka continues her vocal training with Maurits Draijer.



## **EVAN SHIELDS** — **Theodore “Laurie” Laurence, *Little Women***

Evan Scott Shields is honored to be returning to the Big Island for this 2024 season of celebration. He was last seen in the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival’s 2023 season production of *Into The Woods* (Jack). Evan is a rising sophomore at NYU Steinhardt studying Vocal Performance with a concentration in Musical Theatre in the studio of Dr. Justin John Moniz. Since the festival last year, Evan has been a part of several productions including *Titanic* (Harold Bride), *Gianni Schicchi* (Maestro Spinelloccio), as well as a featured vocalist in the Fall and Spring NYU Broadway Orchestra concerts. Evan also recently competed in and won the 2024 NATS Eastern region vocal competition in musical theatre. Sending love to my parents and the HPAF Ohana for making this summer possible. [www.evanscottshields.com](http://www.evanscottshields.com)



## **SOLOMON SHUMATE** — **Second Soldier/Seneca Council Member/Lucano, *The Coronation of Poppea***

Solomon Shumate, 21, born and raised on Hawai‘i Island returns to Hawaii Performing Arts Festival for a fourth summer. He has performed in several Kahilu Theatre productions including musicals such as *Spring Awakening* (2018), *South Pacific* (2018), *West Side Story* (2019), and was staged to perform as Sergei in *Matilda* (2021) prior to its unexpected cancellation. He also made his opera debut last summer (2022) in HPAF’s *Orpheus in The Underworld* as a member of the ensemble and also played the second priest and armored man in *The Magic Flute* with HPAF. He was also featured as a guest artist in a Kahilu Theatre concert called Operaloha with three other professional opera singers last January (2023). Solomon was first invited to join the HPAF’s Young Singers program as a scholar in 2018, and again in each of the subsequent years. He is currently studying at San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and has regularly undergone acting support through various offerings of Kahilu’s Youth Troupe Program. With pride and appreciation he is delighted to be a part of HPAF’s Developing Singers group!

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **RYANNE SOLINSKY** — Jo March, *Little Women*

Ryanne Solinsky (she/her) is a singer, actor, and voice teacher based in New York City. She currently attends NYU Steinhardt, pursuing her Master's in Musical Theatre Vocal Performance with an Advanced Certificate in Vocal Pedagogy, studying with HPAF's very own Executive Director and Music Director, Dr. Justin John Moniz. She holds a B.M. in Music Education from The Crane School of Music, and has also attended the Actor Therapy Summer Intensive in NYC. Her previous credits include *Fun Home* (Medium Alison), *Gianni Schicchi* (La Ciesca), *Titanic* (Bellboy), several semesters in NYU's award winning Pop/Rock Ensemble, and as a featured soloist at Landmark NYC venues including The Green Room 42, Chelsea Table and Stage, and City Winery. [www.ryannesolinsky.com](http://www.ryannesolinsky.com)



## **LAUREN VANDEN BROECK** — *Amore, The Coronation of Poppea*

Soprano Lauren Vanden Broeck holds an MM from Peabody Conservatory, where she was awarded the prestigious George Woodhead Prize in vocal performance. Recent roles include the Queen of the Night in Mozart's *Die Zaubeflöte* (Peabody Institute), and Adina in Gaetano Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* (Peabody Institute), and Baby Doe in Douglas Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe* (Wooster Symphony Orchestra). Other featured performances include the 2014 Franco-American Vocal Academy in Paris and Périgueux, France, cover soloist for the 2016 Heroes and Villains concert series at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, a 2016 artists' residency with the Astronaut Symphony in Washington D.C., and an honorable mention at the 2024 Concours du Maîtres du Chant in Paris, France. Lauren's career in music has taken her as far as Haiti, where she did a brief *stage* conducting Les Petits Chanteurs, a choir out of the Holy Trinity Music School in Port-au-Prince. Currently, Lauren teaches privately and serves on the voice faculty at The College of Wooster, sings regularly with the Cleveland Chamber Choir and performs as a soloist in the Greater Cleveland area.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



**THALEN WILEY** — Seneca Council Member/Littore, *The Coronation of Poppea*

Thalen Wiley is an 18 year old singer, dancer, and actor. He was born in Michigan and moved to Hawaii in 2015. He found singing and acting after he moved, which helped him with his transition and gave him the confidence he needed to stabilize his new life on the island. In this year's HPAF, he is participating to advance his singing skills, meet more people that share the same passions as him, and further his knowledge into the performing arts. The performing arts is something Thalen has come to love because it has given him the possibilities to explore himself and be a part of an amazing and talented community. Now this year's HPAF can give him that extraordinary opportunity to make that happen.



**JINGXUAN ZHANG** — Aunt March, *Little Women*

Jingxuan Zhang is excited to be making her HPAF debut as Aunt March in *Little Women*. She is originally from Tangshan Hebei, China and has previously starred in multiple television and film works including *Class in Three Years*, *Q Love Story*, and *Please, Eight Hours*. She holds a B.M. in Vocal Performance from Tianjin Conservatory and has completed additional studies at Arrigo Pedrollo Conservatorio in Vincenza, Italy. This fall, Jingxuan will begin her studies at NYU Steinhardt in the M.M. in Vocal Performance: Music Theatre program. She was recently awarded the Silver Award at the Aegean International Vocal Arts Festival. Jingxuan sends her thanks to her parents and Dr. Justin John Moniz for this opportunity.

# HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS



## LILY BLUE — Featured Artist, Ohana & Young Singer Vocal Showcase

Lily Blue will be a senior in high school this fall. In addition to being a singer songwriter, Lily Blue studies both Opera and Musical Theater with Val Underwood and Beth Dunnington. Lily Blue had her first solo debut at 9 years old singing in the Davies Chapel as the youngest member in the HPAF Pre-teen Singers program. She went on to play the role of Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*, Melman the Giraffe in *Madagascar - A Musical Adventure*, Erzulie in *Once Upon this Island*, Grandma Josephine in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Alan in *This is A Test*, The roles of both Sarah and Henry in *The Actors Nightmare*, and part of the ensemble cast in several musicals/ musical reviews. Lily Blue plans to attend the Ripley Grier Studios intensive Broadway Workshop in New York City this August before starting her senior year of high school.



## LILLIAN KAILANI MILLS — Featured Artist, Ohana & Young Singer Vocal Showcase

Lillian Kailani Mills was born in Honolulu and has lived in Beijing P.R.C., Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii Island. They have been performing since kindergarten on stage at Western Academy Beijing. Lillian is excited about new experiences connecting to the theater scene in Waimea after moving to Hawaii Island from Maui to attend Hawaii Preparatory Academy. Lillian will be an upcoming senior at HPA and plans to pursue a college path and career in theatre arts. Their recent performance credits include playing Joan in *Funhome* (Kahilu Theatre), Directed by Beth Dunnington; as Ali in *MAMMA MIA!* (WCT), Directed by Kelly Wadlegger; as Duchess in *Alice in Wonderland*; and Paulette in *Legally Blonde* (GPAC), both directed by Delaney McGrath. Additional credits include Dorothy in *Wizard of Oz* (Iao Theatre, Maui); Edgar in *King Lear*; Audrey in *As You Like It*; and Featured Singer/Dancer in *World Goes Around* (Seabury Hall, Maui); daughter/Ghost of Christmas Past in *A Christmas Carol* (ProArts, Maui); A Who in *Seussical Jr.* (Ron Bright Performing Arts Center, Kaneohe), and Stepsister in *Into the Woods Jr.* (Wailaea Performing Arts, Oahu). They are thrilled and grateful to all her teachers/directors for their support, and this opportunity to attend the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and learn from many professionals!



## KALEAH TAYLOR — Featured Artist, Ohana & Young Singer Vocal Showcase

Kaleah Taylor is an incoming junior at Archbishop Mitty High School. Kaleah had her stage debut when she was eight years old in *A Christmas Carol* at Children's Musical Theater San Jose. Most recent roles and productions include Kitty in *Chicago*, Miss Barley in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, Chorus in *Antigone*, ensemble in *The Wedding Singer*, Yvette in *Clue* (all at Bellarmine College Preparatory), Maria in *9 to 5* (Starting Arts) and Logainne U/S in *the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Archbishop Mitty High School). She is also a member of her school's Concert Choir. Kaleah has recently been offered the opportunity to perform at *Broadway Sessions* in New York and will be going to perform there later this summer. Kaleah currently studies voice with Jennifer Schapiro.

# OHANA SINGERS



## **MARILYN BERNHARDT** — Featured Artist, Ohana & Young Singer Vocal Showcase

Marilyn has been a music lover all her life but never seriously considered her body as an instrument, even while studying classical guitar and majoring in music. HPAF's presence in 2005 was an eye-opening experience, and she has been an avid fan and supporter ever since. "The joy of singing is that your instrument is always with you, and you won't forget it on the bus!" she says, but finds it is one of the hardest instruments to perfect. She sang with the Kona Choral Society, and now sings with her local Waimea Community Chorus. She has been part of the Lifelong Singers program since 2005 and thanks the many instructors, and especially Val Underwood, for helping her find her 'voice'.



## **BONNIE CHERNI** — Featured Artist, Ohana & Young Singer Vocal Showcase

Bonnie loves to play! When she's not folding large scale Epicorigami.com, she's playing music and singing. Her dream is to make a movie about Adam trying to make it in a woman dominated world. Above all, she loves her time in Hawaii with her EEL Steven.



## **ILENE HARRINGTON** — Featured Artist, Ohana & Young Singer Vocal Showcase

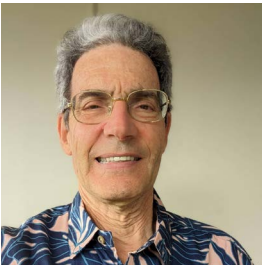
We are either dreamers or we take initiative to work toward our dreams. My name is Ilene Cohen Harrington and I am a little of both. I always wanted to be a great singer but never took the initiative to work toward strengthening my vocals. Instead, I launched a choral group called the Kona Aloha Singers in 2019 because when I moved from Pu'uana'hulu to Keauhou, there were no contemporary choruses in my area and I wanted to sing popular music. It's been a ton of work managing the chorus but it's all worthwhile once I hear the beautiful vocal blending of our 30-40 singers singing hit pop/rock songs. But now I want to learn more about how I can improve my vocals which is the reason I signed up for this workshop. Previously, I was always nervous to perform by myself. It was so easy to hide in a choral group where no one could focus on my vocals. However, I want to improve and learn more about performing. And maybe as I enter my golden years, I could even sing a song to an audience all by myself! Better late than never, as they say!

# OHANA SINGERS



## **SKYLEE HIRAKI** — Featured Artist, Ohana & Young Singer Vocal Showcase

Skylee, 13, will be entering the 8th grade at Hilo Intermediate School this fall. Her passion for performing began at a young age, and she is actively involved in ballet, pointe, jazz, and gymnastics. Skylee's notable performance experiences include playing Clara in Island Dance Academy's production of *The Nutcracker* (December 2023), ensemble in *Once on This Island* (October 2023), contestant in "A Night of Island Stars" (May 2023), ensemble in Home for the Hilo Days (December 2022), and portraying Young Nala in H.E.A.R.T. Hilo's *Lion King Jr.* at the (October 2022). Skylee is dedicated to her craft and continuously seeks opportunities to grow as a performer and hope to one day take the Broadway stage as Glinda in the musical *Wicked*.



## **STEVEN KAPLAN** — Featured Artist, Ohana & Young Singer Vocal Showcase

Steven Kaplan is a baritone singer with special interest in Early Music, opera, and art songs. I enjoy singing in choirs. I am looking forward to working with the staff of the Ohana Singers this season.



## **KIERA MAZURIK** — Featured Artist, Ohana & Young Singer Vocal Showcase

Kiera Mazurik is a 13-year-old, up-and-coming 8th grader at Waiākea Intermediate School in Hilo, Hawai'i. Kiera loves singing, acting, dancing, and the aerial arts. Kiera first took to The Palace Theater (Hilo) stage at the age of 6, performing a magic act for their 2018 Spotlight on Youth. At age 7, she performed for the first time at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Performing Arts Center in the ensemble of Larry Reitzer's *Aladdin Jr.* Kiera has since performed on both of Hilo's premiere stages multiple times, including: Kaleidoscope of Dance, UH-Hilo Performing Arts Center (2024), A Night of Island Stars, The Palace Theater (2024), Happily Eva Afta, UH-Hilo Performing Arts Center (2024), *Once On This Island*, The Palace Theater (2023), *Queer & Questioning Variety Show*, UH-Hilo Performing Arts Center (2023), *Sleeping Beauty*, UH-Hilo Performing Arts Center (2023), A Night of Island Stars, The Palace Theater (2023), Home for the HiloDays, The Palace Theater (2022), *Lion King Jr.*, The Palace Theater (2022), and *Beauty and the Beast*, The Palace Theater (2021), among many other performances. Kiera would like to thank everyone at the Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival (HPAF) for creating this amazing opportunity for local talent to shine!

# OHANA SINGERS



## **LISA WELLS** — Featured Artist, Ohana & Young Singer **Vocal Showcase**

Lisa Wells started singing in grade school in music classes, sang in the Christmas plays with her class and was cast as the lead in *Toinette and the Elves* in 8th grade. She sang in her church choir when she was 16 years of age. At Augustana College she was cast in the chorus of a few musicals (*Dark of the Moon, Camelot, Trial By Jury*). She had her first vocal lessons her senior year in College under Kathy Focht and participated every Friday in her teacher's vocal recitals. She sang in the Old Pueblo Madrigal Singers, an a capella group in Tucson, and the Waimea Consort, another a capella group. She is the music coordinator, choir director, and cantor at her church in Waimea, and has been involved in the Lifelong Singers program and a volunteer at HPAF for the last 12 years. She has appeared in the HPAF production of *Trial By Jury* and is looking forward to this year's festival.





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